Dialectical Analysis
of Kuanua & Tok Pisin
Sentences

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A word of introduction

• I am Fiona Silo, studying linguistics @ UPNG. Kuanua is my mother tongue.

• I am interested in the **dialectical** method of linguistic analysis.

• This paper
  – outlines the basic principles of this method &
  – demonstrates its practical application in the analysis of Kuanua & Tok Pisin sentences.
DIALECTICAL METHOD OF LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

BASIC PRINCIPLES:

• To understand any complex system, we must identify its smallest functional unit that has all its properties intact (i.e., compound : molecule, etc.)

• Every word is an ACT of THOUGHT by the collective mind of a society, living & thinking in concrete space-time; therefore, word-meaning has all the properties of LANGUAGE.

• → word-meaning = the smallest functional unit of language.

Let us now examine its properties, because they determine word-meanings’ interaction within the system.
PSYCHOLOGICAL: Every word is a GENERALIZATION – an ACT of THOUGHT

How do humans think?
To think/generalize means to ‘make sense’ of something through associations by resemblance, contiguity in space/time, and cause/effect:

‘WORD-MEANING’:

- contiguity of concept,
- caused by perceived
- resemblance between concrete experiences, connected in the collective mind of each society
Mechanism of Verbal Thought = Mechanism of Language

**Generalization**, or creation of meaning, occurs on two levels, collective & individual:

– **Social minds** create **collective generalizations** (the words & grammars of all languages).

– **Individual minds** use these collective generalizations (‘units & rules’) to build word–mosaics/sentences – their **personal generalizations**.
In order to form a concept, we must be able not only to connect, but also to abstract, to single out its characteristic elements, and to view them separately from the totality of the concrete experience in which they are embedded.

... Synthesis and analysis presuppose each other, as inhalation presupposes exhalation.

Vygotsky: 1986, p. 135

Synthesis & analysis of ideas (by resemblance, contiguity in space-time & cause/effect) =

= the mechanism of all conceptualization
The two principles of generalization (synthesis & analysis) are also the two universal principles of sentence structure:

– Synthesis of word-meanings into the S/V/C nexus

– Analysis of the nexus constituents by resemblance, contiguity in space-time, & cause/effect.
Word functions in the sentence mosaic

We use words to reflect the associations in our minds that create our own thoughts (*personal generalizations*) about our 4D world:

- **describe** things by:
  - *Resemblance* (adjective & adverb of manner functions)
  - *Contiguity* in space-time (adverbs of place & time)

- **explain** things
  - *Cause/Effect* (adverbs of Reason, Consequence, etc.)

- **name** things
  - *contiguity* of concept (noun), *caused* (*cause/effect*) by *resemblance*

➔ We ask the universal ‘journalistic’ questions:

Thus, universal properties of word-meanings cause universals of their behavior in use:

1. **Universal principles** of sentence structure (synthesis into SVC & analysis)

2. **Universal word functions** in the sentence (‘Parts of Speech’), as a result of universal mental associations

3. **Universal functional groups** (being mental associations, words readily ‘associate’ with others, forming phrases & clauses that act as one Noun, Adjective or Adverb in the sentence); i.e.:

   //Life /is /what happens to you/, while /you /are /busy making other plans//.
Gnalysis

**Step 1:** Identify all mosaic patterns (SVCs) in the sentence

**Step 2:** Ask *Who? What? Which? When? Where? Why?* to discover what words/groups of words do in the sentence

**Step 3:** Diagram and label the functions of all SVC patterns, using

- Squares for main clauses: 🟣

&

- Triangles for dependent clauses: 🟥
**Gnalysis** focuses on the **logical relationships** between **words/groups of words** in the sentence

![Sentence Structure](image)

