**Thesis title: Applicative Verbs in Ruruuli-Lunyala: Structure and Meaning**

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**ABSTRACT**

Applicative verbs in Bantu languages have largely been investigated as allowing a new object Noun Phrase (NP) within the sub-categorization of their base verb, leading to a change of valency with the new NP often giving a particular thematic role. However, less attention has been put on the role of the applicative in supporting the notion that argument projection may be aspectually determined. Central to the analysis is the role of the morphology of applicatives in marking the telicity of applicative verbs.  Based on this observation, this research examines the role of aspect in determining argument projection, particularly, the influence of two telicity markers, namely *kakyarumwei* 'completely, very, a lot' and *bwereere '*for nothing'. It further analyses the formation of the applicative in Ruruuli-Lunyala; the asymmetrical/symmetrical object status of Ruruuli-Lunyala; the existence or non-existence of high and low applicatives in Ruruuli-Lunyala; the semantic roles of the applicative objects and the lexical semantic properties of applicative verbs as well as the discourse properties of applied objects in Ruruuli-Lunyala.

This research employs corpus and participant observation methods for data collection in light of Basic Linguistic Theory. Data was integratively analysed using the lexical software of WordSmith tools. The research findings indicate that applicatives can be realised by derivational morphology involving morphological patterns of vowel harmony, suffixation, segment deletion(s) and compensatory lengthening. Ruruuli-Lunyala is depicted as partially asymmetrical and partially symmetrical with regard to the syntactic object behavior.  The findings also reveal seven types of semantic roles associated with applicative objects, namely *beneficiary, location, goal,* *instrument*, *patient, possessum and temporal*. The summation of mean of the topicality status of applicative objects using Thompson's (1990) topicworthiness properties was found at 52%. In conclusion the study reveals that applicative verbs in Ruruuli-Lunyala can be classified into two types, namely atelic and telic applicative verbs. The post-verbal 'applied object' position can be called the 'applied constituent position' for both the 'applied object' and 'applicative adverbial'. The study calls for further intra and cross-linguistic studies of under-researched languages especially those spoken in Uganda.

**Supervisors**

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