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LINGUISTICS & APPLIED LINGUISTICS



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# Main Clause Verb Inflections

All verbs in Jiwarli must have an inflectional suffix - the verb root cannot occur uninflected. Jiwarli main clause verb inflections express tense (ie. when in time the action/state described occurs), aspect (ie. how an action occurs - is it continuous, complete or incomplete?) and mood, which reflects the speaker's attitude (ie. whether something might, must, or could occur). There are six main clause verb inflections:

- usitative expresses a situation that occurred habitually in the past, akin to English 'used to.'
- past expresses a situation which occurred in the past or recent past.



http://www.linguistics.unimelb.edu.au/research/jiwarli/gramm.verb.infl.html

Verbix: Jiwarli notes

- present expresses a situation occurring at the time of speaking, a current habitual situation, generic situations (ie. a 'timeless truth' such as 'lions roar'), and immediate future situations.
- future expresses a situation which is expected to occur some time later than the moment of speaking or the immediate future.
- imperative is used to give a command.
- irrealis expresses a situation which although possible, did not actually occur.

However, it is not the case that each of these inflections are represented by only one suffix. In Jiwarli, like most Australian Aboriginal languages, all verbs belong to one of a series of *conjugations*. You must simply learn which conjugation each verb belongs to. The importance of knowing the conjugations lies in the fact that the suffixes for each inflection, eg. 'present', vary depending on the conjugation the verb belongs to. The table below shows the Jiwarli main clause verb inflections:

Jiwarli Main Clause Verb Inflections					
Inflection	Conjugation 1	Conjugation 2	Conjugation 3	Conjugation 4	Conjugation 5
Usitative	-laartu	-rraartu	-artu	-artu	-artu <sup>†</sup>
Past	-rninyja	-rninyja	-nyja	-nyja	-nyja
Present	-nha	-nha	-inha*	-nha	$-a^{\dagger}$
Future	-lka	-rrka	-ira*	-ra	-ra
Imperative	-пта	-nma	-та	-та	-та
Irrealis	-nmararni	-nmararni	-mararni	-mararni	-mararni

<sup>\*</sup> If the verb root ends in 'a', this suffix changes that final 'a' to 'i'.

Although membership in a particular conjugation seems apparently random, historically, there was probably some obvious connection, or shared feature of all the verbs in a particular conjugation. Dixon (1980 — see <a href="bibliography">bibliography</a>) contends that at one stage, all the verbs of one conjugation ended in the same letter, and there was only one suffix for each inflection, and it applied to *all* verbs. Over time, the boundary between the verb root and the suffix became blurred, and phonological (ie. sound) changes occurred, resulting eventually in the apparently random conjugations and variety of suffixes that we see today. This is just one of a number of theories and possibilities.

 $\mathbb{D}^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{2}) = \mathbb{D}^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{2}) + \mathbb{D}^{2$ 

<sup>†</sup> If the verb root ends in 'i', this suffix changes that final 'i' to 'a'.

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# Dependent Clause Verb Inflections

The only inflection that distinguishes all 5 conjugations is the 'purposive same subject (SS)'. This is a dependent clause verb inflection. A dependent clause indicates that the clause is dependent on the main clause — the tense of the dependent clause is relative to that of the main clause and the action in the dependent clause is dependent on that in the main clause. Jiwarli uses a system known as switch reference, in which different suffixes are used to indicate whether the subject of the dependent clause is the same subject (SS) or a different subject (DS) to that of the main clause. The dependent clause inflections are explained below, and note that imperfective, perfective and purposive all have 2 sets of inflections, one for same subject and one for different subject.

- imperfective marks a dependent clause which gives information about the noun phrase of the main clause, or the temporal and logical coniditions that hold in the main clause. When an imperfective dependent clause gives information about a noun of the main clause, as well as the SS or DS marker, the verb will also carry the nominal case marker of that noun, to show agreement.
- perfective is similar to imperfective, except that the event described in the dependent clause is already completed when the situation of the main clause is occurring.
- purposive marks a dependent clause which describes a situation that is the intended purpose of the action in the main clause.
- intentive marks a situation which the agent *intends* to occur, but the likelihood of the situation actually occurring is less than that of purposive, or less immediate.
- might marks a situation that the speaker believes might occur, and if it does occur will have very negative consequences.

