

〈特集「アスペクト」〉

Aspects in Tshivenda (S21) ヴェンダ語(S21)のアスペクト表現

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要旨: 本稿は、語研論集 14 号 (2009) 所収の調査票にもとづいて収集したベンダ語(バントゥ系; 南アフリカ共和国)のアスペクト表現に関する記述的資料を提供するものである。

Abstract: This article presents descriptive data on aspect constructions in Tshivenda, a southern Bantu language spoken in South Africa. The data was collected through the questionnaire “Aspects” designed in *Journal of the Institute of Language Research* 14, 2009.

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1. Introduction

This paper reports on aspect constructions in the Tshivenda language (S21), a Southern Bantu language spoken in Limpopo, South Africa and Southern Zimbabwe. The standardized Tshiphani dialect is the main source of the data described here. To avoid direct translations of the sentence, elicitation was conducted using contexts suitable to each sentence (see Appendix A). Examples are written with orthography, a morpheme-by-morpheme analysis and interlinear glosses. In the Tshivenda orthography, subject markers are written independent from the following verb, which is a convention determined in the orthography, and should not be taken as a morphosyntactic feature. A companion article about passive constructions in Tshivenda is Nthambeleni et al. (2024).

2. Data with the intransitive verb

This section uses the intransitive verb *ḍa* ‘to arrive’ to investigate the perfect aspect. In (1a), the perfect aspect is expressed by having the *no* ‘already’ morpheme. The speaker knows that Rendani arrived, but the listener does not know this. In this context, *no* is required (1b). A sentence with a subject that is a deictic noun as in (1c) also takes the *no* morpheme. In (2), the situation is that the speaker knows that Rendani is on its way, but the listener does not know this. The construction uses the progressive *khou* and the use of *no* is not always required (compared 2a with 2b).



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(1) [Item 2-1]

- a. [Situation: Rendani has arrived]

Rendani o no ḑa.

Rendani o no ḑ-a

Rendani SM1 PRF arrive-FV

‘Rendani already came.’

- b. **Rendani o ḑa.* (in this context)

Rendani o ḑ-a (*no* is required in this context)

Rendani SM1 arrive-FV

- c. [Situation: That person has arrived]

Uḷa muthu o no ḑa.

uḷa mu-thu o no ḑ-a

that 1-person SM1 PRF arrive-FV

‘That person already came.’

(2) [Item 2-2]

- a. [Situation: Rendani has not yet arrived]

Rendani u ri o no bva u khou ḑa hanefho.

Rendani u ri o no bva u khou ḑ-a hanefho

Rendani SM1 be SM1 PRF already SM1 PROG arrive-FV here

‘Rendani has already been coming.’

- b. [Situation: ‘That person has not yet arrived’]

Uḷa muthu uri u khou ḑa.

uḷa muthu u-ri u khou ḑ-a

that person SM1-be SM1 PROG come-FV

‘That person has already been coming.’

When the focus of the negation shifts from the action of Rendani to the non-arrival of Rendani, Tshivenda does not make a distinction as in (3) and (4). In (3), the speaker knows whether Rendani departed, but the listener does not know this, and the *ha ... thu* construction is used. The sentence in (4) is elicited with the context in which the speaker does not know whether Rendani departed or not. The same *ha ... thu* construction expresses this difference according to the speakers.

(3) [Item 2-3]

- a. [Situation: Rendani’s action is the focus of the sentence]

Rendani ha athu swika.

Rendani ha a-thu swika

Rendani NEG SM1-NEG arrive

‘Rendani hasn’t not been coming yet.’

- b. [Situation: That person's action is the focus of the sentence]

Uḷa muthu ha athu swika.

uḷa muthu ha a-thu swika

that person NEG SM1-NEG arrive

'That person hasn't been coming yet.'

- (4) [Item 2-4]

- a. [Situation: Rendani's non-arrival is the focus of the sentence]

Rendani ha athu swika.

Rendani ha a-thu swika

Rendani NEG SM1-NEG arrive

'Rendani hasn't come yet.'

