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PATTERNS OF SIMPLE SENTENCES IN SWAHILI

This paper is a fragment of a larger study, whose aim is to present the sentence structure in Swahili applying the method of the sentence patterns. This method refers to the method of the generative grammars. So far, the Swahili syntax has been treated traditionally, and particular problems of the structure of this language were dealt with from the points of view different than that presented below. Therefore, many problems which became evident in the patterns have been overlooked before. The article in question makes a review of the most characteristic phenomena occurring in the system of Swahili simple sentences.

In the system of simple sentences in Swahili several primary patterns can be distinguished, each of these having several possible variations formed by adding some additional components to the pattern. The structure of these variations can be obligatory or facultative.

The division of simple sentences according to the above mentioned system runs as follows:

Simple Sentences

1. The Nominal Group,
 - a) general pattern,
 - b) types of Attributes.
2. The Verbal Group,
 - a) general characteristics,
 - b) intransitive pattern and its variations,
 - c) transitive pattern and its variations,
 - d) ellipsis,
 - e) types of Adverbial Modifiers.

In the system of the patterns I have applied the following symbols¹: *S* (*subiectum*) stands for Subjects being *nomina*, *s* for Subjects which are prefixed personal Pronouns belonging to the verbal complex and showing the congruency with *S*, *P* (*prae-dicatum*) for Predicates, *O* (*obiectum*) for nominal Direct Objects, *o* for pronominal Direct Objects, which show the congruency with *O*, *O'* for Indirect nominal Objects, *o'* for pronominal Indirect Objects showing the congruency with *O'*, *A* (*adverbium*) for Adverbial Modifiers, and *D* (*determinans*) for Attributes.

Figures and, in certain cases, also small letters attached to the symbols of particular sentence elements, designate different ways of their expression or their different types (e. g. S_1 , P_2 , D_{2q} etc.). The brackets (...) enclose the particular syntactic groups. The sign — denotes the congruency, e. g. $S — (s + P)$. The obligatory word order in a sentence has been shown by means of +, and free word order by means of —. The free word order contains also such combinations of sentence elements in which we notice certain quantity of practically occurring departures from the principal rule, as e. g. the departure from the principle that the Subject ought to precede its Predicate or its Attribute.

1. THE NOMINAL GROUP

a) The General Pattern

The nucleus of the nominal group are the qualifying and the qualified elements, which usually occurring in the ($S—D$) order make the general pattern of this group in Swahili. The qualified element of the nominal group is formed by a nominal Subject (*S*). In Swahili, Nouns, Pronouns and Numerals treated as Nouns may function as Subjects², e. g.

¹ Compare the symbols in the following works: T. Milewski, *La structure de la phrase dans les langues indigènes de l'Amérique du Nord*, *Lingua Posnaniensis*, II, 1950, p. 162—207; and: R. Stopa, *Zasadnicze struktury syntaktyczno-semantyczne na terenie 4 rodzimych grup językowych Afryki*, *Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, Prace Językoznawcze* Z. 4 (*Filologia* Z. 8), Kraków 1961, p. 295—298.

² I. P. Jakovleva, *Očerki sintaksisa jazyka suahili, Afrikanskij Etnografičeskij Sbornik, III, Jazykoznanije*, Moskva—Leningrad 1959, p. 59.

$m-tu\ m-kubwa = (S_1 — D_1) =$ 'big (old) man', with *S* being a Noun ($S_1 = m-tu$).

A Pronoun used as *S* is marked S_2 , e. g. $mimi\ m-geni = (S_2 — D_1) =$ 'I, foreign' (*mimi* = independent personal Pronoun).