Jiwarli Dependent Clause Verb Inflections					
Inflection	Conjugation 1	Conjugation 2	Conjugation 3	Conjugation 4	Conjugation 5
ImperfSS	-rnu	-rnu	-nhu	-ngu	-nhu
ImperfDS	-niya	-niya	-iniya*	-niya	-уа
PerfSS	-rninyjalu	-rninyjalu	-nyjalu	-nyjalu	-nyjalu
PerfDS	- rnynjaparnti	- rninyjaparnti	-nyjaparnti	-nyjaparnti	-nyjaparnti
PurpSS	-ru	-rru	-yi	-ngku	-rra
PurpDS	-lpuka	-rrpuka	-puka	-puka	-puka
Intentive	-lkarri(ngu)	-rrkari(ngu)	-irrari(ngu) *	-rarri(ngu)	-rarri(ngu)
Might	-lkangu	-rrkangu	-irangu*	-rangu	-rangu

<sup>\*</sup> If the verb root ends in 'a', this suffix changes that final 'a' to 'i'.

() Parentheses around and item indicate that it is an optional part of the suffix.

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There are a variety of derivational suffixes in Jiwarli with a range of functions, such as changing the transitivity of the verb to which they attach, changing a verb to a nominal, or giving extra 'semantic' information about the verb, for example that the verb action has a continuous sense. Whilst all main/dependent verb inflectional suffixes can attach to all main/dependent verbs respectively, derivational suffixes in Jiwarli can not necessarily attach to all types of verbs. The restrictions of which suffixes can attach to which verbs are explained below.

The derivational suffixes of Jiwarli can be divided into three main groups:

- Those that do not affect the transitivity of the verb.
- Those that do affect the transitivity of the verb.
- Those that change the category of the verb.

## Affixes not affecting transitivity

There is one affix (with various allomorphs for different tenses) that can attach to either transitive or intransitive verb stems without changing their transitivity. It signifies continuous activity over an extended period of time, and can only apply to verbs of conjugation 1 or 2.

# Affixes affecting transitivity

#### **Transitiviser**

The suffix '-jipa' can be added to intransitive verb roots of conjugations 3 and 4 to form a transitive verb. The resulting transitive verb will always

http://www.linguistics.unimelb.edu.au/research/jiwarli/gramm.verb.der.html

#### Detransitiviser

The suffix 'rri-a' is added to transitive verb stems of conjugation 1 to create an intransitive verb. When this suffix is applied, the transitive object (TO) of the transitive verb becomes the intransitive subject (IS) of the new intransitive verb.

#### Collective

This suffix (which has various allomorphs) does not change transitivity in the sense that the above two do, but it does have an effect on transitivity. It signifies joint activity by the subjects (which must be non-singular). When attached to an intransitive verb root, the verb subjects are jointly performing the verb action on someone else, or on each other (reciprocal). However, when attached to a transitive verb root, it results in an intransitive stem whose subjects perform the action on each other (ie. reciprocal).

#### **Intransitive Stems**

Juma-

ngunha

thurni-tharri-a

kutharra

child-dl.nom that.nom

laugh-coll-pres

Wirripuka

ngunha

ngathi-tharri-a.

many.nom

that.nom

cry-coll-pres

#### Transitive Stem

Purra lparri-

parlu-jaka

thurangka-nyjarri

hit-coll-

stone-

drunk-pl.nom

imperSS

comit.nom

'The drunks pelt one another with stones.'

# Category changing affixes

<sup>&#</sup>x27;The two children are laughing at one another.'

<sup>&#</sup>x27;The mob are crying.'

There are two suffixes (each with different allomorphs for the different conjugations) that can be attached to verbs to create a noun, or nominal.

#### Agentive Nominaliser

This suffix, when attached to verb, creates a noun which is the *agent*, or 'doer' of the verb action. For example the verb 'to run' with this suffix attached would create a noun 'runner'.

