CHAPTER XII

THE VERB (continued)

Compound Tenses

§487.—In Zulu, compound tenses, that is tenses consisting of more than one word, are formed by the employment of a large number of deficient verbs. The majority of these deficient verbs are followed by the subjunctive or the participial mood, though some take the infinitive, and with these it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between true verbs and deficient verbs. Most of the deficient verbs are irregular in form, in fact the only ones to end in the regular -a are to be found among those followed by the infinitive mood.\textsuperscript{1} The incidence of the deficient verbs -be and -se was noticed in the previous chapter.

Deficient Verbs followed by the Subjunctive Mood

§488.—-buye 'Consecutive' deficient verb, indicating 'to do next'.

Nga:ngula ngabuyi ngasinda (I was sick and then I recovered)
Bayagula babuye basinde (They get sick and then recover)
Uyogula ubuye usinde (You will get sick and then recover)
Wa:buye wathi uShaka,... (Then Shaka said...)
Umkhomo uyacwila ubuyi'uwumuluwe (i.e., ubuye uwumuluwe; The whale dives and then comes to the surface)
Ubuyi'wbangane nabo (i.e., ubuye uhangane; Meet them after that)

\textsuperscript{1}Except in Southern Zulu dialects.

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Sa:goduka sabuye sabuthwa (We went home and then were mobilised).

This deficient verb is also occasionally used to indicate 'again':

Musa ukubuye wenze njalo (Don't do thus again!).

§489.—-cishe\textsuperscript{1} Indicates 'to be on the point of doing, but never quite doing', and may be translated by 'nearly'. It is used also with the infinitive (§523), and sometimes appears as -cishe:

Nga: cishe ngawa (I nearly fell)
Ngicishe ngiwe (I almost fall)
Ngicishe: ngawa (I was on the point of falling)
Ngiyokucise ngisike (I shall be on the point of arriving)
Angisalhandi ukwakha izinhludla ngsoba ngicishe ngiwe uma ngihezulu (I no longer like to build houses, because I run the risk of falling if I am up above)
Wa: cishe wafa, wabuye wabangcono (He was on the point of death when he recovered)
Ba: cishe bangibula (They nearly killed me).

§490.—-dlule Indicates 'to do nevertheless'.

Uyise wa:mtshela, adluleenze-nje (His father told him, and yet he goes on doing it)
Inja yahlulela ukuba mbele utshani, juthi idlule ingabele abakwaziyo ukuba mbele (The dog cannot eat the grass, yet nevertheless it prevents those who can from eating it).

§491.—-fike Used indicating 'to do before' or 'to do first'; 'to happen to do'.

Ngisike ngihihale ngibuye ngisike (I first sit down and then I go away)
Ng: fike ngahla...(First I sit down, and then...)
Mina ngisika ukufike ngihihale (I only want just to sit down)

\textsuperscript{1}Dialectal variants are -cisco and -cisku.
Abelungu ukwakha kwabo izindlu, bafike babanggo izini phezulu (White men when they build houses, they first join the beams above.)
Also indicates 'to do eventually'.
Lafike labuya i:hobe (The dove eventually returned).

§492.— -he Indicates 'just to do', 'to act merely'. In this construction the subjunctive verb following usually affixes -nje.
Wanela wasika-nje, wahle waphenduka (He only just arrived and was at once for returning)
Ukhe abeke-nje adule (He just looks and goes on)
Angahle akuphaze-nje, wethuwe ngabuke usuwa (He might just daze you that you unexpectedly fall down).

§493.— -ke 'Occasional' deficient verb, indicating 'to do sometimes', 'to have done once upon a time', etc. Notice the following range of compound tenses:
Present: ngike ngithande (I sometimes love)
Imm. Past: ngike ngathanda (I once loved)
Rem. Past: ngake ngathanda (I once loved)
Imm. Fut.: ngeziko ngithande (I shall love sometime soon)
Rem. Fut.: ngiyoke ngithande (I shall sometimes love).
Uke ahambe (He sometimes travels)
Bake balwe (They sometimes fight)
Wake wasebenza engodini? (Did you ever work on a mine?)
Inja yake yakuluma na?: (Did the dog ever bite you?)
Uke wathela? (Have you ever paid tax?)
Bake bambona iomun'lu? (Have they ever seen this person?)
Amanzi kuholomu ake aphela? (Has the water in this river ever come to an end?)

In the negative of the potential mood this verb is used to convey the idea of 'never':

Musa ukuphindu

Ingeke ubathole (You will never get them)
Angike asibone (He will never see us).

