

# Multi-verb constructions in Malto

**Chaithra Puttaswamy**

**Endangered Languages Academic Programme, SOAS**

Malto is a North Dravidian language spoken in Eastern India. It is an agglutinating language with SOV word order. The finite verb word in Malto maximally carries information about valence adjusting operations, tense-aspect-mood, negation and gender-number-person agreement with the subject. The non-finite verbs take suffixes marking adverbialisation, complementation, relativisation, participialisation and relative tense. Syntactically, there is only one finite verb in a sentence and all the other verbs preceding it are non-finite. This seminar will be devoted to a discussion on multi-verb constructions in Malto. Malto has a range of multi-verb constructions that includes explicator compound verbs, conjunct participle constructions, reduplicated adverbials, clause chaining and quotative constructions. I use Van Valin and Lapolla's (1997) framework of juncture and nexus relations to discuss the relation between verbs in a Malto sentence.

VanValin, Robert D. & Randy J. Lapolla. 1997. *Syntax : Structure, Meaning and Function*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.