The comitative/conjunctive preposition *na* in Chathu (Pare), a Bantu language of Tanzania

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Abstract
The article discusses the problem of analysis of the element *na* in Chathu (Pare), a Bantu language of Tanzania. This element functions both as a preposition with a range of meanings and as a conjunction. A similar element with the same problem of analysis exists in most Bantu languages, and, in fact, the phenomenon of a word meaning both 'and' and 'with' is extremely common in other African languages as well. The article presents an overview of the semantics of *na* and proposes the most likely tines of semantic development that link the various meaning senses. After a discussion of the agreement phenomena when *na* is used in the conjunctive meaning, the conclusion is reached that *na* is a preposition in alt of its uses. A certain degree of grammaticalization has occurred in the possessive use of *na*.