POSTPOSITIONS –RO AND –LAN AS CLITICS IN KANURI

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ABSTRACT: *This paper examines the syntactic morphological functions of the postpositions –ro and –lan as clitics in Kanuri within the framework of descriptive linguistics adopting the works of zwicky and pullum (1983) and Spencer and Luis (2012) as theoretical framework. In conducting the research, primary sources of data collection was employed that is Kanuri written text: Səmonəm wuro sarusəgəne and Nyariwa Kanuribe. These two texts are collection of stories written in Yerwa dialect of Kanuri. All the various places where the postpositional particles –ro and –lan occurred are identified and extracted for presentation and analysis. The outcome of the study reveals that the postpositions –ro and –lan function as clitics can be attached to both lexical and functional categories in Kanuri. Syntactically, it can be cliticized to nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, pronouns, relativizers 'də', dependent possessive pronoun '-nzə' (his/her) and the genitive marker '-be' to express different semantic functions.*

KEYWORDS: Postpositions, Ro, Lan, Clitics In Kanuri

INTRODUCTION

Kanuri is a member of the Saharan branch of the Nilo- Saharan phylum of African languages (Greenberg, 1963, 1966, 1971). Lewis (2009) presents the Saharan branch into Eastern, western and Northern branch. According to Cyffer (1998), the Kanuri language is the widest spread language in the Lake Chad region and is spoken in all the countries bordering the Lake (Camerron, Chad, Niger and Nigeria). Bulakarima and Shettima (2011) observe that Kanuri is the major language of the people of present day Borno and Yobe states in Nigeria.Crystal (2008) defines postposition as a grammatical classification of words, referring to the closed set of items which follow noun phrases (or single nouns or pronouns) to form a single constituent of structure. The analogous construction in English involves prepositions. Many languages make regular use of postposed items, e.g. Japanese, Hindi etc. Lyons (1968) observes that the difference between prepositions and postpositions is trivial. In the traditional theory of the parts

of speech, the term is employed to refer to that class of invariable words or particles, which had a grammatical or local function and which as it happens in Latin and Greek, which tend to occur immediately before the noun or noun phrase they modify. In many other languages (e.g. Turkish, Japanese, Hindi etc.), particles with similar grammatical or local functions to those of the Latin, Greek or English prepositions occur after the noun they modify and for that reason they are usually called postpositions. On Kanuri Postpositions, Koelle (1854) identifies Kanuri as postpositive language where particles are marked after nouns or noun phrases. Lukas (1937) identifies six different postpositive particles in Kanuri. Hutchison (1976) identifies and classifies postpositions –ro and –lan in kanuri whle Cyffer (1998) subcategories the two major concepts of the postpositions in Kanuri as dynamic –ro and stative –lan, Bulakarima and Shettima (2011) observe that postpositions –ro and –lan are suffixed to nouns, verbs and adverbs to express different functions in Kanuri and Gazali (2014) discusses the various functions of the postpositions in kanuri but none of these studies discusses the relationship between the postpositions with their stem/ root. Therefore this study examines relationship between the postpositions –ro and –lan with their hosts/ stems

METHODOLOGY

In conducing this research, primary sources of data collection was employed. The source of data includes the two texts: *Səmonəm wuro sarusəgəne* and *Nyariwa Kanuribe.* In the two texts, all the various places where the postpositions –ro and –lan occurred were identified, underlined and extracted from the two texts for Presentation and Analysis. Our choice of the texts was informed by the popularity of the two texts which were all written with the principles of Standard Kanuri Orthography (SKO) and the two texts were written in the Yerwa dialect of Kanuri. No lottery method was used in picking out the data because all the two texts were considered.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The approach adopted for this study is mainly descriptive approach based on the works of Cyffer (1998) and Ziegelmeyer (2008) approaches. Cyffer (1998) discusses the functions of the postpositions –ro and –lan in kanuri while Ziegelmeyer (2008) discusses elements of subordination and co-ordination of Arabic loan words in Kanuri and both scholars used informant(s) as source of data. Here, this study married the two approaches in analyzing the Kanuri postpositions using two Kanuri written texts as source of data. On the relationship between the postpositions with host or stems, this paper observes that the postpositions identified in the two texts are bound morphemes that cannot stand on their but leaned to virtually every lexical categories i.e. verbs, nouns, adverbs, possessive pronouns and independent pronouns to

