PULAAR VERBAL SYSTEM (PART ONE)

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ABSTRACT

The present research aims at the contrastive study of two dialects of Pulaar (Senegal-Guinea Conakry), analysis based on the verbal system at the Morphological level. The aim of this work is to show, through the verbal system of Pulaar suffixation is essentially composed of the derivational and inflectional order subsystems. The study also emphasizes the difference and the concordance of the types of suffixes according to the dialect in order to have the standard process of Pulaar as stipulated in the sub-regional project of MAPE consisting in upgrading the national languages by harmonization alphabets and spellings as well as new technical terminology from the early 1980s.

Introduction

Being the most substantial and essential category of Grammar, the verb in Pulaar can be presented by two or even three endings at its infinitive form in accordance with the dialect we refer to. As far as we go further on our research, it should be noticeable that these endings known also as the class of Pulaar infinitive are based upon three classes. From these classes, all types of inflectional or suffixes can be seen in that we need to conjugate any Pulaar verb at different tenses through Perfective and Imperfective aspects. The claases are as follow: (-de), (-gol) and (-ude), the first one is only noted in Futa Tooro speech whereas the two are present in Futa Jalon speech. For a better understanding on how Pulaar verbal system is functioning, we are going to shed light on the key words like TIME and ASPECT without forgetting to focus also on the three Voices (Active-Middle-Passive) from which we specify and itemize the

morphology pertaining to the various verbalizing elements of Pulaar verbs generally.

The problem of the study

The point that raises our theme is formed by several elements connected with all social categories of human being. First, language thanks to which people come to communicate is the only main and simple object of Linguistics. Therefore, there are the more so as questions to ask than answers to bring about language; first, how language is going to be manifested or transmitted throughout all the members of the same community? Second, how sounds are produced differently between the two dialects? Third, how language is perceived toward people? Consequently, there are many issues of what we intend to do. A long time ago, Pulaar language is neglected by almost all writers; seeing this point we have a social obligation first; then intellectuals to stand at reconstructing the roots of Pulaar which has tendency to disappear as time goes along.

In our library of linguistic department, we hardly find out any writings about Pulaar if not they are insufficient to answer our desires. Our position will be to promote this local language to contribute to the development of our country but also to give the language its rank or its real position on Earth that it could have had as any other language surrounding it.

In accordance with our research, there is no critical review but writings. On the Internet where all information is stocked, nothing to report about Pulaar critical writings because many, all Pulaar speakers get their ideas across easily understood within themselves whereas that is not the case, consequently, there is something to ask.

First and foremost, before making any analysis to Pulaar language; these two dialects seem to be easy for other different speakers of Pulaar language who think that all native and their surroundings are adequate to make theme understood well; even

though it is far from it for people who belong to the same community or the same ethnic group: what influences cause this misunderstanding? Would probably be one of the main questions to raise and to solve because when we know that Senegalese speakers and Guinean's both live together in influenced environments with others linguistic communities which can come to shatter this tendency.

Methodology of our study

For having information, we have to follow only three ways through which we could examine data:

- ✓ Books
- ✓ Internet
- ✓ People

Books or writings relating to Pulaar language in general are few far between for not saying that nothing exist in all intend and purpose in our library, only some available books about Senegalese Pulaar dialect which are obviously insufficient for the sake of argument. These books restrain themselves to Toucouleurian speech which constitutes one dialect in Senegal, so we cope with difficult tasks to perform for getting information.

For that is good we must not only limit to read a lot but consumed with ambition we have got to collect many documents to devour many pages for writing this article. For the sake of argument necessary to our documentation, our great and high well-known university only one writer took initiative to promote Pulaar language it is really poor it is again very distressing. We find out after period of Wars Authors, Novelists, Poets, Writers or even again Researchers they all started to be interesting in local or national languages particularly in Pulaar among which some have known and the majority not.

