

## **Relative constructions in Syer (Western Karaboro)**

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The Senufo languages are the westernmost group of the Gur language family. While showing gur characteristics, they also share many features with the Mande languages to which they are adjacent. One of the areas where this can be demonstrated are relative constructions. The paper discusses relative constructions in Syer or Western Karaboro, a Senufo language spoken in Burkina Faso.

Like in Manding, the canonical relative construction in Syer is of the correlative type. In this type the relative clause precedes the main clause, and the fullest mention of the common argument occurs within the relative clause and is connected anaphorically to the noun phrase in the following main clause. However, the marking of the relativized noun phrase, which is subject to agreement with the noun class of the reference noun, and the possibility to displace it to clause-initial position distinguish the Syer relative constructions from Mande.

Next to relative clauses modifying a referential noun phrase, I will present two types of clauses modifying a nonreferential indefinite noun phrase. One of these is encoded as a conditional clause, the other one follows the main clause.