

THE CONSECUTIVE MOOD IN ZULU



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THE CONSECUTIVE MOOD IN ZULU

by

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OPSOMMING

In hierdie studie word ondersoek ingestel na die vorm-, betekenis-, en gebruikskenmerke van die konsekatiewe modus in Zulu.

In die bestaande literatuur, word uiteenlopende standpunte oor hierdie werkwoordkategorie gehuldig. Daar word onder meer beweer dat die konsekatiewe modus die verlede tyd van die subjunktiewe modus is, asook dat dit 'n verhalende tydvorm is.

Die probleem van kategorisering kan ontleed word deur 'n studie te maak van alle moontlike kontekste waarin konsekatiewe werkwoorde kan optree om sodoende die ware aard daarvan vas te stel.

Daar is bevind dat konsekatiewe en subjunktiewe werkwoorde semanties en sintakties gesproke, onderling uitsluitend is. Bykomend hiertoe dui morfologiese en fonologiese verskille daarop dat 'n mens hier te make het met twee verskillende modi eerder as met twee tydvorms binne dieselfde modus.

Die konsekatiewe modus is 'n afhanklike nie-tydonderskeidende modus.

Die konsekatiewe werkwoord druk 'n handeling, gebeurtenis of proses uit wat chronologies in tyd na die hoofwerkwoord (wat in die verlede tyd is) plaasvind en druk dus 'n **konsekatiewe proses in die verlede** uit.

'n Positiewe werkwoord in die konsekatiewe modus is vormlik gelyk aan die werkwoord in die verled tyd van die indikatiewe modus. Tonologies verskil die twee werkwoorde egter aansienlik. Konsekatiewe werkwoorde word ontken met behulp van twee moontlike negatiefmorfeme, naamlik {-nga- en (k)a-}.

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CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

1.1 RESEARCH TOPIC

In recent years, there seems to have been an increasing interest in the study of moods, particularly the consecutive in the African languages.

De Clercq, J (1961), Lombard et al. (1985), Makwarele, V P (1992), Mathibela, M A (1991), Posthumus, L C (1987, 1991 and 1993) and Van Wyk, E B (1986, 1987, 1988 and 1991) have conducted research on the consecutive.

There are, however, different views and conflicting ideas concerning the consecutive in Zulu. For example, the consecutive is viewed as a narrative tense by Taljaard and Bosch (1988:60) and Van Rooyen (1974:74). Wilkes (1991:65) views it as the past tense of the subjunctive mood. Doke (1973:88), Nyembezi (1956:184), Van Eeden (1956:296) and Ziervogel et al. (1985:149) are of a similar opinion. De Clercq, J (1961) and Posthumus, L C (1987, 1991 and 1993) view the consecutive as a separate mood.

1.1.1 Aim of the Study

Firstly, the aim of this study is to give a brief overview of the present research on the consecutive, i.e. the existing views concerning this verbal form.

Secondly, it is hoped that further investigation into the structure and nature of the consecutive in Zulu, and in the other African languages, will be stimulated.

Thirdly the nature of the consecutive as a verb category i.e. the form, meaning and use will be determined. Questions which arise are the following:

- i) Is the consecutive a tense, either of the subjunctive or indicative or a separate mood? In order to answer this question, it must be determined whether the consecutive denotes time or whether it constitutes a separate mood.
- ii) In which contexts can the consecutive be used?
- iii) What is the semantic value of the consecutive in the various contexts in which it can occur?

Finally, since syntax and semantics are intertwined, a brief overview of the syntactic usage of the consecutive in Zulu, as discussed by various writers, will be given before embarking upon a discussion of its semantic use.

1.2 THE CONSECUTIVE IN THE AFRICAN LANGUAGES

A comparison of the different grammars of the African languages indicates that not all writers treat the consecutive in the same manner. Some scholars categorise it as a separate mood, while others relate it as a tense. Still others believe that it does not belong to a clearly definable category.

According to Van Wyk (in Mathibela, 1991:5) :

... this is because of the superficial translation which is done in order to equate the verb categories in African languages with the categories in European languages.

1.3 THE MEANING OF MOOD

Analysing and describing the moods of a particular language, within a universal framework, seems to be one of the most problematic areas of linguistic study. One reason may be that it is difficult to find a clear-cut definition of what constitutes a mood.

Another factor to be taken into consideration is the dependency that African languages have on the traditional descriptions provided in the models of European grammarians who have imposed these models onto the African languages.

Very few authoritative sources reach consensus in terms of the number of moods that exist in African languages with specific relevance to Zulu. A definition of a mood that exists in the African languages is that provided by Doke (1935: 147), which reads:

A special form assumed by the verb in order to make some manner (modus) in which that connection between subject and predicate which every verb implies is viewed by the speaker.

However, Posthumus (1992:95) regards the above definition as vague, and since it has contributed to divergence with regard to number and types of moods distinguished, it cannot serve as an appropriate definition in the African languages.

Posthumus is of the opinion that any verb, even a minimally structured verb form, can be found in a particular mood. In support of this view, he claims that:

Mood is that characteristic morphologically and phonologically marked form of the verb which portrays the semantic-syntactic usage of such a verb (Posthumus, 1992:95).

A similar view is held by Van Rooyen (1974:71) who believes:

This is because semantics, syntax and morphology all seem to make a claim as important criteria for differentiating between the various moods.

Through his definition, Posthumus has succeeded in distinguishing the various moods: the infinitive, indicative, imperative, subjunctive, situative, qualificative and the consecutive in Zulu.

On the other hand, this divergence in terms of the number and type of moods distinguished, may according to Posthumus (1987:186) stem from deficiencies within the traditional approach to moods.

For example, Davey (1973:88) applies semantic criteria to distinguish between the various moods of Xhosa. His distinction is supported by a definition given by Lyons (1968:308) which says:

At least three 'scales' of modality may be relevant. The first is the scale of 'wish' and 'intention' ... The second scale is that of 'necessity' and 'obligation' ... The third is that of 'certainty' and 'possibility'.