A Numeral as *S* is marked S_3 , e. g. $wa-wili\ wa-dogo = (S_3 — D_1) =$ 'the two small' (*wa-wili* = 'two').

b) Types of Attributes

The qualifying element in a nominal group is an Attribute (*D*) which can be of six different types: Adjective, Genitival, Nominal, Pronominal, Numeral and Prepositional. ($S — D_1$) is a pattern for a nominal group including the Adjective Attribute. We have here an example of the congruency occurring between the class prefixes, e. g. $m-zungu\ m-zuri = (S_1 — D_1) =$ 'a good European' (*m-zungu* is a Noun belonging to the class of Human beings, whose mark is *m-* and the Adjective Attribute occurs here with the same class mark). The congruency referring to the agreement within the class of Nouns in Swahili may also occur in less evident form like e. g. $m-zungu\ maskini = (S_1 — D_1) =$ 'poor European'.

The Adjective Attribute *maskini* standing here in agreement with the qualified element (*m-zungu*, class of Human beings) has no prefix. This phenomenon has been caused by ellipsis, which appears in Swahili in the just given form chiefly in case of emprints (here from the Arabic).

The Genitival Attribute in Swahili marked by the symbol D_2 occurs in two types: qualitative Attribute and possessive Attribute. We have here in mind the possessive structure, in which the qualified Noun is followed by a possessive particle provided with the class prefix of this Noun and by the qualifying Noun. The qualitative Genitival Attribute has as its symbol D_{2q} (*q* — for *qualitatis*). It may express different kinds of characteristics, e. g. $kazi\ y-a\ mi-kono = (S_1 + D_{2q}) =$ 'hand's work' (*kazi* = Noun belonging to the class of Foreign Words, *y-a* = a possessive particle, *mi-kono* = Noun in plural belonging to the class of Trees and Plants). The combinations of words with this Attribute may

sometimes lead to the creation of new words, like e. g. *wa-tu w-a kazi* = ($S_1 + D_{2a}$) = 'the people of work, workers' (*wa-tu* = Noun in plural belonging to the class of Human beings, *w-a* = a possessive particle, *kazi* = Noun, class of Foreign Words). *Wa-toto w-a shule* = ($S_1 + D_{2a}$) = 'children of school', 'pupils' (*wa-toto* = Noun, class of Human beings with *wa-*, a plural mark of this class, *w-a* = its possessive particle, *shule* = Noun belonging to the class of Foreign Words). The possessive Genitival Attribute is designated by the symbol D_{2p} (p = *possessoris*). It expresses the state of possession, the ownership. This Attribute can be divided into two subgroups, which differ from each other. The first kind of this Attribute may have the following form: *m-nazi w-a jumbe* = ($S_1 + D_{2p}$) = 'the chief's coconut palm' (*m-nazi* is a qualified Noun belonging to the class of Trees and Plants, *w-a* = its possessive particle, *jumbe* = the qualifying Noun). The second method of expressing possessive Genitival Attribute is characteristic of Swahili. It is based upon the structure with the particle *-enye* or *-enyi* which indicates the owner and it stands between the qualified and the qualifying element, in agreement with the former. Both elements of this structure are Nouns, e. g. *m-tu mw-enye mali* = ($S_1 + D_{2p}$) = 'a man — owner of money', 'a rich man' (*m-tu* = Noun, class of Human beings, *mw-enye* = a particle indicating the owner, *mali* = Noun, class of Foreign Words). This type of the possessive Genitival Attribute may also create new words, e. g. *m-tu mw-enyi akili* = ($S_1 + D_{2p}$) = 'a man-owner of brains', 'a man having brains', 'a clever man', 'a sage'. (*m-tu* = Noun belonging to the class of Human beings, *mw-enyi* = a particle indicating the owner, *akili* = Noun belonging to the class of Foreign Words and being an emprunt from Arabic).

In a nominal group with Nominal Attribute (D_3) the qualifying element is a Noun and it forms an asyndeton after the preceding qualified element, e. g. *mama ma-kinda* = ($S_1 + D_3$) = 'a mother of nestlings' (*mama* = a qualified Noun, *ma-kinda* = a qualifying Noun in plural as asyndeton).

