Generating Narratives

Interrelations of Knowledge, Text Variants, and Cushitic Focus Strategies

by
Klaus Wedekind

Mouton de Gruyter
Berlin · New York 1990

Contents

Part I Introduction and background 1

Section A Guides for the reader 1

1. Introduction 1
2. A survey of the study 2
3. Symbols and abbreviations 6
4. On reading the text charts 9

Section B Background of the study 13

1. Acknowledgments to those who provided language data 13
2. The context of this study 15
3. Brief notes on the language areas and the ethnic groups 18
4. Gada and the Gedeo way of life today 28
5. Linguistic descriptions of the three Highland East Cushitic languages 36
6. The classification of Sidamo, Gedeo and Burji 40

Section C Typological characteristics 49

1. Phonological characteristics 49
2. Morphophonemic characteristics 54
3. Morphological characteristics 59
4. Morpho-syntactic strategies 75
5. Noun phrases in text and syntax 77
6. An introduction to complex structures 80
7. A sample grammar of two complex sentences (Gedeo) 85
8. Representation of complex structures 94
9. Representation of text scores with transitions 99

Section D Perspectives on discourse and text generation 105

1. The functional grammar model of Simon Dik 105
2. Text generation 110
3. Analysis of discourses of the narrative genre 123
4. Psychology of sentence production 123

Section E The present approach 126

1. Comparison of models 126
2. The components of narratives 129
3. The pragmatic notions "theme, topic, focus" and "coda" 133

Part II Gedeo narratives 139

Section A Gedeo Text A: "A Story of Hyenas" 141

1. The worlds of texts as exemplified in text A 141
2. Steps in the production of text A 157
3. Text rules: The "Semantic Frames Roster" of text A 163
4. The complete "Semantic Frames Roster" of text A with signals 245
5. The "Hyena" narrative in four surface versions 322
6. Generating different surface forms for the "same" text 337

Section B Gedeo Text B: "Nine Hyenas and One Lion" 348

1. Remarks on text B 348
2. Notes on the lexicon of text B 354
3. Generating text B 359
4. The charts of text B 366
5. Actual surface form of text B 382
6. Hesitation patterns and notional units in text B 392

Section C Gedeo-texts C1, C2 and C3: "A House on Fire" 397

1. Remarks on texts C1, C2, and C3 397
2. Generating texts C1, C2, and C3: A note on functors 400
3. Text rules of texts C1, C2 and C3 420
4. On the charts of text texts C1, C2 and C3 420
5. The actual surface forms of texts C1, C2 and C3 446

Part III Burji narratives 461

Section A Burji Text A: "Jackal and Hyena" 462

1. Overall pattern and script of Burji Text A 462
2. The lexicon of Burji Text A 472
3. Designing the story time-line 475
4. Remarks on the charts of Burji Text A 500
5. The actual surface form of Burji Text A 564
6. Comparison of oral and written versions 568

Section B Burji Text B: "A Journey to Debre Zeyt" 572

1. Remarks on Burji Text B 572
2. Lexicon of Burji Text B 573
3. The "Semantic Frames Roster" of Burji Text B 575
4. Chart for generating the surface form of text B 575
5. Chart: The actual surface form of Burji Text B 579

Section C Burji Text C: "Origin and Migrations of the Burji People" 582

1. Remarks about Burji Text C 582
2. Lexical list of Burji Text C 583
3. The semantic frames roster of Burji Text C 586
4. Developing the surface form of Burji Text C 586
5. The actual surface form of Burji Text C 595

Part IV Sidamo narratives 603

Section A Sidamo Text A: "The Girl Arfu" 604

1. General remarks about Sidamo Text A 604
2. Word list, Sidamo Text A 606
3. Remarks on the semantic frames roster of Sidamo Text A 609
4. The charts of Sidamo Text A 611
5. The actual surface form of Sidamo Text A 633

Section B Sidamo Text B: "The Animal which was Beaten" 645

1. Remarks on Sidamo Text B 645
2. Word List: Sidamo Text B 645
3. Scenes and participants of Sidamo Text B 646
4. The time-line of Sidamo Text B 647
5. The actual surface form of Sidamo Text B 647

Part V Comparisons and summary 651

Section A Typological traits of Gedeo, Burji and Sidamo 651

1. Comparisons of syntax and text strategies 651
2. Comparisons of morphology and text frequencies 654

Section B The present model of text generation 656

1. Modifications of the "functional grammar" model 656
2. Speakers' strategies and the presentation of texts 657

Section C Text dimensions: identification and predication 660

1. Text dimensions 660
2. Identification of participants: maintaining and highlighting 661
3. Predications and their relations to each other 663

Section D Qualities and overall structures of the narratives 668

1. Stylistic and representative qualities of narratives 668
2. Overall structures of narratives 669

Appendix 671

Swadesh/Bender wordlist 671

Notes 681
References 701
Index 715