

# **Dialectical Analysis** **of Kuanua & Tok Pisin** **Sentences**

Joint paper by Olga Temple & Fiona Silo  
presented by Fiona Silo @ LSPNG 2014

September 17, 2014

Madang, Papua New Guinea

## A word of introduction

- I am Fiona Silo, studying linguistics @ UPNG. Kuanua is my mother tongue.
- I am interested in the **dialectical** method of linguistic analysis.
- This paper
  - outlines the basic principles of this method &
  - demonstrates its practical application in the analysis of Kuanua & Tok Pisin sentences.

# DIALECTICAL METHOD OF LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

## BASIC PRINCIPLES:

- To understand any complex system, we must identify its smallest **functional** unit that has all its properties intact (i.e., compound : molecule, etc.)
- Every *word* is an **ACT of THOUGHT** by the collective mind of a society, living & thinking in concrete space-time; therefore, ***word-meaning*** has all the properties of LANGUAGE.
- → **word-meaning** = the **smallest functional unit** of language.

Let us now examine its properties, because they determine word-meanings' interaction within the system.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL:

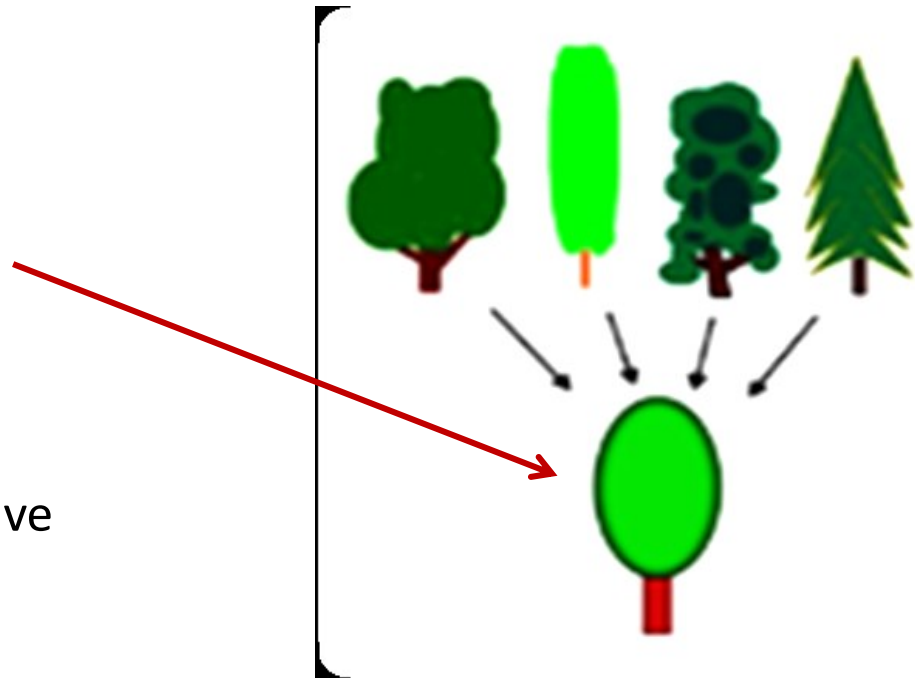
Every word is a  
**GENERALIZATION** –  
an ACT of THOUGHT

## 'WORD-MEANING':

- **contiguity** of concept,
- **caused** by perceived
- **resemblance** between concrete experiences, connected in the collective mind of each society

## How do humans think?

To **think/generalize** means to '**make sense**' of something through associations by resemblance, contiguity in space/time, and cause/effect:



# Mechanism of Verbal **Thought** = Mechanism of Language

**Generalization**, or creation of **meaning**, occurs on two levels, collective & individual:

- **Social minds** create **collective generalizations** (the words & grammars of all languages).
- **Individual minds** use these collective generalizations ('units & rules') to build word–mosaics/sentences – their **personal generalizations**.

In order to form a **concept**, we must be able not only to *connect*, but also to *abstract*, to single out its characteristic elements, and to view them separately from the totality of the concrete experience in which they are embedded.

... **Synthesis** and **analysis** presuppose each other, as inhalation presupposes exhalation.

