

# Majang Qualifiers – Stative Verbs or Adjectives? [Oral]

*Andreas Joswig, SIL International – Abstract*

In my description of qualifiers in Majang (Joswig 2019, pp. 274ff), I followed the tradition of linguists working on Eastern Sudanic languages to call these qualifiers *stative verbs*, given that qualifiers have strong verbal characteristics in these languages. But such a description somewhat masks the important question whether Majang is or is not a counterexample to Dixon's (2010, p.112) strong typological claim that all languages have a clearly identifiable category of *adjectives*. In fact, my data makes it very clear that the Majang language serves as a confirmation to this claim – the so-called stative verbs have morphological characteristics that set them apart from other verbal inflection classes of the language, and therefore it is justified to name them adjectives.

This presentation will provide the evidence in which way the Majang adjectives differ from the verbs of the language, in spite of their many similarities. Researchers of other Eastern Sudanic languages, even if they are not willing to change their terminology, are invited to consider the evidence in their data to allow a clear decision regarding whether the language in question can be said to contain a category of adjectives in Dixon's sense or not. As can be seen from Majang, such a decision usually requires more than a superficial investigation of the data.

Sources:

Dixon, R. M. W. (2010). *Basic Linguistic Theory, Vol. 1: Methodology*. Oxford: OUP.

Joswig, Andreas. (2019). *The Majang Language*. Amsterdam: LOT.