

Pulaar Verbal System (Part Two)

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Abstract

The present research aims at the contrastive study of two dialects of Pulaar (Senegal-Guinea Conakry), analysis based on the verbal system at the Morphological level. The aim of this work is to show, through the verbal system of Pulaar suffixation is essentially composed of the derivational and inflectional order subsystems. The study also emphasizes the difference and the concordance of the types of suffixes according to the dialect in order to have the standard process of Pulaar as stipulated in the sub-regional project of MAPE consisting in upgrading the national languages by harmonization alphabets and spellings as well as new technical terminology from the early 1980s.

Introduction

In this part of our research, we have developed and stressed on the varieties of classes through voices and aspects that exist in Pulaar verbs with their application in different sentences. We also lay emphasis on the use of copula (ko) and its function of each sentence, the use of the particle (no) which has two main functions when it is used. The point that raises our theme is formed by several elements connected with all social categories of human being. First, language thanks to which people come to communicate is the only main and simple object of Linguistics. Therefore, there are the more so as questions to ask than answers to bring about language; first, how language is going to be manifested or transmitted throughout all the members of the same community? Second, how sounds are produced differently between the two dialects? Third, how language is perceived toward people? Consequently, there are many issues of what we intend to do. A long time ago, Pulaar language is neglected by almost all writers; seeing this point we have a social obligation first; then

intellectuals' to stand at reconstructing the roots of Pulaar which has tendency to disappear as time goes along.

The problem of the study

The point that raises our theme is formed by several elements connected with all social categories of human being. First, language thanks to which people come to communicate is the only main and simple object of Linguistics. Therefore, there are the more so as questions to ask than answers to bring about language; first, how language is going to be manifested or transmitted throughout all the members of the same community? Second, how sounds are produced differently between the two dialects? Third, how language is perceived toward people? Consequently, there are many issues of what we intend to do. A long time ago, Pulaar language is neglected by almost all writers; seeing this point we have a social obligation first; then intellectuals to stand at reconstructing the roots of Pulaar which has tendency to disappear as time goes along.

In our library of linguistic department, we hardly find out any writings about Pulaar if not they are insufficient to answer our desires. Our position will be to promote this local language to contribute to the development of our country but also to give the language its rank or its real position on Earth that it could have had as any other language surrounding it.

In accordance with our research, there is no critical review but writings. On the Internet where all information is stocked, nothing to report about Pulaar critical writings because many, all Pulaar speakers get their ideas across easily understood within themselves whereas that is not the case, consequently, there is something to ask.

First and foremost, before making any analysis to Pulaar language; these two dialects seem to be easy for other different speakers of Pulaar language who think that all native and their surroundings are adequate to make theme understood well; even though it is far from it for people who belong to the same community or the same ethnic group: what influences cause this misunderstanding? Would probably

be one of the main questions to raise and to solve because when we know that Senegalese speakers and Guinean's both live together in influenced environments with others linguistic communities which can come to shatter this tendency.

Methodology of our study

For having information, we have to follow only three ways through which we could examine data:

- ✓ Books
- ✓ Internet
- ✓ People

Books or writings relating to Pulaar language in general are few far between for not saying that nothing exist in all intend and purpose in our library, only some available books about Senegalese Pulaar dialect which are obviously insufficient for the sake of argument. These books restrain themselves to Toucouleurian speech which constitutes one dialect in Senegal, so we cope with difficult tasks to perform for getting information.

For that is good we must not only limit to read a lot but consumed with ambition we have got to collect many documents to devour many pages for writing this article. For the sake of argument necessary to our documentation, our great and high well-known university only one writer took initiative to promote Pulaar language it is really poor it is again very distressing. We find out after period of Wars Authors, Novelists, Poets, Writers or even again Researchers they all started to be interesting in local or national languages particularly in Pulaar among which some have known and the majority not.

The writings of these writers are not promoted because there is a high failure of succession of the following generation. The Successors hadn't been focusing on writings for giving all local languages their best places in the society so that they could facilitate the link or the communication throughout all over the World, to insure the relationship between people. With this respect of ideas, they are wild

with other needs, otherwise, until now the relief doesn't take over from the predecessors.

