

Innovative ergative main clause grammar in Ye'kwana (Cariban)

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1. Main clause "Set I" system

- A, S and O indexing on the verb

| A/O | 1 | 2 | 1+2 | 3 | Sa |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|----|
| 1 | | man- | | w(i)- | w- |
| 2 | k(ü)- | | | m(i)- | m- |
| 1+2 | | | | k [^] -/ki- | k- |
| 3 | y [^] - | a(y)-/ö(y)-/o(y)- | k(ü)- | n(i)-/kün- | n- |
| So | w-/-(y-)/ü- | a(y)-/ö(y)-/o(y)- | k- | n-/i- | |

Table 1: Set I person markers

- No case marking for A, S or O
- Standard Cariban OVA/VS order and possibility of AVO/SV
- *-tö* and *=to* collective markers

- O V A
- (1) *ashichadü künedantoichenña tüwü yawö*
ashichadü kün-edantö-i=de'a tüwü yawö
 sugar.cane 3A3O.PST-find-PST=confirm 3.SG then
 'He found the sugar cane.' (Cania.007)
- [A] V [O]
- (2) *kanno wodinñamo'kö neijö'aato mödö tuna yawö*
kanno wodinñamo-'kö n-ei-jötü-a=to mödö tuna yaawö
 DEM.ANIM.PL.1 women-DIM 3A3O-get-ITER-NPST=COLL DEM.INAN water then
 'The girls are getting the water.' (DescPared.013)
- S V
- (3) *mödö nattaamei*
mödö n-atame-i
 DEM.INAN 3S-end-PST
 'That ended.' (ConvChurB.096)
- ADV V S
- (4) *yööje'daane kennejenkatöne künwanno*
yööje-'da:-ne k-ennejenka-tö-ne künwanno
 thus-NEG-INTENS 1S.PL-grow-COLL-DIST.PST 1pl
 'We didn't grow this way.' (ConvChur.439)

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <ADV | V | > | V | ADDRESSEE |
| (5) | "eduwa kaajoja" | | künö'düaakö | tüweichakonouwö yawö |
| | eduwa k^-ajojo-a | | kün-ö'dü-aakö | t-weichakono-ø=uwö yaawö |
| | now 1+2A3O-touch-NPST | | 3A3O.PST-talk-PST.IPFV | 3REFL-friend-POSS=DAT then |
| | "'Now we grab him" he said to his friends then.' (TigMor.031) | | | |

1.1. Nominal predication

| | | | | |
|-----|------|--|--------------------|-------------|
| | SUBJ | PRED | | |
| (6) | a. | tüwü | Sichömüna | |
| | | 3.SG | Sichömüna | |
| | | 'He was Sichömüna.' (CManYude.004) | | |
| | SUBJ | S-COP | PRED | |
| | b. | yui | küna'jaakö | yawö Yudeke |
| | | i-dui | kün-a'ja-aakö | yawö Yudeke |
| | | 3-older.brother | 3.PST-COP-PST.IPFV | then Yudeke |
| | | 'His older brother was Yudeke.' (CManYude.005) | | |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| | PRED | SUBJ | S-COP |
| (7) | ajo'jo | i'yadü | na |
| | ajo'jo | i-wüwa-dü | na |
| | big | 3-basket-POSS | 3.COP |
| | 'His basket is big.' (Mdwk.137) | | |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------|----------------|
| | PRED | S-COP | |
| (8) | waakü'je | na | denñaane |
| | ^-wakütü=je | na | de'a-:ne |
| | 1-favourite=AZR | 3.COP | confirm-INTENS |
| | 'I like it.' (ConvChur.209) | | |

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | PRED | SUBJ |
| (9) | a. | yööje'da edö |
| | | yööje-'da edö |
| | | thus-NEG DEM.INAN.1 |
| | 'This is not like that.' (CtoCti.412) | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | PRED | SUBJ |
| | b. | "sadonojünü ewü yawö" |
| | | sadö-no-jünü ewü yaawö |
| | | over.here- PP.NZR-NEG 1SG then |
| | 'I'm not from here.' (Kms.115) | |

| | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|-------|
| | PRED | SUBJ | S-COP |
| | c. | Ye'kwanaje'da sotto nato | yawö |
| | | ye'kwana=je-'da sotto na=to | yaawö |
| | | ye'kwana=AZR-NEG person 3.COP=COLL | thus |
| | 'Those people are not Ye'kwana.' (HistAna.151) | | |

