

The use and functions of the Northern Mansi diminutive *-kwe*

In my paper I discuss the use and the various meanings of the Northern Mansi diminutive suffix *-kwe* and propose a structure for its semantics applying Jurafsky's Radial Category Theory (1996). I restrict my investigation to the Northern Mansi dialect, which is the only remaining dialect of Mansi. The data used for this research are taken from written sources dated between the 1890's and 2019.

The diminutive suffix *-kwe* can express various semantic and pragmatic meanings: 'small', 'child/young/offspring', affection, endearment, respect and sympathy. The original meaning of the diminutive was 'small' and from this meaning developed the further meanings via inference.

Keywords: diminutives, Northern Mansi, Radial Category Theory.

BERNADETT BÍRÓ