The writings of these writers are not promoted because there is a high failure of succession of the following generation. The

Successors hadn't been focusing on writings for giving all local languages their best places in the society so that they could facilitate the link or the communication throughout all over the World, to insure the relationship between people. With this respect of ideas, they are wild with other needs, otherwise, until now the relief doesn't take over from the predecessors.

On the internet, our documentary research is neither sufficient nor exhaustive because information is very poor and inadequate for our subject so, it's with the full knowledge of unavailable data to our question that's why we go ahead to people for asking them many interrogations with the aid of a better structural corpus after which we are going to plan our good article. Thus, our gait will be based on different questions and different Pulaar dialects received from all Senegalese and Guinean communities. Many speakers in general out of Pulaar community cannot see differences in Pulaar ethnic group that's why some use the term "Toucouleur" meaning a bad connotation to qualify Halpulaar community what the largest part of Senegalese Pulaar speakers, it is in the light of it we are going to try progressively to get information from available books, documents that could help us make clearly what we have to and want to explain to people throughout our modest writings, intelligences, capacities.

Placing opposite two varieties of Pulaar language each other such as Guinean's and Senegalese's dialects requires a large domain of study but the way on which we count to use devices allowing us to reach our aim. So, that consists in drawing up a series of questions then we go directly towards the Pulaar speakers for asking them our questions one by one and at the same time receive from them what we need as answers, but as we said it firstly this information is very difficult to collect specially to illiterate people (men, women, adults, teenagers, students, youth). Since then, efficient and effective means like recording device, with which we cannot neglect any data that

would be susceptible escaping to us, the recorder will contribute to reduce times and to keep all that people will say.

As for getting some sources of information we have got to spend a lot of money, at this stage the information retrieval costs us more expensive than we think even though data has to be specific, reliable, and adequate for our article.

At last, money constitutes a real means among much other; money serves us to make many documents photocopy. The contrastive analysis identifies a general approach to the investigation of language particularly when carrying on in some areas of applied linguistics. In the contrastive study of two dialects the points of structural differences are identified and make up a potential difficulty in foreign language teaching or learning. This enables linguists to predict the difficulties a learner would encounter.

Literature review

Talking about Pulaar language, many works have been devoted to description even if these have most often been carried out in theoretical areas of the surface and have mainly the fact of the dialects of Fouta Tooro of Senegal, Cameroon, Nigeria etc…and very few works for the dialect of Guinea Conakry in Chaikh Anta Diop University a part from our modest master's where we have intended to show some writings in some linguistic areas like Phonology and semantic systems of this dialect.

Very often, linguistic literature on Pulaar comes down to works and articles here and there consisting in the presentation of the Fulani language as well as its community which composes it. These various productions are the result wanting to lead to definitive and complete approaches to the grammatical system of Pulaar such as semantics, morphology, syntax, phonetics, morphonology and on all the rest of syntactic categories like verb adverb adjective noun…

Concerning to phonology, we content that the origin of the phonic changes resides in many factors and according to Alf Sommerfelt who results that "the comparison of the defended theories in the past". In fact, the study of this phonic change limits to the physiological description of unaware transformation of the forms of language. He is one of the greatest linguists who contrives to achieve the passage from the former conception to the new one, from which the linguistic change is considered as the fruit of a situation of anterior variation where the linguistic diversity is dependent on the social differentiation, that is to say this ambiguous view has been noticed within a sociolinguistic community and defended from the sixties. In this way, the Norwegian linguist's model of a phonic change is clearly articulated to react against the neo-grammarians' theory that is why he utters contentiously "these processes of change are the same which can be observed in the so-called slips of the tongue, but the change of the first kind differs from the latter by being able to extend from one individual or a small group in which it originates to the whole group and thus becomes a linguistic change". Presumably, a phonic change is therefore a social phenomenon and not individual although it starts from the person. In proportion, we are sure to assert that the problem of allophones is not underlined for not overstating but in Pulaar language, all variants either same or different or even interchangeable are allophones too because they come true like simple phonemes. The much more wonderful aspect is the high contrast between strong consonants and strong vowels like in the following examples (mbaadi) and (hiihi) in Jalonke against (eyyo) and (jikku), we immediately, see the opposition between the strong consonants (kk) ; (yy) and strong vowels (aa) ; (ii).