Pronominal Attribute (D_4) follows, in principle, the qualified element and stands in congruency with it, e. g. *shamba l-ake* = ($S_1 - D_4$) = 'his plantation' (*shamba* is a Noun which

belongs to the *ma-* class, *l-ake* = Pronoun with prefix of this class and in congruency with it).

Numeral Attribute (D_5) also follows, in principle, S in agreement with it, e. g. *m-tu m-moja* = ($S_1 - D_5$) = 'one man' (*m-tu* = Noun, *m-moja* = Numeral with *m-* mark of Human beings class, as *m-tu*, and in congruency with it).

Prepositional Attribute (D_6) consists of a prepositional phrase, e. g. *safari mpaka Ulaya* = ($S_1 - D_6$) = 'a tour to Europe' (*safari* = Noun, class of Foreign Words, *mpaka* = Preposition, *Ulaya* = Noun, class of Abstracts).

Only primary patterns of separate types of the nominal group have been given here. Each of them can be enlarged by adding one or more other Attributes, e. g. *siku hi-zi z-a mvua pasipo jua*³ = ($S_1 - D_4 + D_{2a} - D_6$) = 'these rainy days without the sunshine' (*siku* = Noun, class of Foreign Words, *hi-zi* = Demonstrative Pronoun with prefix of the same class, creating Pronominal Attribute, *z-a* = a possessive particle of the same class, *mvua* = Noun, class of Foreign Words; it makes together with *z-a* qualitative Genitival Attribute, *pasipo* = Preposition, *jua* = Noun of the *ma-* class, creating together with *pasipo* Prepositional Attribute).

2. THE VERBAL GROUP

a) General Characteristics

Main components of the verbal group are the Subject and the Predicate, which follows, in principle, the Subject. This group can be enlarged by adding other sentence components: an Object, an Adverbial Modifier, an Attribute, or even several components of different types at the same time.

The Subject being a Noun (S) has been already described while speaking about the nominal group. In the verbal group, at

³ A. Reichart, *Elementary Kiswahili Grammar*, London 1926, *Reading Exercises*, XII, p. 287.

the verbal Predicate, there also occurs the pronominal Subject (*s*) which is a component part of the verbal complex and makes part of the flexional apparatus of the Verb, as well viz. denoting the person. In numerous sentence patterns it is the only Subject, there being no nominal one at all, e. g. *u-na-soma* = (*s* + P_1) = 'you read' (*u* = personal pronominal Subject of the singular second person, *-na-* = sign of the Present Tense, which doesn't change the sentence pattern, *-soma* = the root of the Verb).

An evident relation to the person does not occur in the case of one of the two impersonal forms, i. e. *habitualis* (with the prefix *hu-*) or the *infinitive form* (with the prefix *ku-*).

If there exist in a sentence both *S* and *s* Subjects, they occur in agreement with each other, e. g. *wa-toto wa-me-lia* = $S_1 - (s + P_1) =$ 'the children cried' (= 'the children, they cried'); (we have here the Subject being a Noun: *wa-toto*, in plural, with prefix of the Human beings class, and pronominal Subject: *wa-*, also in plural of the same class; *-me-* = sign of the Perfect Tense, *-lia* = the root of the Verb).

The Predicate (*P*) may occur in Swahili in several different forms. Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives, Numerals, Pronouns and Adverbs may function as Predicates. Hence several types of Predicates can be distinguished. The verbal Predicate (P_1) occurs as the verbal complex, e. g. *jumbe a-na-fika* = $S_1 - (s + P_1) =$ 'the chief is coming' (= 'the chief, he is coming'); (*jumbe* is a nominal Subject, *a-* = a pronominal Subject in congruency with it, *-na-* = a sign of the Present Tense, *-fika* = the root of the Verb). The compound Predicate (P_{1vis}) consists of two Verbs, one of them being an auxiliary Verb, e. g. *si-wez-i ku-hesabu wa-tu w-angu* = (*s* + P_{1vis}) — ($O_1 - D_4$) = 'I cannot count my men' (*si-wez-i* is an auxiliary Verb with prefix for a first person as a pronominal Subject, *ku-hesabu* = a second Verb of this Predicate standing in the infinitive form, *wa-tu* = a Direct Object, *w-angu* = a pronominal Attribute). The nominal Predicate (P_2) includes these parts of speech which are not Verbs. In this type the copula *ni* may occur. The auxiliary Verb *ku-wa* = 'to be' can also serve as a copula. The Predicate Noun is marked by P_{2a} , e. g. *Ali ni m-tu mw-eusi* = $S_1 - (P_{2a} - D_1) =$