express roles and functions in Kanuri. Crystal (2008) defines clitics as a form used in grammar to refer to a form which resembles a word, but which cannot stand on its own as a normal utterance, being phonologically dependent upon a neighbouring word (its host) in a construction while affixes as a collective term for the types of formative that can be used only when added to another morpheme (the root or stem) and affixes are limited in number in a language. Zwicky and Pullum (1983) identify six (6) criteria of distinguishing clitics and affixes in English. This study examines the status of the postpositions –ro and –lan in Kanuri as clitics adopting Zwicky and Pullum (1983) as a model of approach where this paper discusses the basic criteria of distinguishing clitics with affixes. Luis and Spencer (2012:1) observe Thus "In terms of their function and meaning, the clitics `s and the full form *is* are essentially the same thing. Since it is not a fully-fledge word we might want to say than`s is an affix like the plural *–s* or like the 3sg ending *–s* in eats. Like clitics, affixes cannot exist independently but need something to attach to. However, clitics are not ordinary affixes. A genuine affix only attaches to words of a particular category, such as a noun (for plural) or a verb (for person-number agreement) but for clitics `s is attaches to whatever word it happens to be next to, even the pronoun *you* in The woman standing next to you `s a linguist." Spencer and Luis (2012) identify two important aspects to the problem of identifying clitics as follows:

1. We need to decide whether we are dealing with an ordinary word represented in the syntax like other words, or whether we are dealing with an element whose syntax is special or idiosyncratic, or indeed an element which is simply not represented syntactically as a word in the first place.
2. We need to decide whether we are dealing with a clitic or with an affix.

As we will see, many of the elements labelled clitics in theoretical and descriptive discussions corresponds to function words in other languages. If an element fails to behave like a normal function word and shows idiosyncratic or restricted behavior, we might then use this as evidence that we have clitic.

This paper examines status of criteria of clitics identification using the following criteria

1. Clitics can exhibit a low degree of selection with respect to their hosts, while affixes exhibit a high degree of selection with respect to their stems. This criteria explains that clitics can attach to words of virtually any category of words in Kanuri i.e. nouns, adverbs, verbs, possessive pronouns and independent pronouns in Kanuri. This can be illustrated in the following examples below
   a. Fero (n) "girl" + -ro ⟶ fero=ro "to girl|"
   b. Fero (n) də (the)+ –ro ⟶ ferodə=ro "to the girl"

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c. Shi (pro) "him/her|"+-ro ⟶ shi=ro "to him"

d. Ka (stick) + -n ⟶ kalan or kan "with stick"

e. Ka (stick) də + lan ⟶ kadə¹n/ lan "with the stick"

The above examples in (1 a-d) show that the postpositions –ro and –la(n) can attach to every category of words in Kanuri. In example (1a) the postposition –ro is cliticized to noun "fero" (girl), in example (1b) the –ro is cliticized to the determiner "də" (the) and the determiner "də" is also cliticized to the noun "fero" (girl), in example (1c) the postposition –ro is cliticized to independent pronoun "shi" (him/ her), in example (1d) the postposition –lan is cliticized to the noun "ka" (stick) while in example (1e) the postposition –la(n) is cliticized to the determiner "də" and the determiner də is also cliticized to the noun "ka" (stick) but we observed that in the inflectional affixes and the derivational affixes, by contrast, they are quite specific to their selection of stems. The plural markers only suffixed to nouns, the past tense marker is only suffixed to verbs and the superlatives are only suffixed to adjectives to Kanuri. Consider the following examples below.