Vygotsky: 1986, p. 135

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**Synthesis & analysis** of ideas (by resemblance, contiguity in space-time & cause/effect) =  
= the **mechanism** of all **conceptualization**

Sentence: saying something *about* something (verb function)

The two principles of generalization (synthesis & analysis) are also the two universal principles of sentence structure:

- Synthesis of word-meanings into the S/**V**/C nexus
- Analysis of the nexus constituents by resemblance, contiguity in space-time, & cause/effect.

## Word **functions** in the sentence mosaic

We use words to reflect the associations in our minds that create our own thoughts (*personal generalizations*) about our 4D world :

- **describe** things by:
  - Resemblance (adjective & adverb of manner functions)
  - Contiguity in space-time (adverbs of place & time)
- **explain** things
  - Cause/Effect (adverbs of Reason, Consequence, etc.)
- **name** things
  - contiguity of concept (noun), *caused* (cause/effect) by resemblance

→ We ask the universal 'journalistic' questions:

*Who? What? Which? When? Where? Why?*



Thus, universal properties of word-meanings **cause**  
universals of their **behavior** in use:

1. **Universal principles** of sentence structure (synthesis into SVC & analysis)
2. **Universal word functions** in the sentence ('Parts of Speech'), as a result of universal mental associations
3. **Universal functional groups** (being mental **associations**, words readily '**associate**' with others, forming **phrases & clauses** that act as one Noun, Adjective or Adverb in the sentence); i.e.:

//Life /is /what happens to you/, while /you /are /busy making other plans//.



# Gnalysis

Step 1: Identify all mosaic patterns (SVCs) in the sentence

Step 2: Ask *Who? What? Which? When? Where? Why?* to discover what words/groups of words **do** in the sentence

Step 3: Diagram and label the functions of all SVC patterns, using

– Squares for main clauses:



&

– Triangles for dependent clauses:



**Gnalysis** focuses on the **logical relationships** between words /groups of words in the sentence

S                      V                      C(DO)  
 /Men / create / meaning/

Analysis : Subject	Analysis of Verb	Analysis: Compliment
<p><b>Which</b> men?            (resemblance)</p>	<p><b>How?</b> (resemblance)            Naturally, by associating ideas,            from their own experiences, etc.</p>	<p><b>Which</b> meaning?            (resemblance)</p>
<p>All over the world,            Of all races ,            With any sense,            Who are not nuts,            Living in all parts of            the globe, etc.</p>	<p><b>Where? When?</b>(contiguity)            In their own heads,            in all times &amp; places,            whenever they are challenged, etc.</p> <p><b>Why?</b> With what consequence? On what            condition? (cause/effect)            Because they have the ability to            generalize, etc.</p>	<p>Which they want to share            with others,            Which helps them make            sense of the world they            live in, etc.</p>

## **Gnalysis** of some Kuanua sentences from the 'Tolai Texts'

**Damana To Kutuia i tapatapal na bar na vudu ta kana uma upi,**

**I ga vavaongo ko,**

**upi I ga gigire na vaninara upi go diat,**

**upi na pait ta vakilang,**

**upi na varve vaninare To Kadik ma kana tarai,**

**ba diat a talil,**

**diat-a dara.**

## Analysis of some Kuanua sentences from the 'Tolai Texts'

**SVC – 1:** /Damana To Kutuia i /**tapatapal** /na bar na vudu ta kana uma upi/,

**SVC – 2:** /I /ga **vavaongo** ko/,

**SVC – 3:** /upi I /ga **gigire** na **vaninara** /upi go diat/,

**SVC – 4:** /upi **na pait** ta vakilang/,

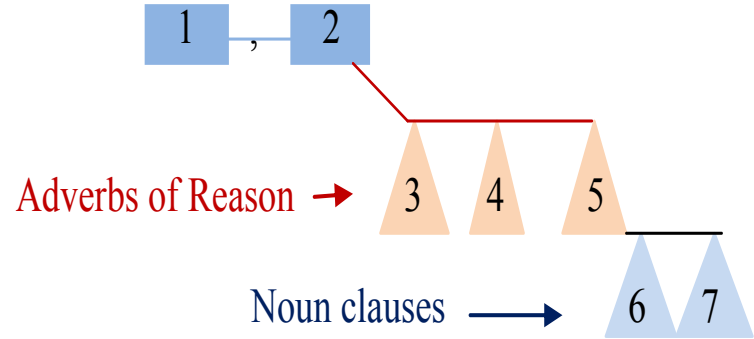
**SVC – 5:** /upi **na varve** vaninare To Kadik ma kana tarai,

**SVC – 6:** /ba diat/ **a talil**/,

**SVC – 7:** /diat-/**a dara**/.

# Universal associations – Kuanua forms

$S_1$   $V_1$   $C_{1(10)}$   
 $S_{1.1}$   $S_{1.2}$   
 // **Damana** /To Kutuia i / **tapatapal**/ na bar na vudu ta kana uma//,  
 How? Where?

