

Interlinear Glossing

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Morpheme by morpheme glossing

- glosses give information about the meanings and grammatical properties of individual words and parts of words
- glosses correspond to the morphs they render
- a kind of translation that accompanies the original and a linguistic analysis
- helps the reader understand the grammatical structure of the language
- A very important tool in linguistic description.

How to gloss

- Various glossing conventions.
- Use Leipzig standardised glossing convention
- Be consistent in your glosses
- Three lines. Text in object language, one to one literal translation of the words and segments (morphemes. Free translation form
- Each segment is separated by a dash, - while clitics are separated by =
- You may need an extra line in case of words that are obscured due to phonological processes

Glossing a Bantu language

- All nouns appear with their noun classes (numbers 1, 2, 3...). The numbers also appear of the SM and concords - agreement
- For first person and second person, indicate whether
- The Bantu verb is loaded – break the constituent segments into separate morphemes deriving that verb

e.g:

a) A-mai	s-a-na-mu-phik-its-il-e	phala	mwana
2-mother	NEG-2SM-TAM-1OM-COOK-CAUS-APPL-SBJV	5.porridge	1.child

wa-wo

1-2PLPOSS

‘Mother did not have the porridge cooked for the child.’

examples

b) Iwe sunapititsenso buku lija.

Iwe si-u-na-pit-its-e=nso

buku

li-ja.

2SG

NEG-2SGSM-PST-go-CAUS-SBJV=again

5.book

5-DIST3

‘You did send that book again.’

c) Inde, u-na-li-pit-its-a=nso.

yes

2SGSM-PST-5OM-go-CAUS-FV=again

‘Yes, you sent it again.’