The purely and strictly linguistic works were above all the work of Professors Yero Sylla 1982, Fary Ka 1983, Arnott 1970, Mc Intosh 1984, Mamadou Ndiaye 1987, etc, and for most of their

work reveals a lack of in-depth examination of the whole questions they attempted to solve or approach.

For the Professor Sylla with his book of Modern Grammar of Pulaar tries to pedagogically account for all the grammatical aspects of Pulaar in a general way while relying on the dialect of Fuuta Tooro.

On remaining to his logic, Professor SYLLA had already skimmed off the fact that it was very harsh to depen at those time the whole matters of Pulaar at the same time, that is why he progressively advocated to put the different and fundamental bases of all questionable issue related to Pulaar language.

As far as Professor Ndiaye, he too has effectively worked on the morphology of Pulaar and in fact proposed the richness of the language in terms of vocabulary which must be continued in terms of reflection.

To Doctor Omar KA in his book entitled "Wolof Phonology and morphology" shows that verbs in Wolof have several forms according to the question of expected and unexpected alternations we add to the free morpheme of one simple verb to create another new verb through the rule of reduplication. This fact is also valid in Pulaar verbs where the same procedure is employed at that level.

Professor Souleymane FAYE in his book entitled "Grammaire Didactique du Wolof Parlé" practically tells us the same on Wolof verbs when he shed light on the fact that thre is a non-infinitive mark in Wolof verbs that is all simple and complex forms can be added to construct one or many forms of verbs.

By way of Pulaar verbs as many other local or national or even African languages, verbs are always constructed from a verba base which is itself a total verb towhich we add other different morphemes to have new verbs.

As for structural linguistics' view, where an approach to linguistics stresses the importance of language as a system and

which investigates the place that linguistic units such as sounds, words and sentences have within the system.

Structural linguists study the distribution of sounds within the words of any language, that is to say whether certain sounds appear only at the beginning of words or also in the middle position or even at the final one. Therefore, they define some sounds system as distinctive and use in the identification of words like Phonemes which has been defined as the smallest unit of sound in a language which can distinguish two words and as Allophones which have also been described as any of the different forms of a phoneme. Similar studies of distributions and classifications are carried out in Morphology and Syntax.

In actual experience, language always appears in the form of individual acts of speech that is why any analysis of the structure of language is therefore bound to start with an examination of such acts. Historically, we found out two opposite classes on linguistic studies: Chomsky's class and Greenberg's class.

Our analysis lies in Arnold's study on classification of many Pulaar suffixes. Therefore, a recent and in-depth reflection on language and properties focusing on Milner's syntax, drawing on the suggestions of Cambridge School where word order and linearity were discussed. Furthermore, Chomsky's work called "Syntactic Structure", which was previously and for a long time considered as a reference, is now subject to enormous criticism by the Cambridge School, particular on the name of generativism. Prior to anything, TESNIERE had already started to set the basis of the syntactic structure lying on the linearity before he died.

As for Chomsky, the study of language should be the issue of basing it to the logic and coherent system of any language since anyone has the cognitive faculty to skim off and acquire of innate language, where as in Greenberg view, he puts the stress on the typological facts of languages which consist of analysing

several languages so that we could have a minimum and reduced list of the number of universal languages.

At the heart of the reflection on the notion of fluctuation as a general linguistic term is the establishment of criteria which can allow the recognition of the facts of fluctuation as. Although these phenomena must have always been part of the functioning of any language, their systematic consideration and their enhancement within the theoretical framework of functional linguistics are relatively late.

