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# Examining the forms and meaning of the Arusa dialect of the Maa verb expansions

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**Abstract**
The paper examines the form and meaning of the Arusa dialect of the Maa verb extensions. Verb expansion aspects in the Maa language are not interesting for scholars to study at all. It is this study that was interested in examining the Maa verb expansion. Case study design and qualitative approach were used in studying the Maa language. The unstructured interview was applied in data collection; thus, six informants of Arusa native speakers were used for data collection due to their competence in writing and speaking the Maa. The data were presented by using Leipzig Glossing Rules which constitute three levels namely: word order or parsing level, the literal translation, and the free translation level. The Cognitive Grammar and Morpheme-based morphology theories were tools used for data analysis. The study found that -in-, -i-, -e- are causative; -ta-, -to- reciprocal, -ki- applicative; -i- stative and -ki- passive allomorphs in Arusa. In view of these allomorphs -ki- and -i- are semantically cyclic in the sense that -ki- has dual meaning as in passive and applicative and -i- can be semantically stative or causative. Syntactically, both -ki- and -i- function as valency decreasing or increasing. For this fact Cognitive Grammar Theory exhausts these forms of complexity and those without cyclic as in -to-, -ta- and -e-, -in- are handled by morpheme-based theory as it accounts for the semantics of different verb exponents. In general, peculiarities in shapes, types, meanings and categories of Arusa verbal morphs need a comparative study of Maa and other language families for theoretical harmonization.

## Introduction

Maa language has been studied extensively, mostly in its history (origin), grammar, semantics, and phonology. These can be observed in Rasmussen (2002), Verb Tone in Il-keekonyokie Maa, syntactic categories and the Verb argument complex in Parakuyo Maasai, (Karan, 2018), Argument Structure and Locus of Affect in the Maasai External Possession Construction (Payne, 2014), aspects of Parakuyo grammar (Tucker & Mpaayei (1955), Semantic role and argument structure in the Maasai (Payne, 1997), Phonological variation in Maasai varieties, with some implications for grammar (Payne, 2002) to mention few. There is a descriptive gap in its morphology and verb extensions in specific. The study starts with surveying what has been documented in Maa language, especially on the topic under discussion; this creates the base for the current study to uninterested topics by scholars pertinent to

Maa verb extensions. Maa language has three dialects in Tanzania: Arusa, Kisongo and Parakuyo. This study examines verb extension in the Arusa dialect.

Tucker and Mpaayei (1955) described aspects of the Parakuyo dialect of the Maa grammar. They emphasised noun morphology, prepositions, pronouns, adjectives, numerals, and sound inventory. However, in the case of Verb morphology, the emphasis was on verb tone, showing how Parakuyo tone triggers different meanings when inserted in verbs. It is hoped that the current study promises to invest in the Arusa dialect of Maa verb extension as the result of contribution eventually to the facts of incomplete verb morphology.

Wallace (1981) researched Maa morphophonemic, particularly on segmental interaction in the Maa verb. Wallace contributed to understanding Maa tonological aspects, especially nominal tone aspects. However, Wallace (1981:31) gave us the following examples "k-é-ytà-bòrèy-ákˈín-í" to mean "they will fill it for me". However, in a real sense, tones have triggered such semantic scopes of the sentence, not morphemes extending from the verb. Thus, the current investigation studies verb morphemes' form and meaning that are attached from the root or stem of the verb to see if they are similar or different under Cognitive Grammar Theory (Langacker, 1987, 1982).

Rasmussen (2002) conducted a study in Maa language; his specification was verb morphology as the result of meaning conjugation being triggered by tone; thus, High, Low or mid-tone triggered the change of verb morphology in Maa language phrases. Rasmussen (2002, p. 73) gave us examples like "á - b á -w-" *I will arrive* differs with "ɛ́bá-w-"*he will arrive*. This shows that most studies have been done in association with tone, thus leaving a lot of morphologisation of verbs alone. Thus, the current study researches purely verb extension without associating with tone to see peculiarities found in the Maa language. Most Bantu, English, Australian, and Asiatic languages manifest their verb extensions in common ways. This means that if the causative is C, the applicative is A. When the stative is S, then the passive is P. This is a different behaviour from the Maa language (Nilotic family). If the causative is C, the applicative is C; when a stative is S, a passive is S or C and vice versa. On top of that, the reported facts on Maa verb extension are incomplete because the documented facts are tone-oriented, though claimed to be verb extensions. This is the problem that needs investigations at hand.

