

The distinction of three ‘Near Past’ forms in Lamba*

Osaka University / JSPS

Yuka MAKINO

(*JP17J00068)

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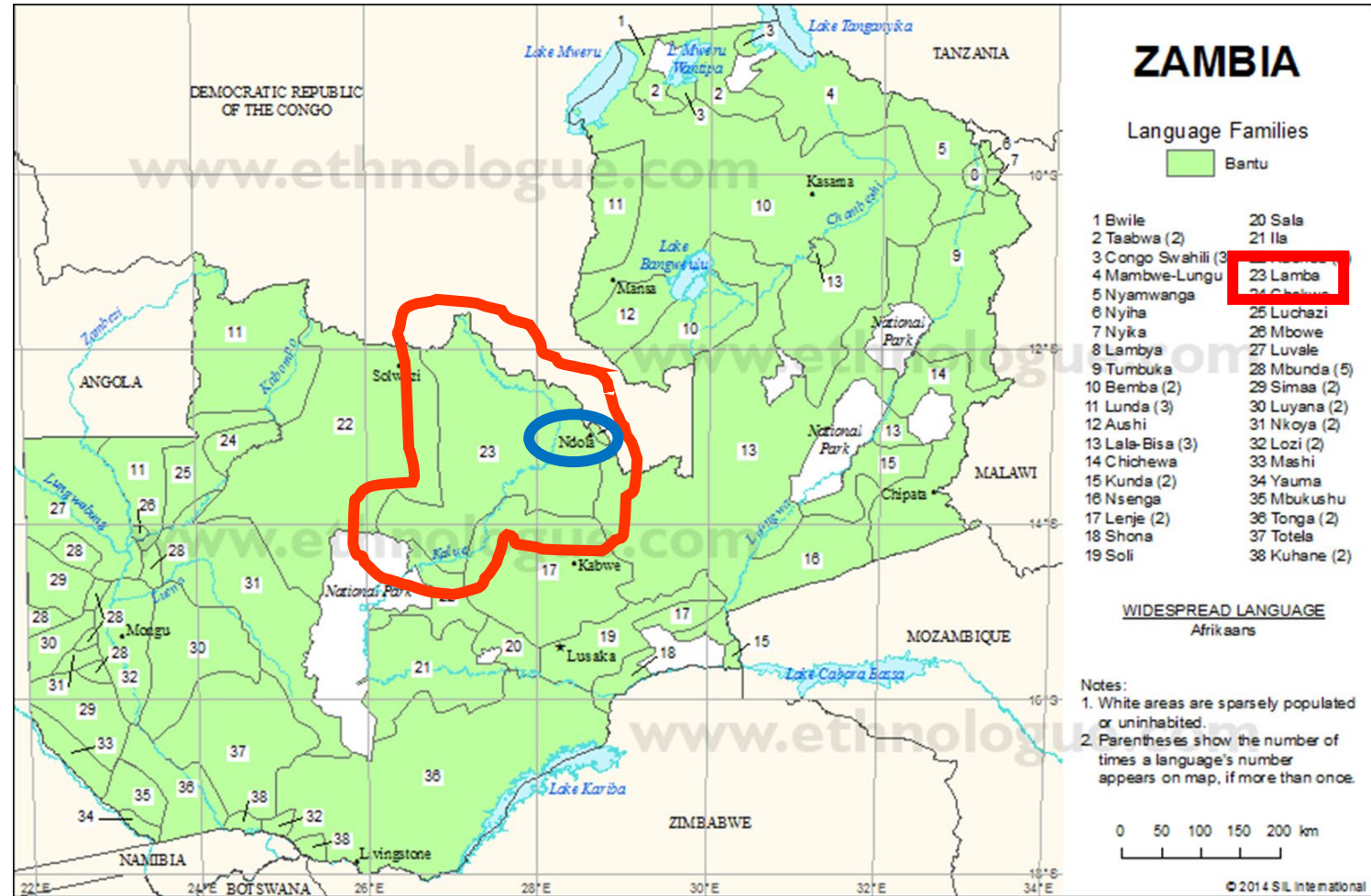
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6. Summary

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Basic facts about Lamba

- Lamba is spoken in the Copperbelt Province and Central Province in Zambia, and the Haut-Katanga Province in DRC with altogether 198,000 speakers.
- Lingua-Franca in this area is Bemba.