On the internet, our documentary research is neither sufficient nor exhaustive because information is very poor and inadequate for our subject so, it's with the full knowledge of unavailable data to our question that's why we go ahead to people for asking them many interrogations with the aid of a better structural corpus after which we are going to plan our good article. Thus, our gait will be based on different questions and different Pulaar dialects received from all Senegalese and Guinean communities.

Many speakers in general out of Pulaar community cannot see differences in Pulaar ethnic group that's why some use the term "Toucouleur" meaning a bad connotation to qualify Halpulaar community what the largest part of Senegalese Pulaar speakers, it is in the light of it we are going to try progressively to get information from available books, documents that could help us make clearly what we have to and want to explain to people throughout our modest writings, intelligences, capacities.

Placing opposite two varieties of Pulaar language each other such as Guinean's and Senegalese's dialects requires a large domain of study but the way on which we count to use devices allowing us to reach our aim. So, that consists in drawing up a series of questions then we go directly towards the Pulaar speakers for asking them our questions one by one and at the same time receive from them what we need as answers, but as we said it firstly this information is very difficult to collect specially to illiterate people (men, women, adults, teenagers, students, youth). Since then, efficient and effective means like recording device, with which we cannot neglect any data that would be susceptible escaping to us, the recorder will contribute to reduce times and to keep all that people will say.

As for getting some sources of information we have got to spend a lot of money, at this stage the information retrieval costs us more expensive than we think even though data has to be specific, reliable, and adequate for our article.

At last, money constitutes a real means among much other; money serves us to make many documents photocopy. The contrastive analysis identifies a general approach to the investigation of language particularly when carrying on in some areas of applied linguistics. In the contrastive study of two dialects the points of structural differences are identified and make up a potential difficulty in foreign language teaching or learning. This enables linguists to predict the difficulties a learner would encounter.

Literature review

Talking about Pulaar language, many works have been devoted to description even if these have most often been carried out in theoretical areas of the surface and have mainly the fact of the dialects of Fouta Tooro of Senegal, Cameroon, Nigeria etc...and very few works for the dialect of Guinea Conakry in Chaikh Anta Diop University a part from our modest master's where we have intended to show some writings in some linguistic areas like Phonology and semantic systems of this dialect.

Very often, linguistic literature on Pulaar comes down to works and articles here and there consisting in the presentation of the Fulani language as well as its community which composes it. These various productions are the result wanting to lead to definitive and complete approaches to the grammatical system of Pulaar such as semantics, morphology, syntax, phonetics, morphonology and on all the rest of syntactic categories like verb adverb adjective noun...

Concerning to phonology, we content that the origin of the phonic changes resides in many factors and according to Alf Sommerfelt who results that "the comparison of the defended theories in the past". In fact, the study of this phonic change limits to the physiological description of unaware transformation of the forms of language. He is one of the greatest linguists who contrives to achieve the passage from the former conception to the new one, from which the linguistic change is considered as the fruit of a situation of anterior variation where the linguistic diversity is dependent on the social differentiation, that is to say this ambiguous view has been noticed

within a sociolinguistic community and defended from the sixties. In this way, the Norwegian linguist's model of a phonic change is clearly articulated to react against the neo-grammarians' theory that is why he utters contentiously "these processes of change are the same which can be observed in the so-called slips of the tongue, but the change of the first kind differs from the latter by being able to extend from one individual or a small group in which it originates to the whole group and thus becomes a linguistic change". Presumably, a phonic change is therefore a social phenomenon and not individual although it starts from the person. In proportion, we are sure to assert that the problem of allophones is not underlined for not overstating but in Pulaar language, all variants either same or different or even interchangeable are allophones too because they come true like simple phonemes. The much more wonderful aspect is the high contrast between strong consonants and strong vowels like in the following examples (mbaadi) and (hihi) in Jalonke against (eyyo) and (jikku), we immediately, see the opposition between the strong consonants (kk) ; (yy) and strong vowels (aa) ; (ii).

The purely and strictly linguistic works were above all the work of Professors Yero Sylla 1982, Fary Ka 1983, Arnott 1970, Mc Intosh 1984, Mamadou Ndiaye 1987, etc, and for most of their work reveals a lack of in-depth examination of the whole questions they attempted to solve or approach.

