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## **A grammar of Gaahmg, a Nilo-Saharan language of Sudan**

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### 13 Adverbs

Another lexical category—adverbs, describes the action of the clause, the clause predicate or the entire clause. There is a strong case for both adjectives and adverbs; different modifiers are normally used to describe verbs than those used to describe nouns. The adjective *wēḡán* ‘good.SG’ of (1a) cannot be used in (b) to describe the verb *fīḡ-ḡḡ* ‘hear’, and the adverb *māḡ* ‘well’ of (b) cannot be used to describe the noun *sālāām* ‘peace’ in (a). Furthermore, the adjective *wēḡán* agrees in number with the noun it modifies, whereas the adverb *māḡ* is unchangeable, and therefore not a noun or any other word category with number distinction.

- (1a) *sālāām*    *é*    *ṭél*    ***wēḡán***  
 peace    GP    God    good.SG  
 ‘The peace of God is good.’
- (b) *bù*    *fīḡ-ḡḡ*    *kōr=é*    ***māḡ***  
 let.IMP    hear-SBJV.3pN    word=RDM    well  
 ‘Let them hear this message well!’ (Womn25)

In this chapter, all attested words are presented which have the function of describing the action of the clause, the clause predicate or the entire clause. These words which are lexically categorized as adverbs can be grouped semantically according to manner, direction, place, time, or none of these. Adverbs of manner, direction, and place always follow the verb, whereas other adverbs are moveable outside of the verb phrase and may occur before the verb. When more than one kind of adverb is present, it is most common for manner and directional adverbs to precede adverbs of place, time, and other adverbs. The negative particle can also be analysed as an adverb since it has the same function as adverbs and always occurs clause-finally.

#### 13.1 Adverbs of manner

Adverbs of manner, which describe how the action takes place, immediately follow the verb or any verb complements.

- (2a) *ā*    *bā*    *kāḡ*    *wāḡ-ḡá*    ***bír***  
 SBJV    /bag/collect.SBJV    multitude    /wāḡ/go-SBJV    openly  
 ‘... to gather the multitude (of people) scattered about.’
- (b) *ḡ*    *ḡēn=á*    ...    *bā=ì*    ***ḡùùl***  
 and    person=DEF    send=3sAM    difficult  
 ‘The person ... to send is difficult (to find).’ (Assa9-10)

A few attested adverbs of manner are given in (3).

(3) **Adverbs of manner**

bír	‘openly’	sù	‘deeply’
rēggāāḍ	‘loudly’	ṭifiṭṭ	‘quickly’
māṇ	‘well’	ǰáám	‘wrongly’
ḍùùl	‘difficult’		

### 13.2 Adverbs of direction

Adverbs of direction, indicating the direction of the action, may describe the verb without any further verb modifiers as in (4a). However, it is common for adverbs of direction to occur along with adverbs of place, which normally follow adverbs of direction as in (b).

- (4a) ēgg    bōfō    ēgg    léē    **ṭàḍ**  
 3pN    sing    3pN    going    up  
 ‘They sang as they went up.’ (Fand25)
- (b) á    wīr-ōn    áfáḍ    mān    **ṭáḍ**    ṭè  
 1sN    slaughter-CONT    blood    certain    down    here  
 ‘I am making a sacrifice here (lit. slaughtering down  
 a certain living creature here).’ (Jooj9)

A list of some adverbs of direction is provided in (5).

(5) **Adverbs of direction**

ṭáḍ	‘down’	ṭàḍ	‘up’
sím	‘in, down’	ṭú	‘out, away, through’
cābb	‘up’	fān	‘on, to’
ḍūmùùn	‘towards’		

### 13.3 Adverbs of place

Adverbs of place can reference physical or figurative locations of verbs. They can describe the verb by themselves or along with another adverb. Other adverbs, such

- (6a) mósí    néé    nór-r-ōn    **ṭè**  
 insect    this    drools-CAUS-CONT.N    here  
 ‘This insect drools here.’ (Jooj10)
- (b) ò    á    nām    ā    ṭāl    kōr    é    mūn    **ṭè**    jō  
 and    1sN    want    SBJV    create    speech    GP    time    here    only  
 ‘And now I will stop talking here.’ (Tifa14)

- (c) gùrũũs-úgg = ú    t̥ā    t̥ù    wá  
 money-PL = DEF    COP    there    not  
 ‘There is no money.’ (Fand16)

as ʃɔ̃ ‘only’ in (6b), follow adverbs of place.

Attested adverbs of place are listed in (7). The same three-way distinction as in demonstratives in 8.1.3—near a speaker, near an addressee, and away from both speaker and addressee—also occur in adverbs, as well as a presentational adverb as in (6c).

(7) **Adverbs of place**

Long	Short		
t̥èèðé	t̥è	‘here’	near speaker
t̥ààðá	t̥à	‘there’	near addressee
t̥ùí	t̥ì	‘there’	away from both
	t̥ù	‘there’	presentational

### 13.4 Adverbs of time

Adverbs of time normally occur as part of the verb phrase as in (8a, b), but may precede the clause entirely as in (c).