Davey (in Posthumus, 1987:186) distinguishes an infinitive, imperative, indicative, participial and subjunctive mood for Xhosa. These are, according to Posthumus (1987:186), not justifiable in terms of his preliminary definition.

Van Wyk (in Posthumus, 1987:186) describes mood as that aspect of the verb which concerns the:

Verhoudinge tussen gebeure en ander gebeure of sake ...

Van Wyk believes that the verbal categories should be based primarily on formal distributional grounds, with semantic-functional considerations playing a secondary role. He subsequently distinguishes three subcategories of moods,

namely, temporal, dependent and non-predicative moods. Agreeing with this, Posthumus (1987:186) feels that these three criteria could serve to subcategorise moods.

Although Posthumus's definition is accepted for this current discussion, a comparison of the different views on moods clearly indicates that various viewpoints and conflicting ideas still exist.

1.4 EXISTING VIEWS CONCERNING THE CONSECUTIVE

1.4.1 The Consecutive regarded as the Past Subjunctive

As far as Zulu is concerned, Doke (1973:188), Nyembezi (1956:184), Van Eeden (1956:296), Wilkes (1991:61) and Ziervogel et al. (1985:149), all regard the consecutive verb as a past tense of the subjunctive. The only difference between them is that Nyembezi (1956:184) also includes the future tense.



Van Eeden (1956:296), however, comments on the semantic relevance of the so-called past subjunctive:

Waar die a- verlede tydvorm van die indikatief meer bepaald 'n verre verlede tydvorm is, kan die verlede tydvorm van die subjunktief betrekking hê op nabye of verre verlede tyd.

A similar view is expressed by Wilkes (1991:65), who says:

... the past subjunctive has a definite past tense significance and the past subjunctive is semantically indistinct from the subjunctive mood.

The view of these scholars is that the temporal character of the past subjunctive prevents it from being classified as an autonomous mood (i.e. the consecutive mood). In other words their view is that this verb form should be regarded as a subcategory of the subjunctive mood.

According to Wilkes (1991:61) three past tense forms are currently distinguished in Zulu: namely a perfect tense which is characterized by the verbal suffixes -ile or -e, for example:

- 1) Ngiqedile.
'I have finished.'

A remote past tense, also called a past tense, which in Wilkes' opinion occurs only in the indicative and situative verbs, for example:

- 2) Waboshwa (< u- a- boshwa) iminyaka eminingi ngesenzo sakhe.
'He was imprisoned for many years because of his action.'

This tense form is also known as the consecutive past tense (Wilkes, 1991:68). This means that there are verbs which are marked by the past tense morpheme - a which in turn combines with the subject concord of the subject noun.

De Clercq (1961) and Posthumus (1986, 1991 and 1993) hold a different opinion on this matter, in that neither recognize the existence of a subjunctive past tense in Zulu.

To these scholars the subjunctive past tense is not a tense form, but rather a dependent mood which is called the consecutive mood.

On the other hand, scholars of Northern Sotho do not support the view that the consecutive is a past tense form of the subjunctive. The majority of sources treat it as a separate mood (Ziervogel et al. 1978).

In terms of Southern Sotho, however, Maphike (1981:63) observes that:

The two (i.e. the subjunctive and the consecutive) do not have so much in common as to warrant their classification into one and the same mood.

The ideas and ideology of both De Clercq (1961) and Posthumus (1987, 1991 and 1993) correspond with the researcher's views.

Wilkes's (1991) views concerning the consecutive still require further investigation.

1.4.2 The Consecutive regarded as a 'Narrative' Tense

Someone who supports the view that the so-called consecutive in Zulu is a narrative tense is Van Rooyen (1974:76).

He gives the following examples to support his standpoint (numbered here as 3 and 4).

- 3) Aze asukume uGomboqo. Abheke izikhali zakhe.
Abheke uNtombini. Ame. Azithathe izikhali.

'Gomboqo eventually stands up. He looks at his weapons.
He looks at Ntombini. He stands. He takes the weapons.'

- 4) Waze wasukuma uGomboqo. Wabheka izikhali zakhe.
Wabheka uNtombini. Wama. Wazithatha izikhali.

‘Gomboqo stood up. He looked at his weapons. He looked
 at Ntombini. He stood up. He took the weapons.’

What is apparent in both passages is the chronological succession of events.

Van Rooyen (1974:76) consequently claims that:

As this form is used for narrative purposes, I would prefer
 to call it the narrative form of the indicative mood.

Taljaard and Bosch (1988:60) are supportive of this view concerning the
 consecutive.

Concerning the morphology of the narrative tense, their opinion is the
 following:

The subject concord of this form is morphologically the
 same as the concord of the past tense.

1.4.3 The Consecutive regarded as an Aspect of the Consecutive Indicative

Influenced by different theorists (for example Van Wyk, 1986), Louwrens
 (1995) prefers to consider what he once believed to be the consecutive mood
 to be an aspect of the indicative.

One of the reasons for the conflicting views on the consecutive mood is the
 inability of grammarians to distinguish in a systematic and theoretically well-
 founded way, the differences between inflectional classes of the verb such as
 mood, tense and aspect.

According to Louwrens (1995:162), the confusion of aspect with tense, in particular, has resulted in several misconceptions regarding the true grammatical status of a variety of verb forms. This includes the consecutive.

According to Van Wyk (in Louwrens, 1995:165) the consecutive is not a separate mood but a perfective aspect of the indicative. Louwrens believes this claim to be further substantive evidence in support of his view.

In his contribution, Van Wyk (1986:172) investigates what he calls the 'consecutive' relative, and this leads him to the following conclusion:

If there is a consecutive relative, it seems logical therefore, that there should also be a consecutive indicative, just as there is a perfect relative and perfect indicative. In other words, the non-relative consecutive may have to be regarded as an indicative consecutive.

Again in Louwrens's view (1995:166), this observation firstly denies the modal status of the consecutive since it suggests that the category consecutive is subsumed under the category indicative.

Secondly, the fact that Van Wyk (1986) awards the consecutive indicative a grammatical status which is equal to that of the perfective indicative, leads to two logical deductions namely:

(a) that the relationship between the consecutive and the indicative is an aspectual one; and (b) that this aspectual relationship is perfective in nature.

