Modifiers in the Fur Language of the Sudan (Nilo-Saharan)
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Abstract
The Fur languages is a Nilo-Saharan language spoken in Darfur region in the Sudan. There are some Fur
speakers across the border in Chad.

The objective of this paper is to introduce the general idea about modifiers and discuss the main classes of
the modifiers and comparisons of the modifiers in the Fur language. The paper includes nominalization of
modifiers.

The modifiers play a significant role in the Fur language. An interesting thing about the Fur modifiers is,
they sometimes act like adjectives and adverbs in English. The same modifier that is used as an adjective
describing a noun could be used as an adverb to modify a verb, sometimes with a slight tone change on the
vowels. The modifiers could be categorized according to their various degrees. Here are a few examples to
support the claim.

In dō tullê -ii.
dem man good 3sg.is
(1) "This is a good man."

Kuu dǎy k rrô ɨrrô ammíe.
cow.pl grass green 3pl.ate
(2) "The cattle ate green grass."

In the above sentences, the two modifiers are clearly describing the nouns “dō” and “dǎy” the grass. The
position of the modifiers is obvious that the noun precedes them and the tone placed on the last vowel on the
modifier is the same falling tone.

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<td>simmô</td>
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<td>simmôn</td>
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<td>sweet</td>
<td>sweeter</td>
<td>sweetest</td>
<td>very sweet</td>
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<td>raarê</td>
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<td>raarên</td>
<td>raarêndîŋ</td>
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<tr>
<td>light</td>
<td>lighter</td>
<td>very light</td>
<td>too light</td>
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A modifier has more than three levels of comparison as they are in English. If it is modifying a noun, it
comes after the noun that it describes. And if a modifier describes a verb, it comes before the verb. Here are
a few examples.

Reference
Verlag.

special reference to Africa (p. 308)