For the Professor Sylla with his book of Modern Grammar of Pulaar tries to pedagogically account for all the grammatical aspects of Pulaar in a general way while relying on the dialect of Fuuta Tooro.

On remaining to his logic, Professor SYLLA had already skimmed off the fact that it was very harsh to depen at those time the whole matters of Pulaar at the same time, that is why he progressively advocated to put the different and fundamental bases of all questionable issue related to Pulaar language.

As far as Professor Ndiaye, he too has effectively worked on the morphology of Pulaar and in fact proposed the richness of the

language in terms of vocabulary which must be continued in terms of reflection.

To Doctor Omar KA in his book entitled “Wolof Phonology and morphology” shows that verbs in Wolof have several forms according to the question of expected and unexpected alternations we add to the free morpheme of one simple verb to create another new verb through the rule of reduplication. This fact is also valid in Pulaar verbs where the same procedure is employed at that level.

Professor Souleymane FAYE in his book entitled “Grammaire Didactique du Wolof Parlé” practically tells us the same on Wolof verbs when he shed light on the fact that there is a non-infinitive mark in Wolof verbs that is all simple and complex forms can be added to construct one or many forms of verbs.

By way of Pulaar verbs as many other local or national or even African languages, verbs are always constructed from a verba base which is itself a total verb to which we add other different morphemes to have new verbs.

As for structural linguistics’ view, where an approach to linguistics stresses the importance of language as a system and which investigates the place that linguistic units such as sounds, words and sentences have within the system.

Structural linguists study the distribution of sounds within the words of any language, that is to say whether certain sounds appear only at the beginning of words or also in the middle position or even at the final one. Therefore, they define some sounds system as distinctive and use in the identification of words like Phonemes which has been defined as the smallest unit of sound in a language which can distinguish two words and as Allophones which have also been described as any of the different forms of a phoneme. Similar studies of distributions and classifications are carried out in Morphology and Syntax.

In actual experience, language always appears in the form of individual acts of speech that is why any analysis of the structure of language is therefore bound to start with an examination of such acts. Historically, we found out two opposite classes on linguistic studies: Chomsky's class and Greenberg's class.

Our analysis lies in Arnold's study on classification of many Pulaar suffixes. Therefore, a recent and in-depth reflection on language and properties focusing on Milner's syntax, drawing on the suggestions of Cambridge School where word order and linearity were discussed. Furthermore, Chomsky's work called "Syntactic Structure", which was previously and for a long time considered as a reference, is now subject to enormous criticism by the Cambridge School, particular on the name of generativism. Prior to anything, TESNIERE had already started to set the basis of the syntactic structure lying on the linearity before he died.

As for Chomsky, the study of language should be the issue of basing it to the logic and coherent system of any language since anyone has the cognitive faculty to skim off and acquire of innate language, where as in Greenberg view, he puts the stress on the typological facts of languages which consist of analysing several languages so that we could have a minimum and reduced list of the number of universal languages.

At the heart of the reflection on the notion of fluctuation as a general linguistic term is the establishment of criteria which can allow the recognition of the facts of fluctuation as. Although these phenomena must have always been part of the functioning of any language, their systematic consideration and their enhancement within the theoretical framework of functional linguistics are relatively late.

We owe the term fluctuation to Kenneth L. PIKE who had dealt with this question as early as 1947. Pike presents the facts of fluctuation using, as was his custom, examples in Kalaba. Thus, the alternation of the sound /s/ and /z/ in the words "tasse", which is pronounced tasa or taza, and "epee", which is pronounced zuli or sulì, is to be interpreted as a fluctuation between full phonemes. It is indeed proven that in the

same language the sounds in question are phonemes, since they are opposed in identical environments (nisa: “man”, niza: “three”). He then specifies that this variation is limited to the two words quoted and that it does not occur in other words. Previously, he takes care to distinguish what is free variation and what is located between “full independent phonemes” and “submembers of phonemes” between phonemes or between variants. Furthermore, he specifies that in the case of a fluctuation between phonemes (full phonemes) the replacement of one phoneme by another is done “sporadically” and “arbitrarily”. This precision of the arbitrariness of fluctuations is important because it shows that from the start the fluctuations are recognized as completely independent of what we call, following André MARTINET, “Varieties of use”.