'Ali is a black man'; (*Ali* = a nominal Subject, *ni* = copula, *m-tu* = a Predicate Noun, *mw-eusi* = a pronominal Attribute). The Predicate Adjective has as its mark P_{2b} , e. g. *mimi m-kubwa* = $S_2 - P_{2b} =$ 'I am big' (*mimi* = an independent Pronoun as a Subject, *m-kubwa* = a Predicate Adjective). The mark of the Predicate Numeral is P_{2c} , e. g. *hi-vi sasa ni 7%* ⁴ = $S_2 - A_{4t} - P_{2c} =$ 'these are 7% now' (*hi-vi* = a Demonstrative Pronoun as a Subject, *sasa* = the Adverbial Modifier of time, *ni* = copula, 7% = a Predicate Numeral). The Predicate Pronoun is marked by P_{2a} , e. g. *asali hi-i y-ako* ⁵ = $S_1 - D_4 - P_{2a} =$ 'this honey is your' (*asali* = nominal Subject, an emprunt, belonging to the class of Foreign Words, *hi-i* = pronominal Attribute in the same class as the Subject, in congruency with it, *y-ako* = a Predicate Pronoun). The Predicate Adverb is designated by P_{2e} , e. g. *sisi hapa* ⁶ = $S_2 - P_{2e} =$ 'we are here' (*sisi* = an independent Personal Pronoun as a Subject, *hapa* = a Predicate Adverb).

b) Intransitive Pattern and its Variations

One of the basic patterns of the verbal group in Swahili is that of an intransitive sentence: $S - (s + P)$. The word order here is most typical of the language: the Subject is followed by the verbal complex of the Predicate which consists of a pronominal index of the Subject and the root of the Verb supplied with a time index. The last one is not shown here as it does not influence the sentence pattern. The main rule of an intransitive sentence is, that an Object does not occur in it. Here is an example of this type of the sentence: *m-ganga a-na-sema* = $S_1 - (s + P_1) =$ 'the doctor says' (*m-ganga* = Noun as a Subject, class of Human beings, *a-* = pronominal Subject of the same class being a part of the verbal complex of the Predicate, *-na-* = a time index,

⁴ S. Brauner, J. K. Bantu, *Lehrbuch des Swahili*, Leipzig 1964, p. 177.

⁵ Jakovleva, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

⁶ Jakovleva, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

-*sema* = the root of the Verb). This primary pattern of the intransitive sentence can be extended by adding one or more Adverbial Modifiers or Attributes. As a rule, sentences of this type include an intransitive Verb in the Predicate group. It can happen, however, that either a transitive Verb — which would require an Object — occurs or a Verb which may be followed by an Object though its appearance is not obligatory. In this case the primary pattern can become either a part of a compound sentence, connected with the Object of the contiguous component sentence or else it can function as an independent simple sentence, though substantially it will continue the preceding idea.

Here is an example of enlarged verbal simple sentence, i. e. of the enlarged intransitive pattern: *katika mi-ji mi-kubwa y-etu wa-na-kaa wa-zungu* ⁷ = ($A_{21} - D_1 - D_4$) — ($s + P_1$) — S_1 = 'in our big towns live the Europeans'; (*katika* = Preposition which makes — with Noun in plural *mi-ji* — an Adverbial Modifier of place, *mi-kubwa* = an Adjective Attribute in congruency with *mi-ji*, *y-etu* = a Pronominal Attribute, *wa-na-kaa* = a verbal complex of the verbal Predicate, *wa-zungu* = Noun as Subject in congruency with *wa-* being *s*).