§494.— -nane Used to intensify commands or desires, indicating 'do it and no talk about it!' When used in the 2nd person singular as imperative, the deficient verb stands without any subjectival concord.
Mane uhamba (Just you go!)
Manimane nize lapha (Come here now!)
Abaman e balu (They are just to plough!).

§495.— -nc’i: Used with future intent, indicating 'to do by-and-by', 'to do presently or afterwards'.
Uzonce aye la phay’á: (He will go yonder by-and-by)
Unci: wye la phay’á: (Go over there presently!)
Nci: wenze lokhu (Do this afterwards!).

§496.— -nle Indicates 'as soon as'. The subjunctive verb which follows usually affixes -nje.
Nginele ngifike-nje bjalabale (As soon as I come, they become happy)
Sanele saphuza-nje sadakwa (As soon as we had taken a drink we became drunk).

This deficient verb is also found followed by the infinitive
(Cf. §527.)

§497.— -phinde 'Repetitive' deficient verb, indicating 'to do again', 'to repeat'. This verb occurs almost as a regular verb, with such stems as -phinda, -phindi and -phindana.

Musa ukuphindu

Musa ukuphindu

Uphinde aye khona lapho (He goes over there again)
Uphindé: waya khona lapho (He went over there again)
Uzophinde aye khona (He will go there again)
Angiphindi ngithambé (I am not going again)
Asiphindana sahamba (We did not go again)
Uphinde akaya khona futhi (He didn’t go there for the second time)

Or ukuphindu.
2Or more commonly asiphindana.
§502. — *suke* Has two significances when followed by the subjunctive. (Contrast *suke* in §520.)

(i) ‘to do simply, merely’.
- *Ngisuke ngakhuluma* (I simply spoke)
- *Ngizosuke ngimbuke* (I shall simply look at him)
- *Ngasuke ngalala* (I just slept).

(ii) ‘to do straightforward, immediately’, ‘to start doing’.
- *Isindawuwe sasuke zaphetha izimpondo emakhanda* (The captains immediately fastened the horns to their heads)
- *Ngasuke ngakkuluma noye, yena wasuke wangihleka* (I began with talking to him, but he immediately laughed at me)
- *Ngizosuke ngiphuye amanzi ngaphambi kokuba ngidle* (I shall start with drinking water before I eat).

The form *suka* is commonly used:
- *Wathi esuka wamgeza* (i) He simply pierced him;
- (ii) The first thing he did was to pierce him.

§503. — *shaye* Used of past time only, and indicating ‘to do a thing completely, with full energy’.
- *Ushaye washantshula* (He went off at full speed)
- *Ushaye waxedula wahamba* (He walked away with might and main)
- *Izimbuzi ziyoishaye ziyibebetha imithombo lapha* (The goats have nibbled clean away the malt here).

§504. — *se* Used in the negative to express ‘never’, a type of negative habitual.
- *Angize ngingahamba* (I never walk).

In the past and future negatives, however, it merely indicates a strong negative.
- *Angizukuze ngize ngiubone* (I am not going to see them at all)
- *Angizose ngayidla* (I am not going to eat it)
- *Abase bakhala* (They didn’t cry however)
- *Ingaze yasho* (It mustn’t say anything).
§505. — *ze* Used in the positive to express ‘until’, ‘at length’; and in the negative to express ‘before’, ‘not until’.

*Ungahamba uze nphi khezulu* (You can travel until you reach the top)
*nzi ze khezulu* (until I go)
*nzi ze khezulu* (until I go)
*Waze uqede nini na?:* (When at length will you finish?)
*Wa:hlalale khona waze wafa uDingane* (He stayed there until Dingane died)
*Thela amanzi esigujini size sigcwele* (Pour water into the calabash until it fills)
*Nqilinde aze akubize umfazi* (Wait for me until the woman calls you)
*Nqinikele lemali ngingaze ngikhamba* (Give me this money before I go).

**Deficient Verbs followed by either Subjunctive or Participial Mood**

§506. — *lane* Used in the negative to express the idea of ‘never’, in past time.

*Angibange ngimuswe* (I never heard him)
*Asibange sizari sihambe* (We never went)
*Ababange bedla* (They didn’t eat).

§507. — *bonange* Used as *lane* above to express the idea of ‘never’, in past time.

*Ababonange befunda* (They never learnt)
*Angibonange nqiyikone inkunzi ihlaba kango* (I have never seen a bull so very vicious)
*Bengibonange nqiyihole incwezi enje* (I never before found such a book as this)
*Ee:benakabonange bafike kiti selokhu basela* (They have not yet ever been to our place since they crossed the river).

§508. — *bonaze* Used as *bonange* above to express the idea of ‘never’ in past time.

