

Same, similar, identical?

Idematives in languages of PNG

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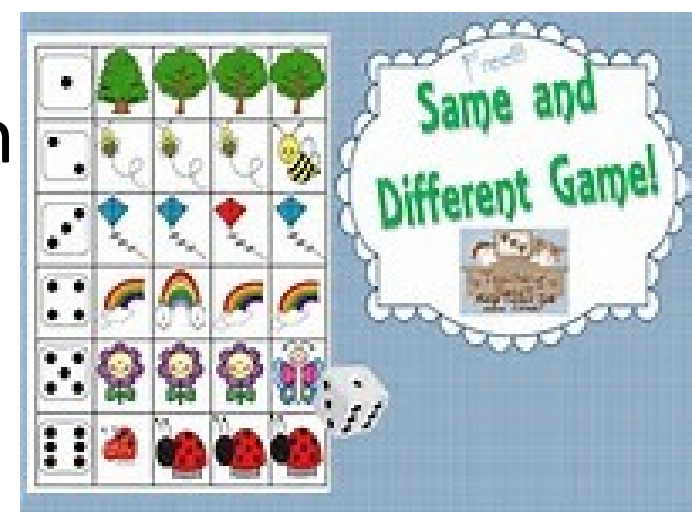
1. Introduction: **why idematives?**

Idematives (from Latin *idem* 'same'):
words / constructions meaning 'same, similar,
equal, identical, as Adj as, likewise'.

Very little literature; no typology.

Notions of 'same' or 'different'
are **basic** to human cognition
and communication.

- **learning games:**
same or different?



Introduction: same or different?

- **mathematics**: = (equal) or \neq (not equal)
- **linguistics**: same meaning? same language?
- **theology**: same God?
- **philosophy**:
 - same object?
 - same person?



Introduction: Interesting phenomena

- Standard **German**:
 - I wear the same shoes every day.
*Ich trage die **selben** Schuhe jeden Tag.*
 - We are wearing the same shoes!
*Wir tragen die **gleichen** Schuhe!*
- Classical **Hebrew**: no separate word for ‘same’;
uses ***echad*** ‘one’

Introduction: **Methodology**

- literature survey: very little
- dictionaries and grammars of limited value
- compiled an idemative questionnaire
(12 sentences to translate + some Bible verses)
- sent to several colleagues in PNG, 15 languages

2. The notion 'same' in Tok Pisin

- (1) *Mi wantaim brata bilong mi i stap long **wanpela** ples.*
'My brother and I live in the same village.'
- (2) *Dispela tupela pikinini i gat **wanpela** mama, tasol narapela papa.*
'These two children have the same mother, but a different father.'
- (3) *Yumi werim **wankain** su.*
'We are wearing the same shoes.'
- (4) *Long **dispela** de **yet** em i lusim haus na go ausait.*
'That same day he went out of the house.'
- (5) *Em i longpela **olsem** mama bilong en.*
'She is as tall as her mother.'

Tok Pisin idemative repertoire

- *wanpela* 'one, same'
(numeral)
- *wankain* 'same, same kind, similar'
(adjective)
- *dispela N yet* 'that same (aforementioned)'
(demonstrative + N + adverb)
- *olsem* 'like, similar, just (as)'
(preposition)
- *sem* 'same' (Penglish)

3. The **semantics** of idematives

1. **Identifying** idemative: true identity, single referent
 - *We have the same father.*
2. **Classifying** idemative: close similarity, perceived identicalness, multiple referents
 - *We drive the same car.*
3. **Anaphoric** identifying idemative
 - *He took the same road on his way back.*
 - *That same night, the king was murdered.*

3. The **semantics** of idematives

- 4. **Equative** idemative (= equative comparison)
 - *He is as tall as his dad / They are equally tall / They have the same height.*
- 5. **Crosstemporal** idemative
 - *The patient is still the same.*

4. Idematives in **15 languages of PNG**

1. Tok Pisin

Oceanic Austronesian

2. Vitu (West New Britain)
3. Mangap-Mbula (Madang)
4. Gapapaiwa (Milne Bay)
5. Bariai (West New Britain)
6. Mekeo (Central)
7. Nehan (Bougainville)
8. Lote (East New Britain)
9. Mussau (New Ireland)
10. Arop-Lokep (Madang)

Papuan

11. Doromu-Koki (Trans-New Guinea, Central)
12. Nukna (Trans-New Guinea, Morobe)
13. Kovai (Trans-New Guinea, Morobe)
14. Urim (Torricelli, East Sepik)
15. Gizrra (Trans-Fly, Western)

4a. Idematives in **Vitu**



West New Britain, Oceanic, Meso-Melanesian.
7,000 speakers. Grammar: Van den Berg & Bachet (2006)

4a. Idematives in **Vitu**

- (6) *Miro a tazi-gu miro ta mi-mia na malala katiu za.*
1DU.EX ART younger.sibling-1SG 1DU.EX REA RED-live LOC village one just
'My brother and I live in the same village.' (lit. '...in just one village')

- (7) *Kapiru rua kua titina-hiro katiu, tama-hiro motu.*
child two this mother-3DU one father-3DU other
'These two children have the same mother, but a different father.'
(Lit. 'These two children, their mother [is] one, their father other/different.')

