

## Abstract

Lunda has a verbal morpheme *-an* which is described as a reciprocal marker in Bantu languages (Meeuusse 1967; Mchombo 2007; Kioko (2012)). However, the suffix does not perform that function in the language. Instead, it is syntactically and semantically a multifunctional morpheme that attaches to both intransitive and transitive verb bases. This paper examines and discuss the different functions of the suffix. First, it does not affect the argument structure of the derived intransitive verb, but simply supplies new meaning to the verb base when it is added to an intransitive verb. The derived verbs appear in generic statements to describe the defining characteristic property of the subject. They also occur in dispositional sentences denote an entity's disposition or potential for an action. The disposition remains unrealized, and can take place under the right conditions. The subject of such sentences is typically a kind, but can also refer to a specific entity. For this reason, they occur only in the present tense. Second, the suffix functions as a detransitivizer when it is attached to certain dynamic transitive verbs. It derives an intransitive verb by obligatorily removing the object of the corresponding dynamic transitive verb. The derived verb does not express an actual event, but appears in generic statements as well as generalizing sentences with a dispositional reading to describe a natural tendency of an entity to behave in a particular way. Finally, the appearance of the suffix on certain dynamic transitive verbs results in a structure similar to an antipassive construction whereby the verb refers to a particular event with an implicit patient (Silverstein; Sansò 2018; Bosten 2015) .

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