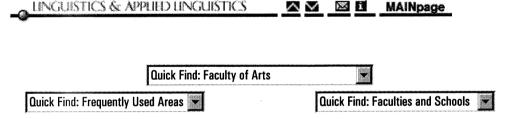
#### Instrumental Nominaliser

This suffix, when attached to a verb, creates a noun which is the 'entity used as an instrument to carry out the action of the verb.' Eg:

Kupa-arri
to sit-instr
'It's a chair.'



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# Jiwarli Verb Morphology and Conjugations

There are two kinds of suffixes that can mark a verb in Jiwarli - inflectional suffixes, and derivational suffixes. Inflectional suffixes give extra *grammatical* information about the verb (eg. tense, mood and aspect) without changing the basic meaning or *semantic* information of the verb. Derivational suffixes carry out other functions, such as changing the transitivity of a verb (an intransitive verb has only a subject, eg. 'I sleep', whereas a transitive verb has both a subject and object eg. 'I threw the ball.'), or changing a verb into a noun.

Many suffixes in Jiwarli, especially inflectional suffixes, have different *allomorphs* which means that although the suffix, or *morpheme* has different forms, those forms have the same function or meaning. For example, the past participle morpheme in English has various allomorphs, including *-ed* and *-en*, as in:

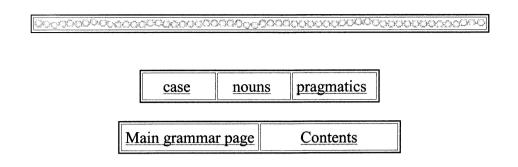
- He has selected a cake.
- He has eaten the cake.

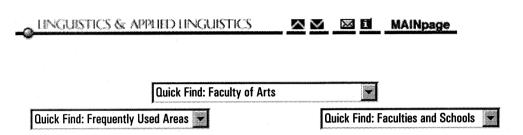
In addition, verbs in Jiwarli belong to one of five *conjugations*. The allomorph that is used on a verb depends on which conjugation that verb belongs to.

More detailed descriptions of these 2 different types of morphology and how they relate to the verb conjuagtions can be found in:

• Inflectional morphology.

• Derivational morphology.





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There are 11 sentences in the Ethnographic text. You can take shortcuts to and between sentences:

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going along.'

- 1. Nhukura-martu-thu ngurru-nyjarri julyu-martu
  knowledgable-pauc.nom-top old man-pl.nom grey hair-pauc.nom
  ngunha jiriparri-nha jiriparri-nha.
  that.nom see-usit echidna-acc go-imperfDS-acc
  'The knowledgeable grey-haired old men used to see echidna
- 2. Jiriparri ngunha doubled up-inchoat-fut-now 'Echidna will curl up now.'

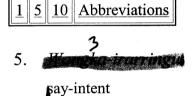
3. lie-intent doubled up.nom-now head.acc-conj that.acc warri-rru not-now see-purpDS

'He will lie curled up and (you) can't see his head.'

4. Ngurru-nyjarri-lu ngurnta-puka ngunha old man-pl-erg on back-causat-usit lie-purpDS that.nom jakuparla.

doubled up.nom

'The old men used to turn him over on his back so he would lie curled up.'



'(They) would say.'

- 6. Yarnara-rri-ma nhurra.
  on back-inchoat-imper 2sg.nom
  "Lie on your back.""
- 7. Ngatha ngurra-nha murrurr-pa

  1sg.erg 2sg.acc cicatrice.acc-phon get-fut

  'I'll get you cicatrices.'
- 8. Ngatha ngurra-nha murrurr-pa mana-ra.

  1sg.erg 2sg.acc cicatrice.acc-phon get-fut

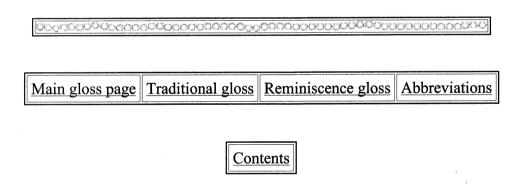
  'I'll get you cicatrices.'