Payne (2014) investigated argument structure and locus of effect in the Maasai external possession construction. Her emphasis was on Maa syntax, focusing on the grammatical object of the verb and its accountability on the possessor and affected. The author also described the arrangement of arguments of the predicate syntactically. In other words, she exemplified direct object and benefactive oblique (Cf. Payne, 2014, p.99). The author continued arguing that despite Maa being rich in morphology, especially for changing argument structure, the EP construction has no verbal marking of any argument-changing operation, rather than an index of the construction. This means that the presence of an extra argument is in the clause rather than the verb in question; thus, the current study exhausts the way verb al affixes can attract argument structure. Therefore, Payne's study is very useful for the current study as it imputes some Maa verb structure. The current study goes beyond investigating verb extensions in the Maa language under Cognitive Grammar and Morpheme-based morphology Theories.

Karani (2018) investigated on syntactic categories and verb argument complexes in the Maasai (Maa) language and Parakuyo dialect. Along with other language aspects, he described stative verb morphology. Accordingly, stative in Parakuyo denotes, the colour, physical state of the body or state

of the entity described by the verb with suffixes such as in -a, -e, -i, or –o occur. Consider the following example in 1 below:

1. (a) a-mó-ì
1SG-sick-STAT
'I am sick' "I am tired"
(b) a-naur-a
1SG-tire-STAT'I am sick'
"I am tired" (Karani, 2018, p. 37)

The data in 1 above are confusing simply because the free translation does not reflect the semantics of the stative aspect. It is not arguably agreed whether -a- or /and -ì- are stative in the Maa – Parakuyo language. However, intensive investigation is needed to determine the common understanding pertinent to Maa and Arusa, a Nilotic Verb extension. Karani also pointed out the case of causative morpheme in Parakuyo-Maa. Accordingly, the causative is an argument-introducing morpheme in that it typically introduces external arguments as in agent, causer or instrument-causer argument that instigates the event denoted by the verb, (see, e.g. Alexiadou at el., 2006; Schafer, 2008; Barasa, 2022). From this view, the author gave us the following data from Parakuyo-Maa:

2. (a) e-ŋoiencuma
3-rust rod
'The rod will rust'
(b) e-ito-ŋwaesugariilalaK
3-CAUS-rot suger teeth
'Sugar rots the teeth' (Karani, 2018, p. 106)

The data in 2 shows that *-ito-* is a causative one in Maa language spoken in Tanzania and Kenya. However, under the level of observation adequacy, the data are in doubt following the fact that, in practice, such morpheme is not directly used as a causative morph in Maa language. Even the free translation is not morphologically embedded to the meaning but syntactically treated. It must be noted that Maa speakers practically use -i- as causative. Therefore, the current study must be investigated or rea-analysed for conclusive generalisation in Maa language.

This study aims at using Cognitive Grammar Theory henceforth (CG), which was originally known as 'Space Grammar' (see Langacker, 1982) before its current name, (see Chabata, 2007, p. 182). The theory was pioneered by Langacker, 1982, 1987) and was used by (Taylor 2002, Rosch, 1978, Fillmore, 1982) to mention just a few. The key practical function of CG is to show the way morphemes articulate multiple meaning as the community use them. Thus, the language provides speakers with resources for representing thought. The theory juxtaposes that the meaning is examined via context from the mental entity of its own units, base and domain (Taylor, 2002, p. 196) and (Kövecses, 2002, p. 4). This means that linguistic forms are required for the understanding of pragmatic forms. However, three theoretical apparatus uphold Cognitive Grammar Theory: first, Metaphor and Metonymy conception, second, prototype Model and third, compositionality Principle:

Metaphor and Metonymy: These show that language is not restricted to literary meaning only (Lakoff & Johnson 1980). The morpheme or morph attached or derived from the base or root of the lexeme should not be treated in one sense, but contexts should also be considered an extra entity for harmonising the meaning. Model of Prototype: The model was grounded by a cognitive psychologist, (Rosch, 1978) during her research. She argued in her research findings that membership of categories

is, in most cases, a matter of degree. One of the key issues in the prototype tenet is that meaning is understood as having a *core* and a *periphery* (Chabata, 2007, p. 199).

