

The Akan verb

Akan verb root are mostly monosyllabic of the form CV.

The verb root is invariable.

Akan does not have morphological verb classes or verbal derivatives. So not passive.

Akan verbs do not agree with the subject.

Yet the Akan verb is the place where most morphology happens:

Akan verbal attributes and their values				
FEATURES	Tense	Modality/Mood	Aspect	Deixis
V A L U E S	past	Optative ----- Irrealis	continuous	Event is perceived as away from the speaker (ko 'go')
	future	directives (embedded imperatives)	habitual	Event is perceived as moving towards the speaker (be - 'come')
	perfect	dynamic modality		
		prohibitive		

Colour coding: Tonal exponent Prefix/suffix preverb lexeme

Verbal template

[(Clitic_{pn}) (V_{pre}) (PRE_{Perf, Fut, Asp Neg})-ROOT- (SUF_{Past, PerfNeg})]

Notes: the subject is shared in serial verb constructions so that also pronoun clitics are optional.

Negated verbs do not allow aspect markers and require that the perfect marker occurs verb final.

Serial verb constructions

Negative template

[(PN, Fut, Neg)V1] ... [(Neg)V2(Past, PerfNeg)]

Note: co-occurrence restrictions apply

Tensed verbs

[(PN)(Perfect)V1] [(Perfect)V2]

[(PN)V1(Past)] ... [V2(Past)]

[(PN)(Future|Progressive)V1] [(a-)V2]

Aboa a watumi aku nipa bebree yi hena na obetumi aku no.

"who can kill such a dangerous monster"

aboa	a	watumi	aku	nipa	bebree	yi	hena	na	o
animal		it	able	kill	person	plenty	who		
animal.OBJ	FOC	it.3SG	PFV able	PFV kill	person	plenty	who	FOC	3SG
N	PRT	V1	V2	N	ADJ	DEM	N	PRT	PN

betumi	aku	no
able	kill	it
FUT able	PFV kill	it.3SG
V	V	PN

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Copular Constructions

	LOCATION	EXISTING	POSSESSION	IDENTIFICATIONAL/ PREDICATIONAL
positive	wǒà/wǒ	wǒà/wǒ	wǒà/wǒ	yɛ
negation	nàǎ	nàǎ	nàǎ	nɣɛ
English	to be	to be	to have	to be