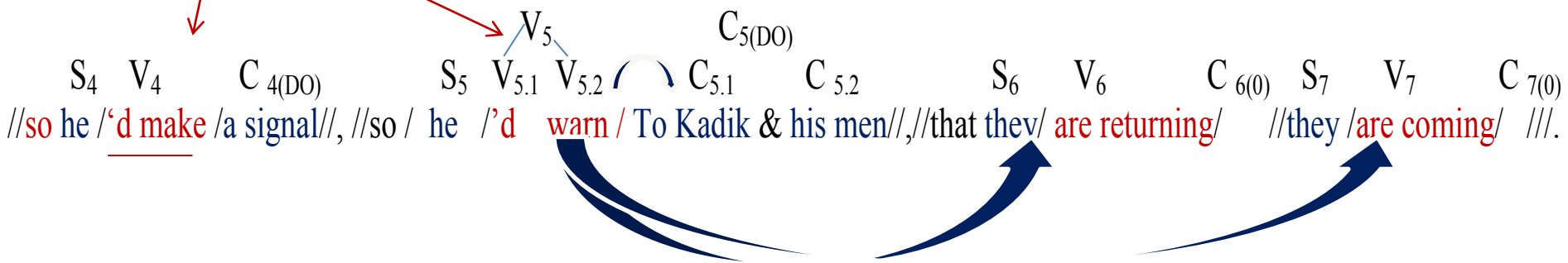
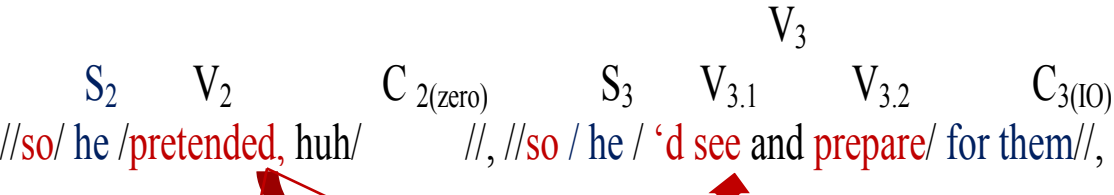
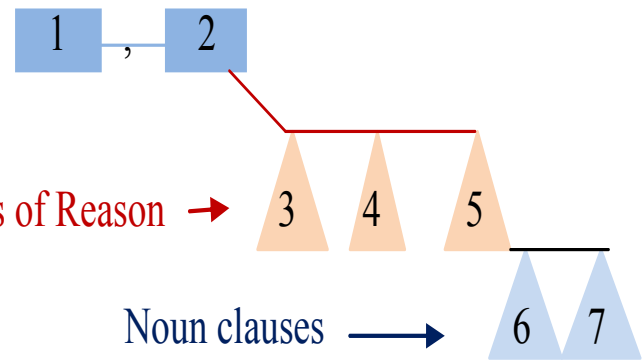
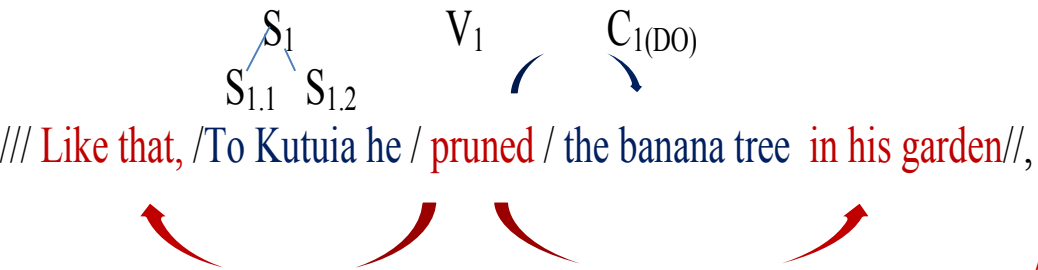


