

The insubordinated infinitive in Makhuwa-Enahara (P31) and the expression of feelings

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Research questions:

- How are feelings expressed in Makhuwa-Enahara?
- How can we analyse the infinitive construction used for feelings?

(1) *O-kí-wéréy-á e-roóho.* infinitive
 15-1SG.OM-hurt-FV 9-heart
 'I feel sad.'
 lit. 'My heart hurts.'

Overview feelings in Makhuwa

Table 1 below shows the three types of feeling predicates:

- active experiencer,
- passive experiencer with the stimulus as subject, and
- passive experiencer and the word for 'heart' as subject.

Makhuwa	Translation (literal interpretation)	Insubordinated infinitive?
A. Active Experiencer		
<i>oviruwa</i>	'to be angry'	
<i>onyemela</i>	'to be angry'	
<i>otuthuwa</i>	'to be scared/frightened'	
<i>otsikula</i>	'to be sad'	
<i>owali</i>	'to be nervous'	
<i>woova</i>	'to fear'	
<i>wooceya</i>	'to be tired'	
<i>ohaawa</i>	'to suffer'	Yes

<i>ohapala</i>	'to make dizzy/drunk'		
<i>opuha</i>	'to be satisfied'		
<i>okafilikha</i>	'to be amazed'		
<i>ophenta</i>	'to love'		
<i>woona ehaaya</i>	'to see shame'	'to feel ashamed'	
<i>woona othunku</i>	'to see pity'	'to feel sorry'	(only attested with causative)
<i>wulla/orina ehace</i>	'to cry/have jealousy'	'to feel jealous'	
B. Passive Experiencer with subject stimulus			
<i>onukhela</i>	'to smell good to X'	'to miss sth/sb'	Yes
<i>onanara</i>	'to be ugly to X'	'to hate, not like'	Yes
<i>otsivela</i>	'to please X'	'to like'	Yes
<i>ophweela</i>	'to bore X'	'to be bored'	
<i>opaphara</i>	'to worry/bother X'	'to be worried/bothered'	
<i>ovola ekhove</i>	'to torment' + 'sleep'	'to be sleepy'	Yes
<i>ovola etala</i>	'to torment' + 'hunger'	'to be hungry'	Yes
<i>ovola ntthona</i>	'to torment' + 'thirst'	'to be thirsty'	Yes
C. Passive Experiencer with subject 'heart'			
<i>owereya</i>	'to hurt'	'to feel sad'	Yes

<i>oriipa</i>	'to be black/dark'	'to feel sad'	Yes
<i>otteela</i>	'to be white/light'	'to feel happy'	
<i>okhuma</i>	'to exit'	'to feel excited'	Yes
<i>weetta</i>	'to walk'	'to feel nauseous'	Yes

Examples type A

Emotion verbs:

- (1) *Kinúúvirúwa.*
ki-nuu-viruw-a
 1SG.SM-PFV.PERS-become.angry-FV
 'I'm angry.' (id 286)
- (2) *Kinúmúnyeméla.*
ki-nu-u-nyemel-a
 1SG.SM-PFV.PERS-2SG.OM-become.angry-FV
 'I'm angry at you.' (id 285)
- (3) *Onámóová ovirá wapoñti.*
o-naa-ooV-a **o-vira** **wa-ponti**
 1SM-PRS.DJ-fear-FV 15-pass 16-bridge
 'S/he is afraid to pass the bridge.' (id299)

Verbs with emotion nouns:

- (4) *Onámóón' éhaáya.*
o-naa-oon-a **ehaaya**
 1SM-PRS.DJ-see-FV 9.shame
 'S/he feels ashamed.'
 lit. 'S/he sees shame.' (id 297)
- (5) *Zanáira ohóón' othúñku.*
Zanaira **o-o-oon-a** **o-thunku**
 1.Zanaira 1SM-PFV.DJ-see-FV 14-pity
 'Zanaira feels sorry.' (id 313)
- (6) *Kinull' éhacé.*
ki-n-ull-a **e-hace**
 1SG.SM-PRS.CJ-cry-FV 9-jealousy
 'I'm feeling jealous.' (id 440)

Fixed combinations of V+emotion noun:

- (7) **Okivona ehace.*
o-ki-von-a **ehace**
 15-1SG.OM-torment-FV 9.jealousy
 'I am jealous.'

Causative can introduce the stimulus:

- (8) *Zanáira onámóóniha othúñku.*
Zanaira **o-na-m-oon-ih-a** **othunku**
 1.Zanaira 1SM-PRS.DJ-1OM-see-CAUS-FV 14.pity
 'Zanaira is to be pitied.'
 lit. 'Zanaira makes one/him/her see pity.'