- b. [Situation: 'That person's non-arrival is the focus of the sentence']

Uḷa muthu ha athu swika.

uḷa muthu ha a-thu swika

that person NEG SM1-NEG arrive

'That person hasn't come yet.'

The near future aspect is expressed with *khou* construction. In (5), the speaker knows that Rendani or that person will arrive soon, but the listener doesn't know this.

- (5) [Item 2-5]

- a. *Rendani u khou ḡa zwenezwino.*

Rendani u khou ḡ-a zwenezwino

Rendani SM1 PROG arrive-FV soon.

'Rendani will come soon.'

- b. *Uḷa muthu uri u khou ḡa zwenezwino.*

uḷa muthu uri u khou ḡ-a zwenezwino

that 1.person that SM1 PROG arrive-FV soon

'That person will come soon.'

The vocative form about the arrival of Rendani in (6a) prohibit the perfect *no* morpheme. The presence of *no* in (6b) is ungrammatical.

- (6) [Item 2-6]

- a. *(Oho!) Rendani o ḡa!*

Rendani o ḡ-a

Rendani SM1 come-FV

'(Oh!) Rendani has come!'

- b. **Rendani o no ḡa!*

Rendani o no ḡ-a

Rendani SM1 PRF come-FV

When the situation describes the past event regarding the arrival of the subject, the verb can only take the infinitive form (7a). Adding the perfect *no* morpheme is unacceptable (7b). The difference between the past tense and the present tense is expressed by the temporal adverb: *mulovha* ‘yesterday’ (7a) versus *namusi* ‘today’ (7c). The future tense takes the future morpheme *do* between the subject marker and the verb in (7d). The negative form takes the *ha ngo* construction as in (8).

(7) [Item 2-7]

a. *Rendani o da mulovha.*

Rendani o d-a mulovha

Rendani SM1 come-FV yesterday

‘Rendani came yesterday.’

b. **Rendani o no da mulovha.* (no is not allowed in this context)

Rendani o no d-a mulovha

Rendani SM1 PRF come-FV yesterday

c. *Rendani o da namusi.*

Rendani o d-a namusi

Rendani SM1 come-FV today

‘Rendani comes today.’

d. *Rendani u do da matshelo.*

Rendani u do d-a matshelo

Rendani SM1 FUT arrive-FV tomorrow

‘Rendani will come tomorrow.’

(8) [Item 2-8]

Rendani ha ngo da mulovha.

Rendani ha ngo d-a mulovha

Rendani SM1.NEG NEG come-FV yesterday

‘Rendani didn’t come yesterday.’

3. Data with the transitive verb

This section elicited sentences with or without the completion of the eating of an apple with the transitive verb *la* ‘eat’. The completion of the action of eating and apple requires the *no* morpheme (9a). The absence of *no* makes the sentence ungrammatical as shown in (9b).

(9) [Item 2-9]

a. *Ndo no la kale lia apuḽa.*

ndo no la kale lia apuḽa

1SG PRF eat already that apple

‘I already ate that apple.’

b. **Ndo la kale lia apuḽa.* (in this context)

ndo la kale lia apuḽa

1SG eat already that apple

The negative forms show some differences by the tense. In the perfect negative in (10a), the construction has *thi athu* and the verb takes final vowel *-a*. In the future negative in (10b), the *thi nga* construction is used and the verb takes the negative final vowel *-i*.

(10) [Item 2-10]

a. *A thi athu ɭa ɭia apuɭa.*

a thi athu ɭ-a ɭia apuɭa
 NEG 1SG NEG.PRF eat-FV that apple
 ‘I haven’t eaten that apple yet.’

b. *A thi nga ɭi ɭia apuɭa.*

a thi nga ɭ-i ɭia apuɭa
 NEG 1SG NEG.FUT eat-NEG.FV that apple
 ‘I won’t eat that apple.’

For an event that has begun just now, the progressive *khou* morpheme is coupled with the adverb *zwino* ‘now’, as shown in (11).

(11) [Item 2-11]

u khou ɭa ɭia apuɭa zwino.

u khou ɭa ɭia apuɭa zwino
 SM1 PROG eat that apple now
 ‘He’s eating that apple just now.’

