COMPLEMENTATION IN CHAKARI NYANJA: A CASE STUDY

BY

ERNEST JAKAZA

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE IN FUFILLMENT OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

2006
Abstract of the Dissertation Presented to the Linguistic Department of the University of Zimbabwe in fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master of Philosophy in Linguistics

Complementation in Chakari Nyanja: A case study

by

Ernest Jakaza

2005

Supervisors: Dr. J. Kangira
Mrs. E. Chivero

This study is concerned with complementation in Chakari Nyanja. Complementation is looked at as the addition of a phrase or clause to make the predicate complete. A phrase or clause that serves this function is a complement. The study brings out different types of complements in Chakari Nyanja and how they are subcategorised, selected and distributed. Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) theory postulated by Bresnan and Kaplan (1982) and its sub theory Lexical Mapping Theory (LMT) have been employed as tools for analysis. LFG is a theory that derives its linguistic explications from the competence module of native speakers and observations made within the performance module. It assigns three levels of linguistic analysis, namely, the constituent structure, functional structure and argument structure. LMT shows the correspondence between thematic structure and syntactic structure. It consists of rules and principles responsible for linking thematic roles with grammatical functions. The study brings out the fact that there are (a) two broad types of complements, verb phrase complements and noun phrase complements. Under these two broad types, five types of complements have been identified. (b) Complementation is a matter of degree. (c) Some complements function as subject and object (d) Complements are hierarchically ordered, though there is free ordering on locative noun phrase complements occurring in the same clause. (e) The head subcategorises and selects its complements.
In *honour* of the great philosopher, my father, who *inspired* me. 
He gave me the *vision* and the *strength* to propel.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It was a long journey. If I was to walk alone, it was going to be tiresome. The fortunate part of the journey is that I had company. I had some people to talk to, share ideas with and enjoy in the long journey. It is good to show gratitude to the good things that you receive from others. I feel obliged to thank the people who saw me through the writing of this thesis. A lot of people put their hand in process of writing this thesis; to acknowledge all of them I will end up writing another thesis. Hence few names will be noted.

I am grateful to my supervisors, Dr. J. Kangira and Mrs. E. Chivero for their guidance and insightful comments during the writing of this thesis. VaKangira (for Dr Kangira) you were right to say “Chanaka,” for sure “Zvapera”. Thinking of Dr P. Mabugu or seeing her I feel I should say thank you for her constructive criticisms. I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. I. Mhute, Mrs. R. Sibanda and Ms. S. Dube for their moral and academic support. I would also like to thank my translators Taulo and Nelson for their cooperation and understanding. Thanks also to Mr. Lavia, Mr. Chidyagwai and Chakari informants for their support and understanding during data collection. Many thanks to Linguistics Department lecturers, technicians and secretaries for their moral, and material support. I also acknowledge the support that I got from my parents, my mother-in law, Sr Tariro and my friends Hugh and Ellen. Special thanks go to my wife Tariro and my son and daughter Tinomudaishe and Maitaishe for their unwavering support throughout the writing of this thesis. Above all, I thank the Lord, who saw through the writing of this thesis.

I thank you all
Glossary of Abbreviations

1. ADJ- Adjunct (closed)
2. AdvP- Adverbal Phrase
3. Ag- Agent
4. AP- Adjectival Phrase
5. Ben- Beneficiary
6. CAUS- Causative extension
7. COMP- Complementiser
8. COMPL- Complement
9. DC- Default Classification
10. FOC- Focus
11. GB- Government- Binding Theory
12. GG- Generative Grammar
13. GF- Grammatical Functions
14. GPSG- Generalised Phrase Structure Grammar
15. IC- Intrinsic Classification
16. iff- if and only if
17. INFL- Inflection
18. LFG- Lexical Functional Grammar
19. LMT- Lexical Mapping Theory
20. LOC- Locative
21. LOC-NP- Locative Noun Phrase
22. LOC-OBJ- Locative Object
23. N- Noun
24. NP- Noun Phrase
25. NEUT- Neuter
26. NUM- Number
27. OBJ- Object
28. OBJØ- Indirect Object
29. OBL- Oblique
30. OBLØ- Oblique Object
31. OM- Object Marker
32. P- Preposition
33. PAS- predicate Argument Structure
34. PASS- Passive
35. PERS- Person
36. POSS- Possessive Marker
37. PP- Prepositional Phrase
38. PRED- Predicate
39. PRES- Present
40. PST- Past
41. S-Sentence
42. S /S -bar- Embedded Sentence
43. SING- Single
44. SM- Subject Marker
45. SUBJ- Subject
46. SVO- Subject- Verb- Object
47. TOP- Topic
48. TV- Terminal Vowel
49. V- Verb
50. VP- Verb Phrase
51. XADJ- Open Adjunct
52. XCOMPL- Open Complement
53. ?- not satisfactory
54. *- Ungrammaticality
55. #- A syntactically well-formed sentence but semantically deviant
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dedication</th>
<th>i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary of Abbreviations</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Chapter One: Introduction

1.0 Area of Investigation  
1.1 Research Hypothesis  
1.2 Justification  
1.3 A Brief History of Chakari Nyanja people and language  
1.3.1 Chakari Nyanja people  
1.3.2 Chakari Nyanja language  
1.4 Methodology  
1.4.1 Data Collection  
1.4.2 Informants  
1.4.3 Method of Analysis  
1.4.3.1 Identification methods  
1.4.3.2 Distribution of Complements  
1.5 Organisation of Study

## Chapter Two: Literature Review

2.0 Introduction  
2.1 Complements in Bantu  
2.2 Complement (-ation)  
2.2.1 Complement- Adjunct Distinction  
2.3 Complementiser  
2.4 Types of complements  
2.4.1 Verb Phrase Complementation  
2.4.2 Noun Phrase Complementation  
2.4.3 Sentential complementation  
2.5 Subcategorisation and Selection  
2.6 Summary

## Chapter Three: Theoretical Framework

3.0 Introduction  
3.1 The Formalism of Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG)  
3.2 Syntactic Rules in LFG  
3.3 Instantiation
3.3.1 The Relation between C-structures and F-structures 53
3.4 F-structures and Grammaticality of Sentences 62
3.5 Lexical mapping Theory (LMT) 63
3.5.1 Types of Thematic Roles 67
3.6 Summary 70

Chapter Four: Identification and Distribution of Complements

4.0 Introduction 72
4.1 Identification of Complements 72
4.1.1 Verb Complementation 73
4.1.2 Noun Complementation 102
4.2 Complementarity Scale 108
4.5 Order of Complements 110
4.6 Summary 122

Chapter Five: Subcategorisation and Selection of Complements

5.0 Introduction 125
5.1 Subcategorisation of Complements 125
5.2 Selection of Complements 132
5.3 Summary 139

Chapter Six 142

References 147

Appendices
I. Questionnaire 155
II. Sample of Chakari Nyanja Sentences 156