- (8a) ð    ú = ɲɔ̃m    ɲíí    **bārè**    ā  
 and    2sN = want    what    now    QM  
 ‘And what do you want now?’ (Jooj7)
- (b) āgg    wāɲ-ɲā    wāā = lg    **fěédɔ̃l**    ʃɔ̃  
 1pN    went-COMP    water = in    early.morning    only  
 ‘We also went to the water valley early in the morning.’ (Thng17)
- (c) ð    **bārè**    ú = b̥ur    ú-ən = ī    bà  
 and    now    2sN = remain.INCP    2sN = /an/live.INCP = IPF    oh  
 ‘And are you still living (with good health)?’

Attested adverbs of time are listed in (9).

(9) **Adverbs of time**

bārè	‘now’
kāēn	‘yesterday’
fěédɔ̃l	‘early morning’

Prepositional phrases introduced with the general preposition *é, í* (GP) of 11.3 can be used as adjuncts indicating time. In (10a), the phrase *é nāāndá mán* ‘on a certain day’ describes the time of the verb *wāḥḥā* ‘went’. Such phrases are also common at the beginning of the clause as in (b).

- (10a) á wāḥḥā **é nāāndá=á mán** dūmùùn é dāàl.  
 1sN went GP day=DEF certain towards GP (valley name)  
 ‘One day I went to Dal Valley.’ (Thng1)
- (b) **é nāāndá=á yāàn**, āld=á ē ádaggā ē fāàm  
 GP day=DEF other Fox=DEF 3sN came 3sN thought  
 ‘Another day, Fox brought another idea . . .’ (Nyee30)

Attested prepositional phrases used as adjuncts indicating time are shown in (11).

- (11) **Prepositional phrases used as adjuncts indicating time**
- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| é fōgg        | ‘tomorrow’     |
| é yāāgg       | ‘a while’      |
| é kááy-ēēgg   | ‘at night’     |
| é nāāndá yāàn | ‘another day’  |
| é gārāndá     | ‘at that time’ |

### 13.5 Other adverbs

Other adverbs are found to modify verbs, verb predicates, or the entire clause. Although they most commonly occur following the verb, some precede the verb when emphasizing noun subjects or even introduce the clause. The adverbs in (12a, b) show the most typical position, following the verb. In (c), the adverb *jō* ‘just’,

- (12a) mōrāā ód=í **ṭāān**  
 government came=IPF again  
 ‘The government came again.’ (Fand10)
- (b) ô, wéé dār **jō** ā gād-dā īggó nālg=ān  
 oh go hide only SBJV give-SBJV.1pN milk.DEF children=DAT  
 ‘Let’s just go hide in order to give this milk to the children.’ (Nyee26)
- (c) jāfārì=n é mánē **jō** dād-sā càdr-ēēgg=á yōōsá.  
 Jafari=DEF alone just killed-COMP rabbits-PL=DEF four  
 ‘Jafari, by himself, killed four rabbits.’ (Jafr7)
- (d) bēl-án gērjēēn **jō**.  
 having-CONT.P two.piasters(Ar) only  
 ‘He had only two piasters.’ (Fand1-2)

emphasizes the subject, whereas in (d), the adverb emphasizes the object.

The remaining attested adverbs are listed in (13).

(13) **Other adverbs**

đí	‘also, in addition to’	páđ	‘suddenly, always, forever’
ǰǰ	‘only, no more, just’	rē	‘very’
đēēnē	‘only’	ānà	‘like this’
ǰāān	‘again, another time’	ánēén	‘like this’
mārēē	‘somehow’	gǎl	‘just, in that way’
mā	‘even’		

### 13.6 Negation

The negative particle *wá* always occurs clause-finally and modifies or negates the preceding verb, verb predicate or clause. Since neither its position nor function differs from adverbs, the negative particle can also be analyzed as an adverb. As in (14a), the negative particle occurs as the last word of the verb phrase and may be separated from the verb by verb complements or adjuncts. The negative particle may also negate an adverb of manner as in (b) or a prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb as in (c).

(14) **Negative examples**

- (a) mǎǰđ      kǔǔđ = ū                      đàđ-sā      ǰēēm      đéé      **wá**  
 old.man    person.name = DEF    kill-COMP    thing    any    not  
 ‘The old man Kuud didn’t kill anything.’ (Jafr8)
- (b) mássēē      ǰis-ǰn = ǰ                      mǎǰ              **wá**  
 sickness    treating-CONT.N = 1sD    carefully    not  
 ‘The massee sickness is not treating me well.’ (Assa2)
- (c) ǰēēm              ār-s āān                      ánēén      é      nāānd-á      mǎn      **wá**  
 something    frightened-COMP 1sA    like.this    GP    day-DEF    certain    not  
 ‘There has never been a day I was as frightened as this.’ (Thng14)