The intransitive pattern can often occur in its shortened form, with *s* being the only Subject, without *S*, e. g. *wa-na-lala* = ($s + P_1$) = 'they sleep' (*wa-* = personal pronominal prefix in plural as Subject *s*, *-na-* = index of time, *-lala* = the root of the Verb). This pattern can also occur without the pronominal Subject *s*, viz. in case when the sentence contains the nominal Predicate (which see). Then only the nominal Subject *S* appears.

c) Transitive Pattern and its Variations

The next primary pattern for the verbal group is the transitive pattern $S - (s + o + P) - O$. Its variants $S - (s + P) - O$ and $S - (s + o + P)$, formed from the first one by ellipsis, are very typical of contemporary Swahili. Similarly, shortened forms of the transitive pattern may occur, namely $(s + o + P) - O$,

⁷ Reichart, *op. cit.*, *Reading Exercises*, XVIII, p. 293.

$(s + P) - O$ and $(s + o + P)$. As in the case of the intransitive pattern, the transitive pattern may be enlarged by one or more Adverbial Modifiers and Attributes.

The Object (*O*) in Swahili may be expressed by a Noun, a Noun with a Preposition, an independent Pronoun or a Numeral. It appears as a Direct Object (*O*) and Indirect Object (*O'*). The nominal Direct Object is marked O_1 , e. g. (a verbal transitive sentence) *ni-me-mw-ona fisi* = ($s + o + P_1$) — O_1 = 'I saw a hyena' (= 'I saw her, a hyena'); (*ni-me-mw-ona* = a verbal complex of the verbal Predicate in which *ni-* is a personal pronominal Subject, *-me-* = index of Perfect Tense, *-mw-* = a pronominal Direct Object, *-ona* = the root of the Verb; *fisi* = a nominal Direct Object being in congruency with *-mw-*). The Direct Object expressed by an independent Pronoun is marked O_2 . It is usually accompanied by the pronominal Object *o*, e. g. *wa-taka ku-ni-la mimi* ⁸ = ($s + o + P_{1bis}$) — O_2 = 'you want to eat me' (*wa-taka ku-ni-la* = the compound Predicate which consists of an auxiliary Verb *taka* occurring here in a second person of a shortened Present Tense, and a Verb *la* in the infinitive form with prefix *ku-* and with pronominal Direct Object *-ni-*; *mimi* = an independent Pronoun as a Direct Object being in congruency with *-ni-*). The Direct Object expressed by a Numeral (O_3) occurs rarely, e. g. *ni-ta-wa-la wa-wili* ⁹ = ($s + o + P_1$) — O_3 = 'I shall eat two' (*ni-ta-wa-la* = a verbal complex of the verbal Predicate in which *ni-* = personal pronominal prefix as a pronominal Subject, *-ta-* = index of the Future Tense, *-wa-* = a pronominal Direct Object, *-la* = the root of the Verb; *wa-wili* = a Numeral in plural as a Direct Object, in congruency with *-wa-*). The Indirect Object (*O'*) appears often as a Noun with Preposition, e. g. *tu-jeng-e hema kwa jumbe* = ($s + P_1$) — $O_1 - O'$ = 'let's build a tent for the chief' (*tu-jeng-e* = a verbal complex of the verbal Predicate, *hema* = Direct Object as a Noun, *kwa* = Preposition which makes — together with the Noun *jumbe* — the Indirect Object).

⁸ Jakovleva, *op. cit.*, p. 61.

⁹ Jakovleva, *op. cit.*, p. 64;

d) Ellipsis

Ellipsis frequently occurs in Swahili. Probably the most characteristic is the above mentioned kind of ellipsis, i. e. facultative omission of one of the two Objects (Pronominal Object and Nominal Object) within a verbal sentence. Thus, instead of the complete pattern the incomplete pattern $S - (s + P) - O$ or $S - (s + o + P)$ occurs. Historically, the complete pattern is obligatory, and in Bantu languages this usage is a rule¹⁰. This construction is often used also in Swahili, with the agreement between the two Objects. Yet the two incomplete patterns are equally frequent.