It is for all these shortcomings that we recognize and accept the following conclusion, which consists in touching on the problem of significant linguistic advances linked to our national languages and this is precisely because very few studies have been devoted to our languages and Pulaar in particular.

The various works carried out by these illustrious professors deserve to be further explored, that is why, and we are going to put ourselves out of the contribution to this operation of in-depth analysis of the verbal system of the two dialects in question after having specified or shedding light on the phonological system of both dialects in analysis. This work requires a lot of efforts to enumerate practically all different or identical phonemic letters of both sides of our survey.

1.1.2. Voice and Aspect

In this subpart, the relation between subjects and verbs varies according to the three different processes of time or even to the two aspects underlined above.

For sake of clarifications, we work on the following set of sentences:

Futa Tooro**Active Voice**

“ko Aali suud-i sawru ndu”

FOC PN V ASP N ART

“It’s Ali who has hidden the stick”

Middle Voice

“ko Aali suud-ii”

FOC PN V ASP

“It’s Ali who hid himself”

Passive Voice

“ko Aali suud-aa”

FOC PN V ASP

“It’s Ali who has been hidden”

Futa Jalon**Active Voice**

“ko Aali suud-i sawru nduŋ”

FOC PN V ASP N ART

“It’s Ali who has hidden the stick”

Middle Voice:

“ko Aali suud-ii”

FOC PN V ASP

“It’s Ali who hid himself”

Passive Voice

/ko Aali suud-aa/

FOC PN V ASP

“It’s Ali who has been hidden” or

“They have hidden something to Ali”

On seeing the examples above, we are facing to three different ways of Pulaar speaking: the copula /**ko**/ at the beginning of all three sentences helps to stress on the real person who undoubtedly does the actions or undergoes it as in the last Toroobian example otherwise this term is considered not only as a single copula but an demonstrative adjective. Consequently, /**ko**/ can be rendered by “**this is**” or “**that is**” depending upon the context or the situation of the action.

In the first sentence we remark that Aly performs the action so, we have the impression that being in what we consider in English as an active voice since then the complement undergoes the action expressed by the verb /**suudde**/ in Toroobe and /**suudude**/ in Jalonke. In the third one we notice a controversial issue on the meaning between the two speeches because concerning to Jalonke this sentence has two different meanings minimally because a part from what we already knew with English translation this one can also imply the fact

that “**something has been hidden to Ali**”. Sometimes Jalonke speakers used to add or name the thing that has been hidden but sometimes not as it is in our case. From that view, derived all kinds of lack of understanding between Pulaar speakers or even with the use of most particular words they proffer during their exchanges. This third example is therefore very complex pertaining to the other two; it is often named as a passive voice. Then the second one testifies the medium voice because of the fact that Ali in this case, is at the same time the actor and the complement also hence the reflexive case of the sentence construed as a very complex one.

All in all, the three sentences are perfective noticed at the level of the verbalizing words attached to the root of the verb **/suud/**. The mark with **/i/** denotes the active perfective, the one with **/ii/** is for the medium perfective and at last the one refers to **/aa/** as the passive perfective without forgetting what we developed early.

Verbal inflection in Pulaar is highly synthetic. Voice, aspect, and polarity are expressed via cumulative exponence and are generally considered to be formally inextricable from each other. There are three voices in Pulaar: active, middle, and passive, as seen in the infinitive forms in:

ACTIVE	“suudde” meaning	“to hide”	TRANSITIVE
MIDDLE	“suudaade” meaning	“to hide”	INTRANSITIVE
PASSIVE	“suudeede” meaning	“to be/get hidden”	

Like (suud-), certain stems can combine with all three voices; others may combine with only two voices, active and middle, while others, like (haal-) “speak” take active and passive but not middle forms; and some stems can combine with only one voice. The stem (hoy-) “be light in weight”, for example, only combines with active forms, while the stem (²aan-) “sleep” can only occur in the middle voice.

Passive verbs cannot take agents but, if augmented by an instrumental verbal extension, they can take an instrumental argument:

Futa Tooro

“gertogal ngal war-aama”

N DET V-ASP past

“The chicken was killed.”