4. Data with the stative verb

The possibility of the use of *no* ‘PRF’ is shown in examples with the stative verb *vulea* ‘to open’. When the window is open at the moment (12a) or in the past (12c), the verb cannot take the *no* morpheme (12b, d).

(12) [Item 2-12]

a. *Fasiɽere ɭo vulea.*

fasiɽere ɭo vule-a
 5.window SM5 open-FV
 ‘The window is open.’

b. **Fasiɽere ɭo no vulea.*

fasiɽere ɭo no vule-a
 5.window SM5 PRF open-FV

c. *Fasiɽere ɭo vha ɭo vulea.*

fasiɽere ɭo vha ɭo vule-a
 5.window SM5 PST SM5 open-FV
 ‘The window was open.’

d. **Fasiɽere ɭo no vha ɭo vulea.*

fasiɽere ɭo no vha ɭo vule-a
 5.window SM5 PRF PST SM5 open-FV

When the passive condition is added to the sentences as in (13), the same condition holds. The perfective morpheme *no* cannot be added to the sentence. As shown in (13c), the past tense morpheme *vha* is possible.

(13) [Item 2-12]

a. *Fasiṭere ḽo vuliwa.*

fasiṭere ḽo vul-iw-a
5.window SM5 open-PASS-FV

‘The window is opened.’

b. **Fasiṭere ḽo no vul-iw-a.*

fasiṭere ḽo no vul-iw-a
5-window SM5 PRF open-PASS-FV

c. *Fasiṭere ḽo vha ḽo vuliwa.*

fasiṭere ḽo vha ḽo vul-iw-a
5.window SM5 PST SM5 open-PASS-FV

‘The window was opened.’

5. Habitual aspect

The habitual aspect is expressed using the present tense form of the verb. In (14a), the habit of reading paper on a daily basis is shown. The sentence in (14b) shows an ongoing action of reading. The progressive *khou* cannot be used in a habitual sentence as shown in (14c).

(14) [Item 2-13]

a. *Ndi vhala gurannḽa matsheloni maṅwe na maṅwe.*

ndi vhala gurannḽa matsheloni maṅwe na maṅwe
1SG read newspaper morning 6-one and 6-one

‘I read the newspaper every morning.’

b. *Ndi khou vhala bugu.*

ndi khou vhala bugu
1SG PROG read book

‘I’m reading a book’

c. **Ndi khou vhala gurannḽa matsheloni maṅwe na maṅwe.*

ndi khou vhala gurannḽa matsheloni maṅwe na maṅwe
1SG PROG read newspaper morning 6-one and 6-one

The verb *fana* means ‘to resemble’ and it is used in a present tense (15a), but not with the progressive *khou* (15b). When *fana* is causitivized as *fanesa*, the progressive *khou* can be used as shown in (15c).

(15) [Item 2-14]

a. *Ni fana na mme aṅu.*

ni fan-a na mme aṅu
2SG look.like-FV with mother your

‘You look like your mother.’

b. **Ni khou fan-a na mme aṅu.*

ni khou fan-a na mme aṅu
2SG PROG look.like-FV with mother your

c. *Ni khou fan-es-a na mme aṅu.*

ni khou fan-es-a na mme aṅu
2SG PROG look.like-CAUS-FV with mother your
'You look like your mother.'

The sentence in (16) is a situation where a teacher in a science class describes a natural phenomenon. The present tense verb *mona* 'go' is used in (16a), but the progressive *khou* cannot be added to this particular context.

