CHAPTER 10

Non-Verbal Predication

Non-verbal predication can be defined as a clause type whose base of predication is not a verb. This chapter is dedicated to describing the non-verbal predicate constructions that KK uses to express semantic functions such as equation, proper inclusion, existence, attribution, location, and possession. Crosslinguistically, it is common that these semantic functions are conveyed by clause constructions without prototypical verbs. This is also the case in KK.

Following Payne (1997), equative predicates can be defined as expressing a one-to-one relationship between a referent and what is expressed by the predicate. In other words, equatives assert that a given entity is identical to the one specified in the predicate (e.g., Alvaro is my father). Proper Inclusion refers to a predicate that creates a relationship that includes the referent in a category, naming the referent as one of a set specified in the nominal predicate (e.g., Alvaro is a soccer player). Existential predicates are understood as asserting the existence of an (usually indefinite) entity. Frequently, these predicates include reference to a location in which the entity is said to exist; however, this information is not required (e.g., There is a soccer game). It is well attested crosslinguistically that the main function of existential constructions is to introduce participants in the discourse. Attributive predicates are defined as those that assign a property or attribute to the referent (e.g., Soccer is exciting). Locative predicates describe a (usually definite) entity as being in a specific location; the located entity is the subject and the location is the predicate (e.g., The next World Cup is in Russia). Possessive predicate constructions express a relationship of possession; that is, these predicates create a relationship between two NPs, such that one of them (usually the subject) refers to the possessor, and the other (usually the predicate) to the possessed (e.g., Brazil has a great soccer team).

KK is one of those languages that uses non-verbal predicate constructions to express all of the functions introduced above. It has been found that one semantic function can be expressed by several constructions, yet the same formal strategy may be used to convey more than one semantic function. Importantly, no copula has been identified in any of these constructions. This chapter is organized according to major formally distinct construction types: juxtaposition (§10.1), existential constructions (§10.3) and postpositional constructions (§10.4 and §10.5). Internal to each section I explore various construction subtypes, several of which serve to convey possession.
10.1 Juxtaposition: Attributive, Equative & Proper Inclusion Functions

The juxtaposition construction consists of a sequence of two elements without any relational or copular element between the two. The first element is an NP subject, whereas the second element, the predicate, can be a simple NP (§10.1.1), a yara-marked NP (§10.1.2), or a nominalized stative verb (§10.1.3). From a functional perspective, these constructions are associated primarily with attributive, equative and proper inclusion meanings.

10.1.1 Juxtaposition: NP NP

The juxtaposition construction consists of an NP naming a referent, followed by a second NP, which is the predicate, without any relational element. The order is subject-predicate. Examples (10.1a–c) give equative predicates.

(10.1) a. [uri] [ta ami]
   3SG.MS 1SG.MS grandfather
   ‘He is my grandfather’ (ED)

   b. [ajan] [ya mena]
   DEM 3SG.FS husband
   ‘This is her husband’ (ED)

   c. [mijiri] [tsa mimira]
   Miguel 1SG.FS son.FEMALE.EGO
   ‘Miguel is my son’ (ED)

Note that the first NP could be a pronoun (10.1a), a demonstrative (10.1b) or a full NP (10.1c). As for the NP predicate, they are all full noun phrases; examples (10.1a–c) include a possessor pronoun as modifier of the head noun.

Examples (10.2a–c) illustrate proper inclusion predicates.

(10.2) a. [etse] [kukama waina]
   1SG.FS Kukama woman
   ‘I’m a Kukama woman’ (ED)

   b. [ajan waina] [kukama]
   DEM woman kukama
   ‘This woman is Kukama’ (ED)