$S_2$   $V_2$   $C_{2(zero)}$   $S_3$   $V_3$   $C_{3(10)}$   
 $V_{3.1}$   $V_{3.2}$   
 // **upi** / i / **ga vavaongo**, ko/ //, // **upi** / i / **ga gigire** na **vaninara**/ **upi go diat**//,

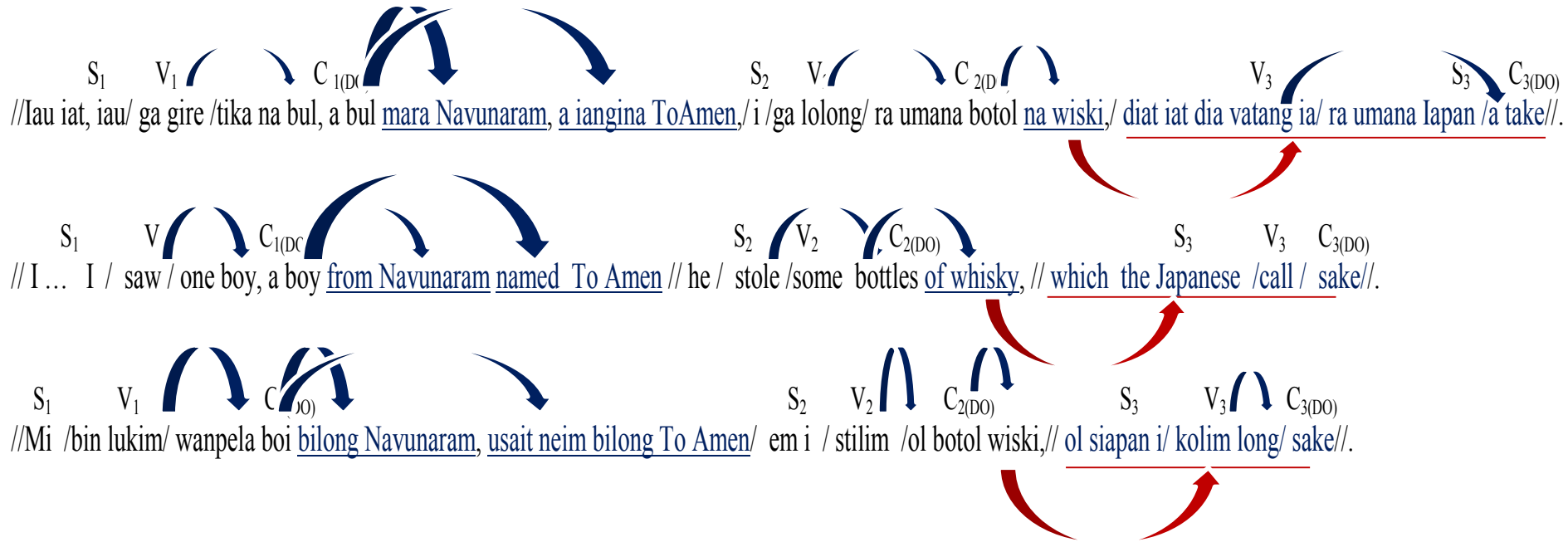
$S_4$   $V_4$   $C_{4(DO)}$   $S_5$   $V_5$   $C_{5(DO)}$   $S_6$   $V_6$   $C_{6(zero)}$   $S_7$   $V_7$   $C_{7(zero)}$   
 $V_{5.1}$   $V_{5.2}$   $C_{5.1}$   $C_{5.2}$   
 // **upi** na / **pait** / ta vakilang//, // **upi** / na / **varve vaninare** /To Kadik ma kana tarai//, // **ba diat** / **a talil**// , // **diat** / -a **dara** / ///.



# Universal associations – English forms



# Universal associations & functions - Kuanua, English & Tok pisin forms

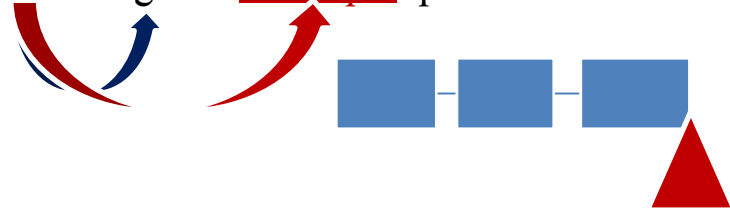




# Kuanua, Tok Pisin & English

S<sub>1</sub> V<sub>1</sub> C<sub>1(DO)</sub>    S<sub>2</sub> V<sub>2</sub> C<sub>2(DO)</sub>    S<sub>3</sub> V<sub>3</sub> C<sub>3(DO)</sub>    S<sub>4</sub> V<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4(0)</sub>

// Io /namur/ i /tak pa/ ia / ma /i / ule vue /ma / i /ga vung/ ia / ura ra pia/ pi /dir / mamai/ //.