(16) [Item 2-22]

a. *Ḳifhasi Ḳi mona na ḡuvha.*

Ḳifhasi Ḳi mona na ḡuvha
5-earth SM5 go with sun
'The earth goes around the sun.'

b. **Ḳifhasi Ḳi khou mona na ḡuvha.*

Ḳifhasi Ḳi khou mona na ḡuvha
5-earth SM5 PROG go with sun

Tshivenda uses the past tense construction with *vha* in the past habitual as shown in (17a). The perfective *no* cannot be added to the sentence (17b). Note that 'everyday' can be expressed as *ḡuvha Ḳiṅwe na Ḳiṅwe* [(lit.) day one and one] or *ḡuvha na ḡuvha* [(lit.) day and day]

(17) [Item 2-15]

a. *Ndo vha ndi tshi ya tshikoloni ḡuvha Ḳiṅwe na Ḳiṅwe (ḡuvha na ḡuvha).*

ndo vha ndi tshi ya tshikoloni ḡuvha Ḳiṅwe na Ḳiṅwe (ḡuvha na ḡuvha)
1SG PST 1SG HAB go school 5.day 5-one and 5-one 5.day and 5.day
'I used to go to school every day (back then).'

b. **Ndo no vha ndi tshi ya tshikoloni ḡuvha Ḳiṅwe na Ḳiṅwe (ḡuvha na ḡuvha).*

ndo no vha ndi tshi ya tshikoloni ḡuvha na ḡuvha
1SG PRF PST 1SG HAB go school 5.day and 5.day

6. Other aspect expressions

Tshivenda has other types of aspect expressions, which will be discussed in this section. The experience is expressed with the perfect aspect *no* as in (18a). The absence of the perfect marker in (18b) cannot mean that the speaker is currently back from Ṱhohoyandou. However, (18b) can simply mean that the speaker was in Ṱhohoyandou at some time in the past.

(18) [Item 2-16]

- a. *Ndo no ya T̄hohoyandou.*
 ndo no ya T̄hohoyandou
 1SG PRF go T̄hohoyandou
 ‘I have been to T̄hohoyandou.’
- b. **Ndo ya T̄hohoyandou.* (for the meaning ‘I have been to T̄hohoyandou’)
 ndo ya T̄hohoyandou
 1SG go T̄hohoyandou
 (only means) ‘I was in T̄hohoyandou.’

In (19a), the beginning of the movement of the bus is expressed with the simple past tense, and the perfect tense with the *no* morpheme in (19b) is unacceptable in the context.

(19) [Item 2-17]

- a. *Nga murahu, bisi yo mbo di takuwa.*
 nga murahu, bisi yo mbo di takuwa
 finally bus SM9 began move
 ‘Finally, the bus began moving.’
- b. **Nga murahu, bisi yo no mbo di takuwa.*
 nga murahu, bisi yo no mbo di takuwa
 finally bus SM9 PRF began move

In (20a), the sentence describes a continuing action in the past, which is expressed with the past tense *vha*. The perfect marker *no* as in (20b) cannot co-occur in the sentence.

(20) Item 2-18]

- a. *O vha o eḁela ḁuvha loḁhe la mulovha.*
 o vha o eḁela ḁuvha loḁhe la mulovha
 SM1 PST SM1 sleep day all ASSC5 yesterday
 ‘She slept all day yesterday.’
- b. **O no vha o eḁela ḁuvha loḁhe la mulovha.*
 o no vha o eḁela ḁuvha loḁhe la mulovha
 SM1 PRF PST SM1 sleep day all ASSC5 yesterday

In (21), the sentence expresses what occurred just now.

(21) [Item 2-19]

- Ndo lingedza u a la zwiḁuku.*
 ndo lingedza u a-la zwiḁuku
 1SG try to it-eat little
 ‘I tried eating it a bit.’

When a giver's action is completed in the past, the verb with the *-a* final vowel is used as in (22a). The perfect marker *no* cannot be used in this context (22b).

(22) [Item 2-20]

- a. *O zwi ŋea muñwe na muñwe.*
 o zwi ŋe-a muñwe na muñwe
 1SG them give-FV person and person
 'He gave them to everyone'
- b. **O no zwi ŋea muñwe na muñwe.*
 o no zwi ŋe-a muñwe na muñwe
 1SG PRF them give-FV person and person

The hortative form in Tshivenda has the verb with the *-e* form (23).

(23) [Item 2-21]

- Kha ri tuwe.*
 kha ri tu-we
 let 1PL go-FV
 'Let's go!'