Aim of this talk

- I treat the following three forms that are introduced as denoting ‘Near’ past in the literature (e.g., Doke 1922, 1938, Bickmore 1995, Yukawa 1995, Nurse 2008).
 - SM-**a**-VR-**a**: the *a*- form
 - SM-**achi**-VR-**a**: the *achi*- form
 - SM-**a-li**+ SM-**a**-VR-**a**: the **compound** form
- I compare these three forms by using when-questions (“When did you V ~?”), and identify their functions.
- I examine these forms in terms of verb semantics and temporal adverbs.

Near versus Remote

- (1)a. n-**a**-lomb-**a** leelo
1sgSM-ANT-write-BS today
- b. n-**achi**-lomb-**a** leelo
1sgSM-HOD-write-BS today
- c. n-**a-li** n-**a**-lomb-**a** leelo
1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-write-BS today
'I wrote today'
- d. *n-**a-li**-lomb-**ile** leelo
1sgSM-PST-BE-write-ANTS today

Near versus Remote

- (2)a. *n-**a**-lomb-**a** mailo/ masooshi
1sgSM-ANT-write-BS yesterday/ the_day_before_yesterday(DBY)
- b. *n-**achi**-lomb-**a** mailo/ masooshi
1sgSM-HOD-write-BS yesterday/ DBY
- c. *n-**a-li** n-**a**-lomb-**a** mailo/ masooshi
1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-write-BS yesterday/ DBY
- d. n-**a-li**-lomb-**ile** mailo/ masooshi
1sgSM-PST-BE-write-ANTS yesterday/ DBY
- ‘I wrote yesterday/ the day before yesterday.’

- The *a-* form, the *achi-* form and the **compound** form denote today’s past event.

The terminology for three forms in the literatures

	SM- a -VR- a (The <i>a</i> - form)	SM- achi -VR- a (The <i>achi</i> - form)	SM- a-li + SM- a -VR- a (The compound form)
Doke (1922, 1938)	(Indefinite) Immediate Past	(not mentioned)	Immediate Past (Perfect)
Nurse (2008)	Anterior	(not mentioned)	Past 1 (Near Past)
Bickmore (1995)	Perfective	Immediate Past	(not mentioned)
Yukawa (1995)	Immediate Past	Hodiernal Past	(not mentioned)

- There is no literature which treats all these three forms altogether.
- These three forms are called in different ways, particularly the *a*- form.
 - the *a*- form is used for actions which have taken place on the same day, ... and sometimes it represents **the present situation** (Doke 1938:261).
- By using a when question, I compare these three and identify their functions.

The *a-* form versus
the *achi-* and **compound** forms
- In terms of verb semantics

(3)Q. ni luisa mu-**a**-ipai-**ile** kolwe
COP when 2plSM-PST-kill-ANTS 1a.monkey
“When did you kill the monkey?”

a. n-**a**-mu-ipai-**a** ulúcheelo
1sgSM-ANT-3sgOM-kill-BS morning

b. n-**achi**-mu-ipai-**a** ulúcheelo
1sgSM-HOD-3sgOM-kill-BS morning

c. n-**a**-**li** n-**a**-mu-ipai-**a** ulúcheelo
1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-3sgOM-kill-BS morning

“I killed it in the morning.”

(4)Q. ni luisa mu-**a-fik-ile** paK
 COP when 2plSM-PST-arrive-ANTS 16.K(nickname of the place)

“When did you arrive at K(name of the place)?”

a. n-**a-fik-a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-ANT-arrive-BS 11.morning

b. n-**achi-fik-a** ulúceelo
 1sgSM-HOD-arrive-BS 11.morning

c. n-**a-li** n-**a-fik-a** ulúhceelo
 1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-arrive-BS 11.morning

“I arrived (at K) in the morning.”