1.2. Other copular constructions

| | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | S | V | S-AUX | |
| (10) | <i>amödö</i> | <i>oowanomajai</i> | <i>ma</i> | <i>mödö jökkö</i> |
| | amödö | oowanoma-jai | ma | mödö jökkö |
| | 2SG | learn-ABIL | 2.COP | DEM.INAN on |
| | 'You can study that.' (ConvChurB.342) | | | |

| | | | | |
|------|---|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | O | V | A-AUX | OBL |
| (11) | <i>iyö</i> | <i>cho'kwa'se</i> | <i>küna'jaakö</i> | <i>yawö na'kwaka</i> |
| | iyö | i-ko'kwa-'se | kün-a'ja-'kö | yawö na'kwa=aka |
| | DEM | 3O-wash-DESID | 3.PST-COP-DIST.PST | then water=in |
| | 'He wanted to wash it in the water.' (CManYude.030) | | | |

| | | | |
|------|--|----------------|----------------|
| | A | O-V | A-AUX |
| (12) | <i>ye'kwana</i> | <i>önnü'da</i> | <i>mödö na</i> |
| | ye'kwana | ön-üdü-'da | mödö na |
| | ye'kwana | NEG-do-NEG | DEM.INAN 3.COP |
| | 'Ye'kwanas don't do that.' (ConvChurB.053) | | |

2. The morphosyntax of possession

- Morphology
 - Possessed suffix indicates possessed status
 - Person of the possessor prefixed on the possessed noun
 - collective number by an enclitic =*komo*
 - Possessor unmarked
- Syntax
 - Nominal possessor precedes the possessed item (third person only)
 - Personal pronouns can co-occur with possessor prefixes
 - When preceded by a free nominal possessor, the possessed noun does not bear the 3rd person prefix (N/DEM in Table 1)

| Possessor | hand | tobacco | eye | drink |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ewü '1SG' | y [^] -amö-dü | [^] -kawai-chü | y [^] -enu-du | [^] -wokü-dü |
| amödö '2sg' | ay-amö-dü | a-kawai-chü | ay-enu-du | o-wokü-dü |
| tüwü '3SG' | y-amö-dü | [^] -chawai-chü | ch [^] -önu-du | [^] -yokü-dü |
| küwü '1+2' | k-amö-dü | kü-kawai-chü | k-önu-du | kü-wokü-dü |
| tüwü '3REFL' | t-amö-dü | tü-kawai-chü | t-önu-du | tü-wokü-dü |
| önwanno '2PL' | ay-amö-dü=komo | a-kawai-chü=komo | ay-enu-du=komo | o-wokü-dü=komo |
| tünwanno '3PL' | y-amö-dü=komo | [^] -chawai-chü=komo | ch [^] -önu-du=komo | [^] -yokü-dü=komo |
| künwanno '1PL' | k-amö-dü=komo | kü-kawai-chü=komo | k-önu-du=komo | kü-wokü-dü=komo |
| tünwanno '3REFL.PL' | t-amö-dü=komo | tü-kawai-chü=komo | t-önu-du=komo | tü-wokü-dü=komo |
| nña '1+3'/N/DEM | N amö-dü | N kawai-chü | N enu-du | N wokü-dü |

Table 2: Possessive morphosyntax

3. Main Clause Ergative Imperfective

- O and S indexed on the verb root
- Allows co-occurrence of 3O marker on the V with a preceding O but not of the 3S marker with a preceding S
- Intransitive verbs take the *w-* 'Intransitive' marker
- Clear case marking on A when explicit
- OVA/AV only (standard Cariban Set II construction word order)
- Negative and plural markers = nominal negative *-jünü* and possessive plural = *komo*

| | S | O | Abs PI | A | Erg PI |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1Sg | ∅-w-/ʌ-w- | yʌ-/ʌ- | | ü-uwö | |
| 2 | a-w-/ö-w-/o-w- | a(y)-/ö(y)-/o(y)- | =komo | ö-uwö | -nñe |
| 3 | i-w- | i-/t-/∅- | =komo | chö-uwö | -nñe |
| 3Refl | tü-w- | t(ü)- | =komo | tü-uwö | -nñe |
| 1+2 | kü-w- | k(ü)- | =komo | kü-uwö | -nñe |
| N | w- | i-/t-/∅- | =komo | =uwö | |