Compositionality Principle: the meaning of a complex expression results from the meanings of its constituent parts, (Langacker, 1987). Taylor (2002, p. 98) called this approach *strict compositionality*, meaning that the meanings of their component parts fully determine the sense of complex expressions in conjunction with how the parts are put together. Strict compositionality or compositionality Principle has (4) assumptions: (i) that every sub-component of a complex expression has a fixed and determinate meaning within the language system. This means no additional sense to such morph being attached to it**,** (ii)That how simpler units combine to form complex expressions also makes a fixed and determinate contribution to the meaning of a complex expression, (iii) That the semantic properties of the parts of a complex expression are fully maintained in the complex expression being given out as in the surface structure and (iv)That there is no 'surplus' meaning accruing to a complex expression that is not attributable to its parts or the manner of their combination.

It must be noted that this tenet cannot fit some morphological phenomena of the Arusa dialect of the Maa derivations as in reciprocal and some causative morphs whose meanings are one-to-one functions each. This made adaptation of the Morpheme-based morphology model henceforth (MBM). *Morpheme-based morphology Theory* refers to the model of grammar for the phenomena of arranging morphs and their set of rules (Baruer, 2004), or it is the list of components that follow a certain pattern or arrangement (Aronoff, 1976; Aronoff & Fudeman, 2005). Morpheme-based morphology combines linguistic elements to form larger units (Plag, 2002, p. 230). The author further argues that in this morphology model, morphological rules combine morphemes to form words in much the same way as syntactic rules combine words to form sentences. Thus, this approach quenches the satisfaction of Maa verb extensions, particularly reciprocal and some causative allomorphs which are not semantically cyclic.

Theoretically, Cognitive Grammar and Morpheme Based Morphology Theories seem the best for explaining verb extensions in the Arusa dialect of the Maa language, a Nilotic language spoken in Tanzania and Kenya. The morphemes extended from the verb with more than one semantic and syntactic meaning, are well described by the Prototype Model and Metaphor and Metonym as some tenets of Cognitive Grammar. As noted elsewhere, morphemes without alternative semantic derivation or meaning were explained under the morpheme-based morphology model because it details morph to form semantic words and other paradigms. These morphological theories helped us to understand the facts concerning complex words in the Arusa dialect and to develop suggestions to arrive at general principles of word formation and verb extension in Maa and other unrelated language families like Bantu languages.

The data from the Arusa dialect of the Maa language were presented using the Leipzig Glossing Rules. After explanations of the presented data were given, referring to either Cognitive Grammar Theory or Morpheme-based morphological Theory were the tools of data analysis which accompanied explanatory adequacies of the Arusa dialect of the Maa verb extensions. The former managed to account for the data with semantic cyclic phenomenon as in passive and applicative as well as stative or causative (some of the morphs) verb exponents, and the latter accounted for reciprocal and some causative allomorphs verb exponents of the language under discussion.

## Methodology

The study used a case study design. Kombo and Tromp, (2006) define research design as the structure used to hold all the elements in a research project together. Punch (2005) almost anything can serve as a case. Punch illustrates that typical cases include individuals, a role or occupation, an organisation, a policy, a community, or even a country. From this base, the researcher expects to use the Arusa dialect of the Maa language e as 'a case' study.

On the other hand, the researcher used a qualitative approach. Qualitative research design claims to describe life-worlds from the 'insight out' point of view of the people participating in the action (Flick, Kardof & Steine, 2004). The study used a qualitative research approach because of its typological phenomena under investigation. Thus, the reason for using a qualitative approach was that only descriptions, interpretations, and explanations of primary data from the Arusa dialect of Maa verb morphs. The study used six native Arusa speakers from the Simanjiro District of the Manyara Region. three informants were selected through the snowball technique for participating in the research, and the other two were selected purposively because they were trilingual speakers and could translate the facts.

The study used unstructured interviews for collecting data; here, six Arusa native speakers were gathered for discussion. The selected 30 verbs from the language of Tanzania (LOT) were the guide under discussion. These verbs covered all features as infinitives, active, and verbs according to the number of syllables, e.g., monosyllabic to trisyllabic. The researcher asked informants to translate Kiswahili verb derivation into Maa language. For example, translate the Kiswahili lexeme *shika* 'hold' to '*shikia* 'hold with or for' into the Arusa Maa language. Consider the below table1:

*Table 1: Sample of applicative derivation from Kiswahili to Arusa dialect of Maa language*

| **Kiswahili verbs** | **Kiswahili derived verb** | **Maa verb** | **Maa derivations** | **English gloss** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Shik-a** | Shik-i-a | imbung'a | imbung'a**ki** | Hold for |
| **Wek-a** | Wek-ek-a | tipika | epika**i** | Able to be put |
| **Kunja** | Kunj-an-a | tigila | entigi**at**a | Beat each other |
| **On-a** | On-esh-a | tadua | **in**-tadua | Cause to see |

Source: Author's designation (2023)

## Results and Discussion

The data of this section were collected through focus group discussion and documentary analysis in which six (6) participants of Maa speakers were involved in providing data on applicative, causative, stative, passive and reciprocal. The next section starts with Arusa applicative.