(5)Q. ni luisa ifi ifiseepo fi-a-bol-ile
COP 11.when 8.this 8.fruit 8SM-PST-get_rotten-ANTS

“When did these fruits get rotten?”

(Though it was not rotten the day before yesterday)”

- a. fi-a-bol-a ulúcheelo
8SM-ANT-get_rotten-BS 11.morning
- b. fi-achi-bol-a ulúcheelo
8SM-HOD-get_rotten-BS 11.morning
- c. fi-a-li fi-a-bol-a ulúcheelo
8SM-PST-be 8SM-ANT-get_rotten-BS 11.morning

“They got rotten in the morning.”

(6) Q. ni luisa mu-**a**-shaan-**ile** mu-lubansa
 COP 11.when 2plSM-PST-dance-ANTS 18LOC-11.park

“When did you dance in the park?”

a. ??n-**a**-shaa-**a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-ANT-dance-BS 11.morning

b. n-**achi**-shaan-**a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-HOD-dance-BS 11.morning

c. n-**a**-**li** n-**a**-shaan-**a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-dance-BS 11.morning

‘I danced (in the park) in the morning’

(7)Q. ni luisa mu-**a-imb-ile** ulu úluimbo
 COP 11.when 2plSM-PST-sing-ANTS 11.this 11.song

“When did you sing Gregorian?”

a. *n-**a-imb-a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-ANT-sing-BS 11.morning

b. n-**achi-imb-a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-HOD-sing-BS 11.morning

c. n-**a-li** n-**a-imb-a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-sing-BS 11.morning

“1 sang (it) in the morning.”

(8) n-**a**-imb-**a** makosa echi
 1sgSM-A-sing-BS hard this_is_why
 íshiwí lyanji li-a-shink-il-a
 5.voice 5.my 5SM-ANT-get_hoarse-APPL-BS

“I have sung hard; therefore my voice got hoarse.” (cf. (7a))

- (8) denotes that the speaker is in the situation of the voice being hoarse, and this situation is brought about by singing.
- Verbs such as *-ipai-* “kill” in (3) and *-bol-* “get rotten” in (5) denote the change of state, *-fik-* “arrive” in (4) denotes the change of position. **Such changes are observable in the utterance time.** However, *-shaan-* “dance” or *-imb-* “sing” **do not denote such an observable change by themselves**, unless being placed in a specific context such that an action of the verb brings about a particular situation at the utterance time.

On temporal adverbs

As we saw above, the *achi-* form and the **compound** form show the same grammaticality. But depending on the verb and temporal adverb, the **compound** form cannot be used in the same way as the *achi-* form.

(9)Qa.ni luisa ímbwa **i-achi-kuu-a**
COP 11.when 9.dog 9SM-HOD-bark-BS

Qb.ni luisa ímbwa **i-a-kuu-ile**
COP 11.when 9.dog 9SM-PST-bark-ANTS

“When did the dog bark?”

a. ***i-a-kuu-a** ulúcheelo
9SM-ANT-bark-BS 11.morning

b. **i-achi-kuu-a** ulúcheelo
9SM-HOD-bark-BS 11.morning

c. **i-a-li** **i-a-kuu-a** ulúcheelo
9SM-PST-be 9SM-ANT-bark-BS 11.morning

“It barked this morning”

(10)Qa.ni	luisa	ímbwa	i-achi-kuu-a
	COP 11.when	9.dog	9SM-HOD-bark-BS
Qb.ni	luisa	ímbwa	i-a-kuu-ile
	COP 11.when	9.dog	9SM-PST-bark-ANTS

“When did the dog bark?”

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|
| a. | *i-a-kuu-a | | <u>bukuumo</u> | lukoso |
| | 9SM-ANT-bark-BS | 14.now | 11.just | |
| b. | i-achi-kuu-a | | <u>bukuumo</u> | lukoso |
| | 9SM-HOD-bark-BS | 14.now | 11.just | |
| c. | *i-a-li | i-a-kuu-a | <u>bukuumo</u> | lukoso |
| | 9SM-PST-be | 9SM-ANT-bark-BS | 14.now | 11.just |

“It barked just now.”

