

Embeddings of the Ishiculu language

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1 Coordination

Nouns, verbs, and clauses all coordinate in Ishiculu. The coordination of nouns makes use of the conjunction *hɣ*; that of verbs makes use of *futi*; and clauses coordinate by juxtaposing.

2 Relative clauses

Relative clauses are restrictive in Ishiculu. They are externally headed and post-nominal. The canonical construction of the relative clauses relativizes the subject in the clause and does not include a complementizer or relative pronoun.

- (1) Ngiw-uw-ioani meyi shɣ u-ka-shi-ke-ɬa-mbi Ari ntaɬo
1SG-3.SG-like CLF.3 teacher(3) 3.SG-1.SG-7.SG-have-CAUS-PST Ari CLF.7
kitabɔ.
book(7)
'I like the teacher that gave Ari the book.'

Direct objects cannot be relativized through the same construction. Rather, the speaker makes use of two strategies, the first of which is to passivize the verb so that the direct object is promoted to the subject position.

- (2) * Ngiw-shi-ioani ntaɬo kitabɔ meyi shɣ u-so-mbi.
1SG-7.SG-like CLF.7 book(7) CLF.3 teacher(3) 3.SG-read-PST
Intended meaning: 'I like the book that the teacher read.'
- (3) Ngiw-shi-ioani ntaɬo kitabɔ u-so-waɬɣ-mbi.
1SG-7.SG-like CLF.7 book(7) 3.SG-read-PASS-PST
'I like the book that was read.'

The other strategy is to use a resumptive pronoun in the relative clause.

- (4) Ngiw-shi-ioani ntafo kitabu meyi shɿ u-so-mbi sona.
1SG-7.SG-like CLF.7 book(7) CLF.3 teacher(3) 3.SG-read-PST PRN.7.SG
'I like the book that the teacher read.'