

<u>Workshop ID :</u>	46
<u>Workshop Duration :</u>	Workshop - 1 Day
<u>Workshop Title :</u>	Particles in Bantu
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Amongst salient morphosyntactic features of Bantu languages are the presence of noun class systems and rich verbal morphology. These morphosyntactic aspects are relatively well-described, both for a growing number of individual Bantu languages, as well as in comparative studies (cf. e.g. Nurse and Philippson 2002). However, other parts of speech have received less scholarly attention. The role played by particles in the Bantu languages is such an area, and one that is ripe for investigation.

Particles typically perform grammatical functions and their use is often related to information structure, the expression of subtle semantic, or of context-sensitive or pragmatic effects. For example, a common feature of the Bantu languages is the presence of a rich system of focus particles encoding, for example, exclusive (1), scalar (2), and additive (3) focus.

(1) Na-tak-a vi-wilitu

SM1SG-want-FV 8-two only

'I want only two (chairs)' (Swahili, Ashton 1947: 158)

(2) a-a-hí-thúm-a hatá (ní) e-sapáto

SM1-PST-PFV.DJ-buy-FV even and 10-shoes

'He even bought shoes' (Makhuwa, Van der Wal 2009: 114)

(3) Rafikiz-angupia wa-li-fik-a

10.friends10-POSS1sg too SM2-PST-come-FV

'My friends, too, came' (Swahili, KezKic 201:007)

Whilst these particles may be lexical (1-3 above), they are also often morphologically complex, encoding anaphoric reference to the topic, and in that differ from better described European focus particles (4-5).

(4) Wa-geni w-engine na-o wa-li-ya-onj-a

2-guests 2-other CONJ-RC2 SM2-PST-OM6-try-FV

'Other guests, too, tasted it [water]' (Swahili, Kez Gam 149:005)

(5) Peter ná-ye makúra ákaghúr-a nkûku.

Peter CONJ-RC1 then SM1 TNS buy-FV chicken

'Thereupon, also Peter went to buy a chicken' (Rugciriku, Möhlig 2005: 87)

Other particles are associated with the epistemic status of the proposition expressed, or related to mirativity, relating to speakers expectation: The Cuwabo particle *peéno* indicates doubt or wondering (6), while the emphatic particle *ki* expresses surprise for something that goes against expectation (7).

(6) áápeénó=to míyóddi-hí-mú-on-á

INTER WOND=then PRO1SG SM1SG-PFV.DJ-OM1-see-FV

'Ahh, I do not know, was I supposed to see her?' (Cuwabo, Guérois 2015: 307)

(7) Kímú-íma o-líúuvi ?

EMPH 1-child SM1-be where

'Where on earth is the child?' (Cuwabo, Guérois 2015: 308)

Furthermore, a number of Bantu languages have developed negative particles, in many instances reflective of stages of the 'Jespersen's cycle' and associated grammaticalisation processes (Devos & van der Auwera 2013). The items often pattern similarly in terms of syntactic behaviour, e.g. appearing in clause-final position, but differ in their morphological form, and so indicate independent grammaticalisation paths (8-10).

(8) Isikúvi-viiswisi v-új-iretuku.

today 2-fellow.our NEG SM2-come-PFV NEG

'Today our friends did not come.' (Rangi, Gibson 2012: 72)

(9) Wakesa se-a-a-tim-a ta.

Wakesa NEG-SM1-PST-run-FV NEG

'Wekesa did not run.' (Lubukusu, Wasike 2007:243)

(10) Te-bá-som-ere hai.

NEG-SM2-read-PFV NEG

'They have not read today.' (Kuria, Cammenga 2004)

A final example of particles in Bantu is provided by question particles. These often display restrictions on syntactic position – typically appearing either clause-initially or clause-finally. Some further exhibit restrictions in terms of the relative ordering with the co-occurrence of question particles (11-12)

(11) Bafana ba-to-tseng-a imotoyinina ?

2boys SM2-FUT-buy-FV 7car QQ

'Will boys buy a car?' (siSwati, Thwala 2007)

(12) Je, ku-nama-swali?

INTER 17-COP 6-question

'Are there any questions?' (Swahili, Hus Kin 043:015)

The proposed workshop aims to stimulate research in this rich (but under-examined) empirical domain, so as to develop a better understanding of the form and function of particles across the language family, as well as enriching the typology of focus particles which continues to be largely based in European languages. The workshop will bring together researchers working on particles and similar parts of speech and invites studies of individual particles or studies of a (sub-)system of particles in a given Bantu language (or languages). The workshop encourages descriptive, theoretical, and comparative studies, as well as studies which explore the relation of particles to information structure and linguistic interfaces. Contributions locating these structures in the Bantu language family within wider comparative studies addressing typological, diachronic or language contact aspects are also welcome.