An action that describes a near future is expressed using the progressive marker *khou* (24a). The absence of *khou* is also acceptable. When the situation is in the past as in (24c), the perfect cannot be used (see 24d).

(24) [Item 2-23, 24]

- a. [Situation: almost falling down due to a storm]
Muri u khou toḁa u wa.
 muri u khou toḁa u wa
 tree SM3 PROG about SM3 fall
 'That tree is about to topple.'
- b. *Muri uḁa u toḁa u wa.*
 muri uḁa u toḁa u wa
 tree that SM3 about SM3 fall
 'That tree is about to topple.' (without *khou*)
- c. [Situation: almost falling down due to a curb]
Ndo toḁa u wa.
 ndo toḁa u wa
 1SG about 1SG fall
 'I was almost about to trip.'
- d. **Ndo no toḁa u wa.*
 ndo no toḁa u wa
 1SG PRF about 1SG fall

When a future action is described as in (25a), both clauses require the future marker *ḡo*. In (25b), the second clause has the progressive *khou*, which is not grammatically acceptable.

(25) [Item 2-25]

- a. *Ri ḡo vha na vhaeni matshelo, zwino ndi ḡo renga vhurotho.*
 ri ḡo vha na vhaeni matshelo, zwino ndi ḡo renga vhurotho
 1PL FUT have with guests tomorrow so 1SG FUT buy bread
 ‘We will have guests tomorrow, so I will buy some bread.’
- b. **Ri ḡo vha na vhaeni matshelo, zwino ndi khou renga vhurotho.*
 ri ḡo vha na vhaeni matshelo, zwino ndi khou renga vhurotho
 1PL FUT have with guests tomorrow so 1SG PROG buy bread

In the next set of sentences, an action took place before or after a trip. When an action (a trip in these examples) has been completed as in (26a), the final *-a* vowel form of the verb is used, and the perfect marker *no* cannot be used in the subordinate clause (26b), nor in the matrix clause (26c). When an action has not yet occurred, the sentence in (27a) is used, and the perfect marker *no* cannot be used in the matrix clause as in (27b).

(26) [Item 2-26]

[Situation: I was in Giyani]

- a. *Ndo renga hei bege musi ndo ya Giyani.*
 ndo reng-a hei bege musi ndo ya Giyani
 1SG buy-FV this bag when 1SG go Giyani
 ‘I (had) bought this bag when I went to Giyani.’
- b. **Ndo renga hei bege musi ndo no ya Giyani.*
 ndo reng-a hei bege musi ndo no ya Giyani
 1SG buy-FV this bag when 1SG PRF go Giyani
- c. **Ndo no renga hei bege musi ndo ya Giyani.*
 ndo no reng-a hei bege musi ndo ya Giyani
 1SG PRF buy-FV this bag when 1SG go Giyani

(27) [Item 2-27]

[Situation: before going to Giyani]

- a. *Ndo renga hei bege musi ndi sa athu ya Giyani.*
 ndo renga hei bege musi ndi sa athu ya Giyani
 1SG buy this bag before 1SG SA ATHU go Giyani
 ‘I (had) bought this bag before going to Giyani.’
- b. **Ndo no renga hei bege musi ndi sa athu ya Giyani.*
 ndo no renga hei bege musi ndi sa athu ya Giyani
 1SG PRF buy this bag before 1SG SA ATHU go Giyani
 ‘I (had) bought this bag before going to Giyani.’

In (28), the factive verb *divha* ‘know’ is in the matrix clause. The past action has to be in the simple past (28a),

and it cannot be expressed in perfect aspect as in (28b).

(28) [Item 2-28]

a. *Ndo zwi ðivha uri o renga hei bege kha hoyu makete.*

ndo zwi ðivha uri o renga hei bege kha hoyu makete

1SG it know that SM1 buy this bag in this market

'I knew he (had) bought this bag in this market.'

b. **Ndo zwi ðivha uri o no renga hei bege kha hoyu makete.*

ndo zwi ðivha uri o no renga hei bege kha hoyu makete

1SG it know that SM1 PRF buy this bag in this market

'I knew he (had) bought this bag in this market.'

