

Chapter 9

Conclusion

9.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the grammatical matters discussed in this paper, chapter by chapter. It also re-articulates a few recommendations for further study.

9.2 Summary of chapters

Chapter 1 of this work provided an introduction to the Jejara people and language and to this research. In Chapter 2, the phonemes of Jejara were introduced along with orthographic forms and syllable and word structure. Morphologically, affixes, compounding and reduplication were seen. Chapter 3 looked at the language from the perspective of the lexical categories at work. One point of significant interest is the overcounting numeral system which was briefly described. Discussion on the noun phrase in Chapter 4 included an introduction of the noun phrase order and a few unique features such as exceptional noun phrase order in relation to time words. There was discussion on the temporal and locative phrases, NP structural variants, demonstratives, kinship terms and resumptive pronouns.

Chapter 5 presented the simple clause structure, which demonstrates basic SOV word order. Significant flexibility of the patterning of clausal elements was revealed and there was a discussion on unique clause types and marking of semantic relations. The verb complex was the subject of Chapter 6. It was found to include 11 positions besides the head, each with a set of particles able to function in that position. The details of the specific functions of these particles leave room for further study. The sets of particles include those used to express everything from negativity to plural agreement to aspect, mood, modality and more. Chapter 7 dealt with the non-declarative clause types interrogatives and imperatives. It also discussed transitivity and the valency-changing effects of causativization. The final chapter, Chapter 8, addressed inter-clausal connections. Clauses were found to be coordinated with an overt conjoining particle, by juxtaposition and in multi-verb constructions. Constructions allowing clauses to act as clausal elements were found

to be nominalization, complementization as well as relativization. The occurrence of sentences of significant complexity and length was introduced.

9.3 Recommendations for further study

As the Jejara language has not yet been written about academically to the researcher's knowledge, there is definitely room for much further work. She recommends, first of all, checking the findings with the wider community of speakers so that any idiosyncracies of the single LRP's speech are exposed.

In the grammatical analysis two areas stand out as particularly deserving of further study. One is semantic relation case marking, especially of core arguments. Further testing needs to be done to confirm the patterns of usage for lexical items such as *jai* which seems to mark both agent and patient, for example, to see whether the animacy split explains this. A similar need for further clarification on clause final particles persists. The great range of options available, including no clause final marking, indicates speaker choice and motivation which is not yet understood. Analyzing discourse features may prove to be beneficial to explain these and other challenging patterns.

Generally, many features of the language stand to be studied with increased depth. This work represents an overview of what could be discovered within a limited period of time based on limited interaction with the language. Each topic covered here, and others of which the researcher did not become aware, deserves more focused attention as research on the Jejara language proceeds.