

Emerging engagement: Descriptive and theoretical issues

# Engagement in Kogi demonstratives

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# Outline

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## I. Introduction

- The Kogi language
- Engagement marking in the verb system

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- The demonstrative system of Kogi
- *Twēnié* / *twē* as joint attention demonstrative
- Evidence from elicitation and matcher-director task

## III. Conclusions



# I. Introduction



# The Kogi language

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- Chibchan language family
- Arwako subgroup: Kogi, Ika, Damana, † Kankuamo
- about 9'000 speakers
- Northern Colombia, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta



# Engagement marking in the verb system

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- A set of four prefixes found with auxiliary verbs which signal (a)symmetries in the distribution of knowledge /access to an event between speech act participants (Bergqvist 2016)

	Speaker Perspective	Addressee Perspective
Symmetric	<i>ni-</i>	<i>shi-</i>
Asymmetric	<i>na-</i>	<i>sha-</i>

# Engagement marking in the verb system

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(1) a. *kába-gasã*                      *ni-ba-kú*  
sleep-NEG.POT              SPKR.SYM-2SG-do  
'You can't sleep anymore.' [Because it's morning]

b. *kába-gasã*                      *na-ba-kú*  
sleep-NEG.POT              SPKR.ASYM-2SG-do  
'You can't sleep anymore.' [Because I say so, for reasons  
unknown to you.]

(Bergqvist 2016:21-22)



## II. Engagement in demonstratives



# Kogi demonstrative system

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- Sketchy description by Ortiz Ricaurte (2000)
- Nominal, local adverbial and verbal demonstratives
- Parameters
  - Endophoric vs. exophoric contexts
  - Distance
  - Visibility
  - Selecting one from several objects
  - Engagement (i.e. joint attention)

# Nominal demonstratives

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- Initial (distance-based) analysis of nominal demonstratives

	EXOPHORIC			ENDOPHORIC
	SPKR.PROX	ADDR.PROX	DIST	
	<i>hěnié / hě</i>	<i>twěnié / twě</i>	<i>kwěnié</i>	<i>ě</i>
Choosing one of several	<i>halde</i>	<i>twalde</i>	<i>kwěnié</i>	

- Elicitation by manipulating location of object and addressee
  - Frame: \_\_\_\_\_ *plato nagégwa!* ‘Hand me \_\_\_\_\_ plate!’
- Some instances suggest that *twěnié / twě* do not imply proximity to addressee

# Elicitation of demonstratives

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Context	Form
Object is close to ADDR, visible to both SAP	<i>twēnié plato nagégwa</i>
Object is close to, invisible to and unattended to by ADDR	<i>plato <u>tweka te nukká</u> nagégwa</i>
Object is close to ADDR, not visible to SPKR	<i>plato <u>tweni te nukká</u> nagégwa</i>
Object is visible, but far away from both SAP	<i>1. kwēnié plato nagégwa</i> <i>2. twēnié plato nagégwa</i>



# Are *twěnié/twě* expressing shared engagement?

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## Hypothesis

- *twěnié/twě* are used, irrespective of distance, to refer to an object that is in the addressee's attention
- Can be viewed as an instance of engagement, as the form is used to signal joint attention (cf. Evans et al. f. c.)

## Data

- Elicitation
- Staged communicative event: matcher-director-task

# Evidence from elicitation

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- *twēnié* is used when joint attention is established, irrespective of proximity to addressee

(2) Context: Two speakers are talking about objects located at a distance.

A: *Kwēnié.*            'That one over there!'    [pointing out one of the objects]

B: *Kwēnié?*            'That one over there?'    [checking whether the B has identified the right object]

A: *Aha, twēnié.*    'Yes, that one.'            [confirming that B has identified the one A pointed out]

# Evidence from elicitation

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- *twěnié* cannot be used when joint attention is not yet established

(3) Context: The speaker refers to an object that is located behind the addressee.

A: *Plato tweka te nukká (/ʔtwěnié) na-gé-gwa!*  
plate DEM stand be.located 1SG-hand-IMP.SG  
'Hand me the plate that is there (near you)!'

B: *Hěnié plato?*  
'This plate (close to me)?'

A: *Aha, **twěnié**.*  
'Yes, that one.'

# Evidence from matcher-director-task

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- Variation of shape classifier task (Seifart 2003, 2005)
- Inspired by study on Jahai demonstratives (Burenhult 2003)
- Video / audio recording of a staged communicative event
- 25 objects of various shapes and sizes





# Matcher-director-task "ShaClaTa"

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# Observed strategies

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To divert matcher's attention to an object

- description of object
- signaling its location with demonstratives, e.g. *hekí bälđ* 'towards me', *kukí bälđ* 'away from me', *hai* 'here'

To approve matcher's choice (i.e. when joint attention is established)

- no verbal confirmation
- nominal demonstrative, often preceded by *akzẽ* 'yes' or Spanish *ese*

<i>twẽnié</i>	all speakers
<i>twẽ</i>	one speaker
<i>twalde</i>	one speaker

# Observed strategies

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To refer to an object when joint attention has been established

- exophoric demonstratives *twěnié*, *twě* (no instances of *twalde*)
- endophoric demonstrative *ě*

## Use of *twěnié* / *twě*

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Signaling that joint attention is established:

- Both are used by director to approve the matcher's choice
- Speaker intuitions:
  - *ese twěnié* can be translated with 'That's the correct one.'