9. Kanng-rm-rd ngunha lie-imperfSS-now that.nom sit-imperfSS 'They tell lies now.'

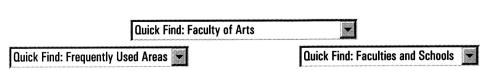


- 10. Jiriparri ngunha kurlkanyu-nthu-rru echidna.nom that.nom pleased.nom-again-now on back-inchoat-fut 'Echidna will lie on his back pleased.'
- 11. Yarnara-rri-ra parna-rru wuru-ngku
  on back-inchoat-fut head.acc-now hit-purpDS stick-erg
  pirru-rru
  kill-imperfSS-now meat.acc-now go-intent eat-purpSS
  'He will lie on his back and then they hit him on the head with

'He will lie on his back and then they hit him on the head with a stick and kill him to go and eat the meat.'







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# Gloss of Traditional Mythology Text

There are 42 sentences in the Traditional Mythology text. You can take shortcuts to and between sentences:

- 1. Kapakurta mantharta mikalyaji paja yana-nyja spotted nightjar.nom person.nom bat.nom angry.nom go-past mantharta-wu.

  person-dat
  'The nightjar and bat were angry with a man.'
- 2. Yini pipijunkurru.name Pipijunkurru'His name was Pipijunkurru.'
- 3. Maatha ngunha mantharta-nyjarri-yi pipijunkurru.
  boss that.nom person-pl-dat Pipijunkurru.nom
  'That Pipijunkurru was the boss of the people.'

- 4. Warri nhuku-parnti nghuna paja
  not close-ablat2 that.nom angry.nom go-past
  'They didn't go along angry from nearby.'
- 5. Ngunha-kayi kajiriwari kajiri-yi
  that-first Mt. Florrie.loc heat-perfSS sharp-pointed spear-dat
  nghunhi-pa yirrara.
  heat-past there.loc-spec top.loc
  'After they first heated (straightened) spears at Mt Florrie, they heated them there at the top.'
- 6. Ngunha wirlka-manta that.nom gap.nom-still lie-pres
  'There is a gap there still.'
- 7. Ngurnu-parnti-pa yarti-ngka yapurrari. that.dat-ablat2-spec go-past river-loc north.allat 'After that (they) went north in the (Ashburton) river.'
- 8. Paja kutharra ngunhi-ra-pa.

  angry two.nom there-dl.nom-spec

  'The two of them were angry.'
- 9. Pakalya-purra-thu mantharta-purra-thu ngunha-purra ngurra good-time-top person-time-top that-time place pulara-la-purra.

  soft-loc-time

  'That was the time of good men when the earth was soft.'

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- ngunhi-ra-pa parni-nthu-rru kajiri-yi.
  go-past there-dl.nom-spec and then-again-now heat-purpSS sharp pointed spear-dat
  'They went again to straighten a spear.'
- 11. Yarti-ngka wantha-la-rru ngunha.
  river-loc where-loc-now that.nom
  'In the river, where was that now?
- 12. Ngunhi-pa juntalya-la yapurru mgula-pa. there.loc-spec Juntalya-loc north.loc heat-past that.loc-spec 'They straightened it there in the river north at Jundalya.'
- 13. Julyu-nyjarri ngatha-la. grey hair-pl.nom talk-usit I-loc

  'The old people used to tell me.'
- 14. Ngurnu-parnti-pa marati ngunha-rru wurrumalu. that.dat-ablat2-spec go-intent that.nom-now Wurrumalu.loc 'After that they went to Globe Hill Station.
- 15. Ngula-pa that.loc-spec heat-past sharp-pointed spear.acc 'There they straightened a spear.'
- 16. straight-causat-past
  '(They) straightened it.'

17. Yazaringu ngarra-marri ngunha

go-intent

behind-coll.nom that.nom

sit-imperfDS

malu-ngka

pipinyji-la

pipijunkurru-thu.

shade-loc

Pipinji-loc

Pipijunkurru.nom-top

'They walked along one behind another while that Pipijunkurru was lying in the shade at Pipinji.'



ngunhi-ra-pa



what-inchoat-imperfSS there-dl.nom-spec angry-inchoat-past 'I don't know why they were angry.'

19. Warri vaalka mayaparut thurnti ngulu-pa maatha-lu.

not give-perfDS vegetable food.acc that.erg-spec boss-erg

'The boss hadn't given them food.'

