

Title:	Interface of the Akan Future Tense Marker 'Bɛ-' and Modality
Author keywords:	Epistemic Modality Deontic Modality Akan Future Tense
Abstract:	<p>Future tense is marked in Akan by the morpheme 'Bɛ-'. It has also been described by Christaller (1875), and Dolphyne (1971; 1988) as, marking an ingressive aspectual morpheme. The semantics of this so-called ingressive aspect "indicate a previous coming or a previous going required for the action indicated by the verb stem" (Dolphyne 1971). However, (Osam 2002) has rejected this label, calling it motional prefix. This is because, as noted by (Osam 2002), "this morphemes does not express any aspect.</p> <p>In this study, we present other functions of 'bɛ-' as expressing modality in Akan. It has been found in this study that 'bɛ-' has the ability to (i) express epistemic modality of probability, when it is attached to certain verbs of state, and (ii) express deontic modality of permission, when attached to the verb 'tumi' (to be able to).</p> <p>The study is descriptive, based on self created corpus data, from Akan literature.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>Austin, J. L. (1962). How to do things with words. London: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Bybee, J, Perkins, and Pagliuca (1994). The Evolution of grammar. University of Chicago Press. Chicago and London.</p> <p>Christaller, J. G. 1964 [1875]. Grammar of the Asante and Fante Language Called Tshi [Chwee, Twi]: Based on the Akuapem dialect with Reference to the other (Akan and Fante) dialects. Repr. Ridgewood, New Jersey: Gregg Press Incorporated.</p> <p>Dolphyne, F. A. (1988) The Akan (Twi-Fante) Language. Its Sound Systems and Tonal Structure.</p> <p>Givon, Talmy (1982). Evidentiality and Epistemic Space. <i>Studies in Language</i> 6: 23-49.</p> <p>Joan Bybee and Suzanne Fleischman (eds). (1995). <i>Modality in grammar and discourse</i> John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam/Philadelphia.</p> <p>Joan L. Bybee (1985). <i>Morphology – A study of the Relation Between Meaning and Form</i>. John Benjamins Publishing Company. Amsterdam/Philadelphia.</p> <p>Lyons, John (1977). <i>Semantics</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Nuyts, Jan (1993a). Epistemic Modal Adverbs and Adjectives and the Layered Representation of Conceptual and Linguistic Structure. <i>Linguistics</i> 31: 933-969.</p> <p>Nuyts, Jan (2001). <i>Epistemic Modality, Language, And Conceptualization</i>. John Benjamins Publishing Company. Amsterdam/Philadelphia.</p> <p>Osam E. K. (2004) <i>The Trondheim Lectures: An Introduction to the structure of Akan: Its Verbal and Multiverbal System</i>. Dept. of Linguistics, Legon.</p> <p>Palmer, F. R. (1979). <i>Modality and the English Modals</i>. Longman. Longman and New York.</p> <p>Palmer, F. R. (1986). <i>Mood and Modality</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p>