

**COMPLEMENTATION IN CHAKARI NYANJA: A CASE
STUDY**

BY

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ABSTRACT

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

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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.

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Glossary of Abbreviations

1. ADJ- Adjunct (closed)
2. AdvP- Adverbial 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. OBJ \acute{O} - Indirect Object
29. OBL- Oblique
30. OBL \acute{O} - 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

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