

## LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE

### Rules For Verb Analysis For Bantu Languages

1. First look for the **basic units** of meaning in the example:
  - a. Basic meaning of the stem in the direct (basic) form
  - b. Meaning of the aspect (suffix) added
  - c. Meaning of additional aspects
  - d. Usage and special application of any particular form
  
2. **Understanding** the particular form
  - a. **Analysis:** Start from the end, the last aspect, and work down to the stem. Analyze the meaning from the stem out.
  - b. **Construction:** Start from the stem and add the forms for the meaning required.
  
3. Uses of the **infinitive** form
  - a. On monosyllabic verbs, forms may vary according to whether there is an object prefix.
  
  - b. Watch for special uses of the infinitive form. The infinitive marker may be dropped in certain situations (after certain verbs, with certain tenses). Remember that the infinitive is also a true noun in Bantu languages.
  
4. **Special Notes**
  - a. **Passive** of any aspect reverses the subject and object of that aspect, the subject (actor) going at the end with "yi," or "ng-," "na" or "ni" in different languages. The direct (active) and passive aspects are two ways of mapping the same event--once from the point of view of the actor and once from the point of view of the receiver (acted upon).
  
  - b. **Passive** can never have an object prefix (infix).
  
  - c. Forms which a particular verb might take depend upon **usage** within the language community, the basic meaning of the stem, and what aspect the original meaning had.
  
  - d. **Applied** form with a **true applied** meaning always has an object (the one for whom or to whom the action is applied).
  
  - e. **Applied and Causative** may be used in **idiomatic** special meanings, but particularly to intensify the basic meaning (**Intensive Aspect**).