

The use of over-compound tenses in Modern Sardinian

This paper aims to describe the uses of over-compound tenses in some dialects of Sardinia, discussing data elicited from native speakers. We know that over-compound tenses are used especially in counterfactual clauses referring to a past time (PITTAU 1972:112). My data show that these structures can be also used in the generic expression of unreality in desiderative clauses. Previous descriptions were based on data from Nuorese area dialects, but my new data show that over-compound tenses are also present in some dialects of the north of Logudoro.

The structure of over-compound tenses of northern and central Sardinian can be described as in (1), (1^a) and (1^b):

(1) [finite auxiliary] + [participial auxiliary] + [past participle]

(1 ^a)	<i>aia</i> have.IND.PST.IPFV.1SG 'I had done'	<i>àppiu</i> have.PTCP.PFV.M.SG	<i>fàttu</i> do.PTCP.PFV.M.SG
(1 ^b)	<i>fippo</i> be.IND.PST.IPFV.1SG 'I had gone'	<i>istàu</i> be.PTCP.PFV.M.SG	<i>andàu</i> go.PTCP.PFV.M.SG

The use of an over-compound past is attested also in the south of Sardinia (Campidanese area): my first data seem to show that, in these dialects, this tense is possible only in the expression of an indefinite past time. In this case the past participle of *èssi(ri)* 'to be' is overextended in the formation of over-compound past as is shown in (2^a), (2^b):

(2 ^a)	<i>dd'</i> it 'I have done it'	<i>àppu</i> have.IND.PRS.1SG	<i>stéttiu</i> be.PTCP.PFV.M.SG	<i>fàttu</i> do.PTCP.PFV.M
(2 ^b)	<i>nci</i> there 'I have gone there'	<i>sèu</i> be.IND.PRS.1SG	<i>stéttiu</i> be.PTCP.PFV.M.SG	<i>andàu</i> go.PTCP.PFV.M.SG

The success of these morphological structures could be strictly connected to the tendency of Sardinian for analytical strategies.

References

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