

Verbose exponence in SVCs

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Introduction

Typologies of marking in SVCs focus on classifying the marking possibilities of constructions or languages [1,2]. These typologies tend to focus solely on distributions in SVCs and do not take into account wider linguistic or interactional patterns of language use.

More insightful is a typology of marking in SVCs based upon the concept of “verbose exponence” [3].

This approach looks at the *informativity* of patterns of marking in a given *domain*. This requires a shift from a production-based perspective (observation) to a processing-based perspective (prediction) [cf. 4].

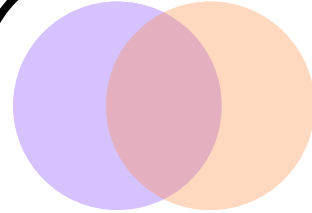
By changing our perspective, we can hypothesise how different exponence patterns are leveraged in interaction and how this may result in language change [cf. 5,6].



Single exponence

Saramaccan (Indo-European; Surinam [7:153])
Kófi bí báí dí búku dá dí muyée
Kofi PST buy the book give the woman
‘Kofi bought the book (and then) gave (it) to the woman.’

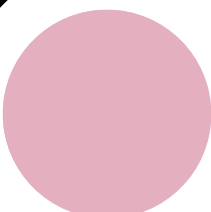
- any marker → different domain
- no marker → domain ambiguity
- pauses permitted if domain is not ambiguous
- afterthoughts cannot be integrated into SVCs



Distributed exponence

Paamese (Austronesian; Vanuatu [8:45])
kaile a-ro-muasi-tei vuasi voo-mate
3PL 3PL-NEG-hit.RL-NEG pig IMM-die
‘They didn’t kill the pig by hitting it.’

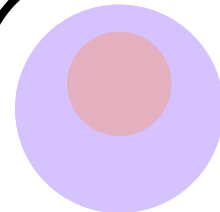
- compatible marker → same domain
- incompatible marker → different domain
- pauses permitted if exponence has salient form
- compatible afterthoughts can be integrated



Multiple exponence

Morisyen (Indo-European; Mauritius [9:18])
zot kwi diri zot manze
3PL cook rice 3PL eat
‘They cook rice and eat.’

- same value → same domain
- different value → different domain
- pauses permitted only if markers are not redundant
- afterthoughts cannot be integrated into SVCs?



Subset exponence

Numbami (Austronesian; Papua New Guinea [10:149])
nu-tamu ai muna-wasa
2SG.IRR-join 3PL 2PL.IRR-go
‘Join them and (you) go.’

- compatible marker → same domain
- incompatible marker → different domain
- pauses permitted with right-edge supersets
- compatible afterthoughts can be integrated

Conclusion

Verbose exponence helps us holistically understand marking possibilities in SVCs. These patterns can be used to predict how marking can be leveraged in interaction and potentially explain different paths of language change.

For more examples and a full reference list, visit here:



References
[1] Aikhenvald 2018, *Serial verbs* [2] Ross 2021, *Pseudocoordination, serial verb constructions and multi-verb predicates* [3] Carroll 2022, *Verbose exponence* [4] Carroll and Beniamine 2025, *Exponence and the theory of discriminative information in paradigms* [5] Auer 2005, *Projection in interaction and projection in grammar* [6] Himmelmann 2022, *Prosodic phrasing and the emergence of phrase structure* [7] Byrne 1990, *Tense marking in serial structures* [8] Crowley 1987, *Serial verbs in Paamese* [9] Suya 2013, *Serial Verb Constructions in Indian Ocean French Creoles (IOCs)* [10] Bradshaw 1993, *Subject Relationships within Serial Verb Constructions in Numbami and Jabêm*