Although Van Wyk (1986) does not treat the data in his exposition within an aspectual framework, he clearly supports the central view of Louwrens's article, namely that the consecutive is a perfective aspect of the indicative.

What then is the nature of the data which has led Van Wyk (1986) to the recognition of the category consecutive indicative? The answer to this question lies in the Northern Sotho occurrence of a special type of relative which has a perfective meaning and which is used in contexts where actions are closely associated. Van Wyk (1986:167) seems to be the first scholar to recognize the existence of such a structure in Northern Sotho, and therefore claims that:

It is surprising that the alternative relative has thus far escaped the attention of scholars frequently in spoken as well as written language, albeit not as frequent as the standard perfect relative.

The following examples taken from Van Wyk (1986:168) illustrate the occurrence of the consecutive relative:

- 5) (a) Namane yê ra go se mo fe yôna ...
 ‘The calf which we did not give to him ...’
- (b) Mokgekolo yô a go tloga maabane ...
 ‘The old woman who left yesterday ...’

According to the above examples, the salient semantic feature inherent in the consecutive relative is that it is always used with reference to actions which took place in the past.

This implies that there are two different types of relatives which can be used with past time reference. The first type is the ordinary past tense relative as in example (6):

- 6) Namane ye re-sa-mo-fago yôna maabane ...
 ‘The calf which we did not give him yesterday ...’

The second type is the consecutive relative as in example (7)a:

- 7) (a) Namane yê ra-go-se-mo fe yôna maabane ...
 ‘The calf which we did not give him yesterday ...’
 (b) Mokgekolo yô a-go-tloga maabane ...
 ‘The old woman who left yesterday ...’

According to Van Wyk (1986) the semantic difference between the relatives illustrated in examples (6) and (7) lies in the fact that the consecutive relatives in example (7) always imply associated actions. In other words, they are always encountered in contexts where sequences of events occur.

The ordinary past tense relative in example (6), on the other hand, merely presents actions as having occurred prior to the moment of speaking, without associating them with other events which precede them in a chronological order.

Louwrens (1995:166) concurs with Van Wyk’s (1986) opinion with regard to the relative when he says:

I would like to argue that exactly the same kind of relationship can be observed between ordinary indicative verbs in the past tense, on the one hand, and consecutive indicative on the other.

According to Louwrens (1995:166), the past tense indicative verb in example (8)a presents factual statements pertaining to actions which have occurred in the past. Since the actions are described as rounded-off wholes in his terminology, they will express the perfective aspect.

- 8) (a) Re-fihlilê maabane.
 ‘We arrived yesterday.’
 (b) Ba-boilê bosego.
 ‘They returned at night.’

In example (9), the consecutive indicative always has a perfective meaning. This is due to the fact that for an event to follow another chronologically, each event must be completed.

- 9) (a) Re-sepetse sebaka, ra boa, ra-fihla bosego.
 ‘We walked for a long time, returned and then arrived at night.’

For example, Verkuyl (in Louwrens, 1995:167) depicts the nature of events as follows:

... events can be compared with an island perceived in the flow of time, or with a big whale jumping up in the ocean; they are discernible by their bonds.

In explaining why a consecutive indicative never follows an indicative verb in the present tense, Louwrens (1995:167) claims that the imperfective nature of the present tense is not reconcilable with the perfective meaning of the consecutive indicative.

Posthumus (1991:93) stipulates that the consecutive is a separate mood called the consecutive mood.

Wilkes (1991), however, does not recognise the interrelatedness of the consecutive and the indicative. He concludes that the consecutive is a past tense form of the subjunctive.

1.4.4 The Consecutive regarded as the Consecutive Mood

The authors who support the view that the consecutive is a separate mood in Northern Sotho are Swanepoel (1975), Van Wyk (1987) and Lombard et al.

(1985). De Clercq (1961) and Posthumus (1987, 1991 and 1993) are supportive of this view with regard to Zulu.

Northern Sotho seems to be the only language where the consecutive mood is consistently differentiated from the subjunctive mood by the various grammarians.

Regarding the usage of semantics of the consecutive, Van Wyk (1987:280) says that:

... the consecutive expresses actions. Chronologically following other actions. The verb as such is neutral with respect to time.

Lombard et al. (1985:152) express the same view. They say:

... the consecutive verb indicates an action or process which follows other actions and does not indicate tense itself.

From Lombard et al.'s (1985:152) examples, numbered here as (10), (11) and (12), it is evident that the consecutive is not delined to a past tense co-structure in Northern Sotho:

- 10) Ke ile t^or^op^ong ka-r^eka maswi.
'I went to town and then bought milk.'
- 11) Ke-a-tsoga kahlapa diatla ka-apara.
'I get up and then I wash my hands and then get dressed.'
- 12) Retl^o-hlaba pudi r^aja nama yay^ona.
'We shall slaughter a goat and then eat it's meat.'

This is unlike Zulu, where, according to Posthumus (1991:94), the verb in the consecutive is always preceded by another verb in the past or remote past tense.

It is against this background that the irregular use of the terms ‘consecutive mood’ and ‘past tense of the subjunctive mood’ with reference to verb forms such as in Wawa walimala (‘He fell and got hurt’) compelled Posthumus (1991) and Wilkes (1991) to conduct a thorough investigation into the characteristics of this verb form. In other words, they differentiated on semantic, syntactic and phonological levels between the remote past tense of the indicative, situative and qualificative moods, and the so-called ‘past tense of the subjunctive mood’.

Both De Clercq (1961) and Posthumus (1991) regard the verb form mentioned above, i.e. ‘walimala’ (got hurt), as a mood, whereas Wilkes (1991) views it as a tense. The researcher disagree with Wilkes (1991) because according to Posthumus (1991:91) the consecutive not only occurs in environments which are associated with a past tense meaning, but also appears in non-past tense environments as well.

Furthermore, the consecutive expresses consecutive actions, while the subjunctive expresses causally conditioned clauses of purpose.

Posthumus (1991:91) does not regard the verb forms in question as the past subjunctive, or as tense forms at all.

