



PP Arguments in Kiswahili Bantu Transitivity Revisited

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Linguistics has non-core or non-canonical categories in Predication-sentences (Pn-Ss). Oblique object (OBL), i.e. a PP whose complement is headed by a preposition (P), is among the non-core categories. Linguistics also has a dative indirect object (IO) category that often has a word order contrast with a PP IO in many languages. The word order contrast is also termed 'dative alternation' in the literature. PP IO is treated as a core canonical category rather than as a non-core category. This study demonstrates that, syntactically, OBL in Kiswahili Bantu is a core object just like PP IO. The study also reveals that there is a PP direct object (DO) in Kiswahili Bantu. It functions in monotransitive and ditransitive constructions as a core canonical argument. DO may show a word order contrast with PP DO similar to dative alternation. The evidence confirms that Bantu endocentric PPs, also called nominal predications (P-nPs), have core subject and object functions. They function as adjuncts only when they are not core categories. In addition, PP IO, PP DO and PP OBL have the same syntactic representation such that one of the terms, IO or OBL, is, syntactically, redundant. Indeed, theta role alone distinguishes between non-adjunct PPs (or P-nPs) in Bantu. The study calls upon linguists to update the core A-categories of Pn-S to include nominal PP.