CHAPTER NINETEEN

THE IMPRESSIONISTIC MORPHEME

19.1 INTRODUCTION AND ALLOMORPHS

The impressionistic morpheme \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{55} \sim -se^{55}>\) ‘like’ is a bound morpheme referring to all kinds of impressions and plays an important role in different parts of Zaiwa grammar. The morpheme \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{55} \sim -se^{55}>\) ‘like’ obviously shares the same etymon with the singular nominaliser \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{31}>\) (SNO) discussed in Section 9.32.2.

The impressionistic morpheme \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{55} \sim -se^{55}>\) ‘like’ has three allomorphs. The vowel /e/ of the allomorph \(<{se}^{55}>\) of \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{55} \sim -se^{55}>\) ‘like’ is the result of the morpho-phonological process of vowel reduction and is used after formative or pronominal prefixes, as discussed in the Sections 19.4 to 19.8. The allomorph \(<su^{55}>\) of \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{55} \sim -se^{55}>\) ‘like’ is only used in combination with the factitive marker \(<{\sigma}^{55}>\), as \(su^{54}\) (like+FCT). Section 19.3 discusses the use of latter form in detail.

Whenever the reduced allomorph \(<{se}^{5}>\) ‘like’ is used, the comparison is referred with by the preceding nominal constituent, ideophone or complete clause, which \(<{se}^{5}>\) ‘like’ embeds into a larger frame. In sentence (1), the construction \(waq^{11} - syo^{11} {se}^{5} - gd^{11}\) (pig-flesh like-perceive) expresses ‘like pork’. I shall discuss constructions like this in detail in this chapter. When the full syllable allomorphs \(<su^{55}>\) and \(<se^{55}>\) of the impressionistic morpheme are used, the comparison is specifically referred with the referent denoted by the other elements in the complex form of which these allomorphs form part, e.g. \(a^{5} - se^{55}\) (nom-like) ‘like this/that’, \(ke^{5} - se^{55}/he^{5} - se^{55}\) (Q-like) ‘how’ and \(ke^{5} - su^{44}/he^{5} - su^{44}\) (Q-like+FCT) ‘what kind of’.

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86 The reduced allomorph \(<{se}^{5}>\) of the singular nominaliser \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{31}>\) (SNO) in the fixed combination \(se^{5} - bvue^{55}\) (SNO-PLN) ‘others’ (vide Section 9.32.2) is homophonous with the reduced allomorph \(<{se}^{5}>\) of the impressionistic morpheme \(<{se}^{5} \sim su^{55} \sim -se^{55}>\) ‘like’.
1. Waq\textsuperscript{1}-syo\textsuperscript{11} se\textsuperscript{5}-ga\textsuperscript{11} nam\textsuperscript{\textdag} lye\textsuperscript{31}.
pig–flesh like–perceive smelly\textsuperscript{(ipf)} also+I

This thing smells like pork.

Except when nominalised by the factitive marker \textless \textsigma\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater (like+FCT), the impressionistic morpheme \textless se\textsuperscript{5} ~ su\textsuperscript{55} ~ se\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater ‘like’ always precedes one of the following verbs: \textless ga\textsuperscript{11} \textgreater ‘perceive’, \textless g\textnu\textupsilon\textupsilon\textsuperscript{5} \textgreater ‘do’, \textless mu\textsuperscript{31} \textgreater ‘happen’, \textless ng\textam\textsuperscript{31} \textgreater ‘seem’, \textless ng\nu\textupsilon\textsuperscript{31} \textgreater ‘say’, or \textless dut\textsuperscript{1} \textgreater ‘become’. Less often it precedes \textless ng\nu\textupsilon\textupsilon\textsuperscript{5} \textgreater ‘to be’.

2. A\textsuperscript{5}-se\textsuperscript{55} ng\textnu\textupsilon\textupsilon\textsuperscript{5} lye\textsuperscript{31}, saq\textsuperscript{1}wa\textsuperscript{11}.
nom–like be also+I spirit.type

That’s how it is, the saq\textsuperscript{wa}.

The following sections discuss different uses of the impressionistic morpheme.

19.2 Combinations with the full syllable allomorph \textless -se\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater of the impressionistic morpheme
19.3 The form su\textsuperscript{54} (like+FCT)
19.4 The allomorph \textless se\textsuperscript{5} \textgreater of \textless se\textsuperscript{5} ~ su\textsuperscript{55} ~ se\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater ‘like’ as the impressionistic prefix
19.5 The impressionistic prefix before the inchoative copula \textless dut\textsuperscript{1} \textgreater ‘become’
19.6 The impressionistic prefix before the verb \textless ga\textsuperscript{11} \textgreater ‘perceive’
19.7 The impressionistic prefix before the verb \textless ng\textam\textsuperscript{31} \textgreater ‘seem’
19.8 The impressionistic prefix before the verb \textless mu\textsuperscript{31} \textgreater ‘happen’

19.2 COMBINATIONS WITH THE FULL SYLLABLE ALLOMORPH \textless -se\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater OF THE IMPRESSIONISTIC MORPHEME

The allomorph \textless se\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater of the impressionistic morpheme \textless se\textsuperscript{5} ~ su\textsuperscript{55} ~ se\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater ‘like’ is only used in the following forms.
- \textless i\textsuperscript{5}-se\textsuperscript{55} (SPEC-like) ‘like this, in this particular way’, with the reduced allomorph \textless i\textsuperscript{5} \textgreater of the specifictory morpheme \textless i\textsuperscript{5} ~ i\textsuperscript{55} \textgreater
- \textless a\textsuperscript{1}-se\textsuperscript{55} (nom-like) ‘like this/that’, with a stressed formative prefix \textless a\textsuperscript{1} \textgreater