Posthumus (1991:92) again mentions the fundamental obstacles underlying the problem of an adequate description of tense and mood.

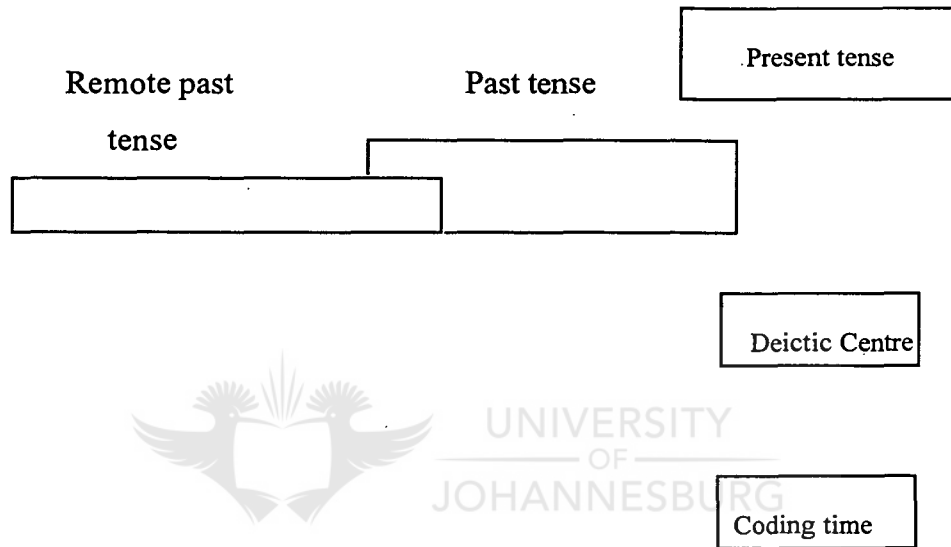
1.4.4.1 Tense as a Verb Category

According to Posthumus (1991:92), there are two types of tenses namely: absolute and relative tenses.

The absolute tense forms are the 'basic' tense forms. According to him there are three absolute tense forms, namely: present tense (those verb forms which express event time as coinciding with coding time), past tense (those verb forms which express event time as being prior to coding time) and remote past tense (those verb forms which express event time as being long before coding time).

The tense paradigm can be represented schematically as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



To elaborate on his argument, Posthumus (1991:92) mentions the morphological and tonological structure, semantic notions as well as the syntactic restrictions of the remote past tense as of significance.

The morphological structure of the remote past tense of the indicative mood is shown in the exposition below:

Subject	Remote past tense	Verb	Categorial
concord	morpheme -a-	root	ending -a
li-	-a-	-dl-	-a
ladla			

What is noticeable is the phonological feature of long length on the resultant vowel of the subject concord and the remote past tense morpheme -a-.

Concerning the negative morpheme of the past tense of the indicative mood, the distinctive features are the negative morpheme (k)a - and the categorial verb ending -anga. This means that there are therefore no morphological differences between the negative of the past tense and the remote past tense.

Semantically the remote past tense denotes actions which have taken place long before coding time. For this reason, this tense is mutually exclusive with temporal adverbials which refer to a diurnal unit immediately prior to coding time, or within the period of that unit; or any temporal adverbial which refers to the diurnal unit within which coding time falls or a point within the diurnal unit which includes coding time.

For these reasons, examples (13), (14), (15) and (16) are unacceptable in Zulu:

- 13) * Izinja zakhonkotha izolo.
'The dogs barked yesterday.'
- 14) * Izinja zakhonkotha izolo kusihlwa.
'The dogs barked yesterday evening.'
- 15) * Abantwana balalela inganekwane namhlanje.
'The children listened to a story today.'
- 16) * Izulu lana namhlanje ekuseni.
'It rained this morning.'

The remote past tense is realised in all three tense distinguishing moods, namely: the indicative, situative and qualificative moods.

The remote past tense in the indicative mood:

- 17) Amabhubesi ayidla ayiqeda inyamazane.
 'The lions ate and finished the antelope.'

The remote past tense in the situative mood:

- 18) Uma wafika ngalelo langa wawuzongifica.
 'If you had come on that day you would have found me.'

The remote past tense in the qualificative mood:

- 19) Ngaziphuzisa umuthi izimvu ezadla ubuthi.
 'I gave an antidote to the sheep which had eaten poison.'

Posthumus (1991:92) mentions that the long length on the resultant vowel of the subject concord and the remote past tense morpheme, is the same in all the moods in which it appears.

The semantic notion is remote past and the syntactic restrictions in terms of the temporal adverbials are maintained throughout.

1.4.4.2 Mood as a Verb Category

Posthumus (1991:93) defines mood as: 'The morphologically and tonologically marked verb form which underscores the meaning and usage of that verb in a particular sentence type.'

The semantic, syntactic, morphological (and distinctive phonological) characteristics of various moods are subcategorised on page 42 of this study.

Posthumus (1991:93) points out that the long length of the resultant vowel of the past tense is absent in the so-called past subjunctive. While the semantic notion associated with the remote past tense is evident in the indicative, situative and qualificative moods, it does not apply to the so-called past tense of the subjunctive mood.

Posthumus (1991:93), by means of example (20), reveals that the so-called past subjunctive verb can be used for immediate past temporal reference as well.

- 20) Lo mfana uwile walimala manje nje.
 'This boy fell and hurt himself just now.'

The syntactical restraints of the occurrence of the past tense with certain temporal adverbials are retained regardless of the mood in which this tense form is used. These restraints do not apply to the so-called past subjunctive mood.



The question is then on what grounds can the verb forms under discussion be classified as past tense forms of the subjunctive mood?

According to Posthumus (1991:95), the only possible reason for regarding these verbs as past tense forms of the subjunctive could be that they partly resemble the remote past tense in morphological structure. Surely this is not justification enough to label them as past subjunctive verbs. The verb forms under consideration here should thus be referred to as being in the consecutive mood and not in the past tense of the subjunctive.

Van Wyk (1987) maintains that a chronological sequence is implied even when the consecutive is used in simple sentences, or as a main clause of a compound sentence. For example:

- 21) Sahamba.
'We (then) left.'