Examples: The complete pattern:

m-tu a-ta-i-la ny-ama = $S_1 - (s + o + P_1) - O_1$ = 'the man will eat the meat' (*m-tu* is a nominal Subject, *a-* = a prefixed pronominal Subject being in congruency with *m-tu*, *-ta-* = index of the Future Tense, *-i-* = a pronominal Object, *-la-* = a root of the Verb, *ny-ama* = a nominal Object, in congruency with *-i-*).

The incomplete patterns: *a-ka-mw-uliza* = $(s + o + P_1)$ = 'and he asked him' (*a-* = a prefixed pronominal Subject, *-ka-* = index of the narrative form, *-mw-* = a pronominal Object, *-uliza* = a root of Verb).

The next incomplete pattern:

m-toto a-na-soma ki-tabu = $S_1 - (s + P_1) - O_1$ = 'a child is reading a book' (*m-toto* = a Noun as a Subject, *a-* = prefixed pronominal Subject, *-na-* = index of the Present Tense, *-soma* = a root of the Verb, *ki-tabu* = a nominal Object).

¹⁰ Compare: C. M. Doke, *Text-Book of Zulu Grammar*, Second Edition, London—New York—Toronto, 1931, p. 39:

Abantú bonke bafuna ukumbona umfana =
= 'People they-all they-want to-him-see the-boy';

or, p. 49: *I:k'at'i lakho elimnyama liwabulele amadada amathathu*
= 'Cat it-thy it-black it-they-killed the-ducks them-three'.

e) Types of Adverbial Modifiers

The Adverbial Modifier (*A*) as an adverbial unconnotted phrase, occurs in the Swahili system inside the verbal group, beside the Object which is a connotted phrase. Nouns with or without Prepositions, Nouns with locative suffixes and Adverbs may function as Adverbial Modifiers in Swahili. Adverbial Modifiers of place, time, manner and instrument are distinguished. The place of the Adverbial Modifier in a sentence is facultative; Modifiers of place and time may be put both before and after the Predicate; yet the Adverbial Modifiers of manner and instrument, as referring to the action which is performed, as a rule come after this action, i. e. after the Predicate.

Nouns may function as Adverbial Modifiers of place, time, and manner; (mark A_1). The Adverbial Modifier of place, expressed by a Noun, is marked A_{1l} ($l = loci$), e. g. *a-me-ondo-k-a Mombasa* = $(s + P_1) - A_{1l}$ = 'he left Mombasa' (*a-me-ondo-k-a* = the verbal complex of the verbal Predicate with prefixed pronominal Subject *a-*, *Mombasa* = the Adverbial Modifier of place).

The Adverbial Modifier of time, expressed by a Noun, is marked A_{1t} ($t = temporis$), e. g. *siku z-a mvua a-ka-ja* = $(A_{1t} + D_{2q}) - (s + P_1)$ = 'he came one rainy day' (*siku* = the Adverbial Modifier of time, *z-a mvua* = the qualitative Genitival Attribute with a possessive particle *z-a*, *a-ka-ja* = the verbal complex of the verbal Predicate).

The Adverbial Modifier of manner, expressed by a Noun, is marked A_{1m} ($m = modi$), e. g. *a-ka-m-pelek-e-a bwana simu*¹¹ = $(s + o + P_1) - O_1 - A_{1m}$ = 'he gave (the news) to the landlord by a telegram' (*a-* = a personal pronominal prefix as a Subject, *-ka-* = a narrative form, *-m-* = a pronominal Object, *-pelek-e-a* = Verb, *bwana* = a nominal Object in congruency with *-m-*, *simu* = the Adverbial Modifier of manner).

