



The expression of Phasal Polarity in Cuwabo (Bantu P34)

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Expressing the four concepts lying behind the notion of phasal polarity (PhP), i.e. ‘already’, ‘still’, ‘not yet’, and ‘no longer’, in Bantu languages usually involves the use of different strategies. This talk particularly focuses on PhP in Cuwabo (Mozambique, Bantu P34), which presents the following characteristics:

Table: Phasal polarity in Cuwabo

PhP concept	‘already’	‘still’	‘not yet’	‘no longer’
Form	<i>-hi- / -ile (+ ja)</i>	<i>=vi</i>	<i>-ná- (+ NEG)</i>	<i>viina (+ NEG)</i>
Status	Verbal affix (+ Adverb)	Verbal enclitic	Verbal prefix	Adverb
Function(s)	Perfective (+ optional adverb <i>ja</i> ‘already’)	Restrictive	Counter- Expectational	‘too’ > ‘no longer’ with negative verbs
Example	<i>(já) o-hí-dhówá</i> ‘he went already’	<i>ónówííbávi</i> ‘he is still singing’	<i>ka-ná-kwa</i> ‘he has not died yet’	<i>kaneéddíle viina</i> ‘he no longer worked’

In this talk, I will describe into details and illustrate the coding of PhP expressions in Cuwabo, and seek to classify them along the six parameters developed by Kramer in her position paper.