

## Verb plus satellite constructions in Ewe: Lexicalisation and grammaticalisation of complex predicates

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Complex predicates of the serial verb construction type are an integral part of the grammar of West African languages and they have received extensive treatment in the linguistic literature. However, other types of complex predicates, especially those of the verb plus satellite construction type have been hardly recognised. In this talk, I provide a characterisation of the verb plus satellite construction in Ewe (Gbe), a Kwa language of West Africa (see Table 1 below). I argue that the verb plus satellite construction is a mono-clausal construction made up of a verb and a second grammatical predicative element and together they serve as a single predicate and express a predicate meaning. I further argue that the construction emerges from lexico-grammaticalisation processes of univerbation or periphrastic word formation involving multiverb constructions of the serial, overlapping, and/or consecutive type as well as the formation of co-predicates involving adverbial deictics and prepositional phrases. I will discuss the morpho-syntactic properties of the construction showing that unlike SVCs this type of co-predication does not involve argument sharing (Butt 2015). I also explore the semantics of the satellites identified so far (see Table 1) and show how they are related to their sources.

Table 1: Verb plus satellite constructions in Ewe

Satellite	Satellite meaning	Source meaning	Example
ɖá	In the distance	Adverbial particle, In the distance	se X ɖá 'listen to X' Hear X VS
ɖí	down	Allative preposition plus locative anaphor	gbɔ X ɖí say X down 'predict, prophesy'
ɖó	'RESULT'	Verb, 'reach'	Kplɔ X ɖó Lead X reach 'follow X'
Kpɔ	'Exploratory/ experimentative'	Verb 'see' > Experiential Perfective	ɖɔ X kpɔ put.on X Expl 'taste X'
se	HEAR	Verb 'hear'	ɖɔ X se put.on X HEAR 'taste X'