A Noun with a Preposition as the Adverbial Modifier (mark A_2) makes the Adverbial Modifiers of place, manner, or instrument. The Adverbial Modifier of place, expressed by such a phrase, is marked A_{2l} , e. g. *katika bara wa-me-baki*

¹¹ Jakovleva, *op. cit.*, p. 72.

*Wa-arabu maskini*¹² = $A_{2i} - (s + P_1) - (S_1 - D_1)$ = 'inside the land the poor Arabs stayed' (the Preposition *katika* together with Noun *bara* makes the Adverbial Modifier of place, *wa-me-baki* = the verbal complex of the verbal Predicate, *Wa-arabu* = the nominal Subject in plural, *maskini* = the Adjective Attribute).

The Adverbial Modifier of manner, expressed by a Noun with a Preposition, is marked A_{2m} , e. g. *a-me-fika kwa gari* = $(s + P_1) - A_{2m}$ = 'he came in a cart' (*a-me-fika* = the verbal complex of the verbal Predicate, *kwa* = Preposition, *gari* = Noun which creates — together with *kwa* — the Adverbial Modifier of manner).

The Adverbial Modifier of instrument, expressed by a Noun with a Preposition, is marked A_{2i} (i = *instrumenti*), e. g. *nawa mi-kono y-ako kwa sabuni* = $P_1 - (O_1 - D_4) - A_{2i}$ = 'wash your hands with soap' (*nawa* = Verb as a verbal Predicate, *mi-kono* = a Direct Object in plural, *y-ako* = pronominal Attribute in congruency with it, *kwa* = Preposition which makes — together with Noun *sabuni* — the Adverbial Modifier of instrument).

A Noun with the locative suffix as the Adverbial Modifier is marked A_3 . It occurs as the Adverbial Modifier of place, which is frequently expressed by such a phrase; it is signed A_{3i} , e. g. *wa-zungu wa-ki-ingia ny-umba-ni*¹³ = $S_1 - (s + P_1) - A_{3i}$ = 'if the Europeans enter the house' (*wa-zungu* = the nominal Subject, *wa* = the pronominal Subject in congruency with it, *wa-ki-ingia* = the verbal complex of the verbal Predicate including this pronominal Subject, *ny-umba* = Noun, class of Foreign Words, with the locative suffix *-ni*; this Noun together with suffix *-ni* makes the Adverbial Modifier of place).

The Adverbial Modifier, expressed by an Adverb, is marked A_4 . Adverbs may serve as Adverbial Modifiers of time or manner. The Adverbial Modifier of time, expressed by an Adverb, is marked A_{4t} , e. g. *tu-ta-fika wapi leo?*¹⁴ = $(s + P_1) - A_{4t}$ = 'where shall we go today?' (*tu-ta-fika* = the verbal complex

¹² Reichart, *op. cit.*, *Reading Exercises*, XVIII, p. 294.

¹³ Reichart, *op. cit.*, *Reading Exercises*, IV, p. 278.

¹⁴ C. Velten, *Praktische Suaheli-Grammatik*, Fünfte Auflage, Leipzig 1932, p. 252.

of the verbal Predicate including the pronominal Subject *tu*, *wapi* = an Interrogative Pronoun, *leo* = an Adverb as Adverbial Modifier of time). The Adverbial Modifier of manner, expressed by an Adverb, is marked A_{4m} , e. g. *gari l-a m-oshi li-na-kw-enda upesi*¹⁵ = $(S_1 + D_{2q}) - (s + P_1) - A_{4m}$ = 'the steam machine goes quickly' (*gari* = Noun as a nominal Subject, *l-a m-oshi* = the qualitative Genitival Attribute, *li-na-kw-enda* = the verbal complex of the verbal Predicate, *upesi* = an Adverb as Adverbial Modifier of manner).

