

# Attitude particles, attitude modifiers and ideophones of the Fur language

Ahmed Suliman Ibrahim

Fur language development committee

The Fur are an ethnic group from Western Sudan, principally inhabiting the region of Darfur, where they are the largest community. The Fur language is a Nilo-Saharan language spoken in the Darfur region and in some other parts of Sudan.

Some attitude markers, attention markers and ideophones go with verb phrases to give us some extra feelings of meanings, for example emotions, descriptions for happiness and exclamations in certain situations, while other attitude markers, attention markers and ideophones go with noun phrases for more description and emphasis.

A good communication depends on the attitudes of speaker and listener. The Fur language has words that express the attitude of the speaker towards the situation. For example, it can be the feeling the speaker or the audience has about the situation, or the word can call for attention or mark the point of concentration, or it marks expectation or contra-expectation of the audience or the speaker, and sometimes it marks evidence. The words include grammatical words, ideophones and other particles. In the following these words are called attitude particles. Attitude particles are needed to make your speech become alive, because sometimes “ordinary” language is not enough in certain situations. The following are some examples of attitude particles in the Fur language.

## 1. Expression of concern

Híi ay jwa?

ATT how 2sg.said

What did you say (Now I am ready to hear)?

## 2. Expectation of speaker, asking for confirmation of audience

Käl rǎy janni?

ATT LOC.farm 2sg.going

(Needs confirmation) You are going to the farm, aren't you?

## 3. Getting attention

Namáis ka-sí in kwă yée.

so.PRON me-OBJ this 3sg.told ATT

So he told me (Listen to what I am going to say!).

## 4. Mitigation

Dagá, nuŋ gí janí.

ATT food me 2sg.give

Give me food! (Please, you have and I am starving!)

## 5. “Something is wrong here”

Ág juri ná dééŋ á-iiba!

ATT cloth CONN his not.3sg.is.not

What?! Is the cloth not his?! (what is wrong?)

## 6. Warning to avoid something or escape

Arrie bará gín írí kúró!

ATT may you.FUT over 3sg.pass.

Run away/flee else, it will pass over you!

This is the first research about these particles that has been conducted in the Fur language by a native speaker. It is a preliminary study to explore more understanding of the attitude particles for future studies and to find the space for them in the general grammatical study. Such particles have a very important role in both, direct and indirect communication, for example in the explanation of

the whole situation. This paper will discuss the attitude particles of the Fur language with more illustrations, together with some grammatical concepts that have a close relationship with them.