

Demonstratives in Ndendeule

Although it is claimed that demonstratives are a universal, they are subject to considerable cross-linguistic diversity in the number of demonstrative terms, functions, and orientation. This paper contributes to a growing body of work on Bantu demonstratives by presenting a detailed description of the demonstratives in Ndendeule (639-3 iso code *dne*), a Bantu language spoken in southern Tanzania. It explores their morphological, syntactic, and semantic features and focuses on three aspects of demonstratives in Ndendeule, namely, (a) the relation between the deictic center and the referent; (b) their non-concatenative morphology, and (c) functions of the demonstratives. There are five demonstrative terms in Ndendeule: (a) speaker proximal, (b) addressee proximal, (c) distal, (d) remote, and (e) neutral. The paper examines the question of how the five demonstratives divide the space in pointing. It is argued that unlike the other demonstratives, the neutral demonstrative can point to both proximal and non-proximal and, therefore, is not consistent with the spacial bias that appears with the others. The morphology of the demonstratives is characterized by agreement with the nouns they modify or point at and templatic structure. Regarding functions, Ndendeule demonstratives are used to refer to something present in the speech situation, to point to adjacent discourse, to point at items introduced in the discourse, and to point to a referent that the speaker assumes exists in the realm of shared knowledge.