Abstract: Malagasy Control Structures
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My purpose is to describe control structures in Malagasy, contrasting their behaviour with that of verbs of saying. As in (1) below, a Malagasy subject control predicate constituent-selects the tense-marker on the embedded verb, allows complementizer 'ny' and never allows a sentential object to show up after the subject that (b) as in (2), a Malagasy object control predicate constituent-selects the tense-marker on the embedded verb and allows complementizer 'mba', whereas (c) a Malagasy verb of saying does NOT constituent-select the tense on the embedded predicate, requires complementizer 'fa' and as in (3), allows a sentential object to show up after the subject.

(1) Nikasa (ny) hividy boky i Jeanne.
   N-i-kasa (ny) h-i-vidy boky i Jeanne.
   past-prf-root.intend (comp) fut-prf-root.buy a book(s) D.sg Jeanne
   "Jeanne intended to buy a book/books."

(2) Niangavy an'i Jeanne (mba) handeha i Marie.
   N-i-angavy an' i Jeanne (mba) h-an-deha i Marie.
   past-prf-request acc D.sg Jeanne (comp) fut-go D.sg Marie
   "Marie asked Jeanne to go."

(3) Nilaza i Paoly fa handeha.
   N-i-laza i Paoly fa h-an-(l>)deha.
   "Paul said that he would go."

(4)a. mikasa ny mpianatra [fa izaho no hangalatra ny toaka] intend the student that I FOCUS steal the booze
   ‘The student intends that I steal the booze’

   b. mikasa ahy [hangalatra ny toaka] ny mpianatra intend me steal the booze the student
   ‘The student intends me to steal the booze’

These parameters were already in Randriamasimanana (1986). The selection of the embedded tense-marker by a control predicate is crucial as lack of it accounts for the ungrammaticality of sequences in Paul (1998:117, ex. 17a) or in Pearson (2001: 116, ex. 81a.); selection of the appropriate complementizer by a control predicate is important as selection of the wrong complementizer leads to ungrammatical sequences as in Paul (1998: 117, ex. 17b). The non-observance of the ‘same-subject’ control in (1) yields ungrammatical sentences such as (4)a and (4)b. from Polinsky and Potsdam 2004.
References


Polinsky, Maria and Potsdam, Eric. 2004. Malagasy Control and its Theoretical Implications. BLS 30