7. Conclusion

An investigation into Tshivenda aspect constructions has shown that the perfect aspect marker *no* is different from the past tense, which has an identical form with the present tense. Detailed discussion of each construction awaits a future study of the aspects in Tshivenda.

Appendix A. Contexts used during the elicitation sessions.

Each situation in this appendix was used to elicit items that appear in the main text.

Contexts *for situations 2-1 to 2-8*

Tom and Mark are organizing a meeting preparing for a conference. Mark has been in communication with everyone who is involved, including Andy.

Situation 2-1

(Mark saw that Andy arrived but went to the bathroom)

Tom: I need to check some data with Andy. Did he arrive?

Mark: Yes, **Andy already came**.

Tom: I forgot the name of the RA. Did the person arrive?

Mark: Oh, I forgot his name too. Yes, **that person already came**.

Situation 2-2

(Mark was texting with everyone, and Mark knew that everyone was on their way to the meeting)

Tom: I need to check some data with Andy. Is he on his way?

Mark: No, **Andy has already been coming**.

Tom: I forgot the name of the RA. Is the person on his way?

Mark: Oh, I forgot his name too. Yes, **that person has already been coming**.

Situation 2-3

(Mark was texting with everyone, and Mark knew that everyone was still at home)

Tom: I need to check some data with Andy. Did he arrive?

Mark: No, **Andy has not been coming yet**.

Tom: I forgot the name of the RA. Did the person arrive?

Mark: Oh, I forgot his name too. Yes, **that person has not been coming yet**.

Situation 2-4

(Mark has just arrived at a meeting place. He saw that only Tom was there)

Tom: I need to check some data with Andy. Did he arrive?

Mark: No, **Andy has not come yet**.

Tom: I forgot the name of the RA. Did the person arrive?

Mark: Oh, I forgot his name too. Yes, **that person has not come yet**.

Situation 2-5

(Mark was texting with everyone, and Mark knew that everyone will arrive within 5 minutes)

Tom: I need to check some data with Andy. Did he arrive?

Mark: No, but **Andy will come soon.**

Tom: I forgot the name of the RA. Did the person arrive?

Mark: Oh, I forgot his name too. Yes, **that person will come soon.**

Situation 2-6

(Mark and Tom just saw Andy entering the meeting room)

Tom and Mark: (Oh!) **Andy has come!**

Situation 2-7

(Mark and Andy were at the meeting venue to discuss various issues the day before, but Tom was not there)

Tom: Is the preparation over? I asked Andy to finalize everything yesterday. Did he come?

Mark: Yes, **Andy came yesterday.**

Situation 2-8

(Mark was at the meeting venue to check the preparation the day before, but Tom and Andy was not there)

Tom: Is the preparation over? I asked Andy to help you yesterday. Did he come?

Mark: No, **Andy didn't come yesterday.**

Situation 2-9

You bought one delicious looking apple. Your brother was together when you bought it. When your brother was at work, you ate it. Your brother after work asks about the apple.

Brother: Where is the apple you bought?

You: **I already ate that apple.**

Situation 2-10

You bought one delicious looking apple. Your brother was together when you bought it. Your brother went to the shop, and you joined him later. Your brother after work asks about the apple.

Brother: Did you eat the apple?

You: No, **I haven't eaten that apple yet.**

Brother: Will you eat the apple later today?

You: No, **I won't eat that apple.**

Situation 2-11

You bought one delicious looking apple. You brought it home and put it on the dining table. Then you went for work. Your mother saw that your brother took the apple and started eating it. When you returned from work, you did not see the apple. You ask your mother.

You: Where is the apple I bought earlier? Did my brother take it?