## 1 10 20 30 40 Abbreviations

20. go-past-hence there-dl.nom-spec behind-coll.nom 'They went along one behind the other.'

21. Ngunha jina

ggarna nhaymanta marntangu-ra



that.nom

track.nom

lie-pres-still

flat rock-loc

lie-imperfSS

kumpa-iniya

nguwan-ma

yirtijirr-a

malu-ngka.

sit-imperfDS

sleep.nom-phon bough shade-loc

shade-loc

'The tracks are still there on the flat rocks where he slept in the shade of a bough shade.'

22. **Baylany**(a)

ngunha-pa

spear-past

that.acc-spec

'They speared him.'

23. Kutharra-lu mikalyaji-lu-kayi kapakurta-lu two-erg bat-erg-first spotted nightjar-erg spear-past 'The two of them speared (him), bat first and then nightjar.'

- 24. Kalya-rru piane armpit.acc-now spear-past '(They) speared him in the armpit.'
- 25. kill-past-now
  '(They) killed (him).'
- 26. Piji wirripuka wanti putha ngunhi-ra-nha-pa.

  many.nom many.nom get up-past pelt-purpSS there-dl-acc-spec

  'The mob got up to spear the two of them.'
- 27. Kajiri-lu kurrjarta-lu sharp-pointed spear-erg single-barbed spear-erg spear-past '(They) speared (them) with spears.'
- 28. what-causat-intent
  'What will they do?'
- 29. Ngurnu-pa-nthi get iniya yarrpal-pa-nthi.

  that.dat-spec-just sit-imperfDS get up-imperfSS reversed.nom-phon-just

  'After that (each time the mob threw a spear) they got up (ducked and came back) in reverse.'

30. Ngurnu-pa-nthi winthi-kutharra ngunhi-ra-pa winthi that.dat-spec-just murderer-dl.acc there-dl.acc-spec murderer.acc wirripuka-lu funya-nyja.

many-erg spear-past

'After that (the mob) speared those two murderers.'

31. Patha-rninyja kurriya-lu.

boomerang-erg

'(They) pelted (them) with boomerangs.'

32. wana-ngku hit-past woman-erg yamstick-erg 'The women hit (them) with yamsticks.'

33. talk-intent-now there-dl.nom-spec spotted nightjar-dat-also bat-dat 'Then (they) talked about nightjar and bat.'

34. Ngathal-karra ngunhi-ra-pa-thu.

parallel cousin-kin.dl there-dl.nom-spec-top

'They were (same-sex) parallel cousins.'

35. Ngathal-karra ngunhi-ra-pa-nha parallel cousin-kin.dl.acc get-past there-dl-spec-acc break leg-intent-now 'They got those two cousins and broke their legs.'

36. Registration and a second second

cut-past

leg.acc

'(They) cut their legs.'

#### 37. **Market Mississ**

break leg-past

'(They) broke their legs.'

38. Kala-rru nhupalu warri-rru minan warri-rru like-this-now 2dl.nom sit-imper not-now walking-inchoat-imperfSS



go-intent

'You two will live like this unable to walk.'

39. Annie de Santing.

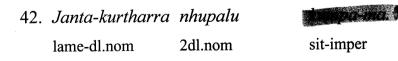
land-intent

'You can land.'

1 20 30 40 Abbreviations

40. Partha-lkarringu nhupalu yalha-ngka land-intent 2dl.nom ground-loc lie-purpSS 'You can land on the ground to lie down.'

- 41. Papa nhupalu-ru water.acc 2dl-erg drink-intent fly-imperfSS
  - 'You will drink water while flying.'



'You two will be lame.'

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There are 23 sentences in the reminiscence text. You can take shortcuts to and between sentences:

- Yanyja-thu ngunha julyu.
   another-top that.nom grey hair
   'There was another old man.'
- 2. Nganaju mate ngunha-pa jalikurti.

  1sg.dat mate that.nom-spec friend

  'He was my mate.'
- 3. Mimi nganaju ngunha.

  mother's brother 1sg.dat that.nom

  'He was my uncle.'