1.5 RESEARCH METHOD

The research draws on two principal sources:

The theoretical principles adhered to in this study were obtained from journals, textbooks, dissertations and theses.

Secondly, the contexts mentioned by scholars of the Sotho languages, and the examples found in literature, were investigated to establish whether these do in fact occur in Zulu as well.

1.6 DATA COLLECTION

The bulk of the data used in this research is from informants.



CHAPTER 2 : THE MORPHOLOGICAL AND TONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSECUTIVE MOOD

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section concerns the structure of the consecutive in the positive and negative, as well as a discussion of relevant tonal patterns.

2.1.1 Morphological Structure

The following morphological features characterise the consecutive mood:

- a) the subject concord which coalesces with the consecutive morpheme {-a}
- b) the negative morpheme {-nga-}

2.1.2. The Subject Concord

It is generally accepted that the consecutive subject concord is composed of the indicative subject concord which coalesces with a consecutive morpheme -a, which can be regarded as an explicit marker of the consecutive. This view is supported by Mathibela (1991:16) and Posthumus (1991:93).

A similar view is held by Van Wyk (1987:65) in relation to Northern Sotho. He says:

... the consecutive mood in Northern Sotho is marked by means of the formative -a that combined with the subject concord.

The following Northern Sotho examples illustrate his statement:

1) A tsena a tshwalela lemati.

‘He went in and closed the door.’

The consecutive morpheme **-a** induces various morphonological changes in the preceding concord.

The rules are the following:

The vowel of the subject concords of 1st person plural, 2nd person plural and classes 2, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 14 are elided when the consecutive **-a** is juxtaposed to them. For example:

sa-	+	a	>	sa- (1 st person plural)
ni-	+	a	>	na- (2 nd person plural)
ba-	+	a	>	ba- (class 2)
li-	+	a	>	la- (class 5)
si-	+	a	>	sa- (class 7)

Class 6 is an exception to this rule as the vowel is not preceded by a consonant. However, the subject concord **a-** is omitted in favour of the consecutive **-a**.

In the case of the subject concords of 2nd person singular and classes 1, 3, 11, 15, 16 and 17, the vowels **u** and **i** of the subject concord become semi-vowels.

The vowel **u** changes to **w**, as is evident in the following exposition.

u-	+	a	>	wa- (class 1)
lu-	+	a	>	lwa- (class 11)
and				
ku-	+	a	>	kwa- (class 15)

However, in classes 4 and 9, the vowel *i* changes to *y* when not preceded by a consonant, i.e.

i + a > ya- (classes 4 and 9)

For 1st and 2nd persons, singular and plural, the table is as follows:

	<u>Subject Concord</u>		<u>Consecutive agreement form</u>		
1 st person singular	ngi-	+	a	>	nga-
1 st person plural	sa-	+	a	>	sa-
2 nd person singular	u-	+	a	>	wa-
2 nd person plural	ni-	+	a	>	na-

The following is a table of the different consecutive subject concords of the noun classes with examples. The use of these concords with the verb stem *-limala* is illustrated:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Underlying Form</u>				<u>Derived Form</u>	<u>Example</u>
1	u-	+	a	>	wa-	walimala
2	ba-	+	a	>	ba-	balimala
3	u-	+	a	>	wa-	walimala
4	i-	+	a	>	ya-	yalimala
5	li-	+	a	>	la-	lalimala
6	a-	+	a	>	a-	alimala
7	si-	+	a	>	sa-	salimala
8	zi-	+	a	>	za-	zalimala
9	i-	+	a	>	ya-	yalimala
10	zi-	+	a	>	za-	zalimala
11	lu-	+	a	>	lwa-	lwalimala
14	bu-	+	a	>	ba-	balimala
15	ku-	+	a	>	kwa-	kwalimala

2.2 THE NEGATIVE FORM

Scholars such as Posthumus (1991:93) and Wilkes (1991:62) point out that the negative of the consecutive is characterised by the negative morpheme **-nga-**, while the verb ending **-a** of these verbs remains unchanged. For example:

- 2) Inyoni yandiza yandiza ifuna amanzi kodwa (<ya-nga-wa-thol-a)
(*yangawatholi).

‘The bird flew looking for water, but did not find it.’

- 3) Afika futhi amasela ephethe izinduku azishaya izinkomo kodwa (<za-nga-vuk-a) (*zangavuki).

‘The thieves returned again carrying sticks, they then beat the cattle but they did not get up.’

De Clercq (1961:13), on the other hand, views the verbs **yangawatholi** in example 2) and **zangavuki** in example 3) as appropriate forms of the verbs in the negative of the consecutive. He implies that the negative of these verbs is formed by inserting the negative **-nga-** in the verb, whilst changing the verbal ending to **-i**.

Mother-tongue speakers feel that **yangawathola** in example 2) and **zangavuka** in example 3) are unquestionably correct, while **zangawatholi** in example 2) and **zangavuki** in example 3) are doubtful. Therefore, this matter needs further investigation.

According to Posthumus (1991:62) and Davey (1988:237) there is another alternative negative form, which is used less frequently in Zulu. It consists of the negative morpheme **(k)a-**, followed by the negative morpheme **-nga-** and the verb ending **-a**. For example:

- 4) (K)angadla.
'I did not eat yesterday.'
- 5) (K)angahamba naye.
'I did not go with him.'

2.3 THE TONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSECUTIVE

In Zulu, a syllable is identifiable by its vowel which gives rise to a particular tone.

Zulu verb stems can be classified into two large categories with respect to their basic tonemic patterns, namely a low series and a high series.

Van Wyk (1988:11), when remarking on Northern Sotho tonology, claims that:

All verb stems belong to one of the two tone classes, which may be designated as the H and L classes respectively. If it is known to which tone class a stem belongs, its tone pattern can be predicted.

Tone patterns of verbs change in different morphological environments. To support this statement, Van Wyk (1988:11) stipulates that:

...the morphological contexts can induce differences in the tone patterns of verb stems. This means that the morphological environment in which the verb appears, modifies the tone.