Mother: Yes, **he's eating that apple just now.**

Situation for 2-12

On a cold day, you and Mark arrived in the office, which was cold. Then you saw a window open. You tell Mark:

You: **The window is open.**

Then, Tom arrives, and he wonders why it is so cold in the office. You tell Tom:

You: **The window was open.**

After closing the window, all of you go out to get some breakfast. When you return to the office, the office was again cold. You again saw the window is open. You tell Mark and Tom:

You: **The window is opened.**

(passive form because the window cannot be opened by itself)

After that Mpho comes in and asks, why the office is so cold. You tell Mpho:

You: **The window was opened.**

Situation for 2-13

Your friend asks where you get most recent news (not knowing that you read newspaper). You reply:

You: **I read the newspaper every morning.**

Situation for 2-14

You met your niece after 3 years, and you see that she looks like your sister, so you say:

You: **You look like your mother.**

Situation for 2-15

You are a senior student at a college, and you go to school 3 days a week. Your younger brother asks what your schedule was during the freshman year.

Brother: How was your class schedule during your first year at the college?

You: **I used to go to school every day.**

Situation for 2-16

People are talking about their vacation in Mpumalanga, and asks you whether you have been there. So you respond:

You: Yes, **I have been to Mpumalanga.**

Situation for 2-17

From your building, you and your mother saw that there was a long traffic jam on the highway, including a bus with your brother. Your mother had to go inside, and after a while you see the traffic started moving. You tell your mother:

You: **Finally, the bus began moving.**

Situation for 2-18

Your sister went to a week-long overseas trip, and she is not good at sleeping on an airplane. She returned on a Friday. When you met a friend on the Sunday, she asks how your sister was doing after the trip. You respond:

You: **She slept all day yesterday.**

Situation for 2-19

You are visiting some distant relatives for the first time, and they serve you local delicacies (for example, a grasshopper). However, you have never eaten it. Later that night, your sister who knew about this custom asked:

Sister: I know they serve local delicacies. How was it?

You: **I tried eating it a bit.**

Situation for 2-20

Tom received a gift of a box of pens (20 of them). When you heard about it from Susan, you wonder whether Tom still has some pens. You ask Susan:

You: Does Tom still have some pens to spare?

Susan: No. **He gave them to everyone.**

Situation for 2-21

In lunchtime, and your friend asks whether you want to eat yet. You tell your friend:

You: **Let's go!**

Situation for 2-22

In a science class, the teacher is explaining about the relationship between the earth and the sun, and he says:

Teacher: **The earth goes around the sun.**

Situation for 2-23

A severe storm is passing through, and you see from your window that a tree on the street is bent so much that it may fall down soon. You tell your mother:

You: Mom, mom. **That tree is about to topple.**

Situation for 2-24

You were reading Instagram post while walking on the street, but then a curb suddenly appeared, and you almost fell. That evening, you tell your brother.

You: I should stop looking at my phone while walking. **I was almost about to trip.**

(note: 'to trip' means 'to fall')

Situation for 2-25

You meet your neighbor at the local supermarket. She asks what you are here for:

You: **We will have guests tomorrow, so I will buy some bread.**

Situation for 2-26

You went to Mpumalanga and found a nice bag, which you bought. A couple of days later, your friend asks where you got the bag from. You respond:

You: **I (had) bought this bag when I went to Mpumalanga.**

Situation for 2-27

Your friend knows that you go to many business trips. Just recently, you went to Durban, Mpumalanga and Pretoria. Between Durban and Mpumalanga, you bought a new bag, which your friend did not know about. When you meet your friend after your Pretoria trip, the friend asks:

Friend: You are always on the go. When did you buy a bag?

You: **I (had) bought this bag before going to Mpumalanga.**

Situation for 2-28

Tom bought a bag at a famous market in town. When you met Tom, you noticed the bag, but you did not ask where Tom bought the bag. A couple of days later, you were browsing items at that market with Susan, and you noticed the same kind of bag there. So, you tell Susan:

You: **I knew he (had) bought this bag in this market.**

Abbreviations

1, 2, 3, ...:	Noun class numbers	LOC:	Locative
1SG, 2PL, ...:	Person and Number	NEG:	Negative marker
ASSC:	Associative marker	PASS:	Passive marker
CAUS:	Causative marker	PRF:	Perfect
FUT:	Future	PROG:	Progressive
FV:	Final Vowel (default inflectional suffix of the finite verb)	PST:	Past
HAB:	Habitual	SM:	Subject marker

References

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