Reflexivity and Reciprocity in Competition in Logoori

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Anaphora overlap

⤳ Reflexive and reciprocal markers **overlap** in many languages, reflecting the fact that reflexivity and reciprocity share meaning (e.g., Romance SE).

⤳ Conversely, many languages do not exhibit an overlap between reflexive and reciprocal markers (e.g., English *-self* vs. *each other*).

Contribution here:

Lack of overlap between reflexivity and reciprocity indicates different encoding strategies, which may compete to express different situations.

"Anaphoricity" in Logoori

Logoori (Luyia, Bantu, JE 41) has reflexive (I-) and reciprocal (-AN) markers.

The reflexive marker…

⤳ occupies a preverbal position associated with object markers

⤳ is subject to binding condition A (locality, c-command)

(1) Sira y-i-/mu-lol-i
     1Sira 1SM-I-/1OM-see-FV
     'Sira saw himself/him/her.'

The reciprocal marker…

⤳ occupies a stem final position (among the derivational suffixes)

⤳ is subject to binding condition A (locality, c-command)

(2) avaana va-lol-an-i
     2child 2SM-see-AN-FV
     'The children saw each other.'

Cognates of both markers are widely attested across (Narrow) Bantu with functions similar to what is reported here (Nurse, 2008).

Underspecified reflexivity

The reflexive marker I- is consistently found in "mixed" scenarios (Murray, 2008).

(3) **Mixed scenario context** : Sira, Imali, and Kageha went hiking and got bitten by mosquitos. Sira scratched his own bug-bites while Imali scratched Kageha's and Kageha scratched Imali's.

a. avaana va-i-yag-i
    2child 2SM-I-scratch-FV
    'The children scratched themselves/each other.'

b. # avaana va-yag-an-i
    2child 2SM-scratch-AN-FV
    'The children scratched each other.'

⤳ I- is **underspecified**. It indicates that there is a relation in a (plural) individual, which may include reciprocal mappings (Murray, 2008)

Reciprocity and event quantification

In addition to reciprocity, -AN also marks **cumulative event plurality** for intransitive predicates.

(4) Sira y-ashiamul-an-i
     1Sira 1SM-sneeze-AN-FV
     'Sira sneezed over and over.'

(5) * Sira a-ras-an-i   mpira
       1Sira 1SM-throw-AN-FV 3ball
       [Int: Sira threw the ball over and over.]

Gluckman (2018, in prep): -AN is an event quantifier for intransitive predicates, and thus expresses a piece of the meaning of reciprocity as a whole.

⤳ Reciprocal situations minimally involve event plurality, cumulativity, distributivity, all of which are needed to calculate plural relations (e.g., *The children saw the parents*) (Langendoen, 1978; Beck, 2001). They are the sub-type of relational plural that is "intransitive" (Kemmer, 1993)

Independent (implicit) processes for creating plural relations accounts for the additional meaning (e.g., cumulativity ** and distributivity * operators) (Link, 1983; Beck, 2001; Faller, 2004)

(6) $\exists e$ [*avaana* [* [$\lambda 1$ [*avaana* [* [$\lambda 2$ [*-an* $[_{VP} t_1 \text{ -lol-} t_2$]]]]]]]]]
     = $\exists e \forall x, y[x, y \in$ CHILDREN $\rightarrow$ *(*(-AN(see)))(x)(y)(e)$
     ≈"There is a plural event of seeing and all pairs of children are distributed among those events."

Reciprocity in Logoori is **compositional**. There is no one thing that "means" reciprocal.

Logoori uses different strategies to encode reflexive and reciprocal situations.

⤳ Reflexivity is encoded directly with I-, which expresses a relation in an individual.

⤳ Reciprocity is encoded compositionally, and -AN expresses only part of reciprocal meaning.

Consequence: co-occurrence

Because the markers are **independent**, the -I and -AN can co-occur.

(7) va-i-yag-an-i
     2SM-I-scratch-AN-FV
     'They scratched themselves/each other (a lot).'

(8) avikura va-i-rum-an-i
     2boy   2SM-I-bite-AN-FV
     'The boys bit themselves/each other (a lot).'

See Safir and Sikuku (2018) for similar data in Bukusu (in which -AN does not have a plural event meaning).

Competition

Why use -AN when I- can be used instead?

Utterances with reflexive and reciprocal marking in Logoori are in **competition**. By using -AN a speaker is signaling that the relation does not include the reflexive relation.

(9) a. avaana va-i-yag-i
         2child 2SM-I-scratch-FV
         'The children scratched themselves.'

     b. # Indiyo, va-yag-an-i
            Yes,   2SM-scratch-AN-FV
         'Yes, they scratched each other.'

(10) a. avaana va-yag-an-i
         2child 2SM-SCRATCH-AN-FV
         'The children scratched each other,

     b. Indiyo, yai-yag-i
         Yes,   2SM-I-scratch-FV
         'Yes, they scratched themselves.'

Note: the competition is at the **utterance level**. (I- and -AN don't compete.)

Takeaway

⤳ Though reciprocity and reflexivity share some meaning, a language may employ independent mechanisms for expressing each situation.

⤳ Competition may be required when one marker is compatible with both contexts.

Selected references

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