(11)Q. ni luisa mu-**achi**-nu-**a** ámenda
 COP 11.when 2plSM-HOD-drink-BS 6.water

“When did you drink the water?”

a. *n-**a**-nu-**a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-ANT-drink-BS 11.morning

b. n-**achi**-nu-**a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-HOD-drink-BS 11.morning

c. n-**a**-**li** n-**a**-nu-**a** ulúcheelo
 1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-drink-BS 11.morning

“I drank in the morning.”

(12)Q. ni luisa mu-**achi**-nu-**a** ámenda
COP 11.when 2plSM-HOD-drink-BS 6.water

“When did you drink the water?”

a. n-**a**-nu-**a** bukuumo
1sgSM-ANT-drink-BS 14.now

b. n-**achi**-nu-**a** bukuumo
1shSM-HOD-drink-BS 14.now

c. n-**a**-**li** n-**a**-nu-**a** bukuumo
1sgSM-be 1sgSM-ANT-drink-BS 14.now

“I drank it just now.”

- Both the verb root *-kuu-* “bark” and *-nu-* “drink” are acceptable with the *a-* form when answering with *bukuumo* “now”, but both are less acceptable when answering with *ulúcheelo* “morning”.

- Comrie (1976) points out that English Perfect may not be used with ‘specification of the time of the past situation’, but if ‘the time includes the present’, the perfect can be used (Comrie 1976:54-55).
- In Lamba, the temporal adverb *bukuumo* “now” is sometimes much easier to be related to the present situation than *ulúcheelo* “morning” which denotes a specific time of the past event.
- *-ipai-* ‘kill’ in (3), *-fik-* ‘arrive’ in (4) and *-bol-* ‘get rotten’ in (5) are always grammatical with either the temporal adverb *ulúcheelo* “morning” or *bukuumo* “now”. The verb semantics therefore contributes to the grammaticality. For example, the change of state of a monkey which the action of killing brings about, the change of position which was brought about by arrival, or the state of being rotten can be assumed to remain the same till the utterance time since such changes occurred in the morning of that day.

The compound form

Depending on the verb, the **compound** form cannot be used in the same way as the *achi-* form.

(13)Qa. ni luisa mu-**achi**-buuk-**a**
COP 11.when 2plSM-HOD-wake_up-BS

Qb. ni luisa mu-**a-li** mu-**a**-buuk-**a**
COP 11.when 2plSM-PST-be 2plSM-ANT-wake_up-BS

“When did you wake up?”

a. ??n-**a**-buuk-**a** ulúcheelo
1sgSM-ANT-wake_up-BS 11.morning

b. n-**achi**-buuk-**a** ulúcheelo
1sgSM-HOD-wake_up-BS 11.morning

c. ?n-**a-li** n-**a**-buuk-**a** ulúcheelo
1sgSM-PST-be 1sgSM-ANT-wake_up-BS 11.morning

“I woke up in the morning.”

- It follows that the semantic opacity between the *a*- form and the **compound** form that Nurse (2008) points out is observed for certain verbs.

Summary

- The data strongly suggest that the *a-* form is **Anterior**.
- The *achi-* form is **Hodiernal Past**, and the **compound** form is interchangeable with the *achi-* form with almost all verbs **with a few exceptions**.
- The **compound** form sometimes shows the same grammaticality as the *a-* form with certain other verbs. In other words, the **compound** form has a similar usage with both the *achi-* form and the *a-* form depending on the verb; therefore, at this point, it is **difficult to pinpoint the exact function** of the **compound** form.
- The *achi-* form seems to be a **borrowing form** from Bemba, because this form is not mentioned before 1995 in the literature.
 - Could it be that the *achi-* form is taking over the function that the **compound** form has had?
 - Is it the case that the ‘erosion’ of the *achi-* form makes the specific function of the **compound** form invisible?

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