Table 3: Absolutive person markers and Ergative case marking

3.1. The morphosyntax

[O] o-V A-ERG / O o-V
 (13) *simada ejudu tüdüdü mödö üuwö, simada tüdüdijünü*
 simada oju-dü t-üdü-dü mödö ü-uwö simada t-üdü-dü-jünü
 arrow handle-POSS 3O-make-NZR DEM.INAN 1SG-ERG arrow 3O-make-NZR-NEG
 'I'm making the bow, not making the arrow. (Mrcb.Aux.082)

o-V A-ERG
 (14) *tüdüdijünü mödö chöuwö*
 t-üdü-dü-jünü mödö chö-uwö
 3O-put-NZR-NEG DEM.INAN 3-ERG
 'She's not imposing it (on us).' (ConvChur.036)

o-V A-ERG
 (15) *yoowanomadü mödö chöuwö*
 yʌ-owanoma-dü mödö chö-uwö
 1O-teach-NZR DEM.INAN 3-ERG
 'He is teaching me.' (Sno.Elt.013)

[OBL] O o-V
 (16) *iyeke tümantö ñöödö aminñö'kadü*
 iye-ke t-mantö-e ñöödö ∅-aminñö'ka-dü
 wood-INSTR ADV-cover-PST.PTCP DEM.ANIM 3O-kill-NZR
 '(I) kill it by covering with branches (ExpCaz.086)

s-V
 (17) *yaatamedü*
 i-w-atame-dü
 3-INTR-end-NZR
 'It's ending (about to end)' (ConvChurB.019)

LOCATIVE s-V
 (18) *chö'na küwö'düdü mödö yawö*
 i-tö'na k-w-ö'dü-dü mödö yaawö
 3-against 1+2-INTR-arrive-NZR DEM.INAN then
 'We're getting to that' (Kms.278)

ADV s-V S s-V
 (19) *yööje wö'düdü yawö, ewü tü'tajötüdü yawö*
 yööje ø-w-ö'dü-dü yaawö ewü ø-tü'tajötü-dü yaawö
 thus 1SG-INTR-talk-NZR then 1SG 1SG-think-NZR then
 'I say like that, I think.' (ConvChur.098)

ADV S V
 (20) *mmm, akuda'ye, nña wetadawokajodü mödö*
 mmm akude=aiye nña w-etadawa'kajo-dü mödö
 mmm late=shortly 1+3 INTR-work-NZR DEM.INAN
 'Yes, wait a moment, we're working' (Kms.087)

3.2. The range of aspectual meanings with -dü

Past progressive

- (21) *yööje i'chödükomo*
 yööje i-tö(mö)-dü=komo
 thus 3S-go-NZR=PL
 'That way they were going.' (ConvChurB.303)
- (22) *ijoodü etadüjomma sotto wöömadi*
 i-joodü-ø ø-eta-dü-jo-mma sotto w-ööma-dü
 3-smell-POSS 3O-hear-NZR-ANT-EXCL person INTR-die-NZR
 'On smelling it (hearing its smell), people were dying.' (CtoCti.312)
- (23) *¿wade'data ju'jö u'jötüdü yawö?*
 wade'data ju'jö-ø ø-utu-jötü-dü yaawö
 sloth head-POSS 3O-give-ITER-NZR then
 '(He was) already giving her sloth heads?' (CtoWoshi.156)

Past-Imperfective

- (24) *Yanwaakomo ajöijötüdükomo yawö*
 yanwa=komo ø-ajöi-jötü-dü=komo yawö
 man=PL 3O-grab-ITER-NZR=PL then
 'We would grab the men.' (HistAna.110)

Habitual

- (25) *"möötö yeichüdenña yö'düdü weneene"*
 möötö i-w-ei-dü=de'a i-w-ö'dü-dü weneene
 there.1 3S-INTR-COP-NZR=exactly 3S-INTR-arrive-NZR always
 '"He always arrives when (the sun) is there".' (Kms.235)

Gnomic

- (26) *kawadi tawe'dato'kö weeka'tümüdümmaane*
 kawadi tawe'de-to-'kö w-eeka'tümü-dü-mma-:ne
 deer short-NZR-DIM INTR-run-NZR-EXCL-INTENS

'The deer runs short (it gets tired quickly).' (Morr.Wa.029)