Referring back to object after joint attention has been established:

- Both are used to refer to an object previously picked by the matcher
- In these contexts, they vary with the anaphoric demonstrative *ě*





## Example (4)

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(4) D: *no, hekí bāld akldé agwáng hwakwe*  
no DEM towards more less thick  
'No, towards this side, more, less thick.'

M: *hēnié?*  
DEM  
'This one?'

D: *mh no, meilde shi-nald-akka na*  
uhm no which.one ADR.SYM-be-POT be  
'Uhm no, which one could it be?'

M: *halde*  
DEM  
'This one?'

## Example (4)

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D:     *hekí bāld*       *hai*     *abakkalda=k*     *ipá-ma-lde*             *te nukká,*  
          DEM towards       DEM     on.top=LOC     put.FLAT-2SG-PST     put be.located  
          ‘Towards this side, here, where that one is which you put on top before.’

M:     *hēnié*  
          DEM  
          This one?

D:     *aha nās hangwa twēnié, ákte*  
          yes 1SG think    DEM,     put.upright  
          Yes, I think it's that one, put it upright.

(kog\_170818\_cnc\_sct, 29-34)





## Example (5)

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(5)

D: *ezwa ama kēyakēyá-gatse naldachak zumēya tũ-gatse*  
one uhm edged-seem but star look-seem  
'One, uhm, with edges but it looks like a star.'

M: *kēyakēyá-gatse naldachák zumēya tũ-gatse*  
edged-seem but star look-seem  
'One with edges but it looks like a star.'

*meilde shi-hangu-kú, zumēya tũ-gatse?*  
which.one ADR.SYM-think-1SG star look-seem  
'Which one may it be? It looks like a star?'

D: *hai hē nzha ni-hangu-kú hai kēyakēyá-gatse hai*  
DEM DEM SPKR.SYM.be SPKR.SYM-think-1SG DEM edged-seem DEM  
'Here, it's this one, I think. Here, the one with the edges, here.' [gestures with lips]

## Example (5)

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M: *kěyakěyá-gatse naldachák hui hukase, hēnié?*  
edged-seem but house roof, DEM  
'With edges but like the roof of a house, this one?'

D: *twē shi-nalda*  
DEM ADR.SYM-be  
'Is it that one?'

*ē=ki makēwā ak-ldukka ezwa mozhwa twē=ki maigwa mechwi*  
DEM=FOC four 3SG.IO-be one two DEM=FOC three only  
'This one [in the picture] has four sides, that one only has three.'

*twē tūgatse ama tweka mua-ka pa nakldo*  
DEM look-seem uhm DEM middle=LOC be.FLAT be.located  
'It's similar to that one, uhm, it's there in the middle.'

## Example (5)

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M: *hēnié?*  
DEM  
‘This one?’

D: *ese twē*  
DEM DEM  
‘[Yes] that one.’

(kog\_170826\_sct3-2)



## Use of *twalde*

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- Referring to one of several objects
- Used by only one speaker in the task (possibly regional variation)
- Employed to approve, but also negate matcher's choice

Director: *ezwa=ki sädämpakwe zhawa* 'Another flat one.'  
one=FOC flat DIM

Matcher: [touches a flat square]

Director: *ahah, twalde=ki naldagälde ē=ki* 'No, it's not that one, this  
no DEM=FOC be-NEG DEM=FOC one is round but flat.'  
  
*huinígatse naldachák sädämpakwe zhawa*  
round but flat DIM

# III. Conclusions



# Summary

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- Nominal demonstratives *twěnié/twě* are used to refer to objects that are in the addressee's attention, irrespective of distance
- *twěnié/twě* cannot be used to refer to objects that are not in the addressee's attention
- To divert the addressee's attention to an object, its location must be specified by other demonstratives
- Other nominal demonstratives encode distance
  - *hěnié*: objects close (to speaker)
  - *kwěnié*: objects far away from SAPs

# Comparison to other systems

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- Kogi is akin to the system of Jahai (Burenhult 2003) which has a joint attention demonstrative that contrasts with several other forms indicating distance
- Kogi is in a way a mirror image of the Turkish system

Kogi		
	DISTANCE	
JOINT ATTENTION	close to SPKR	far from SAP
—	<i>hěnié</i>	<i>kwěnié</i>
+	<i>twěnié</i>	

Turkish		
	DISTANCE	
JOINT ATTENTION	close to SPKR	far from SAP
+	<i>bu</i>	<i>o</i>
—	<i>şu</i>	

# Outlook

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- Work in progress!
- Situation with objects close to the speaker?
- Related local adverbial forms *twai*, *tweka*, *tweni*?
- Variation among speakers

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