

Tense, Mood, and Indexicals Under Ende *Ngonongg/Ngonoe*

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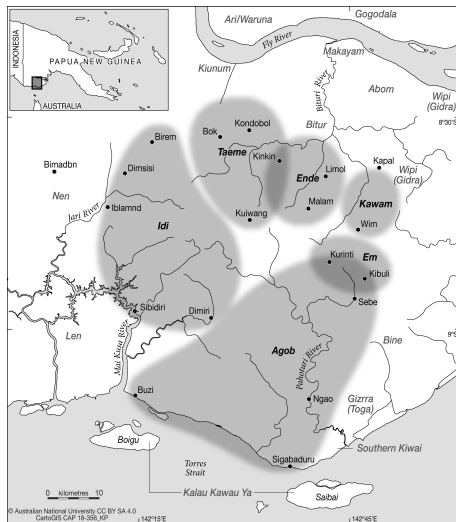
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Introduction

Ende (Pahoturi) is a language spoken in the south of Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

I will focus on the word(s) *ngonongg* / *ngonoe*, translated variously as 'ask', 'remember', 'think', 'wonder', and 'worry'.



Embedding under *ngonongg/ngonoe*

Ngonongg/Ngonoe can embed complements which seem quotational in nature.

(1) SE_PN034: Family Problems Picture Task 1.4 Line 32.2

Ge särem ma ik mi giddoll **ngonomeny**
this darkness house inside LOC live think-III.PL
allan, allingoll **ngäna** bogezän.
AUX.PRS.1|3SGS how 1.SG.NOM come.out.FUT.1SGS

'He_i is staying in this dark place thinking, "how will I_i get out?"'

I will call these quote-like (QL) complements.

Embedding under *ngonongg/ngonoe* (cont.)

Ngonongg/Ngonoe can also embed complements are not quotational.

(2) SE_PI035: Family Problems Picture Task 2.1 Line 70

ngonomeny allan, alla ingoll
think-III.PL AUX.PRS.1|3SGS how like
deyagirneyo ge lla **da** walle.
stay.REM.DUR.3DUS this man 3.SG.POSS INS

‘He_i is thinking about how he_i was staying with this man.’

I will call these non-quote-like (NQL) complements.

My interests lie in seeing whether or not QL and NQL complements are in free variation, or are conditioned by its interpretation.

Methodology

I searched for sentences in which a third person attitude holder holds some attitude embedded under *ngonongg/ngonoe* which refers to themselves. NQL complements should represent the embedded instance of the attitude holder as third person, while QL sentences should represent them as first person.

Out of the 399 sentences containing *ngonoe/ngonongg*, 23 sentences matched this criteria: one was ambiguous between the two possibilities, and two used infinitives.

Results

Sense of <i>ngonongg/ngonoe</i>	Embedded Tense	Embedded Mood	QL/ NQL	# of Sent
ASK/SUGGEST	Remote	Imperative	QL	1
ASK	Recent	Interrogative	QL	2
THINK	Remote	Interrogative	NQL	7
THINK	Future	Interrogative	QL	5
THINK	Conditional	Declarative	NQL	2
THINK	Conditional	Declarative	QL	1
THINK	Conditional	Interrogative	QL	1
THINK	Future	Declarative	NQL	1

Discussion

'Ask' interpretations readily have QL complements (not only in the aforementioned three examples, but elsewhere).

When non-conditional, interrogative, complements split between NQL and QL readings by tense (future QL vs. remote past NQL).

Conditionals and declarative complements less clear.

Discussion (cont.)

Sense of <i>ngonongg/ngonoe</i>	Embedded Tense	Embedded Mood	QL/ NQL	# of Sent
THINK	Remote	Interrogative	NQL	7
THINK	Future	Interrogative	QL	5

Hypothesis: It's not tense which determines complement type, but the nature of the 'thinking'. QL complements represent 'pondering' over choices which bear on future decisions or considering of hypothetical alternatives, while NQL complements do not.

QL vs NQL as Pondering I

NQL, declarative future (not pondering)

(3) SE_PN034: Family Problems Picture Task 1.4 Line 31

däbe ttam giddoll de **ngonomeny** allan,
that life ACC think-III.PL AUX.PRS.1|3SGS
ddone mulldae allan **oblle** allingoll
not able AUX.PRS.1|3SGS 3.SG.DAT how
bogežänän
come.out.FUT.3SGS

‘He_i is thinking about this life, that there’s no way for him_i to get out.’

QL vs NQL as Pondering II

NQL, declarative future (not pondering)

(4) WE_SN015: Kwalde Bäne Däräng Kongkomatt Line 7.2

Bogo säre ada **gongnonggän** ada
3.SG.NOM sadly like.this think.REM.3SGS like.this
ka **bogo** däbe s mell ulle de m nyi
COUNTERFACTUAL 3.SG.NOM that pig big ACC fut
bibäddalle kuddäll e.
kill.COND.SGA>3SGP death ALL

'He_i sadly thought that he_i could kill that big pig to death.'

QL vs NQL as Pondering III

QL, declarative present and future (pondering and making a decision)

(5) SE_SN017-1: Five Sisters Story Line 47

Ada **gongnonggän** ada, “Da **ngäna** sawe
like.this think.REM.3SGS like.this if 1.SG.NOM left
nyongo de bongkollmäll, ngaska didre lla da ddone
road ACC go.down maybe man NOM not
dan, be oba mudan,
COP.PRS.SGS but 3.NSG.POSS COP.PROHIB.PRS.SGS
ngäna ttätt nyongo dae balle.”
1.SG.NOM right road through go.FUT.1SGS

‘She_i thought, “If I_i go down the left road, maybe there won’t be any people there, but it’s okay, I_i will take the right road.”’

QL vs NQL as Pondering IV

QL, interrogative conditional with past interpretation (pondering hypothetical alternatives)

(6) RE_EE015: Omägag Mälla (The Fortune Teller) Line 27

Gongnonggän, “Da ngäna lla pättäpättäk de
think.REM.3SGS if 1.SG.NOM man a.bit.short ACC
billdalle, ede enda bongesalle?”
marry.COND.SGA>3SGP so what happen.COND.SGS

‘She_i thinks, “what would have happened if I_i had married the short man?”’

Conclusions/Further Questions

The intuition about ‘pondering’ seems right, but it is not particularly rigorous.

Are QL complements truly quotational, or are they instances of indexical shift? Looking at NPI licensing, wh-movement, etc..

Does a similar divide exist for other verbs in Ende?

Is this a hard rule or just a tendency? Where does it derive from?

Oke dibeya.

Eso!