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 will 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-đeka 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