1 Introduction

- Nata is a Bantu language spoken in Tanzania, near Lake Victoria
- Highly endangered and undocumented (until now); less than 6,000 speakers
- Verb template: PreSM-SM-TA-OM-Root-Extensions-fv
- TA slot: only one marker
- Main idea: aspect (both lexical and grammatical) drives temporality in Nata, especially when talking about the future.
- Special attention will be paid to the constructions with PROG -ko-.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>a</td>
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<td>bhin 'dance'</td>
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<td>(n)</td>
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<td>bugh 'say'</td>
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<td>'S/he says …'</td>
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<td>(n)</td>
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<td>a</td>
<td>aakábhina 'S/he is about to dance'</td>
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<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>ráa NAR</td>
<td>hik 'arrive'</td>
<td>e SUBJ</td>
<td>turáahike 'If/when we arrive…'</td>
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Table 1: Overview of the TA System in Nata (only simple forms, and simplified structure).

2 On Futurity and aspect

2.1 Lexical aspect

Bantu languages pose many problems if we assume a Vendlerian classification. I will assume a “Bantuist” classification, dividing event types in two groups:

1. Non-inchoatives/Duratives: Vendler's accomplishments, activities
2. Inchoatives/Punctives: achievements and change-of-state verbs

Importantly, change-of-state verbs encompass canonical statives such as ‘to be mad’, ‘love’, ‘hate’ …

2.2 Grammatical aspect

2.2.1. Evidence from the incipient

Differences in temporal reading can be observe in felicitous use when used as a warning:

<table>
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<td>SM1.INC.fall.fv</td>
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Speaker comments: This is not a warning. She hasn’t reached down yet, but is in the air.
Incompletion as future marker in Nata, a Bantu language
Adriana Osa-Gómez del Campo
Department of Linguistics, University of British Columbia
a.osag@alumni.ubc.ca

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2.2.2. Evidence from the progressive
differences in temporal reading: ambiguity with non-inchoative verbs, only future reading with inchoatives.

(3) naakuyáara márathon
n.a.ku.yaar.a márathon N.SM1.PROG.run.fv marathon
‘He is running/will run the marathon’

(4) nokoiseégha
n.o.ko.i.seégh.a N.2sgSM.PROG.OM9.love.fv
‘You will love it’ (*You are loving it/*You love it)

Against Copley's futurates: Future reading is available for unplannable events, such as winning and dying:

(5) atimú yeeghusée cha eyeende tabh’oori
a.timú ye.ku.séech.a eyeende tabhoori ppf.team SM9.PROG.overpower.fv other tomorrow
‘The team will win tomorrow’

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2.2.3. (Non)Completion as future: completion and the **BECOME** operator
• Assuming a template for achievements such as that in Rothstein 2004: \( \lambda e \) (BECOME \( P \))(e)
• Assuming that **ko** marks the non-completion ...
  ○ with non-inchoative verbs: in activities and accomplishments, the \( \text{DO} \) operator is non-completed, it is the context (linguistic or non-linguistic) that defines the temporal reading
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**Notes from the perfect:** if **-ko**- can be said to mark non-completion, the perfect suffix **-ire** marks completion. And just as its counterpart, it shapes temporal readings -in this case, with past reference.
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Table 2: Summary of temporal readings as a result of the combination of lexical and grammatical aspect. ’B’ stands for Bantu (and the Bantu event type classification), ’V’ stands for Vendler (and the Vendlerian classification).

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