*Angibonaze ngibone* (I never saw)

§509. — *range* Used as *bonange* above to express the idea of ‘never’ in past time.

*Asivange simhleke* (We never laughed at him)
*Abavange bemhleka* (They didn’t laugh at him).

§510. — *zange* Used as *vange* above to express the idea of ‘never’ in past time.

*Angizange ngibone*
*Angizange ngabona*
*Angizange ngibona* (I never saw).

**Deficient Verbs followed by Present Tenses of the Participle Mood**

§511. — *damene* Indicates ‘to act always’.

*Udamene efihleka* (He always runs away)
*Ee:bedamene efihleka* (They were always laughing).

§512. — *dane* As *damene* above.

*Badane belewa* (They always fight).

§513. — *de:* As *damene* above.

*Ude: enza lokhu* (He always does this)
*Ngide: ngiya khona* (I always go there)
*Ngilokhu ngide: ngiya* (I continually go).

§514. — *hambe* Indicates ‘to do all the time’, ‘all the way along’.

*Bahambe bemhaya* (They hit him all the way along)
*Uhambe enza nabo bento abantu* (He goes about fighting with everybody).

Also in the passive: *-hanjwe*.

*Kuhanjwe kuluwa* (There is a going-about fighting).

Notice also this use:

*Ukuda kuphele izinkomo-njwe, niyohamba nishambe nize nizidle izinkumbi* (As soon as the cattle are finished, in the long run you will eat locusts).
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§515. — -hlezé: Indicates 'to do continually, constantly'; as -damene.

leonyoni engihlezé: ngiyiphona (that bird which I always see)
Uthi unqiyabuka namhlane, ingani ngihlezé: ngifika lapha? (Do you think you see me for the first time to-day, when it is always that I come here?)

§516. — -libele Indicates 'to do continually what ought not to be done'.

Ulibe'usola (You keep on complaining)
Balibele beshaya lomfana (They keep on hitting this boy)
Ingane ilibele ikhala ebosuku (The baby keeps on crying at night).

§517. — -ló: Indicates 'to keep on doing'. This is the contracted form of -lokhu (§518).

Ngiló: ngithanda (I keep on loving).

§518. — -lokhu The 'Persistent' deficient verb, indicating 'to keep on doing'. In the negative the meaning is 'not to make a habit of doing' or 'not to do at all'. Notice the following range of compound tenses:

(a) Present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>ngilokhu ngithanda (I keep on loving)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imm. Past</td>
<td>bengilokhu ngithanda (I kept on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rem. Past</td>
<td>nga: ngilokhu ngithanda (I shall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imm. Fut.</td>
<td>ngizokube ngilokhu ngithanda (I shall keep on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rem. Fut.</td>
<td>ngo: be ngilokhu ngithanda (I shall loving)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Negative:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>ngilokhu ngingathandi (I do not love at all)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imm. Past</td>
<td>bengilokhu ngingathandi (I did not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rem. Past</td>
<td>nga: ngilokhu ngingathandi (I do not love at all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imm. Fut.</td>
<td>angizokube ngilokhu ngithanda (I shall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rem. Fut.</td>
<td>angiyu: be ngilokhu ngithanda (I do not love at all)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE VERB

A future participial tense also sometimes occurs, e.g.:

Balokhu besokubona (They will constantly be coming to see you).

This deficient verb is also found occasionally followed by a past subjunctive complement:

Umnumzane akafande, elokhu abavumula (The headman does not behave decently, he is always raging with temper)
Ngizolokhu ngahamba (I shall constantly be away).

§519. — -sale Indicates 'to do of necessity', 'needs be' (used with exclusive). (Cf. §499.)

Easalé: sebebuya (They had of necessity to return)
Salani senihamba (You must needs be going now)
Angisale sengihlala phesu kwendu (There is nothing for it but I must needs sit on top of the house)
Asisale sesikhokha (We had better pay)
Sal'usubuya wena (i.e., Sale usubuya wena, You can't do other than return now).

§520. — -suke Indicates 'to happen that', 'it is because'.
(Contrast -suke in §502.)

Uma njika ngisuke ngingekho (Whenever you come, it happens that I am not there)
Zonke izikhathi uma ngona, ngisuke ngingazi ukuthi ngiyona (Whenever I do wrong, it is because I don’t know that I am doing wrong)
Uma ekhamba usuke ethanda (Whenever he goes it is because he wants to).

§521. — -zingé: Indicates 'to do habitually'.

Ezingé: sebuya (They always ask questions)
Isinkomo zizingé: ziya emadleleweni (The cattle always go to the pastures)
Inkawu zizingé: ilingisa (The monkey habitually mimics).
Deficient Verbs followed by the Infinitive

§522. — anela Indicates 'to do nothing but', 'do no more than'.

