



Phasal Polarity in Omotic Is it the verb again?

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The Omotic languages of southwest Ethiopia are well-known for their complex verbal morphologies, which can transform a CVC- verb root into a verb form of up to five syllables. Therefore, it is tempting to assume that phasal polarity is marked by verbal morphemes in these languages. Some constructions such as the so-called completive in Wolaitta, which may be used to express 'already' (Wakasa 2008: 963), seem to suggest this. Other constructions, however, contain full-fledged adverbs to express phasal polarity: in Oyda, for example, 'still' is rendered by a separate word obviously derived from 'now' (own field notes). The present paper will explore phasal polarity in Omotic languages from a typological perspective, using examples from different languages. Not only the syntactic status of the markers, but also their origins and possible other functions will play a role in the discussion.

References

Wakasa, Motomichi. 2008. A Descriptive Study of the Modern Wolaytta Language. Doctoral dissertation, The University of Tokyo. On the internet: <http://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/7503986/a-descriptive-study-of-the-modern-wolaytta-language> (accessed on 20 November 2017).