“gertogal ngal war-*ir*-aama”.

N DET V-Ass ASP past

“The chicken was killed with a knife”

Futa Jalon

“gertogal ngal war-aama”

N DET kill-ASP past

“The chicken was killed”.

“g ertogal ngal war-ir-aama”.

N DET V-Ass ASP past

“The chicken was killed with a knife”.

On the examples above of both dialects, we can conclude that the association case (*ir*) and the fact of killing the chicken give the same result which is of chicken is dead. Elsewhere this association mark can be considered as an instrumental fact insofar as it implies that something is used to kill the chicken (*knife*).

1.1.3. Voice, Aspect, and Polarity

The verbal system of Pulaar is aspectually rather than temporally oriented. In conjunction with a non-stative verb, perfective aspect implies a completed action and often has a past reading, but as in the first example shows, in some lexically restricted cases including verbs of directed motion, this is not necessarily the case. In conjunction with a stative verb, as in the second example, perfective aspect may also have a present reading.

“mi yeh-ii wuro”

1sg Verb-ASP N

“I went to town”

“I am off to town”

“mi nan-ii Pulaar”

1sg Verb-ASP N

“I understand Pulaar”

There are three sets of perfective verbal endings: a general or neutral set, a set used in many other Pulaar constructions and in clauses where an argument, either the subject or object, has increased salience and is thus promoted in the information hierarchy, and a third set that is used when the verb has increased salience and is promoted in the information hierarchy. Promotion on the information hierarchy has often been called *focus*, and certainly focus is a part of information structure, but not all instances of increased salience are focus, thus we prefer to use the term *salience* instead. Given the three different sets of perfective endings, we might well include salience as an inflectional

category in Pulaar, with the caveat that salience arises out of a configuration of syntactic and morphological properties within a clause. The perfective endings are given in the following chart. Syncretism holds between the neutral active and argument salience middle voice forms, and also between the argument salience active and verb salience middle voice forms.

Perfective verb endings

ACTIVE	MIDDLE	PASSIVE	X
-ii	-iima	-aama	Neutral
-i	-ii	-aa	Argument salience
-i	-a	Verb salience	

The following examples illustrate the different active perfective forms in relation to information structure. The choice of one form over another would, of course, depend on the discursive context as shown by the example below where we remark one set of perfective verbal endings which is a neutral or unfocused sentence, while in the following instance just after, which could be the answer to the question “What did she put on the mat?”, the argument “tumude” (calabash) is promoted to a position of salience, thus the concomitant verb form is required. In the last example, which could be the answer to a question such as “Did she drop the calabash on the mat?”, the verb is most salient, as reflected in the Ø-suffix verbal form. Here are the examples:

“o faw-**ii** tumude nde/nde¹ e dow daago ngo/ngo¹”

3sg Verb ASP N DET PP LOC N DET

“She/He put the calabash on the mat”

“ko tumude nde/nde¹ o faw-**i** e dow daago ngo/ngo¹”

FOC N DET 3sg Verb ASP PP LOC N DET

“It's the calabash that she/he put on the mat”

“o faw(i) tumude nde/nde¹ e dow daago ngo/ngo¹”

3sg Verb N DET PP LOC N DET

“He put the calabash on the mat”

Imperfective aspect in Pulaar expresses incompleteness, and thus has any number of incomplete readings, including potential, progressive, iterative, imperative, future. Some of these, such as the future and progressive, are expressed by a combination of an imperfective verb and a grammatical particle. There are four sets of imperfective verbal endings, provided in the following chart. Three of them are analogous to the perfective forms with regard to information structure (neutral, argument salience, verb salience), and the fourth has an imperative function.

Imperfective verb endings

ACTIVE	MIDDLE	PASSIVE	X
-a	-o	Neutral	
-ata	-otoo	-etee	Argument salience
-at	-oto	-été	Verb salience
Ø	-o	-e	Imperative

Considering the following examples as Pulaar Asking questions or Wh-questions automatically entail argument salience, as in the following and, because the answer just after, is an activity, it entails verb salience.

“ko Ceerno wa²-ata?”

IP PP Verb ASP

“What is Ceerno doing?”

