

Comparing quality and quantity in Ewe: a look at the serial 'wu'

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Stassen's (1985) study of expressions of unequal comparison in exceed-comparative languages reports two distinct strategies – serializing and non-serializing – where verbal “adjectives” are expressed serially and nominal “adjectives” are not. Although Stassen does not say whether this observed correlation extends to comparisons of unequal quantities, one could expect to find such comparisons expressed non-serially or perhaps through an altogether different strategy. Instead, I present a study of the Ewe exceed comparative showing that predicative verbs and attributive modifiers are compared serially, abstract nominals compared non-serially, and comparisons of quantity more closely resemble the serial than the non-serial strategy expected with nominals.