

Tense and Aspect Morphology in Lizu : A First Look

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Abstract

Based on elicited and spontaneous narrative data, this paper investigates primary tense and aspect distinctions in the verb morphology of the Mianning dialect of Lizu (also known as Løzù or Lvzu). It has been observed that the language has recourse to not only affixes, but also clitics and auxiliaries to represent its major tense and aspect categories. In discussing related grammatical markings and constructions, this paper will show that the uses of these grams are also determined by specific factors such as transitivity, volitionaliy, and aktionsart types as encoded in the verb. Finally, a few notes will be given on the developments of the verbs ‘come’ and ‘go’, which have undergone grammaticalization and now can also serve as tense-aspect markers.