

What Is a Serial Verb Construction? A New View from Kove, Papua New Guinea

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Abstract: Kove (Austronesian, Papua New Guinea), has constructions that look like serial verb constructions (SVCs). While they satisfy most parameters that define SVCs and denote meanings typically expressed by SVCs, they are unlike SVCs in containing a marker, *gha*, between the verbs. This marker raises interesting issues. First, it is identical in form to the noun conjunction *gha*. Second, most other Kove complex sentences do not have an overt marker. Indeed, the marker distinguishes this construction from others in Kove. Third, the marker unifies the two verbs to denote a single event. The paper argues that these constructions are SVCs.

Key words: serial verb constructions, overt marker, Kove, Austronesian language, Papua New Guinea