- (27) *ʒö'waasa'kö kasudiina wattaamedü na'kwai?*
ö'washa'kö kasudiina w-atame-dü na'kwa=ai
how.much gas INTR-consume.itself-NZR water=through
'How much gas is spent by river?' (ConvChur.087)

Procedural

- (28) a. *awa'deene akköötödü yawö jojudu a'töi*
awa'de:-ne ø-akköötö-dü yaawö jojudu a'töi
first-INTENS 3O-cut-NZR then wall chair
'First you (general) cut the support for the wall.' (DescPared.007)
- b. *yootonno yawö yuduwa ñüüdü yawö*
yootonno yaawö yuduwa i-mü-dü yaawö
after then tree.SP 3O-tie-NZR then
'Then you (general) tie the yuduwa.' (DescPared.009)
- c. *yootonnojeene yawö sooko'nödü yawö*
yootonno=je:-ne yaawö ø-sooko'nö-dü yaawö
after=AZR-INTENS then 3O-make.mud-NZR then
'Then you (general) make the mud.' (DescPared.011)

Passive like examples

- (29) *ʒaakene e'tödü mödö?*
aakene ø-e'tö-dü mödö
how 3O-to.name-NZR DEM.INAN
'How is it said?' (ConvChurB.191)
- (30) *ʒne'kotojo mö'dö owanomadi?*
ne'kotojo mö'dö ø-owanoma-dü
what.for DEM.ANIM 3O-teach-NZR
'Why teach her?' (ConvChur.075)
- (31) *inña mödö yuduwa eichü yawö, jü de'köi yawö*
inña mödö yuduwa ø-ei-dü yaawö jü de'köi yaawö
there DEM.INAN tree.SP 3O-get-NZR then mountain over then
'That yuduwa is gotten there.' (DescPared.041)

3.3. Imperfective copula

- Covers the same functions as a Set I copula
- Has the same range of semantic interpretations as other imperfective verbs

As the copula of a non verbal predicate:

| | N / | PRED | S-COP |
|------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (32) | <i>Woshi,</i> | <i>tüwotonku'töjö'e</i> | <i>aweichüüne</i> |
| | Woshi | tüw-otonku'tö-jötü-e | a-w-ei-dü:ne |
| | Woshi | PTCP.INTR-lie-ITER-PST.PTCP | 2-INTR-COP-NZR-INTENS |
| | 'Woshi, you're a liar.' (CtoWoshi.042) | | |

| | PRED | S-COP | |
|------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| (33) | <i>ajo'jo</i> | <i>yeichü</i> | <i>mödö</i> |
| | ajo'jo | i-w-ei-dü | mödö |
| | big | 3S-INTR-COP-NZR | DEM.INAN |
| | 'It is big' (Mdwk.209) | | |

| | PRED | [| SUBJ |] | S-COP |
|------|---|--------------|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| (34) | <i>yööje</i> | <i>kanno</i> | <i>jaamo</i> | | <i>weichüjünü</i> |
| | yööje | kanno | ^ja-mo-ø | | w-ei-dü-jünü |
| | thus | PL.DEM1 | 1-grand.son-PL-POSS | | INTR-COP-NZR-NEG |
| | 'Those my grandchildren are not like that.' (ConvChurB.244) | | | | |

| | PRED | S-COP | |
|------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| (35) | <i>waakü'je'da</i> | <i>yeichü</i> | <i>jenñemma</i> |
| | ^-wakütü=je-'da | i-w-ei-dü | jenñemma |
| | 1SG-favourite=AZR-NEG | 3S-INTR-COP-NZR | maybe |
| | 'It could be that I don't like it' (ConvChur.168) | | |

As an auxiliary of negation and desiderative:

| | PRED | PRED | S-AUX | |
|------|---|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| (36) | <i>kone'da'dammaja,</i> | <i>a'deuwü'da</i> | <i>aweichü</i> | <i>edöje,</i> |
| | kone'da-'da =mmaja | a'deuwü-'da | a-w-ei-dü | edöje |
| | bad-NEG=also | speak-NEG | 2S-INTR-COP-NZR | thus |
| | 'It doesn't matter if you don't speak.' (lit. 'that you're not talking') (ExpTab.027) | | | |