Subject of passive verb:

- (9) *W-a-khalaná mu'ntákatsa, o-'nní-riir-íy-á vi'ncééne.*
 2SG.SM-SIT-stay.with malaria 2SG.SM-HAB-be.cold-PASS-FV much
 'When you have malaria, you feel very cold.'
- (10) *Porosóori kha-o-n-tsiv-el-iy-a ni mi.*
 1.teacher NEG-1SM-PRS-please-PASS-FV by 1SG.PRO
 'The teacher doesn't like me.' (lit. 'The teacher is not pleased by me.')
- (11) *Etthépo e-n-tsívél-íy-á ni manttúvi.*
 9.elephant 9SM-PRS.CJ-please-PASS-FV by 1.peanut
 'A/the elephant likes peanuts.' (lit. 'elephant is pleased by peanuts')

Examples type B

Stimulus is subject:

- (12) *Etthw' íye enúmúhapála vi'ncéene.*
 etthu íye e-nu-mu-hapal-a v-inceene
 9.thing 9.DEM.DIST 9SM-PFV.PERS-1OM-make.dizzy-FV 16-much
 'This thing makes one very dizzy.'
- (13) *Nipúró nna nookíphwéela.*
 ni-puro nna ni-o-ki-phweel-a
 5-place 5.DEM.PROX 5SM-PFV.DJ-1SG.OM-bore-FV
 'This place is boring.'

Experiencer as object (marker):

- (14) *Yaanúmvól' etála hatá khúc' éshíma.*
 e-a-nuu-n-vol-a etala hata khu-c-a eshima
 9SM-PST-PERS-1OM-torment-FV 9.hunger even NARR-eat-FV 9.shima
 'He was hungry to such an extent that he ate shima.' (id 809)
- (15) *Enáákinanára, él' éyoóc' éele.*
 e-naa-ki-nanar-a ele eyooca ele
 9SM-PRS.DJ-1SG.OM-BE.ugly-FV 9.DEM.DIST 9.food 9.DEM.DIST
 'I hate this food.'
- (16) *Ninámvol' ntthóna Zanáira; nkamééle maátsi.*
 ni-na-n-vol-a ntthona Zanaira
 5SM-PRS.DJ-1OM-torment-FV 5.thirst 1.Zanaira
 n-ka-meel-e maatsi
 2PL.SM-HORT-give.little-SBJV 6.water
 'Zanaira is thirsty, give her some water.'

Also as pseudocleft:

- (17) *Eni'ntsívéla Hamísí enkisí.*
 9-PRS-1OM-please-FV 1.Hamisi 9.squid.PL
 'What Hamisi likes is squid.'

Examples type C

'Heart' as the postverbal subject, determining subject marking (even if postverbal):

- (18) *Ntsána yaánaakíwéréyá eroóho.*
 ntsana y-aanaa-ki-werey-a erooho
 yesterday 9SM-IPFV.DJ-1SG.OM-hurt-FV 9.heart
 'Yesterday my heart hurt.' / 'Yesterday I felt sad.' (id282)

- (19) *Waanúúkihuma nríma.*
 o-a-nuu-ki-khum-a nríma
 3SM-PST-PERS-1SG.OM-exit-FV 3.heart
 'I was excited.' (id 343)
- (20) *Nrímá eléló onúúkittéela.*
 nríma elelo o-nuu-ki-tteel-a
 3.heart today 3SM-PFV.PERS-1SG.OM-be.white-FV
 'Today I am happy.' (id542)

Also in pseudocleft:

- (21) *Onkíkhúma nrimá.*
 o-n-ki-khum-a nríma
 3RM-PRS-1SG.SM-exit-FV 3.heart.PL
 'I am being (very) excited.' (id 341)

Stimulus can be added with causative:

- (22) *(Étthú) yaanúúkikumíhá nríma.*
 etthu e-a-nuu-ki-khum-ih-a nríma
 9.thing 9SM-PST-PERS-1SG.OM-exit-CAUS-FV 3.heart
 '(this thing) It made me feel excited.' id 344

Syntactic variation

- (23) *E-hópá e-náá-ki-tsívéla.* **SVO**
 9-fish 9SM-PRS.DJ-1SG.OM-please-FV
 'I like fish.'
- (24) *Etthépo e-n-tsívéla-íy-á ni manttúvi.* **passive**
 9.elephant 9SM-PRS.CJ-please-PASS-FV by 1.peanut
 'A/the elephant likes peanuts.' (lit. 'elephant is pleased by peanuts')
- (25) *Ts-aánáa-kí-tsívéla ekaláw' íiya.* **inversion**
 10SM-IMP.F.DJ-1SG.OM-please-FV 10.boat 10.DEM.PROX
 'I liked these boats.'
- (26) *E-n-kí-tsívéla ekalaw' éela.* **pseudocleft**
 9RM-PRS-1SG.OM-please-FV 9.boat 9.DEM.PROX
 'What I like is this boat.'
- (27) *Maátsí alá o-kí-tsívéla.* **infinitive**
 6.water 6.DEM.PROX 15-1SG.SM-please
 'I like this water.' (when asked which brand of bottled water you prefer)

Infinitive construction

Characteristics:

1. prefix *o-*
2. absence of tense marking
3. object marking of experiencer
4. typically postverbal stimulus or locus

- (28) *Okíwéréyá eroóho.*
 o-ki-werey-a erooho
 15-1SG.OM-hurt-FV 9.heart
 'My heart hurts.' / 'I feel sad.'

