

## The verb system of Sentani: an overview

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Sentani, a non-Austronesian language spoken to the west of Jayapura, has a fairly complex verb system. Both actor and undergoer are cross-referenced on the verb with respect to person and number (singular, dual, plural). Besides, the following categories are marked on the verb by means of affixes: three moods (indicative, imperative, optative), five tense/aspect categories (roughly, present, imperfective past, perfective past, habitual, future), polarity, voice (applicative and reflexive, among others) and direction (movement towards the speaker, away from the speaker, across, downwards, upwards). To keep it complex, many of these categories are encoded in portmanteau morphemes.

Furthermore, a verb form can also consist of two roots, whereby the roots are either different (in which case the first indicates a movement) or the same (the form of the converb).

The present paper aims at the following points:

- 1) to illustrate how the categories of the verb system of Sentani are expressed morphologically;
- 2) to determine the function and meaning of these categories;
- 3) to show what combinations of these categories are possible.