| | | |
|------|--|-----------------|
| (37) | <i>önnüjötü'da</i> | <i>yeichü</i> |
| | an-üdü-jötü-'da | i-w-ei-dü |
| | NEG-do-ITER-NEG | 3S-INTR-COP-NZR |
| | 'He wasn't doing anything.' (ExpTab.250) | |

| | | | |
|------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| (38) | <i>ene'se</i> | <i>mö'dö</i> | <i>weichüwö</i> |
| | ø-ene-'se | mö'dö | w-ei-dü=wö |
| | 3O-see-DESID | DEM.ANIM | INTR-COP-NZR=part |
| | 'He always wants to see.' (ExpTab.329) | | |

| | O-V | O-V | A-AUX | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| (39) | <i>"öyönö'se,</i> | <i>öyönö'se</i> | <i>yeichü</i> | <i>mödö</i> | <i>yawö,</i> |
| | öy-önöö-'se | öy-önöö-'se | i-w-ei-dü | mödö | yaawö |
| | 2O-eat.meat-DESID | 2O-eat.meat-DESID | 3S-INTR-COP-NZR | DEM.INAN | then |
| | 'He wants to eat you.' (Mnwn.158) | | | | |

4. Origins of the construction

- Already well understood across the family (Gildea 1998.161-168)
 - Nominalization takes ergative morphosyntax: possessed by notional S/O, with notional A as an oblique (dative), optionally expressed
 - The nominalization occurs as the predicate of a predicate nominal clause, with the subject being a demonstrative pronoun (usually distal 'that').
 - After the reanalysis, the erstwhile nominalization becomes a main clause verb; Cognate reanalysis are found in Kuikuru *-lū* 'punctual', Makushi, Pemón and Kapóng *-Ø* 'Universal/Present Tense', Panare *-n* 'Nonspecific Aspect', Katxúyana *-rɪ* 'Imperfective' (Gildea 1998), and perhaps Kari'nja *-ry* 'Progressive' (Yamada 2008).
- This section will illustrate only the origins of this specific construction in Ye'kwana.

4.1. The nominalized clause as the predicate of a predicate nominal clause

(40) *iyödenña maane mödö, tüdüdüüne mödö*
 iyö de'a maane mödö t-üdü-dü:-ne mödö
 DEM CONFIRM RECTIF DEM.INAN 3O-do-NZR-INTENS DEM.INAN
 'That is what we are doing.' (lit. 'That is exactly it. That is the doing of it (by us).') (ConvChur.451)

[S V-NZR]_{PRED} SUBJ
 (41) *¿Muttu waanontödü mödö yawö mödöje?*
 muttu w-aanontö-dü mödö yaawö mödö=je
 bird.SP INTR-command-NZR DEM.INAN then DEM.INAN=AZR
 'Is that the command of the muttu bird?' (Mdwk.170)

4.2. "Bridging" context

(42) *¿yööjejünka yeetümüdü? ku-ta-ta-ta-ta.... ke*
 yööje-jünü=ka i-w-eetümü-dü ku-ta-ta-ta-ta ke
 thus-NEG=QP 3S-INTR-sing-NZR ku-ta-ta-ta-ta QUOT
 'His singing is like that, right?' or 'He sings like that, right?' (TigRan.017)

(43) *nñammaane nña weichüdö mödö yawö*
 nña-mma:-ne nña w-ei-dü=dö mödö yaawö
 1+3-EXCL-INTENS 1+3 INTR-COP-NZR=CONTR DEM.INAN then
 'Us, we have always been like this' or 'Us, that (is) our (way of) being.' (ConvChurB.186)

(44) *mödöje yeichü*
 mödö=je i-w-ei-dü
 DEM.INAN=AZR 3-INTR-COP-NZR
 'That's the way he is.' or 'Like that (is) his being.' (ConvChurB.336)

(45) *mödö awa'deene akköötödü*
 mödö awa'de:-ne ø-akköötö-dü
 DEM.INAN first-INTENS 3O-cut-NZR
 'That one first is cut.' or 'that is first, the cutting of it (is first).' (DescPared.008)