- (8) *Toro ta loho-ri-a su e parakatiu za.*
1DU.IN REA wear-TR-3SG shoe REA:3 similar/same just
'We are wearing the same (type of) shoes.'

Idematives in **Vitu**

(10) *la ba mata-barae za.*
3SG still look-like.that just
'He is still the same.'

(11) *la e horaha baliki titina-na*
3SG REA:3 tall like:PN mother-3SG
'She is as tall as her mother.'

(12) *Na dama kena za e vati-a na ruma.*
LOC day that just REA:3 leave-3SG ART house
'On that same day he left the house.'

Vitu idemative repertoire

Identifying:

katiu

'one; same'

(numeral)

Classifying:

parakatiu

'similar, same'

(adjective)

hada-barae

'look like that, look the same'

(verb + adverb)

mata-barae

'look like that, look the same'

(noun/verb + adverb)

Equative:

balika / baliki

'like, similar to, just as'

(preposition)

Anaphoric:

N kena za

'just that N'

(N + demonstr + adv)

4b. Idematives in **Nukna**



Morobe Province, Trans-New Guinea; Finisterre-Huon.
1,000 speakers. Grammar: Taylor (2015)

4b. Idematives in **Nukna**

- (13) *Nangge yará ná=wu mam-yánda=ku káman rewe,*
child two this=TOP mother-3DU.POSS=TOP one only,
iná nan-yánda=ku kámá kámá.
but father-3DU.POSS=TOP other other
'These two children, they have the same (lit. only one) mother,
but different fathers.'

- (14) *Ámna wa=wu yá-uriwa kaláhu wa=wu tárak-yáni*
man 3=TOP PL-daughter three 3=TOP appearance-3PL.POSS
káman re=ina.
one ONLY=SIM
'That man has three daughters, and they all look the same.'
(Lit. '...their appearance is like only one.')

4b. Idematives in **Nukna**

- (15) *Uriwa wa=wu hásák-ná=ku maming=ina.*
daughter 3=TOP length-3SG.POSS=TOP mother.3SG.POSS =SIM
'She is as tall as her mother.'
(Lit. 'The daughter's length is like her mother.')

- (16) *Son ka-u-málák=ku ámna wa=yá=yon*
again see.3SG.OBJ-RP-2/3DU=TOP man 3=AGT=same
sup ketnán putu-ng át-án...
stone on.top.of sit-SV exist-3SG.DS.SEQ
'Again they saw the same man sitting on top of a stone, and...'

Nukna idemative repertoire

Identifying:

káman rewe

'one only'

numeral + limiting adverb

Classifying:

kutná káman rewe

'one type only'

noun + numeral + limiting adverb

Equative:

=ina

'like'

similative enclitic

(cf. *rais=ina* 'like rice')

Anaphoric:

=yon

'the same'

(anaphoric identifying idemative enclitic on nouns)

(=*yon* also has a reflexive meaning; cf. *na* 'I' and *na-yon* 'myself')

5. Tentative **typology**

- **Identifying idemative**
 - numeral ‘one’: all PNG languages in sample
 - adjective ‘same’: many European lgs, Indonesian
- **Classifying idemative** (‘same kind, similar’)
 - specific verb/adjective: Tok Pisin (*wankain*), Vitu (*parakatiu*), Bariai, Kovai, German
 - one kind/type (only): Nukna, Gizrra
 - same as identifying idemative: various European lgs, none in PNG!