We owe the term fluctuation to Kenneth L. PIKE who had dealt with this question as early as 1947. Pike presents the facts of fluctuation using, as was his custom, examples in Kalaba. Thus, the alternation of the sound /s/ and /z/ in the words "tasse", which is pronounced tasa or taza, and "epee", which is pronounced zuli or suli, is to be interpreted as a fluctuation between full phonemes. It is indeed proven that in the same language the sounds in question are phonemes, since they are opposed in identical environments (nisa: "man", niza: "three"). He then specifies that this variation is limited to the two words quoted and that it does not occur in other words. Previously, he takes care to distinguish what is free variation and what is located between "full independent phonemes" and "submembers of phonemes" between phonemes or between variants. Furthermore, he specifies that in the case of a fluctuation between phonemes (full phonemes) the replacement of one phoneme by another is done "sporadically" and "arbitrarily". This precision of the arbitrariness of fluctuations is important because it shows that from the start the fluctuations are recognized as completely independent of what we call, following André MARTINET, "Varieties of use".

It is for all these shortcomings that we recognize and accept the following conclusion, which consists in touching on the problem of significant linguistic advances linked to our national

languages and this is precisely because very few studies have been devoted to our languages and Pulaar in particular.

The various works carried out by these illustrious professors deserve to be further explored, that is why, and we are going to put ourselves out of the contribution to this operation of in-depth analysis of the verbal system of the two dialects in question after having specified or shedding light on the phonological system of both dialects in analysis. This work requires a lot of efforts to enumerate practically all different or identical phonemic letters of both sides of our survey.

1. Pulaar verbal system

To study Pulaar verbs, we should aim at mastering the notions of Aspect and Time since all actions cannot be without these ones. Being important categories in the description of verbal system of all-natural languages, our next step will be the fact of showing to what extend Pulaar speakers make agree great importance to them.

1.1. Notion of time

As a grammatical category, this notion allows to place an event in a temporal line pertaining to another one serving as a reference point. For logical reasons it would be judicious to distinguish three relations between events and the moments when they happen.

The first relation is an event happening in the present that is to say at the time of speaking, the second is the one that happens in the past that is to say indicating the anterior moment of events to the time of speaking and the last one is that of happening in the future meaning to express events posteriorly to the time of speaking.

1.1.2. *Notion of aspect*

Contrary to the notion of time, this one consists in studying the process or the running of events. In Pulaar language we can underline two kinds of aspect mainly, we notice Perfective aspect understood as actions have already expressed and Imperfective aspect understood also as haven't happened yet at the time of speaking but will be accomplished in a very near future. According to our contrastive analysis of Pulaar varieties both aspects raise a great deal of questions that we will treat later in this chapter.

We call Perfective aspect all different events or actions already described by the expression of verbs which lay emphasis on the ending character or on the result of the action. Whereas the Imperfective one plans the process of accomplishing all different events or actions expressed by verbs therefore, this one, focuses just on the continuity without caring much about the result of events or actions.

1.1.2.1. *Aspectual analysis of verbs in Pulaar*
1.1.2.2. *Segmental analysis of aspects:*
1.1.2.3. *Traditional analysis*

The segmental analysis is situated in investigation at the level of the sphere only on segmental level as quoted Yero Sylla in 1982, 1993.

The verbal system of Pulaar is made up of three voices: active, middle and passive and two aspects: perfective and imperfective, the categories of voices are represented by zero aspect, (-aa) aspect and (-ee) aspect which respectively express the three Pulaar voices distributed in the two aspects (perfective and imperfective).

1.1.2.4. *Multilineary analysis of aspects:*
1.1.2.5. *Auto-segmental analysis*

This autosegmental model helps us to treat very adequately the inflectional questions of verbal system in Pulaar. This means to represent the different morphological units at distinctive levels as did Fary KA 1982, in dialectological study of Pulaar in Mauritania and Prunet 1989, proposes a morphological auto-segemental analysis of inflectional and aspectual study of Pulaar in Mauritania.