Prefix o- can be nominal (class 14 or 15) or verbal (class 1,3,14,15,17) , and is also used as a default subject marker:

(29)

- a. *o-wéha*
 15-see
 'to see'/'the seeing'

- b. *o-ttópe*
 14-clay
 'clay'

- (30) *Nthúpi onámwíipa.*
 nthupi o-na-iip-a
 3.rooster 3SM-PRS.DJ-sing-FV
 'The rooster is crowing.'

- (31) *Orávó onááttápítta vińcééne.*
 o-ravo o-naa-ttapitt-a v-inceene
 14-honey 14SM-PRS.DJ-be.sweet-FV 16-much
 'Honey is very sweet.'

- (32) *Otsulú o-náá-ték-íy-a.*
 17.up 17SM-PRES.DJ-build-PASS-FV
 'Upstairs there is building (going on).'

- (33) *M-páání o-ná-mú`ll-ats-íy-a.*
 18-inside DEF.SM-PRS-CRY-PLUR-PASS-FV
 'Inside there is crying.'

- (34) *O-náá-viha-víhá para esheeni?*
 DEF.SM-PRS-be.hot-REDUP for 9.what
 'Why is it so hot?'

Infinitive does not allow tense/aspect marking and is tenseless:

(35)

- a. *Elelo o-ki-vol-a etala.*
 today 15-1SG.OM-torment-FV 9.hunger
 'I am hungry today.'

- b. **elelo o-na-m-vol-a etala.*
 today 15-PRS.DJ-1OM-torment-FV 9.hunger
 'S/he is hungry today.'

- c. *Elelo e-na-m-vol-a etala.*
 today 9SM-PRS.DJ-1OM-torment-FV 9.hunger
 'S/he is hungry today.'

- (36) *O-ki-wereya erooho (??ntsana).*
 15-1SG.SM-hurt 9.heart yesterday
 int. 'I was sad yesterday.'

Experiencer is object-marked, and coreferent NP may be present preverbally or right-dislocated:

- (37) *(Anámwáne) waakhúma nríma.*
 anamwane o-a-khum-a nrima
 2.children 15-2OM-exit-FV 3.heart
 '(The children) They are excited.' (id192)
- (38) *Waávóla ntthóno (átthw' ále vále).*
 o-a-vol-a ntthono a-tthu ale vale
 15-2OM-torment-FV 5.thirst 2-people 2.DEM.DIST 16.DEM.DIST
 'They are thirsty, those people there.' (id316)

Stimulus or 'heart' is typically expressed postverbally, but not necessarily:

- (39) (Upon hearing that the Dutch eat raw herring with onions)
Weéttíha nríma!
 o-eett-ih-a nrima
 15-walk-CAUS-FV 3.heart
 'That is nauseating!' (lit. 'It makes the heart walk.')
- (40)
- a. *O-kí-tsívélá [o-vará e-hópá].*
 15-1SG.OM-please 15-grab 9-fish
 'I like fishing/catching fish.'
- b. *[O-vár' é-hópá] o-kí-tsívéla.*
 15-grab 9-fish 15-1SG.OM-please
 'I like fishing/catching fish.'

Analysis: insubordinated infinitive

Infinitive explains:

- o- prefix
- no tense or aspect marking
- object marking

- (41) ... *o-m-ooná nítthu*
 15-1OM-see 1.person
 '... to see someone'

Questions:

1. How come an infinitival clause is grammatical in independent use?
2. How come the infinitive construction is found in the domain of feelings and is not more widely used?

Answers:

1. Because of insubordination: an erstwhile subordinate infinitive is now used as a main clause (Evans 2007).
2. Because using an otherwise ungrammatical structure (main clause infinitive) connects to the affective system (Corver 2016), and because feelings are often about the 'here and now', asthetic sentences (Sasse 1996, 2006, Gundel 1974, Erteschik-Shir 1997, 2007).

Infinitives are also independently used in exclamations:

- (42) *O-kí-pwésha, o-rí n-ttoottó!*
 15-1SG.OM-hit 2SG.SM-be 1-fool.PL
 'To beat me, you're a fool!'
- (43) *O-théla ólé maátsi a-kí-khám-e.*
 15-marry 1.DEM.DIST 6.water 6SM-1SG.OM-stuck-SBJV
 'Him get married? May water get stuck in my throat!'
- (44) *O-hi-ki-nukhel-a mwan' aka?!*
 15-NEG-1SG.OM-miss-FV 1.child 1.POSS.1SG
 'That I not miss my child?!'

The pre- vs postverbal position of the stimulus and experiencer, and the difference in interpretation, is a topic for further research.

- (45) (in a discussion about how different people and cultures deal with jealousy)
Eháce owéréya.
 ehace o-werey-a
 9.jealousy 15-hurt-FV
 'Jealousy hurts.' id 407
- (46) *W-aá-vára á-rá`ntáatsi o-líp-a.*
 15-2OM-grab 2-spider 15-hard-FV
 'Catching spiders is difficult.'
- (47) (saying to yourself while watching the news of the cyclone Idai)
Asíkhíni oháawa.
 a-sikhini o-haaw-a
 2-poor.people 15-suffer-FV
 'The poor people suffer.' id 386

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