### The Arusa applicative morphs

This is one among affix extension in Maa language of Tanzania, it is sometimes called benefactive or dative, and "it indicates that the state or the action described is for the benefice of somebody else" (Mataka & Tamanji 2000, p. 179). Arusa dialect of Maa language was observed having ***-ki-*** morph as an applicative verb extension which is attached at the end of the verb root or stem. Consider the data in below table 2.

*Table 2: The applicative morphs*

| Verbs | English Gloss | Maa derivation | English Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Imboto** | Call | Imboto**ki** | Call for (with) |
| **Tadua** | See | Tadua**ki** | See for (with) |
| **Teheta** | Build | Teheta**ki** | Build for (with) |
| **Imbung'a** | Hold | Imbung'a**ki** | Hold for (with) |

Source: Field study (2023)

From the table in (2) above, it is observed that the Maa language exhibits a***-ki-*** applicative morpheme. Unlike Bantu languages, (Cf. Hyman, 2002, 2006; Paster, 2005, Katamba, 1993, Bybee, 21075, Good, 2002, 2003) the Maa applicative morph is attached independently with peculiar cluster e.g. in Bantu languages, the final vowel is extended at the last position, in other words, the extended morph comes before the final vowel as in Kiswahili language 'wek-a' 'put' and 'wek-w-a' 'be put'. Here the passive –w- is inserted before the final vowel -a-. The applicative morph in Arusa dialect of the Maa can be evidenced in structure 3 below.

3. (a) Imboto
'Call'
(b) Imbotoko-**ki-**Juma
'Call Juma for me'

The data in 3 (a) is the verb 'call'. While this is true, the structure in 3 (b) has been added with an applicative morph **-ki-** which semantically implies 'call for' specifically 'call Juma for me'. With this structure, the verb Imboto receives cataphoric reference 'ko' before an applicative morph. This is the cataphoric reference referring to who is called, and this is nothing but Juma.

**The Arusa causative morphs**

This is one among the verb extensions found in the Maa language. The Arusa causative morph indicates to make or cause something to be or to happen. In other words, the causative extension to a verb brings the idea of causing or making someone do something (Chabata, 2007, p. 84). The same meaning is observed in Mataka and Tamanji, who said the causative has the meaning "to cause or to make somebody do something" or "to cause something to become something different" (Mataka & Tamanji 2000:177). However, in the Arusa Maa language, the post-radical morphs -i-, -e- and -in- are being applied as causative allomorphs.

*Table 3: The causative morph*

| Verbs | English Gloss | Derivation | English Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| Turori | Fall | Turo**i** | Make to fall |
| Tayelo | Know | **In**tayelo | Make to know |
| Tadua | See | **In**tadua | make to see |
| Indura | Move | Indur**e** | Cause to move |

Source: Field study (2023)

The table in 3 above shows causative morphs being exemplified in Maa language. Like other natural languages, these morphs indicate causing or making something to happen or be. Syntactically, causative introduces (external arguments) agent, causer or instrument-causer argument that instigates the event denoted by the verb (Karani, 2018).

4 (a) e- turori
SP- Fall
'They failed.'
(b) e- turo-i
SP- Fall-CAUS
'They made to fail.'

The data in example 4 above shows that -i- is one of the valency-increasing arguments in the Arusa dialect of the Maa language. When attached to the verb, it attracts the addition of the causer arguments of the predicate structure. In the level of analysis, most of natural languages exhibit causative morphs as suffixes of which are extended to the right side of the verb. Differently, the Maa language uses both suffix and prefix manifestations in showing causative morphs in the Maa language. To my knowledge, no Bantu language exhibits its causative manifestation via prefixation other than the suffixation phenomenon and other processes such as deletion or insertion representations. For instance, a reference can be made in the Kisukuma language, the language spoken in Northwestern part of the United Republic of Tanzania; the verb *lia* 'eat' becomes '*lisha*' make or cause to eat (suffixation process) while this is true, the verb *tula* 'beat' becomes *tuja* cause or make to beat (affrication process). However, the causative morphemes (Cf. table 3) differ from the causative found in the Il-keekonyokie dialect of the Maa language, spoken around Kenya; it is observed that the *-ytɔ*-morpheme is the causative one for the speakers of the language. Consider the Ilkeekonyokie data in 5 below.