4.3. A possible pathway of semantic expansion

- Begins with HABITUAL and GNOMIC readings already in the source construction.
- The PROCEDURAL reading is almost identical to the source meaning.
- Expands to describe events in progress (by adding the PROGRESSIVE, becomes IMPERFECTIVE).
- Use in text provides context for PAST-PROGRESSIVE and PAST-HABITUAL readings.
- Once it is usable for Additional use in text
- Narrative tense

| Total of innovative examples: | 328 | from 4543 records |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| Present, present progressive, gnomic | 42 | represented equally in all genres |
| Past progressive, past imperfective | 41 | with 37 examples in stories |
| Procedural | 76 | with 43 examples in descriptions |
| Habitual | 22 | with 12 examples in descriptions |
| dū copula | 86 | with 41 examples in mixed genre texts |
| Bridging context | 22 | with no examples in conversation |
| Narrative past perfective | 39 | with 34 examples in stories |

Table 4: Semantic distribution of main clause -dū in text corpus (4543 records)

4.4. The many functions of the ergative marker

Agent of passive

- (46) *ʒne'kōömü* *yöönedü* *öuwö?*
 ane'kōömü i-w-ööne-dü ö-uwö
 INTERR.INAN 3S-INTR-DETR.see-NZR.1 2-AGT
 'What do you see?' (lit. 'What is seen by you?') (ConvChurB.195)

Causee

- (47) *tönööjo'se'da* *wöönene* *ünnakomouwö* *ñöödö*
 t-önöö-joo-'se-'da w-öönene ü-nna=komo=uwö ñöödö
 3O-eat.meat-CAUS-DESID-NEG 1SG-as.for 1SG-child=PL=CAUSEE DEM
 'I don't want to make my kids eat that one.' (ConvChurB.368)

Addressee

- (48) *ke* *sottowönñe* *künö'daakö* *Kamasi*
 ke sotto=uwö-nñe kün-ö'dü-aakö Kamashi
 QUOT person=DAT-PL 3S.PST-talk-PST.IPFV Kamasi
 'Said Kamasi to the people.' (Kms.575)

Recipient

- (49) *Kamasiuwö* *kuntuichenña* *yawö*
 Kamashi=uwö kün-uttu-i=de'a yaawö
 Kamasi=DAT 3A3O.PST-give-PST=again then
 'He gave it again to Kamasi.' (Kms.297)

Possessor with possessive predicate (the *mihi est* type)

- (50) *mö'döuwö* *küna'jaakö* *tüweiyemmaja* *yaawö*
 mö'dö=uwö kün-a'ja-aakö tüw-ei-e=mmaja yaawö
 DEM.ANIM=DAT.Psr 3S.PST -COP-PST.IPFV PTCP.INTR-COP-PST.PTCP=also then
 'This one also had it.' (lit. 'It was also to this one.') (CtoCti.394)

Experiencer of emotions/desires

- (51) *tūnonñe üuwö*
 tūnonñe ü-uwö
 dangerous 1SG-DAT
 'I am afraid of them.' (lit. '(they are) dangerous to me.') (ConvChur.419)
- (52) *ka'deddu tujunne'da k̄iuwö na*
 k-a'deu-dü t-jumma-e-'da k̄^uwö na
 1+2-word-POSS ADV-want-PST.PTCP-NEG 1+2-ERG 3.COP
 'We don't want/love our language.' (lit. 'Our language is not desireable to us.') (ConvChur.151)

4.5 Reanalysis and subject properties

- If the verb with *-dü* were still a nominalization, then the subject of all the imperfective examples from section 3 would be the inanimate distal demonstrative *mödö*.
- In contrast, if the verb with *-dü* has been reanalyzed, then we would expect that the subject of the imperfective clause would be one of the core participants of the imperfective verb: for intransitive verbs, the S, and for transitive verbs most likely the A (but conceivably the O).
- In the cognate construction in Makushi, Akawaio, and Kuikuru, the subject is absolutive S plus Ergative A (Gildea 1998, Franchetto in press). In a distinct ergative construction (*t-V-se*) in Tiriyo and Wayana, the subject is also absolutive S plus ergative A (Gildea 1997).
- Subject properties in Cariban languages are generally quite limited (cf. Hoff 1995.362, Gildea 1997.179-182, 1998.154-160). Candidates in Ye'kwana are:

The subject (S/A) controls coreference with a third person reflexive possessive prefix *tü-* in the same clause.

examples

The subject (S/A) controls coreference with the zero subject (S/A) of an immediately conjoined clause

- (53) a.

