

The event semantics of Serial Verb Constructions in Igbo (Benue Congo)

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We show that Igbo serial verb constructions (SVCs) with and without Direct Object (DO)-sharing exhibit different semantic properties. We apply event semantic diagnostics for elucidating the underlying syntax and semantics of the two SVC-types. In the formal analysis, we argue that DO-sharing SVCs involve a variant of the compositional mechanism of event extension, well known from adverbial quantification (von Stechow 1995). The analysis provides the basis for the systematic comparison of SVCs across languages.