Illustrations

1.1.3. *Past Tense*

Pulaar past tense can be appreciated as all actions or events already happened in the past. As shown in the following sentences:

<div align="center">

<u>Futa Tooro</u>
"o yeey-**ii** maaro ko"
3SG V ASP N ART
"he or she has sold rice"

<u>Futa Jalon</u>
"o yeey-**ii** maaro koŋ"
3SG V ASP N ART
"he or she has sold rice"

</div>

The following examples show an only one difference at the level of writing particularly at the end of sentences **"ko"** and **"koŋ"** but they both get the same meaning. The difference on the article which can be sometimes taken as a copula is owing to accents from both sides. This voiced consonant is very often used in Jalonkian speeches and always missing as for Torobian ones.

These two sentences can be analyzed as Aspect on the one hand and Time on the other hand: as for Aspect, these sentences express actions are over in other words the fact of selling **"rice"** has been accomplished as shown by the verbalizing element "ii" being placed after the root **"yeey"** meaning "to sell", therefore, **"ii"** constitutes a token of Perfective.

As for temporal view these sentences report an event which is situated in the past compared with the time of speaking without knowing exactly either the precise time of actions or of speaking time.

As a matter of fact, Pulaar preterit also reveals a verbal category which indicates that a process has taken place to a distant period of the time. Thus, it is a kind of distant past when it is used with the perfective, in a general manner; it marks the precedence of one or more actions pertaining to current situation. In Pulaar, the mark of the preterit **(noo** or **no)** always follows the aspectual mark or it has been inserted. This rule is valid for all the compatible aspects with the preterit. The long syllable realization **(noo)** or the short one **(no)** depends upon the aspect of the verb to which the preterit is added. This rule is valid for all the compatible aspects with the preterit.

Futa Tooro
Active Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**no** sawru ndu"
PN Hide ASP Stick ART
"Ali had hidden the stick"

Middle Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**ino**"
PN Hide ASP Refl
"Ali had hidden himself"

Passive Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**ano**"
PN hide ASP
"Ali had been hidden"

Futa Jalon
Active Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**uno** sawru nduŋ"
PN   V ASP   N ART
"Ali had hidden the stick"

Middle Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**ino**"
PN   V ASP
"Ali had hidden himself"

Passive Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**ano**"
PN   V ASP
"Ali had been hidden"

In these examples above, we shall say that all actions expressed
are in the past whatever the dialect may be but, the past mark
used is the short one preceeced by different short vowels
specifically in Jalonke speech (u, i, a) and only two ones that of
Toroobe speech (i, a).

Futa Tooro
Active Voice:
"ko Aali suuɗ-**noo** sawru ndu"
FOC PN V ASP N ART
"It is Ali who had hidden the stick"

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Middle Voice:
"ko Aali suuɗ-**inoo**"
FOC PN V ASP
"It is Ali who had hidden himself"

Passive Voice
"ko Aali suuɗ-**anoo**"
FOC PN V ASP
"It is Ali who had been hidden"

Futa Jalon
Active Voice
"ko Aali suuɗ-**unoo** sawru nduŋ"
FOC PN   V ASP   N ART
"It is who Ali had hidden the stick"

Middle Voice
"ko Aali suuɗ-**inoo**"
FOC PN V ASP PAST
"It is Ali who had hidden himself"

Passive Voice
"ko Aali suuɗ-**anoo**"
FOC PN V ASP PAST
"It is who Ali had been hidden"

In these examples above, we shall say that all actions expressed are in the past whatever the dialect may be but, the past mark used is the long one preceeced by different short vowels specifically in Jalonke speech (u, i, a) and only two ones that of Toroobe speech (i, a).

Futa Tooro
Active Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**iino** sawru ndu"
PN V ASP PAST N ART
"Ali had hidden the stick"

Middle Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**inooma**"
PN V ASP PAST
"Ali had hidden himself"

Passive Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**anooma**"
PN V ASP PAST
"Ali had been hidden"

Futa Jalon
Active Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**uno** sawru nduŋ"
PN V ASP PAST N ART
"Ali had hidden the stick"

Middle Voice
"Aali suuɗ-**inoke**"
PN V ASP PAST
"Ali had hidden himself"

Passive Voice:
"Aali suuɗ-**ano**"
PN V ASP PAST
"Ali had been hidden"

In these examples above, the first remark is that of in active voice of Toroobe language where the short past mark is preceded

by the long vowel (ii) which is also known as the verbalizing element.

