

Chapter 15

The anticausative alternation in Luragooli

John Gluckman

UCLA

Margit Bowler

UCLA

We discuss the distribution of the verbal suffix *-Vk* in Luragooli (Luyia, Bantu) based on original fieldwork with a native speaker. We show that *-Vk* patterns like an anticausative marker with respect to a number of different diagnostics, including licensing of theta-roles and interaction with lexical aspect. We compare Luragooli to other languages with anticausative morphology and identify different classes of verbs based on their behavior with the *-Vk* suffix.

1 Introduction

This paper addresses the distribution and meaning of the Luragooli (Luyia, Bantu) verbal suffix *-Vk* (variously realized as *-ek*, *-ik*, *-ok*, and *-uk*).¹ This suffix occurs in a number of Bantu languages, including Chichewa (Mchombo 1993; Simango 2009) and Swahili (Seidl & Dimitriadis 2003). *-Vk* constructions in these languages have variously been called statives, middles, neuter-passives, quasi-passives, anticausatives, and intransitivized constructions, among others (Mchombo 1993; Dubinsky & Simango 1996; Seidl & Dimitriadis 2003; Fernando 2013). For now, we will refer to and gloss the suffix with the neutral term *-Vk*.

The primary goal of this paper is to attain a descriptively adequate account of *-Vk* in Luragooli by addressing the following research questions through original fieldwork with a native Luragooli speaker:

¹ Luragooli (also called Maragoli, Logoori, Lulogoori, and Logooli) is a Bantu language in the Luyia subfamily, spoken by approximately 618,000 people in Kenya and Tanzania (Lewis, Simons & Fennig 2015).



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