/Men / create / meaning/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis: Subject</th>
<th>Analysis of Verb</th>
<th>Analysis: Compliment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which men? (resemblance)</td>
<td>How? (resemblance) Naturally, by associating ideas, from their own experiences, etc.</td>
<td>Which meaning? (resemblance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All over the world, Of all races, With any sense, Who are not nuts, Living in all parts of the globe, etc.</td>
<td>Where? When? (contiguity) In their own heads, in all times &amp; places, whenever they are challenged, etc.</td>
<td>Which they want to share with others, Which helps them make sense of the world they live in, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why? With what consequence? On what condition? (cause/effect) Because they have the ability to generalize, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gnalysis of some Kuanua sentences from the ‘Tolai Texts’

Damana To Kuluia i tapatapal na bar na vudu ta kana uma upi,

I ga vavaongo ko,

upi I ga gigire na vaninara upi go diat,

upi na pait ta vakilang,

upi na varve vaninare To Kadik ma kana tarai,

ba diat a talil,

diat-a dara.
**Gnalysis** of some Kuanua sentences from the ‘Tolai Texts’

**SVC – 1:** /Damana To Ktuia i /tapatapal /na bar na vudu ta kana uma upi/,

**SVC – 2:** /I /ga vavaongo ko/,

**SVC – 3:** /upi I /ga gigire na vaninara /upi go diat/,

**SVC – 4:** /upi na pait ta vakilang/,

**SVC – 5:** /upi na varve vaninare To Kadik ma kana tarai,

**SVC – 6:** /ba diat/ a talil/,

**SVC – 7:** /diat-/a dara/.
**Universal associations – Kuanua forms**

// Damana /To Kuitua i / tapatapal/ na bar na vudu ta kana uma//,
How?

//upi /i /ga vavaongo, ko// //, //upi /i /ga gigire na vaninara/ upi go diat//,

//upi na /pait / ta vakilang//, //upi /na /varve vaninare /To Kadi ma kana tarai//, //ba diat/ a talil//, //diat /-a dara// ///.
Universal associations – English forms

/// Like that, /To Kutuia he / pruned / the banana tree in his garden//,

// so / he / pretended, huh / /, // so / he / ‘d see and prepare/ for them//,

// so he / ‘d make / a signal//, // so / he / ‘d warn / To Kadik & his men//, // that they / are returning/ // they / are coming//.
Universal associations & functions - Kuanua, English & Tok Pisin forms

// Iau iat, iau/ ga gi /tika na bul, a bul mara Navunaram, a iangina ToAmen/i / ga lolong/ ra umana botol na wiski/, diat iat dia vatang ia/ ra umana Iapan /a take//. 

// I / saw / one boy, a boy from Navunaram named To Amen // he / stole / some bottles of whisky, // which the Japanese /call / sake//. 

// Mi / bin lukim/ wapela boi bilong Navunaram, usait neim bilong To Amen/ em i / stilim / ol botol wiski/, // ol siapan i / kolim long / sake//.
// Io /namur/ i /tak pa/ ia / ma / i / ule vue / ma / i / ga vung/ ia / ura ra pia/ pi / dir / mamai/ //.

//Em i/ rausim/ na / em i / putim go daon long graon/, bai/ tupela / kaikai / buai.

//Well, then/ he / took [it/] and / he / pulled / it / and/ he / put / it / on the ground/, / so / they/ could / chew buai/,
Structures vary with translation, but mental **associations** and, therefore, word **functions** are universal:

// Bai / mi/ toktok / long sampla kastom **bilong ol tumbuna bilong yumi** //usait i / bin stap **long taim bilong tutak**//. 

Adjective phrases

// I’/ll tell /of some few customary ways of our ancestors in the Dark Ages//. 

Adverb of Time phrase
CONCLUSIONS:

1. Language is the universal *Process* of Verbal Thought - generalization;

2. Universal mechanism of generalization *causes* universal word functions;

3. Word properties explain *why* words form *functional groups* (phrases & clauses) to perform these universal functions (to name, to describe or to explain events in our 4D world).

4. Ganalysis uses the natural way we think to explain word behavior in the sentence; → syntax begins to make *sense*!
REFERENCES


