
Language influence on TAM (Tense, Aspect, Mood): Arabic participles in Senhaja Berber (Morocco)

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What happens when two TAM systems become intertwined? This paper studies the TAM system that resulted from contact between Senhaja Berber (Amazigh) and Moroccan Arabic. The paper investigates *co-morphologies* (Gardani 2021) – two morphological systems used with native vs. foreign vocabulary in one language. Senhaja borrowed participles as a new word class from Arabic. This borrowing concerns both form and function. Participles are borrowed with lexical content (roots) and foreign inflection (morphology). Although there is literature on Berber/Arabic contact, co-morphologies in TAM have not yet been investigated. Cross-linguistically, lexical borrowing is more frequent than functional borrowing, especially including borrowing of paradigms (Kossmann 2010; Gardani 2021).

Senhaja and Arabic have distinct TAM systems. Unlike most Berber languages, Senhaja borrowed Arabic participles. Borrowed participles are often suppletive to native verbs. Borrowed participles use Arabic agreement markers. Two agreement systems can appear in the same sentence (**bold**=native, underlined=borrowed)

- (1) awwer-t **h**-ella mesdud-a
 door- **3FS-be** closed-
 FS FS
 ‘The door was closed’

The research objective is a description of the TAM functions of participles in Senhaja. The research question is: How did participles affect the native TAM system? Both traditional and experimental methods are used in this study, e.g. 1) Naturalistic data (texts) and translation questionnaires, including the Conversational Questionnaire (François 2019), used to collect parallel corpora. The analysis of TAM is carried out both manually and with the help of AI/LLM. 2) A storytelling paradigm, where speakers construct a narrative around pictorialized events (e.g. *The Frog Story*), to study TAM distinctions in discourse. 3) Picture matching with eye tracking, to measure cognitive attention and saliency and to track aspectual perfectivity in comprehension (cf. Minor *et al.* 2023). This will be complemented by acceptability judgments. The research combines linguistic description and psycholinguistics, so that they strengthen each other.

References: • François, A. (2019). A proposal for conversational questionnaires. In *Methodological Tools for Linguistic Description and Typology*. University of Hawai’i, 155–196. • Gardani, F. (2021). On how morphology spreads. *Word Structure* 14(2), 129–147. • Kossmann, M. (2010). Parallel System Borrowing. *Diachronica* 27(3), 459–487. • Minor, S., Mitrofanova, N., Guajardo, G., Vos, M. & G. Ramchand (2023). Aspect processing across languages: A visual world eye-tracking study. *Frontiers in Language Sciences* 1, 1–14.