“yim-*at* or yim-*ay*”

3sg Verb ASP

“He is singing”

In the following passive voice sentence of verb “to be hidden” appears in a sentence showing (*argument salience*). It could answer, for example, the question “What is being hidden or what has been hidden?” The form of sentence just after shows (*verbal salience*) and could be used in a contrastive context implying that money gets hidden rather than spent or even must be hidden because it is for only that reason.

“ko kaalis suud-*etee*”

FOC N Verb ASP PASS

“Money is being hidden”

“Money has been hidden”

“kaalis suud-*ete*”

N Verb ASP PASS

“Money is for hiding”

Thus far we have considered verbal forms that exhibit positive polarity. These constitute the unmarked case in Pulaar since negation is expressed on verbs by somewhat different endings, all of which involve a negative marker, /-aa-/. The interaction with information

structure that we find in the affirmative is neutralized in negative forms, of which there is only one set each for perfective and imperfective aspect:

Negative perfective verb endings

ACTIVE	MIDDLE	PASSIVE
<i>-aani</i>	<i>-aa</i>	<i>-aaki / -aaka</i>

Negative imperfective verb endings

ACTIVE	MIDDLE	PASSIVE
<i>-ataa</i>	<i>-otaako</i>	<i>-etaake</i>

Most researchers have considered negation to be inextricable from the rest of the verbal inflectional complex, but Yero Sylla in 1982 argues that a negative morpheme /-aa-/ is in fact isolatable. This presents a concatenation problem, which in turn leads Yero Sylla to consider the morpheme an infix, rendering the synthetic expression of voice and aspect discontinuous in the imperfective forms. The issue can thus be argued either way, but there is a cost to both approaches. Finally, it should be noted that negation in imperatives is expressed by periphrasis involving a negative marker that precedes an inflected verb. The two examples below illustrate various types of negative sentences.

“±ingel-am daan-*aaki* jamma hanki”

N poss Verb-MID.NEG N TEMP

“My child didn't sleep last night”

“kaalis suud-*etaake*”

N PASS.NEG.

“One doesn't hide money”

“*woto* ngar-e”

NEG Verb PL

“Don't come!”

2. Problems of Pulaar Aspect

Aspect problematic in Pulaar is one of the most undefinable questions to solve in so far as it is correlated with the three voices and the different tenses we are facing, when we know that it is hard to bring out Pulaar tense without focusing upon the all-different markers like (no or noo) for the past case, (oy or ay) expressing the distance be used for the future case too etc...

2.1. *Verbs Types in Pulaar Futa Jalon*

To make up for its complex noun system, Pulaar has a very straightforward, 99% predictable verb system. There are three other infinitive endings different from all that we did till now in Jalonke dialect only: -ugol, -agol, and -egol.

Like all verbs, Pulaar verb expresses who or what is doing the action. This “who or what” is the subject of the verb. The subject and the verb match each other; consequently, we say that the subject and the verb agree when they match each other.

A verb can have three different forms: one in which the action is performed on something/someone else by the subject (-ugol, transitive), one in which it is performed on the subject by the subject (-agol, reflexive), one in which it is performed on the subject by someone/something else (-egol, passive). As the following chart can show:

MODE	INFINITIVE	MEANING
TRANSITIVE	Lootugol	To wash (somebody or something)
REFLEXIVE	Lootagol	To wash oneself
PASSIVE	Lootegol	To be washed (by someone else)

Other verbs like to sit, to go and to want can testify this mode above that is to say the three types of Pulaar verb endings:

VERB ENDINGS	VERBS	MEANINGS
-ugol	yahugol	“to go”
-agol	joodagol	“to sit”
-egol	faalegol	“to want”

Being on the same line of our verbal endings, we must add the three other we already treated namely -ude, -ade and -ede as in (marude, maraade and mareede) meaning respectively “to keep something”, “to keep oneself” and “to be kept by someone”. But, however, we must certify that this type of verb endings is not practiced for every Pulaar verbs consequently the list is limited. Each type of verb has its own set of endings.

2.2. Verbs Types in Pulaar Futa Toroo

At the difference of the Jalonke types of Pulaar verbs, in Toroobe it is impossible to have the same but the only (-de class) exists and other Pulaar combinations to give more so-called types of verbs in conjugated forms.

