

**The unmarked form of Cape Verdean Creole (CVC) verbs:
their tense, aspect and stativity.**

Bernardino Tavares, CELGA, University of Coimbra
(talk presented at GRGC, UMR SFL/University Paris 8, 3 March, 2014)

Abstract

This paper deals with the unmarked form of Cape Verdean Creole (CVC) verbs, focussing on the influence of context and time adverbials in determining the meaning, tense, aspect and stativity of the verbs. It presents an analysis of the meaning of CVC verbs when they are unmarked, showing that stativity is crucially relevant and that many verbs can be stative in one context and non-stative in others. Thus, CVC verbs fall into three groups according to whether their unmarked form indicates present, past or both. In addition, the criteria used for the grouping is based on whether they can enter into serial verb constructions (SVC) and whether they behave like action verbs (non-stative verbs) or stative verbs. Note that the concept of serial verb construction is used here for construction of two or more adjacent verbs, or even for constructions which allow prepositions to come in between the verbs but that can be left out.