Wanela ukukhuluma kanjalo, ngoba inkosi isike ingekho (He only talks like that, because the chief isn't present)
Wanela ukusebenza-nje ungaholi (You are just satisfied to work without payment)
Uyokwanela ukulima-nje ungce ukubhele ukudla (You will just plough for nothing, without getting any food).

§523. — cishé: Used of past time to indicate 'being nearly but never quite' (cf. §489).

Baa:cishé: ukuwza (They almost heard).

§524. — funa Indicates 'to be about to', 'to be on the point of'.

Ufuna ukufa (He is on the point of death)
Waa:yesefun'ukufa (He was then on the point of death)

Bafuna ukulimala (They are looking for trouble).

§525. — kholisa Indicates 'to be wont to', 'to do generally, usually, commonly': used as -wana.

Lesoziyana zikholisé: ukudla amaqaanda (Those dogs make a practice of eating eggs).

§526. — musa* Negative imperative deficient verb.

Plural: musani.

Musa! (Don't!)
Musa ukwenza lokho ngoba uzolimala (Don't do that because you will get hurt)
Musani ukuhleka ngoba kazi:qiniso (Don't laugh because it is the truth).

§527. — ncele Indicates 'as soon as' (cf. §496).

Kwancle ukushona i:langa sa:qamba (As soon as the sun set, we went).

1Cf. — anela, be sufficient.

*This is an interjective, see § 896.
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(a) *dinga*, to need.
   *Sidinga ukulala*
   *Kudinge ka ukuba silale* (We need to sleep).

(b) *fanaela*, to be incumbent, to be fitting.
   *Ngifanele ukuhamba*
   *Ngifanele ukuba ngishambe* (I ought to travel)
   *Kufanele ukuba shambe* (It is necessary for us to go)
   *Aku fanele ukuba ahlake* (He ought not to laugh).

(c) *funa*, to want, desire.
   *Izingbomdo zifuna ukudla* (The cattle want to eat)
   *Ngifuna ukuba izinkwomdo zidle* (I want the cattle to eat).

(d) *linga*, to try.
   *Nginlinga ukubuyeka* (I am trying to leave it off).

(e) *melwa*, to be obligatory, necessary.
   *Ngimelwe ukuhamba* (I must go)
   *Sama: melwa ukukhuluma* (We had to speak)
   *Kumelwe ukuba siye* (We must go).

(f) *qonda*, to mean to.
   *Bebeqondo: ukungibulala* (They meant to kill me).

(g) *swela*, to need.
   *Ngiswela: ukuba ngisanganwe ukuze ngishonile* (I needed to be married in order to gain respect)
   *Kuswelenkile ukuba ngisibone* (It is necessary that
   *Ngiswela ukubona* I should see).

(h) *thanda*, to like.
   *Ngithanda ukumhona* (I like to see him)
   *Uthanda ukuboshwa* (He is looking for arrest)¹.

§534.—The defective monosyllabic verb *-thi* is used as a
deficient verb to form a species of conjunctive. Various
moods may follow this verb. Though in form it is a deficient
verb, its function is so definitely conjunctive, that it has been
deemed wise to treat it thereunder. (Cf. §680.)

1Similar to the idiom of *funa*, cf. § 524.

CHAPTER XIII

THE COPULATIVE

§535.—*Definition*: A Copulative is a word which does
the work of a predicative, and which is formed directly
from some other part of speech by modification of the
prefix or concord.

§536.—‘Copulative’ is the term applied to all predicatives
formed by inflexion from other parts of speech. Complete
predicates, complete sentences, are formed from substantives,
qualificatives, etc., according to very definite rules of
inflexion, which are explained in this chapter. When
adjectives, for instance, are used ‘predicatively’, they become
copulatives in Zulu. The copulatives in Zulu take the place
of the employment of the verb ‘to be’ in English. This idea
is extended further by the use of the subjectival concords
with all the tense variations before copulatives. The fullest series
of variations will be given with the adverbial stem *-khona*
(§§555-561).

§537.—The copulative is also used in Zulu after a passive
verb to express the agent of the action; here it may be
treated as an agentic adverb.

Examples:

   *Ushaylwel: yitshe* (He was struck by a stone, lit. he
   was struck, it is a stone)
   *Kushiwelo nguNgoza* (it is said by Ngoza).

   It is further used, in certain constructions, to form adverbs
   of comparison, (cf. §624.)

The Formation of Copulatives from Nouns

§538.—*Rule 1*: Nouns with prefixes commencing in the
vowel *i-*, lower the tone on that vowel, and may preplace *y-*.  

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