The following are examples of Zulu tonal patterns using the verb stem **-hamba**:

- 6) Ufuna ùkùhamba. (infinitive mood)
'He wants to leave.'
- 7) Simbone èhàmbà. (situative mood)
'We saw him leaving.'
- 8) Ufuna àhambè. (subjunctive mood)
'He wants him to leave.'
- 9) Bafike bàhambà. (consecutive mood)
'They arrived and left.'

It is generally accepted that the consecutive is tonologically distinct from the remote past tense. A similar view is held by De Clercq (1961:5) when he draws a distinction between the remote past tense and the consecutive mood.

He further claims that tonological opposition also exists between the remote past tense and a consecutive with regard to polysyllabic stems. The examples to illustrate the above statement are from De Clercq (1961:13).

<u>Basis</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Consecutive</u>
L : L	sà : wà	L : sà wà
H : L	sá : fà	L : sà fà
LL : LL	sà : hlàbà	HL : sà hlàbà

CHAPTER 3 : SYNTACTIC USAGE OF THE CONSECUTIVE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Various simple predicates will be examined to determine the usage of the consecutive, as well as the occurrence of the consecutive preceded by compound tenses and an infinitive mood.

According to Posthumus (1991:93), the consecutive verb expresses an anterior consecutive action, and will as such have a past tense verb, a remote past tense or another consecutive verb as a co-structure.

3.2 THE DIFFERENT CO-STRUCTURES OF THE CONSECUTIVE

3.2.1 A Past Tense Verb as a Co-Structure

The past tense verb can be used as a co-structure of the consecutive. For example:

- 1) Sihambile sabuya.
'We left and came back.'
- 2) Siculile sadansa.
'We sang and danced.'

3.2.2 A Remote Past Tense Verb as a Co-Structure

The remote past tense verb can be used as a co-structure of the consecutive. For example:

- 3) Sahamba sabuya.
'We left and returned.'

- 4) Sacula sagida.
‘We sang and danced.’
- 5) Ngawa ngalimala.
‘I fell and got injured.’

The co-structure of the consecutive mood can be in the indicative, situative, qualificative or consecutive mood.

The co-verb in the indicative mood:

- 6) Ngonyaka odlule beza basivakashela.
‘Last year they came and visited us.’
- 7) Bafike izolo badla bahamba.
‘They arrived yesterday, ate and left.’

The co-verb in the situative mood:

- 8) Uma umfana ezile wadla ukudla kwami uzoshaywa.
‘If the boy has come and has eaten my food, he will be given a hiding.’
- 9) Uma isela ligqekezile leba izimpahla zami lizobanjwa.
‘If a thief has burgled and stolen my clothing he will be caught.’

The co-verb in the qualificative/relative mood:

- 10) Uthisha owaqhamuka eNgilandi wasifundisa uzishisile.
‘The teacher who came from England and taught us, has burnt himself.’

- 11) Umfundisi owasivakashela kuleli bandla wasishumayeza ushonile.
‘The minister who visited us at this congregation and preached to us, has died.’
- 12) Ukudla engakuthenga esitolo ngakudla, kubolile.
‘The food that I bought from the shop and ate, was rotten.’

The co-verb in the consecutive mood:

- 13) Izinja zinuke umkhondo wenyamazane zayilandela zayibamba.
‘The dogs took the spoor of the antelope, followed the buck and then caught it.’
- 14) Amakati abambe amagundane awabulala awadla.
‘The cats caught the mice, killed and then ate them.’

3.3 THE CONSECUTIVE PRECEDED BY COMPOUND TENSES AND THE INFINITIVE MOOD

In this section we shall look at various contexts in which the consecutive can be preceded by compound tenses and the infinitive mood.

Compound moods and tenses refer to the combination of two predicates.

Lombard et al. (1985:186) call these types of predicates ‘auxiliary word groups’.

According to De Clercq (1961:15), in the use thereof, the meaning of the consecutive in Zulu is slightly different from that of Sotho. It cannot, for example, be used after all moods and tenses. To support his argument, he provides the following examples:

3.3.1 After the Past Tense (which De Clercq calls the simple past tense)

- 15) Ngageza ngaya esikoleni.
 'I washed and then (afterwards) went to school.'

3.3.2 Interjective use of the Consecutive

The consecutive can only be used interjectively as an independent mood provided the situation is such that a process took place directly beforehand.

The interjective use of the consecutive can be a bearing on the past or present.

For example:

- 16) Nahleka-ke!
 'And then you laughed!'

- 17) Kwamnandi!
 'And is it nice!'



3.3.3 Compounds with the Infinitive Mood

The consecutive can follow the infinitive mood.

For example:

- 18) Ngithe ukuzwa izindaba ngaphuthuma khona.
 'As soon as I received the news, I rushed to the scene.'

- 19) Umuntu wanele ukunotha wawelega phesheya.
 'As soon as the person got rich he went overseas.'

- 20) Ngizame ukucasha kodwa wangibona.
 'I tried to hide but he caught me out.'

The consecutive follows the infinitive when it (infinitive) occurs in an auxiliary word group.

The auxiliary verb stems -nele, -the and -zame make this syntactical relationship possible. The consecutives and the preceding infinitive verbs constitute complementary clauses of the auxiliary verbs.

3.4 CONTEXTS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CONSECUTIVE

3.4.1 Habitual

Lombard et al. (1985) and Van Wyk (1987) are amongst the linguists who do distinguish a habitual mood (which is often regarded as a subsection of the subjunctive mood).

According to Lombard et al. (1985), habitual verbs always relate habitual actions to other habitual actions within the same context.

In Zulu, however, habitual actions are expressed by an indicative verb, or by means of an auxiliary verb with the stem **-jwayele/-vame**.

- 21) Sivame ukufika ekhaya sipheke sigeze silale.
 'We (habitually) go home, do the cooking,
 wash ourselves and then sleep.'

- 22) Izinkomo zijwayele ukudla utshani.
'Cattle (usually) eat grass.'
- 23) Abelusi bavame ukusenga izinkomo.
'Shepherds (usually) milk the cows.'
- 24) Abantwana bajwayele ukuncela konina.
'Toddlers (usually) suck from their mothers.'