5. 'E-ytɔ-Ɲɔrr
3-CAUS-Love
'He makes him love it' Rasmussen, (2002, p. 530)

The data in 5 above shows the form of causative different from Arusa dialect of the Maa language; this indicates that despite dialects come from one language, there might be some sorts of differences in phonology, semantics and spelling.

**The Arusa passive morphs**
This is an extension that shows somebody or something to be done upon. Like in causative extension, the passive morph in Máá language is ***-ki-.*** Consider the following data in table 4.

*Table 4: The passive morph*

| Verbs | English Gloss | Derivation | English Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| Teleja | Cheat | Teleja**ki** | Be cheated |
| Toisho | Bear | Toisho**ki** | Be born |
| Tadua | See | Tadua**ki** | Be seen |
| Tadamu | Remember | Tadamua**ki** | Be remembered |

Source: Field study (2023)

The table in 4 above indicates that, the particle ***-ki-*** is a Maa passive marker in Maa language. It is a wonder that the same morph may be used to mark different semantics scopes. That is why (Cocch, 2008, p. 75) stipulates that, the number; type and form of verbal extensions varies considerably among languages. With this regard the Maa has manifested such different forms of verb extensions as shown in 6.

6. *E-teretoko-**ki-**Mussa*
   SP-help-OM - PASS- Mussa
   'Mussa has been helped'

The structure in 6 above indicates that the morpheme ***-ki-*** is passive in the Maa language; the preceding particle ***ko*** is an objective mark that shows the one in which the action is done. It is clearly shown that the Maa language has a different way of manifesting verb extension compared to other languages like English; for example, in English, the verb break becomes brok-EN. Thus, the -EN- has been extended to the root break, but in the Maa language, the morph is not extended other than being attached independently. Despite different manifestations of verb extensions, the semantics scope of the post-radical morph still exhausts reality.

However, it is observed that the structure of the passive morph in the Maa language is the same as the structure of the applicative morpheme (Cf. table 2). This can be concluded within the Cognitive Grammar theory (Langacker, 2000 and Taylor, 2002) that language is inherently symbolic in nature and that linguistic expressions stand for conceptualisations. It is not X be not Y in some contexts that is the elasticity of the meaning in human language faculty. In other words, it was found that one morpheme exhibits more than one semantic scope, something which reflects Cognitive Grammar theory. Thus, the morph ***-ki-*** can either be applicative or passive in the Arusa Maa language (Cf. passive and stative) morphs in the language under discussion. From this base, the semantic cyclic approach is of the evidence. In other words, the same post-radical morph affects or neutralises obligatorily in more than one semantics derivation.

**The Arusa reciprocal morphs**

This is sometimes called association or give and act in linguistics contexts. It is argued that different languages express reciprocal by employing a range of elements, such as verbal affixes, pronouns, and adverbs. English, for example, has the reciprocal pronouns, 'each other' and 'one another' (Maslova &Nedjalkov,2013). Most of the Bantu languages manifest post radical morph -an as reciprocal morph whose semantics indicates the situation in which the action is done by each other. In some literatures, the reciprocal indicates that "the action denoted by the verb is done simultaneously one to another" (Botne 2003, p. 437). The study revealed -to- and -ta- post radical elements are reciprocal in Maa language. Consider the following data in table 5.

*Table 5: Reciprocal morph*

| Verbs | English Gloss | Derivation | English Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Tudung'o** | Cut | Tudung'o**to** | Cut each other |
| **Tanapa** | Take | en-tanapa**ta** | Take each other |
| **Tigila** | Press | en-tigila**t**a | Press each other |
| **Tumuno** | Pinch | Endumuno**to** | Pinch each other |

Source: Field study (2023)

With regard to reciprocal shown above, the final particle of the verb ***to*** and ***ta*** are reciprocal, they are in the form of CV form unlike Bantu languages in which possess the proto Bantu***an*** reciprocal as in *penda* 'love' and *pend-an-a* 'love each other (Ngonyani, 2016, in Vitale, 1981, p. 145).

7. En-tigila**ta** engera
   SP -fight - REC- Children
   'Children are fighting each other'

The data in 7 shows that *-ta-* morph is the reciprocal in Arusa dialect of the Maa language which semantically shows two participants act in association. From this base Nedjalkov (2007) uses the term *reciprocant(s)* in referring to the reciprocal involvement of participants of the event expressed by the verb. Theoretically, the morpheme-based morphology accounts for a reciprocal counterpart in the current study. This means the attached reciprocal morph is syntagmatically structured without any cyclic morpheme-based approach.

