Categoriality of Switch-Reference in Ma Manda

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Example 1 is from 'A grammar of Ma Manda' [2], including both the same-subject suffix and the different-subject suffix. Since 'be' is acting as an auxiliary verb, the same-subject suffix is attached to 'come', implying that the subject of 'come' is the same as the subject of 'be'. The different-subject suffix is attached to 'be', indicating that the subject of 'be' is different from the subject of the following impersonal clause.

(1) *kadet   menang   baka   ngakngatnang tandontagok.*
     [kadet   men=nang]   ba-ka   ngat-ng-tnang tandonta-go-k
     road   mouth=LOC   come-SS   be-DS-1NSG   night-RP-3SG

'While we were coming on the main road (it) became night.'

The starting locative phrase *kadet menang* 'on the main road' seems optional. The following is a try at a categorial analysis of the sentence in Example 1:
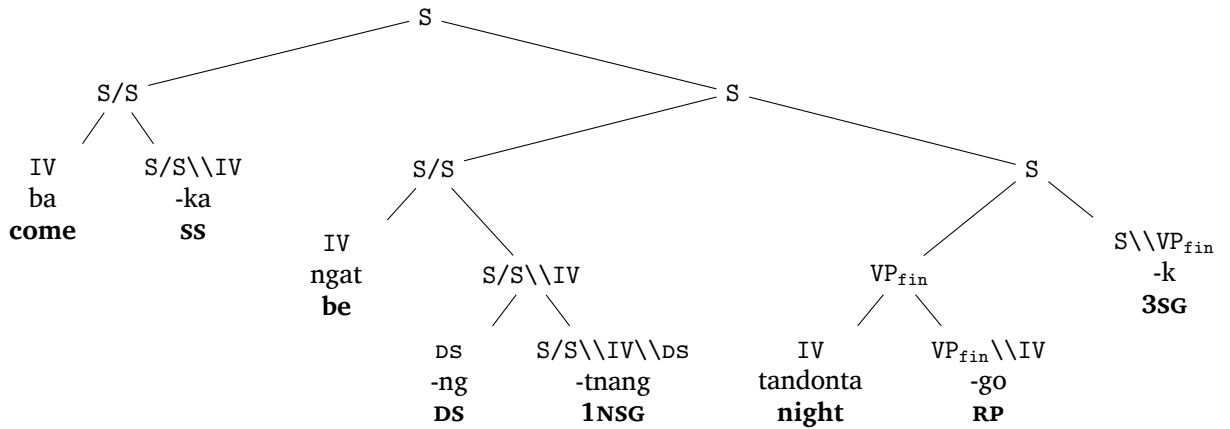
Mongsen Ao does not have formally encoded switch-reference [1].

Glossary

DS = different-subject suffix, LOC = locative, NSG = non-singular number, RP = remote past tense, SG = singular, SS = same-subject suffix.

References

[1] Alexander Robertson Coupe. *A Grammar of Mongsen Ao*. 2007.

[2] Ryan Pennington. *A grammar of Ma Manda: A Papuan language of Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea*. PhD thesis, James Cook University, Cairns, Australia, May 2016. Thesis submitted to The Language and Culture Research Centre, College of Arts, Society and Education, in fulfilment of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the discipline of Linguistics.