As for the two other voices the long past mark is only preceded by short vowels (i, a) and followed by the suffix (ma).

Whereas in the Jalonkian language there is only one suffix in the middle voice (ke) hereafter the short past mark in the middle voice. We also notice that Jalonkians use the suffix (iino) in active voice as the Torobians do.

1.1.4. Present Tense

Pulaar present can be understood as the planning of all actions that are to be done at the very moment. It is used for expressing all "ongoing" actions or even for general thruth like scientific thruth. As in shown by the examples below:

Futa Tooro:
"o yeey-**at** maaro ko"
PP V ASP N ART
"he or she is selling rice"

Futa Jalon
"o yeey-**ay** maaro koŋ"
PP V ASP N ART
"he or she is selling rice"

On seeing these examples above we notice that there is a single difference at the level of the verb of course a part from the one noted on the article in the Past Case. In Toroobian instance two meanings can be acceptable because the verbalizing element "at" has two grammatical categories or plays a double function that is to say the same sentence is also translatable by "he or she will sell rice" whereas this confusion does not exist in Jalonke. Remaining on Toroobian sentence, it shows all difficulties round the precise tense for each case that is the reason why the whole

lack of understanding comes from this kind of functioning of Toroobe speeches.

As for Jalonke the verbalizing element "ay" after the root of verb "yeey" expresses that the action is in the present and remain always in the present whatever one may think.

1.1.5. Future Tense

Pulaar future can be defined as any action that will be planned to be done in the coming time or moments. This means actions that are projected in the future. As in the following examples:

<u>Futa Tooro</u>:
"o yeey-**at** maaro ko"
PP V ASP N ART
"he or she will sell rice"

<u>Futa Jalon</u>
"o yeeyoy-**ay** maaro koŋ"
PP V   ASP N ART
"he or she will sell rice"

In the present case the two sentences describe a shift meaning that something will be done later or has been postponed.

This time, our attention has been drawn by the composition of Jalonkian speech where one can two verbalizing elements in the verb **"yeeyude"** meaning "to sell", syntactically speaking their disposition with the root of the verb because from the first case till this one we have added the verbalizing words just after the radical for the case in question. In **"yeeyoyay"** if we separate the radical from the verbalizing word, we will have this **"yeey"** and **"oyay"** thus two kinds of explanations can be accepted the first one is the fact of regarding either **"oyay"** as one unit or two. Whatever it may be, we remark that "ay" is the word for the present time as shown above thus, probably **"oy"** is certainly the

real mark for future time. Following the leading thread of our analysis in Jalonkian's it would be impossible to have something postponed without passing by the present time. The place of **/oy/** before **/ay/** is very noticeable because it reveals that, as a matter of fact, the verbalizing word which is nearer the radical of the verb is the only one that expresses time we refer to.

Pulaar language contains several aspectual marks according to some circumstances like the pivotal and essential role of the relation between the different parts of Pulaar sentences. With this respect, we are going to shed light on the narrow relation between subjects, verbs and objects.

Nota: In Pulaar language, it is sometimes hard to draw the different tenses though they do exist like this one above (**oy**) or (**ay**) are forms generally for projecting that something will happen in the future as quoted FRIES in 1927 the fact that Will and Shall are rather considered as markers for indicating the future than the future itself, and then, this rule is valid for Pulaar too.

Conclusion

This work is focus on the verb system of both dialects to show the real advantages to develop our national languages. But, the way on how it is functioning is totally different from the European one because Pulaar conjugation lies in the two main aspects (PERFECTIVE and IMPERECTIVE) for all tenses. It reveals that there are several kinds of terminations like in many European languages in that it corresponds to the varieties of tenses in any context. But it still remains that, there are some similar aspects here and there of both dialects which express themselves differently. We must also assert that within these two aspects, all Pulaar main tenses are represented like future, past,

present, the subjunctive and the imperative with the different terminations in both sides of the two dialects.

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