- 4. Ngali-ju

  1dl-excl.nom sit-usit

  'We used to sit.'
- 5. Ngatha ngunha-purra.

  1sg.nom sit-usit that-time

  'I used to sit.'
- 6. say-past now that.nom 1sg.dat
  'That one said to me:'
- 7. Ya ngajala-ju-yi nhurra.

  hey sister's son-my.nom-exclam come-imper-hence 2sg.nom

  "Hey! Nephew of mine! Come here!"
- 8. Ngatha paramja-rru paramajarru ngunhi-la-pa jalikurti-la.

  1sg.nom go-past-now talk-purpSS-now there-loc-spec friend-loc

  'I went to talk to that mate.'
- 9. Washing ngatha kala.
  say-past 1sg.nom like this
  'He said like this.'

#### 1 20 Abbreviations

10. Nhaa-wu nhurra wangkashi nganaju wangkashi n

- 11. Yinha nhurra payipa nganaju. this.acc 2sg.erg full-causat-imper pipe.acc 1sg-.dat "You fill this pipe for me."
- 12. Ngatha payipa nhurra-mpa.1sg.erg pipe 2sg-dat'I gave it to him.'
- 13. Yinha payipa nhurra-mpa.
  this.nom pipe 2sg-dat
  "This is your pipe."
- 14. Ngunha-pa ngatha-la. that.nom-spec say-past 1sg-loc 'He said to me:'
- 15. Karla sanda-nmakrni jarnpa juma.

  fire.acc give-imper-hence light.acc small.acc

  "Give (me) a little firestick!"
- 16. Ngulu-pa ngunha papiya-rru ngatha that.erg-spec hold-imperfSS that.acc pipe.acc-now 1<sup>st</sup>.nom

  purluu.

  sit-imperfDS face-to-face.nom

  'He was holding the pipe and I was sitting facing him.'
- 17. Ngulu-pa warri-rru put-past smoke-inchoat-intent

'He didn't put (it) [on the pipe] to have a smoke.'

18. Karla-thu ngunha warri-rru parna-ngka ngunhi
fire.acc-top that.acc not-now head-loc there.loc

papiya-la
pipe-loc put-past

'(He) didn't put the fire on the head of the pipe.'

19. put-past beard-loc-now
'(He) put (it) on his beard.'

1 10 20 Abbreviations

put-past fire.acc-top that.acc here.loc chin-loc-now 'He put the fire here on his chin.'

21. Parru-nthu ngatha shannanja japurta then-again 1sg.erg see-past beard.acc flame-inchoat-imperfD\$-now

'Then I saw his beard alight with flames going up his cheeks

22. Ngatha papa-ngku-rru

lsg.erg water-erg-now douse-past extinguished-causat-imperfSS

karla-wu.

fire-dat

'I doused (him) with water putting the fire out.'

23. Jalikurti ngunha nganaju ngunha-pa-rru. friend that 1sg.dat that-spec-now 'He was my mate.'

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The following is a list of abbreviations used in the morpheme glosses:

1 , ,	first person	intent	intentive
2	second person	kindl	kinship dual
3	third person	loc	locative
ablat	ablative	new	new information
acc	accusative	nom	nominative
allat	allative	non sing	non singular
assoc	associative	pauc	paucal
causat	causative	perfDS	perfective-different subject
coll	collective	perfSS	perfective-same subject
comit	comitative ('having')	phon	phonological clitic
cont	continuous	pl	plural
dat	dative	poss	possessive
dl	dual	pres	present
erg	ergative	priv	privative ('lacking')

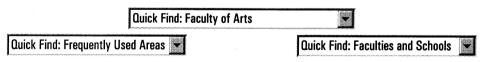
http://www.linguistics.unimelb.edu.au/research/jiwarli/abbrev.html

excl	exclusive	psych	psychological verbaliser
exclam	exclamation	purpDS	purposive-different subject
fact	fact	purpSS	purposive-same subject
fut	future	sg	singualr
imper	imperative	spec	specific
imperfDS	<u> </u>	still	still
imperfSS	subject	temp	temporal
inchoat	imperfective-same subject	top	topic
incl	inchoative	trans	transitiviser
inst	inclusive	usit	usitative
	instrumental		

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