Reciprocal morph found in Arusa dialect of the Maa language differs from those found in Parakuyo dialect of the Maa language. The forms of reciprocal are morphologically expressed by *-a, ro, no,* and *o bound morphemes, for example, e-rrep-a* 'they will praise each other, *e-ipoto-ro* 'they'll call each other' Morpho-syntactically; these reciprocal suffixes are co-referential with the subject argument in the clause. The reciprocal verbal suffix denotes the reading of 'each other' to the verb to which it is affixed (Cf. Karani, 2018, pp. 259-60). It must be noted that MBM accounts for reciprocal extensions in the
Arusa Maa language following the fact that words are formed via streamlined morphemes in such a way that no separation of morphological components is needed (Cf. Selkirk (1982) and Lieber (1992)). In other words, the attached exponents are not separate from the verb root. This means they add, subtract, maintain or modify arguments in the sentence structure.

**The Arusa stative morphs**
This is the morpheme, which indicates position or posture which it shows the ability or state of something to be done (see Lothi, 2002 and Simon, 2018). Hyman (2003) stated that the Proto-Bantu stative morpheme is *-ik- also called a neuter suffix. This differs from what has been observed in the Maa language spoken in Tanzania. Thus -i- morph is the Maa reciprocal. Consider the following data in Table 6.

*Table 6: stative morph*

| Verbs | English Gloss | Derivation | English Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Teheta** | Build | e-heta**i** | able (to) be built |
| **Tuhuma** | Hide | e-hum**i** | able (to)be hidden |
| **Taranya** | Sing | e-ranya**i** | able (to)be sung |
| **Imbung'a** | Hold | Ibung'a**i** | able (to)be held |

Source: Field study (2023)

The table above shows that only the V slot represents stative morph in the Maa language. In contrast, most natural languages exhibit CV, as in Chichewa and Kiswahili, Bantu languages, and the Maa languages exhibit just a V-slot with a single final vowel. With a quite different cluster, the English language exhibits an ACCA cluster. With this different note, the semantics of such different structures remain the same. Thus, natural languages are elastic and need different research angles to avoid generalisation.

8. E- munoienjoota
   NM -pich - STAT- ear
   'The ear is pinchable'

The data in 8 above shows that the particle *-i-* is the stative morph in the Arusa Maa language. The form of this stative differs from other natural languages, as in English *able* (Spencer, 1991) and Chichewa *an* (Hyman, 2002). Theoretically, the cyclic approach has satisfied the environment of stative for valency decreasing and causative (Cf. able 3) for valency increasing. Within the synonymous

context, Kiparsky, (1982, p. 152)'s Revised Alternation Condition (RAC) argued that 'obligatory neutralisation rules apply only in derived environments. In other words, the alternations of the same extended morpheme are cyclic, possibly on the affixation process. Thus, semantically, {i} is cyclic with either stative (Cf. 10) or causative (Cf. 6) being morphologically conditioned. Such alternative senses of the same morpheme are the evidence of the (Rosch, 1978) Prototype Model as one of the tenets of Cognitive Grammar theory (with modification). The model argues meaning can be conceptualised in core and peripheral, the core is the first meaning, and the peripheral is the second. However, such theoretical apparatus works in Arusa causative and stative morphemes as they exhibit more than one meaning.

**Conclusion**

The paper has examined the five verb extensions in the Arusa dialect of the Maa language, focusing on the semantic cyclic approach. It has been observed that ***-to-*** and ***-ta-*** are reciprocal allomorphs in Arusa, ***-in-, -i-*** and ***-e-*** are causative allomorphs, -ki- is passive, stative and applicative. This means that ***-ki-*** morph stands for passive, applicative and stative morphs' semantics; this is the peculiarity in Arusa Maa. The same behaviour is observed in ***-i-*** morph, meaning that, it represents stative and causative morphs. From this base, the cyclic semantic approach is evidenced in that the same morpheme form represents more than one semantic derivation of the lexical lexemes in the Arusa dialect of the Maa language. The peculiarities found in the Arusa dialect of the Maa language attract other investigations, especially for comparative study. In other words, the shape, type, meaning, and category of Arusa verb extensions need theoretical investigation compared to either language from the same family or a different family, as in Bantu languages. This would harvest the context of theoretical harmonisation of the languages with the same or different families.

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