3.4.2 The Imperative Mood

The imperative is used for commands and is semantically related to interjectives (Mathibela 1991:39). The imperative mood does not take a subject concord. For example:

- 25) Hamba!
'Go!'

- 26) Yidla konke loku kudla.
'Eat all this food.'

The imperative can never be followed by the consecutive in Zulu. The reason for this is that the imperative represents a command to be executed in the present, hence it cannot be followed by the consecutive. This is also because the consecutive expresses past sequential actions.

3.4.3 The Present Tense

Posthumus (1991:92) distinguishes three absolute tense forms, namely: present tense, past tense and remote past tense. Some grammarians, like Van Wyk (1987) and Lombard et al. (1985) refer to the past tense as the imperfect tense.

Mathibela (1991:38) refers to the present tense as the imperfect. Her argument is that it expresses actions, which are incomplete at a particular time, which may be past, present or future. According to Posthumus (1987) the imperfect is an aspectual distinction. This corresponds with the researcher's own view.

It is important to note that in an example like:

27) Uyadla.

'He eats.'



The action expressed by the indicative verb implies present time. The sentence here is in a zero context. The normal interpretation in zero contexts is therefore present time.

In Zulu the consecutive cannot follow the present tense verb and sentences like the following are therefore not possible:

28) *Uyageza bese wadla.

'He washes and then ate.'

29) *Bayathandaza bese balala.

'They pray and then slept.'

3.4.4 The Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive mood denotes resultant actions which are causally conditioned. According to Van Wyk (in Mathibela, 1991:39),

The subjunctive expresses actions which are conditionally dependent on or subject to other actions. The time of action depends on the context.

For example:

- 30) Ngeke ngiyakhe indlu ngize ngibe nemali.
‘I won’t build a house until I have money.’

The consecutive cannot be preceded by a subjunctive verb since the semantic relation expressed by a subjunctive verb precludes the possibility of a single, independent action, such as expressed by the consecutive, following it. Therefore sentences like the following are impossible:

- 31) *Uphuze ubisi ukuze wakhula.
‘He drank milk so that he may grew-up.’
- 32) *Umfana unele aqede ukudla wahamba.
‘As soon as the boy has eaten he must have been gone.’

CHAPTER 4 : THE CONSECUTIVE AS A COMPLEMENT OF AUXILIARY VERBS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to determine which auxiliary verbs are followed by a verb in the consecutive mood, and what the meanings of such auxiliaries are.

4.1.1 Definition of an Auxiliary Verb

Richards et al. (1993:20) define an auxiliary verb as a verb which is used with another verb in a sentence, and which shows grammatical functions such as aspect, voice, mood, tense and person.

Taljaard & Bosch (1988:159) support the above definition. They say:

An auxiliary verb is characterised by the fact that it is seldom used as a word by itself, but is used with another verb to form a compound predicate.

In other words, the auxiliary verb on its own is syntactically and semantically incomplete.

According to Lombard et al. (1985) the mood of the main verb is determined by the auxiliary verb (with a few exceptions).

4.1.2 The Structure of Auxiliaries

Mkhatshwa (1991:114) points out that most traditional Bantu grammarians noted the close affinity between the auxiliaries and verbs in the Bantu languages. Certain auxiliaries show lexical affinity with certain verb stems such as those exemplified in the following verb-auxiliary pairs:

<u>Verb</u>	<u>Auxiliary</u>
-cisha 'extinguish'	-cishe 'almost, nearly'
-sala 'remain behind'	-sale 'do afterwards'

There is also a certain amount of formal correspondence between main verbs and auxiliary verbs. For example:

Main Verb Structure

Subject concord	+	root	+	terminative ending
wa-	+	-vel-	+	-a
wavela				
'he appeared'				

Auxiliary Verb Structure

Subject concord	+	root	+	terminative ending
wa-	+	-vel-	+	-e
wavele				
'he simply ...'				

4.2 THE CONSECUTIVE AS A COMPLEMENT OF AUXILIARIES

The consecutive can be introduced by auxiliary verbs such as the following:

-ze	‘never’ or ‘until’
-mane	‘to just do’
-fike	‘to do before’ or ‘to do first’
-cishe	‘to be on the point of doing but never quite doing’ or ‘nearly’

4.2.1 The Consecutive used with the Auxiliary Verb Stem **-ze**

The meaning of the auxiliary verb **-ze** is ‘never’ when used in the negative.

For example:

- 1) Abaze bakhala.
‘They never cried.’

The auxiliary verb stem **-ze** is used to express ‘until’ when used in the positive. For example:

- 2) Wahamba waze wafika phezulu.
‘He travelled until he reached the top.’

4.2.2 The Consecutive used with the Auxiliary Verb Stem **-mane**

The basic meaning of the verb stem **-mane** is ‘to just do’. The auxiliary verb **-mane** can take the consecutive or the subjunctive as complement.

An example of **-mane** when used with the subjunctive:

- 3) Umane abheke nje adlule.
‘He just looks and passes by.’

An example of **-mane** when used with the consecutive:

- 4) Umane wabheka wadlula.
‘He just looked and passed by.’

4.2.3 The Consecutive used with the Auxiliary Verb Stem -fike

The auxiliary verb stem is derived from the main verb stem **-fika** when the verbal ending **-a** is replaced with **-e**. As an auxiliary verb stem, it means ‘to do before’ or ‘to do first’.

- 5) Ngifike ngahlala ngabuye ngaphuma.
‘I sat down first, and then went out.’
- 6) Abelungu bafike babhangqa izinti bakha indlu.
‘The white men first joined the beams, and then they built a house.’

4.2.4 The Consecutive used with the Auxiliary Verb Stem -cishe

This auxiliary verb stem is derived from the main verb stem **-cisha**. The auxiliary verb stem **-cishe** denotes ‘to be on the point but never quite doing’ and may also be translated as ‘nearly’. For example:

- 7) Wacishe wafa wabuye waba ngcono.
‘He was on the point of dying but he recovered again.’
- 8) Bacishe bangibulala.
‘They nearly killed me.’