S<sub>1</sub> V<sub>1</sub>    S<sub>2</sub> V<sub>2</sub>    S<sub>3</sub> V<sub>3</sub> C<sub>3(DO)</sub>

//Em i/ rausim/ na /em i /putim go daon long graon/, bai/ tupela /kaikai /buai.

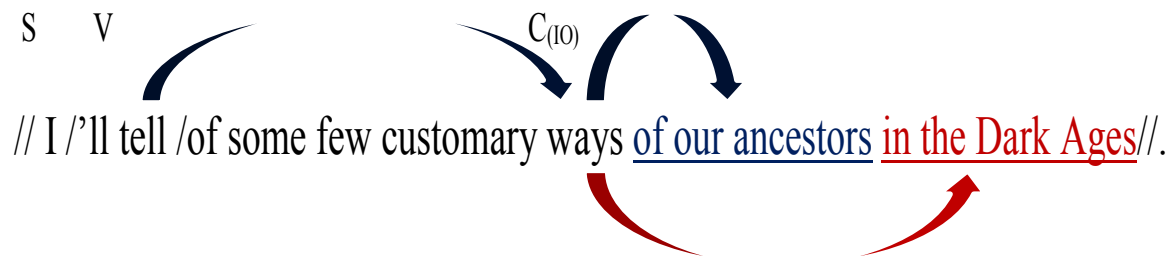
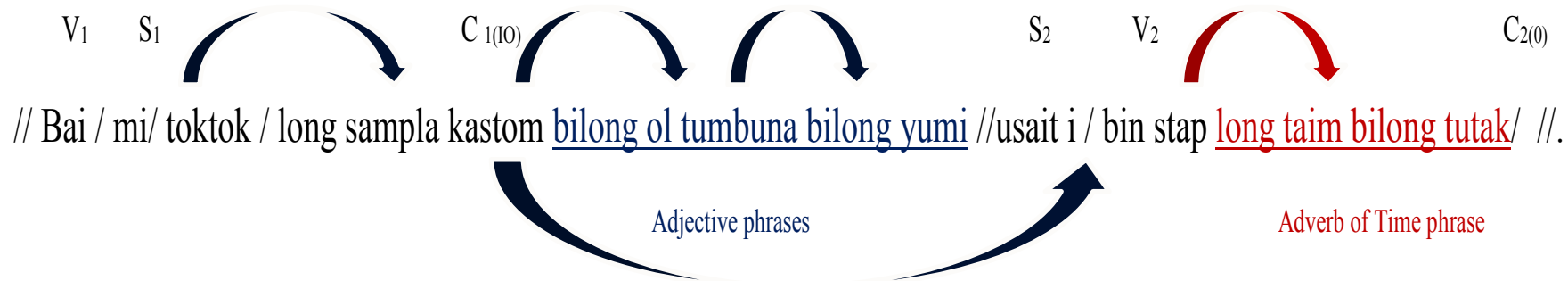


S<sub>1</sub> V<sub>1</sub>    S<sub>2</sub> V<sub>2</sub> C<sub>2(DO)</sub>    S<sub>3</sub> V<sub>3</sub> C<sub>3(DO)</sub>    S<sub>4</sub> V<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4(DO)</sub>

//Well, then/ he / took [it/] and /he /pulled / it / and/ he / put / it / on the ground/, /so /they/ could /chew buai/



Structures vary with translation, but mental **associations** and, therefore, word **functions** are universal:



# CONCLUSIONS:

1. Language is the universal Process of Verbal Thought - generalization;
2. Universal mechanism of generalization causes universal word functions;
3. Word properties explain why words form functional groups (phrases & clauses) to perform these universal functions (to name, to describe or to explain events in our 4D world).
4. Gnalysis uses the natural way we think to explain word behavior in the sentence; → syntax begins to make sense!

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