LIST OF SYMBOLS

- S (*subiectum*) stands for Subjects being *nomina*:
 S_1 for Subject being a Noun,
 S_2 „ „ „ an independent Pronoun,
 S_3 „ „ „ a Numeral;
- s for Subjects which are prefixed personal Pronouns belonging to the verbal complex and showing the congruency with S ;
- P (*praedicatum*) stands for Predicates:
 P_1 for verbal Predicate,
 P_{1bis} for compound Predicate,
 P_2 for nominal Predicate:
 P_{2a} for the Predicate Noun,
 P_{2b} „ „ „ Adjective,
 P_{2c} „ „ „ Numeral,
 P_{2d} „ „ „ Pronoun,
 P_{2e} „ „ „ Adverb;
- O (*obiectum*) stands for nominal Direct Objects:
 O_1 for Direct Object being a Noun,
 O_2 „ „ „ „ an independent Pronoun,
 O_3 „ „ „ „ a Numeral;
- o for pronominal Direct Objects which show the congruency with O and belong to the verbal complex;
- O' for nominal Indirect Objects,

¹⁵ Velten, *op. cit.*, p. 240.

7. *o'* for pronominal Indirect Objects showing the congruency with *O'* and belonging to the verbal complex;
8. *A* (*adverbium*) stands for Adverbial Modifiers:
- A₁* for Adverbial Modifier being a Noun,
 - A₂* „ „ „ „ a Noun with a Preposition,
 - A₃* „ „ „ „ a Noun with the locative suffix,
 - A₄* „ „ „ „ an Adverb;
 - A_l* „ „ „ „ of place (*l* = *loci*),
 - A_t* „ „ „ „ of time (*t* = *temporis*),
 - A_m* „ „ „ „ of manner (*m* = *modi*),
 - A_i* „ „ „ „ of instrument (*i* = *instrumenti*);
9. *D* (*determinans*) stands for Attributes:
- D₁* for the Adjective Attribute,
 - D₂* for the Genitival Attribute:
 - D_{2q}* for the qualitative Genitival Attribute (*q* = *qualitatis*),
 - D_{2p}* for the possessive Genitival Attribute (*p* = *possessoris*),
 - D₃* for the Nominal Attribute,
 - D₄* „ „ Pronominal Attribute,
 - D₅* „ „ Numeral Attribute,
 - D₆* „ „ Prepositional Attribute.

ANDRZEJ ZABORSKI

NOTES ON THE MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF THE BEJA TRIBES

The period of the Middle Ages is of special importance for the history of the nomadic Beja tribes inhabiting the Red Sea Hinterland of Upper Egypt, Sudan and Erythrea. It is in the Middle Ages and more accurately since the Arab conquest of Egypt that the Beja appear to us in the full light of history — we must insist on the fact that the identification of Beja with Meju¹ as well as with the Blemyes² cannot by yet considered as fairly established since no strictly scientific study of this problem has been done so far. The Aksumitic inscriptions are the oldest historical sources that refer doubtlessly to Beja but in spite of their importance it must be admitted that the information about Beja contained in these inscriptions is rather scanty and dealing with a comparatively short period. A number of valuable and rather exhaustive information about Beja was delivered for the first time by the medieval Arab travellers and writers.

¹ This people is mentioned in the Egyptian records. See T. Säv-Söderbergh, *Ägypten und Nubien*, Lund 1941, p. 18, 233.

² For the best account of the history of the Blemyes see an article by K. Sethe in Paulys *Real-Encyclopädie der Classischen Altertumswissenschaft*, V Band, Stuttgart 1897, p. 566, and the first chapters of U. Monneret de Villard's *Storia della Nubia cristiana*, Roma 1938. Cf. an article on Ethiopia by H. Letronne in *Dictionnaire d'Archéologie Chrétienne et de Liturgie*, t. V., 1ère partie, Paris 1922. Several scholars identified the Blemyes with al-Biliyyūn mentioned by al-Idrisī in the twelfth century A. D. but this identification cannot be accepted. An interesting etymology of this name has been proposed by L. Reisch, *Wörterbuch der Bedauye-Sprache*, Wien 1895, p. 47, who derived it from the word *bālami* which means „an inhabitant of the desert; a Bedouin“.