

- (6) *ma-purl-nu* *ngani*
1sgS.HANDS.Fut-wash-Fut 1sgS.BE.Fut
'I will be habitually washing' (Street 1987: 55)

However, it is not clear how robust this generalisation is, and it is easy to find examples of 'be' and 'go' verbs being used in non-habitual contexts (as in (4) and (5) above for 'go').

In this paper I present a more detailed description of this system based on textual data and recent fieldwork. I discuss the semantic and discourse conditions that determine the occurrences of different serialised aspect markers and their implications for our understanding of aspectual systems cross-linguistically. Further, I show how the use of serial verbs to mark aspect interacts with other forms of aspectual marking in Murrinh-Patha, including the use of verb stem reduplication (cf. (7) and (8)), to form an integrated aspectual system for the language.

- (7) *pirrim-kay*
3plS.STAND.nFut-call.out
'They called out.'
- (8) *pirri-kaykay-dha*
3plS.STAND.Pst-call.out(RDP)-Pst
'They were calling out.'

References

- Aikhenvald, AY and RMW Dixon (eds). *Serial Verb Constructions*. Oxford: OUP.
- Reid, Nicholas. 2002. Sit right down the back: serialized posture verbs in Ngan'gityemerri and other Northern Australian languages. In Newman, J (ed.) *The Linguistics of Sitting, Standing and Lying*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Street, Chester. 1987. *An Introduction to the language and culture of the Murrinh-Patha*. Darwin: SIL.