

The expression of information structure in Bantu

Edited by

Jenneke van der Wal

Contemporary African Linguistics 12



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Preface

In December 2017, the NWO Vidi project *Bantu Syntax and Information Structure* (BaSIS) started at Leiden University, aiming to better understand the influence that information structure has on the (morpho)syntax of Bantu languages. Having now come to the end of the project, we present our findings in this book: 8 chapters on the languages we have investigated, plus an introduction explaining the basics of information structure and our methodology (which is available for other researchers to use).

We wish to acknowledge the help we received during the project and in the writing of this book. Our heartfelt gratitude in the first place goes to all the speakers who patiently, willingly, and with lots of laughter helped us analyse their languages: Bahati Laikon Mwakasege, Peter Mwasyika Mwaipyana, Yona Mwaipaja, Pamellah Geiga Birungi, the late Joel Tumusiime, Ronald Twesigomwe, Dennis Muriuki Katheru, Philip Murithi Nyamu, Onesmus Mugambi Kamwara, Jonah Tajiri, Tabitha Giti, Jane Gacheri, Constancia Zaida Mussavele, Arlindo João Nanthumbo, Gomes David Chemane, Hortência Ernesto, Gervásio Chambo, Engrácia Ernesto, Ali Menrage Buananli, Joaquim Nazário, N'gamo Saida Aly (Zanaira), Patient Batal, Edmond Biloungloug, Acteur Enganayat, Daniel Mbel, Angel Molel, Pierre Molel, Étienne Ondjem, and Jeanne Ong'omolaleba.

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the chapters and any errors within them are the responsibility of the authors alone.

It is our hope that these chapters may provide insights into the individual languages, form the basis for further comparative work, and inspire others to take information structure into account in their descriptions of other languages. We look forward to seeing further developments in the field of Bantu syntax and information structure.

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