

Control Phenomena in Ewe

Control is a universal phenomenon although languages exhibit the control relation differently. In the literature, two most discussed medium in attaining control are: first, covertly, with PRO, the null embedded subject of an infinitive call this type 1 e.g. English, Tsez (backward control). The second is with an overt material call this type 2 e.g. Korean (Yang 1984, Madigan 2008), Zapotec (Boeckx et al.), Mandarin (Madigan 2008), Serbo-Croatian (Zec 1987), Hungarian (Szabolcsi 2008), among others.

In this talk, employing Landau's (1999) diagnostics, I show that Ewe achieves obligatory control with both type 1 and 2. Type 1 is achieved with an empty subject (es) in Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) specifically, in the environment of a series of control verbs. See example (1).

1. John_i dzagbagba es_i dzò.
John try jump
'John try jump.' (lit:John managed to jump)

While type 2 is attained with the logophoric pronoun *yè*; cf. example (2). Additionally, there must be the potential or irrealis mood morpheme *-a*, attached to the logophoric *yè* (*yè - a*). This marker consistently shows up in the control environment and for this reason Satik(n.a) suggests *yè-a* to be the overt counterpart of PRO. I will also show that this is not the case based on evidence like (3) and (4).

2. John_i dzagbagba be *yè_i-a* dzò.
John try comp log-irr jump
'John tried to jump.' (John tried that John jumps)
3. Me_i di be me_i-a /**yè-a* dzó.
1sg want comp 1sg-irr / log-irr go
'I want to go.'
4. Kofi_i zii-dzi na Mary_j be **ye-a* / ne_j/*_i wO dO nyuie le sukoo.
Kofi hit-top for Mary comp log-irr / juss do work well in school
'Kofi forced Mary to do well in school.'

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