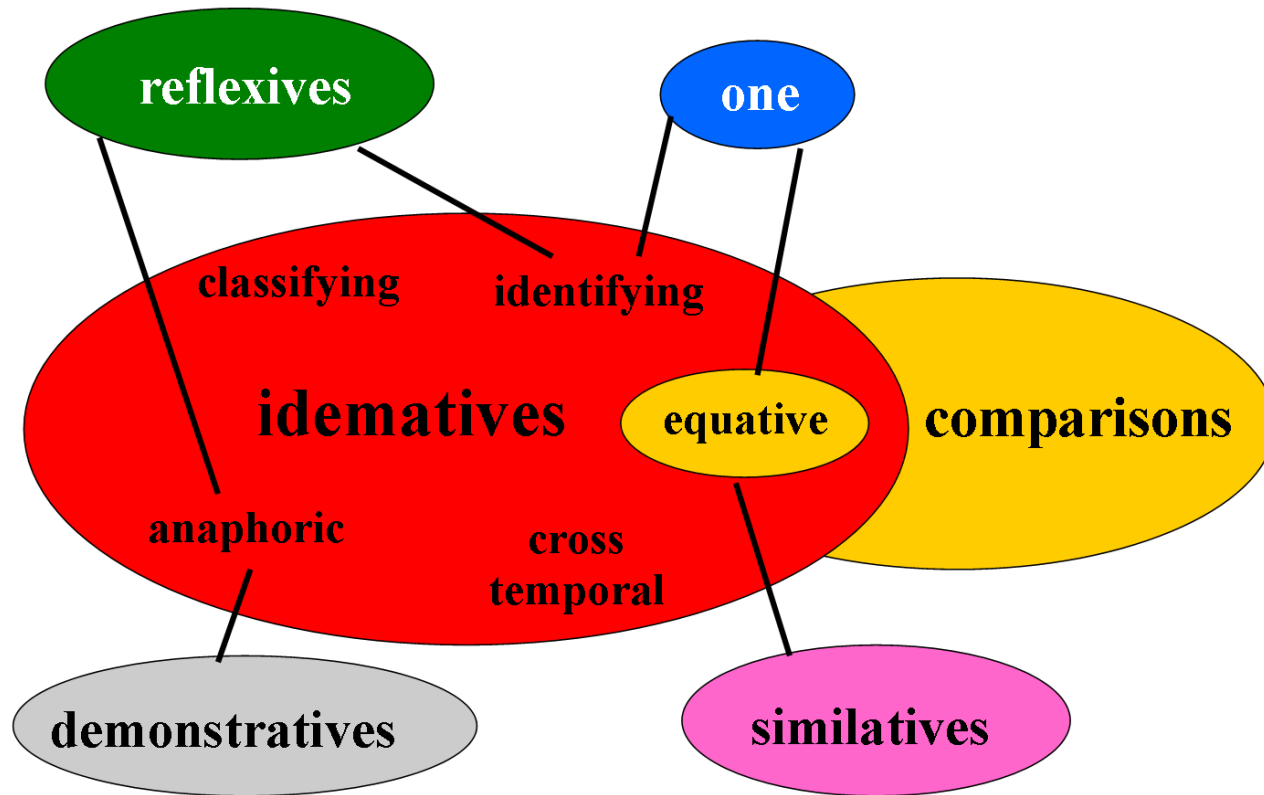
5. Tentative **typology**

- **Anaphoric idemative** ('the same day')
 - demonstrative + adverb: just/only that X
(Tok Pisin, Vitu, Doromu-Koki, Mbula, Kovai...)
 - anaphoric idemative enclitic: Nukna =*yon*
 - same as identifying/classifying idemative:
various European languages
- **Equative idemative**, see typology in
Haspelmath et al. (2016)

Some **interesting** classifying idematives

- **Mussau** (Oceanic; New Ireland)
aitauaa ‘same, similar’ (verb) < ‘be together’,
cf. Eng *same* and Dutch *samen* ‘together’
- **Gizrra** (Trans-Fly, Western)
dapel ‘same size/value’ (adjective)
(e.g. the same blessing, the same pain)

Semantic map of idematives



6. Preliminary conclusions

- 1. All languages in the sample **make a distinction** between identifying and classifying idematives.
- 2. The identifying idemative is **always** the **number 'one'**.
- 3. A **variety** of lexemes and constructions is used for classifying idematives.
- 4. With one exception, the languages in the sample do **not** have a **dedicated anaphoric** idemative. The exception is Nukna (the enclitic =yon).
- 5. **No** language in PNG has a dedicated **cross-temporal idemative** lexeme or construction.
- 6. The languages of PNG (including Tok Pisin) are remarkably **similar** in the area of idematives.

7. Further research questions

1. The database needs to be **broadened** beyond PNG.
2. Is the notion of idematives sustainable? Or is this a Eurocentric artefact of our own emic viewpoint?
3. Are the semantic divisions valid and sufficient? Are there semantic aspects missing? Possible candidates:

Mathematical idemative:

Ten times two equals twenty.

Idemative manner adverb:

She walks the same way as her mother.

Linking idemative adverb:

likewise, similarly

Simultaneous idemative adverb:

at the same time, Latin simul

7. Further research questions

4. Is it also helpful to distinguish derivational or lexical idematives?

- **English** *namesake (Bariai lamoe)*
- **Tok Pisin** *wantok, wanblut, wanwok etc.*
- **Greek** *iso-* ‘same, equal’
- **Latin** *equi-* ‘same, equal’
- Cf. modern **English** coinages:
 isobar, isotope, isotherm, isogloss
 equidistant, equiangular, equipotent

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