Besides the consecutive complement, the auxiliary verb stem **-cishe** may take other complements, such as verbs in the subjunctive and the infinitive moods. Example (9) is an example of the subjunctive mood used as a complement of **-cishe**.

- 9) Uma nginehhashi elinamandla ngizocishe ngifike lingakashoni.
 'If I have a fleet horse, I should almost arrive before sunset.'

Examples (10) and (11) illustrate the infinitive mood when used with the auxiliary verb stem **-cishe**:

- 10) Cishe ukufa kwamthatha.
 'He was nearly taken by death.'
- 11) Cishe ukuvuma emaphoyiseni.
 'He nearly confessed to the police.'



CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to determine the meaning and use of the consecutive. This is in view of the fact that it is regarded by most authors in the Nguni and Sotho languages as a past tense of the subjunctive. As far as Zulu is concerned, Doke (1973:188), Van Eeden (1956:296), Ziervogel et al. (1985:149) and Davey (in Nkabinde 1988:237) all regard the consecutive as a past tense.

Taljaard and Bosch (1988:60) regard the consecutive as a 'narrative tense'. A similar view is held by Van Rooyen (1974:77).

Amongst the linguists who distinguish a consecutive mood in Zulu are De Clercq (1961) and Posthumus (1987, 1991 and 1993).

The linguists of Northern Sotho, Lombard et al. (1985) and Van Wyk (1987), have a corresponding view in that they believe that the consecutive does constitute a separate mood. Whilst it is commendable to expose universal features in the grammars of these languages, we must do so with care.

It is against this background that the consecutive in Zulu was investigated, and the following conclusions reached:

- (a) Posthumus (1991:95) points out that it is not substantiable to regard Zulu verbs which express anterior consecutive or anterior resultant actions as being in the past tense of the subjunctive mood. While the tense paradigm of the three absolute tense forms is the same in the three tense-distinguishing moods, namely the indicative, situative and qualificative moods, the so-called past subjunctive verb does not form part of such a paradigm.

- (b) Because the consecutive and subjunctive verbs are semantically and syntactically mutually exclusive and morphologically and phonologically different they are classified as two separate moods, rather than two tense forms of the same mood.
- (c) Posthumus (1991:95) indicates that the so-called 'past subjunctive' can never be used as a complement of conjunctives, such as ukuba, anduba and ukuze, as in the case of the so-called 'present subjunctive' verbs.
- (d) Regarding the usage and semantics of the consecutive, Posthumus (1987:194) claims the consecutive mood to be a dependent, non-tense-distinguishing mood. This verb denotes an action, event or process which takes place after that of the co-structure (which in turn, is in the past). This mood therefore expresses consecutive actions in the past.
- (e) Posthumus (1987) suggests that since the consecutive mood is a non-tense-distinguishing mood, there is only one characteristic morphological structure in the positive, and only one in the negative.

(i) **The Morphological Structure of the Positive of the Consecutive Mood:**

<u>Consecutive Subject Concord</u>	<u>Verb Root</u>	<u>Verb Ending -a</u>
(li + a >) la-	-phuz -	-a

(ii) **The Morphological Structure of the Negative of the Consecutive Mood:**

<u>Consecutive Subject Concord</u>	<u>Negative Morpheme</u>	<u>Verb Root</u>	<u>Verb Ending -a</u>
(li + a >)	-nga-		
la-	-nga-	-phuz-	-a

In light of the foregoing, it is clear that the consecutive is neither a past tense (or any other tense) nor a subjunctive.

- (f) Posthumus (1991:93) and Wilkes (1991:62) indicate that the negative of the consecutive is characterised by the negative morpheme **-nga-**, while the verb ending **-a** of these verbs remains unchanged.
- (g) According to Posthumus (1991:93) and Davey (in Nkabinde 1988), there is an alternative negative form (which is less frequently used in Zulu). This form consists of the negative morpheme **(k)a-**, and is followed by the negative morpheme **-nga-** and the verb ending **-a**.
- (h) It is therefore concluded that the Zulu consecutive, is a dependent verb category as described by De Clercq (1961) and Posthumus (1987, 1991 and 1993); and that it should be classified as a mood according to Posthumus's scheme (1991:94) of verb categories as represented on the next page.



S Y N T A X & S E M A N T I C S		INDEPENDENT		DEPENDENT				
		Constitutes an independent sentence used as a statement or question. As complement of conjunctives: kepha, kodwa, etc.	Constitutes an independent sentence used as a command.	Descriptive; expresses an simultaneous, conditional or co-ordinating action. As complement of conjunctives: uma, hxa etc. & auxiliary verbs: -de, -hlala, -be etc.	Qualificative qualifies an antecedent noun. Constitutes a sentence embedded in the NP.	Base form. As complement of auxiliary verbs: -thanda, -zama, -qala etc.	Expresses causal relation, a wish or a simultative, posterior or atemporal action. As complement of hortative Ma-/Ka-/A-. As complement of conjunctives: ukuze, ukuba, anduba etc. As complement of auxiliary verbs: -simze, -ke, -fane etc.	Expresses an anterior sequential or consecutive action. As complement of auxiliary verbs: -mane, -sale, -ze etc.
SUBJECT TENSE		indicative		situative	qualificative			
NON-TENSE							subjunctive	consecutive
NON-SUBJECT TENSE								
NON-TENSE			imperative			infinitive		
MORPHOLOGY		S/c = true prefix minus nasal. -ya- in pres. tense pos. Negative morph = (K)A-	No s/c. Negative morph = -NGA- Negative with MUSA	S/c of: cl 1/1a = e-, 2 = be- 6 = e-. Negative morph = -NGA-	S/c = (7)a + true pref -N Indirect: s/c of class 1/1a = a-. Suffix = -yo. Negative morph = -NGA-	No s/c but prefix uku- + verb stem. Negative morph = -NGA-	S/c of class 1/1a = a-. Ending in positive = -e. Negative morph = -NGA-	S/c = indic. s/c + a. Ending = -a. Negative = s/c + a + negative morph = -NGA-

It is clear from the preceding scheme that the consecutive, like the infinitive, subjunctive, situative and qualificative, is a dependent mood.



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