Speech report construction in Seediq

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Abstract

Speech report construction is used to quote direct speech. This paper will show what speech report construction in Seediq is like and how its use is extended. Seediq uses *m-esa* "AV-say, call", or its inflected forms, *m-en-sa* "AV-PRF-say", *s-un* "say-GV1", etc. (ex. (1)). It is often accompanied by verbs of saying or reporting (ex. (2)). *M-esa* is used to express the content of hope, thought and fear also (ex. (3)). Whether or not it presupposes actual utterance in such cases is unclear yet. *m-esa* is used to express manner also (ex. (4)). To ask how to do something, Seediq use *huya m-esa* (ex. (5)). *Huya* is a verb stem meaning "to do what". Aikhenvald (2009: 387-390) argues polysemous patterns in speech report constructions, but she does not mention manner.

Examples:
(1)   "Meha=ku   m-angal   patas=mu"   m-esa.
        will_go=1s.NOM   AV-take   book=1s.GEN   AV-say
        "I wll go to bring my book.
(2)   "H-em-uya?"   s-un   s<em>iling   Lbak   ka   Yudaw.
        AV-do.what   say-GV1   <AV>ask   Lebak   NOM   Yudaw
        "What are you going to do?" asked Lebak to Yudaw.
(3)   "Ma=na   se-kesa'aN   ka   me-'uyas 'uyas   niyi   hu-wa?"
        why=3s.GEN   CV-be.angry   CNJ   AV-sing   song   this   Q-EXCLAM
        m-esa   l<em>engelung   ka   Sikat.
        AV-say <AV>think   NOM   Sikat
        "Why does he get angry when singing this song?" thought Sikat.
(4)   wada=deha   s-un   haya   me-deka quyu me-seru   ka   Yudaw.
        PST=3p.GEN   say-GV1   HAYA   AV-same snake AV-hit   NOM   Yudaw
        They hit Yudaw like that, same as hitting snake.
(5)   huya=su   s-un   pehuqil   ka   rudux?
        do.what=2s.GEN   say-GV1 AV.kill   NOM   chicken
        How do you slaughter chicken?

Reference

Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. 2009. Semantics and Grammar in Clause Linking. In R.M.W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (eds.) *The Semantics of Clause Linking*. Oxford UP. 380-402.