2.3. State verbs of Pulaar

In English, we usually use adjectives to express qualities.

ILLUSTRATIONS

I am hungry.

The food is bad.

In Pulaar, we often use stative verbs instead of adjectives; instead of expressing qualities, they express states.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Both dialects:

“mi²o weel-aa” (from weelegol, to be hungry)

2ndsg Verb ASP

“I am hungry”.

“ñiiri ndi¹ no metti”. (from mettugol, to taste bad)

N ART P ADJ

“The food tastes bad”

“ñiiri ndin no metti”. (from metde, to taste bad)

N ART P ADJ

“The food tastes bad”

Nota: The Pulaar verb (weelegol) or (welude) or even (welde) as known in Toroobe dialect this verb has only two possible forms in both sides (active voice and passive voice).

Just as the word *metti* is from *mettugol* or *mettude* in Jalonke or *metde* as known in Toroobe this time this verb contains all three voices in Pulaar.

The sentences below show the verb endings we have seen so far. Here are some examples with the stative endings.

“hi±e yii²-i maafe tiga”

3rdpl Verb N N

“They like peanut sauce”

“baafal ngal no uddit-ii”

N DET Ps Verb ASP

“The door is open”

“hi²a faal-aa ñaamugol?”

3rdsg Verb ASP Verb

“Do you want to eat?”

Here are some examples with the negative stative endings:

ILLUSTRATIONS

“mi and-aa Bubakar”

1stsg Verb NEG PN

“I don’t know Bubakar”.

“Baafal ngal omb-**aaki**”

N ART Verb NEG

“The door is not shut”.

“O faal-**aaka** teew”

3rdsg Verb NEG N

“He doesn’t want meat”.

2.4. *Stative pronouns and the “no” particle*

We have already seen one type of subject pronoun: we now add a second type, the stative, and to differentiate we will call the first the active pronoun. The stative pronoun is used with stative verbs.

When using a noun (like Bubakar or Portojo o¹) instead of a pronoun in a stative sentence, we need the particle **no** in both Pulaar dialects.

“himo waaw-**i** Pulaar”

3rdsg Verb ASP N

“He can speak Pulaar”

“Bubakar **no** waaw-**i** Pulaar”

PN P Verb ASP N

“Bubakar can speak Pulaar”

“mi²o weel-**aa**”

1stsg Verb ASP

“I am hungry”

“Portojo o¹ **no** weel-**aa**”

N ART P Verb ASP

“The Porto is hungry”

Or we can leave out the noun or pronoun altogether, leaving the sentence vague as to what is being referred to.

“no mo^{3/4}^{3/4}-**i!**”

P Verb AFF ASP

“That’s good!”

Negative sentences take the active pronoun, and don’t need the particle **no**.

“maafe kon wel-**aa**”

Sauce ART Verb NEG ASP

“The sauce is not good”

“mi weel-**aaka**”

1stsg Verb NEG ASP

“I am not hungry”

“mo^{3/4}/₄-aa!”

Verb NEG ASP

“That’s not good!”

STATE VERB ENDINGS

INFINITIVE STATIVE NEGATIVE IMPERATIVE

-ugol, -i, -aa, -u, -en, -ee, -agol, -ii, -aaki, -o, -o²en, -o²ee, -egol, -aa, -aaka, -μ

Nota: The strong vowels **-aa** or **-aaka** can express either positive facts or negative ones, we must assert that the different aspects added to the radical of verbs form together the expression of state in Pulaar.

Conclusion

To conclude, we can affirm that Pulaar system is made up of many verbalizing elements which are derived from the three classes in the infinitive in so far as, they are placed just after the radical of the verb as being a class. Our analysis also grapples with the major problem of misunderstanding that does formerly exist between the two dialects. It is obviously worth noting that the use of the particle (no) has two grammatical functions, sometimes it functions as a particle sometimes as a state verb. Our also analysis reveals the frequent use of the copula (ko) in many circumstances as well as the different cases of negative words as (woto or wota) always in front of Pulaar verbs whereas other suffixes like (etaake or ataa and so on) always after Pulaar verbs and they are currently used for expressions.

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