

## Reported speech in Barayin

Barayin is a Chadic language (East Chadic B) spoken by about 6000 people in the Guera region of Chad. This study of reported speech in Barayin is based on the analysis of a 25,000-word corpus of transcribed audio-video documentation. The current state of the analysis covers an 11,500-word portion of that corpus including 119 examples of reported speech. When completed, the analysis will include over 300 examples. The analysis follows the approach of Spronck & Nikitina (2019).

Barayin has a dedicated morphosyntactic means of expressing M (matrix) shown in Table 1. These quotatives index the person and number features of the reported speaker. Etymologically, the quotatives are composed of a subject pronoun and a morpheme *ya* which in some cases have amalgamated into a single syllable. Note that no first person plural quotatives have been identified.

**Table 1: Quotatives in Barayin**

		SG	PL
1		iniya / iya	--
2	MASC	kiya	niya / naa
	FEM	keya	
3	MASC	kaa	níya / náa
	FEM	tiya / taa	

Quotatives are only used for reported speech—they do not have a general complementizer function. Quotatives precede the reported speech clause (R), as in 1 (reported speech in square brackets). Exceptionally, an adnominal demonstrative *gi* occurs between the quotative and the reported speech in a limited number of examples. A quotative is often (about half of the time) preceded by a noun phrase (as in 1) or an independent pronoun referencing the reported speaker. A subject pronoun cannot precede the quotative. This distribution distinguishes quotatives from verbal and non-verbal predicates.

- (1) *gisibi kaa [ ki ŋ kol-o ŋ musula-n anan ]*  
 lizard QUOT.3SG.M SBJ.2SG.M PREP go-INF PREP stranger-NMLZ where  
 The lizard says, "Where are you travelling to?" (bva071.96)

It is possible, but infrequent, that a verb of speech precede a quotative, as in 2. It is not clear whether the syntactic relationship between the quotative-marked R and the preceding verb of speech is one of complementation or juxtaposition (Lovestrand 2012: 200–201).

- (2) *ni ŋ gas-o naa [ nílla bila-ya-tiŋ gera ba ]*  
 SBJ.3PL PREP say-INF QUOT.3PL 2PL master-PL-POSS.2PL village ??  
 They say, "Is this your village?" (bva011.153)

In the corpus, verbs of speech are infrequent in M (~20%). The most commonly found verb is the general verb of speech *guso*. Quotatives and verbs of speech do not often co-occur. Of 24 cases of a verb of speech in M, only 7 are followed by a quotative. It is also rare for the addressee to be referenced in M (~10%). It is more common for there to be no M ("defenestration"). This occurs in about 30% of examples of R. Besides possible prosodic and non-verbal means of indicating a defenestrated R (not yet analyzed), speakers often begin unmarked reported speech with an interjection. R-initial interjections are more common when R is not accompanied by M (~30%) versus when M is present (~10%).

The corpus also contains examples of extended uses of reported speech, as in 3 and 4, where the translations and context make clear that no speech is involved.

(3) iya            kiya                    [ killa       mijji    gi ]            halas  
then(A)   QUOT.2SG.M   2SG.M   man   DEM.SG.M   that's.all(A)  
...you become a real man. (lit., now you say you are a man) (bva027.104)

(4) kaa                    kalla            mot-e       η            balli  
QUOT.3SG.M       3SG.M       die-PRF       PREP       side  
He pretends to be dead. (lit. he says he is dead) (bva031.30)

Lovestrand, Joseph. 2012. *The linguistic structure of Baraïn (Chadic)*. Dallas, TX: Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics MA thesis. [https://www.diu.edu/documents/theses/Lovestrand\\_Joseph-thesis.pdf](https://www.diu.edu/documents/theses/Lovestrand_Joseph-thesis.pdf) (2 December, 2020).

Spronck, Stef & Tatiana Nikitina. 2019. Reported speech forms a dedicated syntactic domain. *Linguistic Typology* 23(1). 119–159. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingty-2019-0005>.