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| OBL | S _i -V | | |
| <i>ye'wö</i> | <i>weetadawakkodü</i> | <i>mödö</i> | |
| <i>i-de'wö</i> | <i>^-w-etadawa'kajo-dü</i> | <i>mödö</i> | |
| 3-on | 1SG-INTR-work-NZR | DEM.INAN | |

 'I am working.' (ExpTab.002)
- b.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| (Ai) | O | V | / | [| O |] |
| \emptyset | <i>kawai</i> | <i>ekauwüdü,</i> | | <i>inchonkomo'kö</i> | <i>kawai</i> | <i>chü</i> |
| | <i>kawai</i> | <i>ø-ekauwü-dü</i> | | <i>inchomo=komo-'kö</i> | <i>kawai</i> | <i>chü</i> |
| | tobacco | 3O-flatten-NZR | | old=PL-DIM | tobacco | POSS |

 '(I'm) cooking tobacco, the old men's tobacco.' (ExpTab.003)

The subject (S/A) controls coreference with the zero subject (S/A) of the complement (?) of the aspectual main verb 'finish'

example

5. Further developments

5.1. A Narrative Past Perfective

- (54) "aiju'kö i'saakö" künaijukui adödü
ø-aijuku-kö ø-i'sha-kö kün-aijuku-i ø-adö-dü
3O-kill-IMP 3O-peel-IMP 3A3O.PST -kill-PST 3O-take-NZR
'Kill it and skin it' and he killed it and took it.' (CtoWoshi.078)
- (55) ajöichü chöuwönñe ti'yuju'jö tüdüdü
ø-ajöi-dü chö-uwö-nñe ti'yuju'jö t-üdü-dü
3O-grab-NZR 3-ERG-PL upside.down 3O-put-NZR
'They grabbed her and put her upside down.' (CManYude.061)
- (56) çajichotojaato wöömadi?
ajichoto=je-to w-ööma-dü
young.woman=AZR-NZR INTR-die-NZR
'Did the young woman die?' Kms.501

5.2. Complex tenses with a copular auxiliary

Set I copula

- (57) sotto chijjadükomo ma'jane
sotto i-tija-dü=komo m-a'ja-ne
person 3O-make.laugh-NZR=PL 2s-COP-DIST.PST
'You used to make people laugh.' (Cania.027)
- (58) chü'tajötüdü küna'jaakö edöje,
i-tü'tajötü-dü kün-a'ja-aakö edöje
3S-think-NZR 3.PST-COP-PST.IPFV thus
'He used to think that way.' (Mdwk.053)
- (59) mödöjemmaane tüdüdü weiya denñaawü
mödö=je-mma-:ne t-üdü-dü w-ei-i de'a=ewü
DEM.INAN=AZR-EXCL-INTENS 3O-put-NZR 1SG-COP-PST also=1SG
'I could also put it like this.' (ConvWHO.061)

Innovative tense copula

(60) *yööje yawaanadii yeichü*
yööje i-w-awaana-dü i-w-ei-dü
thus 3S-INTR-amanecer-NZR 3-INTR-COP-NZR
'He always woke up (he used to wake up) that way.' (ConvChurB.305)

List of abbreviations

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------------------|
| A | agent-like argument | DESID | desiderative | NEG | negative |
| ABIL | abilitative | DETR | detransitive | NZR | nominalizer |
| ADV | adverbial | DIM | diminutive | O | patient-like argument |
| AGT | agent | DIST | distant | PL | plural |
| ANIM | animate | ERG | ergative | POSS | possessive |
| ANT | anterior | EXCL | exclusively | PP | pospositional |
| AZR | adverbializer | IMP | imperative | PST | past |
| CAUS | causative | INAN | inanimate | PTCP | participle |
| COLL | collective | INTENS | intensifier | QUOT | quotative |
| CONFIRM | confirmative | INTERR | interrogative | RECTIF | rectifier |
| COP | copula | INTR | intransitive | S | single argument |
| DAT | dative | IPFV | imperfective | SG | singular |
| DEM | demonstrative | ITER | iterative | | |

Orthographic conventions

All the symbols stand for their IPA equivalents except:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----------|------|---|-------------------------|
| <i>j</i> | /h/ | ' | /ʔ/ | ^ | <Leftward accent shift> |
| <i>y</i> | /j/ | <i>ch</i> | /tʃ/ | | |
| <i>ü</i> | /i/ | <i>sh</i> | /ʃ/ | | |
| <i>ö</i> | /ə/ | <i>ñ</i> | /ɲ/ | | |

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