2. a. fero (n) "girl' + -wa ⟶ ferowa "girls" (n)

b.² bu-k-in (v) "eat" + -na ⟶ bukəna "I ate"

c. kura (adj) "big" + -ro ⟶ kuraro (adj) "biggest|"

2. Clitics can attach to material already containing clitics but affixes cannot. The postposition –ro and la(n) as clitics can cliticize to material already containing clitics in Kanuri. According Zwicky and Pullum (1983) the inflectional affixes cannot take affixes attach to material already containing inflectional affixes. In this study, we observed that the inflectional affixes in Kanuri cannot be attached to material already containing inflectional affixes. Consider the following examples in (3 a and b)

3. a.* tada-də   ishin –na nozənyi

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¹ The postposition –lan is the variant of –n form. This is conditioned by phonological situations as a result of cliticization where the –lan form is usually used in more than one syllable words and the –n form is used when the ends with vowels.

² -bu is the verb root, -k is the morpheme of 1st person singular and –in is the tense marker present tense. At word level Kanuri language is described as an agglutinating language, a language that joints several morphemes to form a word or unit.

boy –the coming-PST he doesn't know

The boy is coming/ came he doesn't know

 b. tada-də   isəna=ro   nozənyi

 boy –the   came-COC he doesn't know

 "He doesn't know whether the boy is coming"

Example (3 a and b) above shows that the verb "ishin" (I am coming) contains progressive –n inflectional suffix and the sentence is ungrammatical because the inflectional suffix cannot be attached or suffixed to material already containing the inflectional suffix in Kanuri while example (3b) shows that the verb "isəna" (came) is already contained past inflectional suffix –na and the postposition –ro is cliticized to the inflected verb to express conditional-oncessive marker "whether" in Kanuri. Basing on the works of Zwicky and Pullum (1983) and Spencer and Luis (2012) we observed that the postpositions –ro and –la(n) are clitics not affixes in Kanuri.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

   1.1 Postposition–ro as clitics

4.1.1. Indirect Object Marker –ro
Indirect object refers to one of the two types of object element that can function in clause, the other being labeled as direct; traditionally considered as dative function (Crystal 2008). In the texts, it was observed that the postposition –ro is cliticized to pronouns, genitive markers –be to express indirect object. Consider the example (4) below.

4   a. Ćir -də -ye   nji   shi=ro   ćiwúdo
      Concubine-the SM   water him-IOM   he broght
      "The Concubine brought the water for him"

   b. tada –ye aba -nzə   fero –be=ro guljiwo
    boy –the father –his   girl –GEN-IOM he told

    "The boy told the girls' father"

The above examples in (4a and b) show that the postposition –ro functions as indirect object marker. The postposition –ro is a bound morpheme cliticized to pronoun "shi" (him) in example (4a) and in example (4b) the postposition –ro is cliticized to genitive marker –be and the genitive marker –be is also cliticized to the noun "fero" (girl).

4.1.2. Temporal –ro

The postposition –ro expresses time and adverbial clause of time in Kanuri. The adverbial clause of time is formed with the head noun "kawu" (day) which is durational in both the temporal and the spatial sense. It is usually best described in English as clauses headed by words like: "before", "until", "since" (temporal). The temporal use of "kawu" is by far the most common and the most important, durationally making reference to an activity that carried out in relation to a point in time. This point in time is indicated by the subordinate clause. Consider examples (5a and b) below.

5. a. kawu   nji sədi səwandin –də =ro, fal- nza cikuruwo

      before   water ground gets –RTV –TEM one –them fall

      "Before the water falls down to the ground, one of then fall"

   b. kawu   ishin-də=ro, kuwi –so tada kada sasambi

        day   he comes-RTV hen –PL   chicks   they gave birth

        "Before he comes back, hens would have hatched their eggs"

The above examples in (5a and b) show that the postposition –ro can express time when the sentence begins with adverbial "kawu" (before) and the relativizer "də" is cliticized to the verb root then the postposition –ro is also cliticized to the relativizer "də". The postposition –ro that is cliticized to the relativizer "də" functions as temporal introducing temporal clause. Such clauses are dependent clauses in Kanuri.

4.1.3 Intension –ro

The postposition –ro can also express intension in Kanuri. Intension –ro is formed when –ro is formed when the postposition –ro is cliticized to verb root such as "matə" (to look for), "gota" (to take) "bargatə" (to congratulate) and the intension –ro also introduces subordinate clause in Kanuri. Consider the following examples in (6a and b) below.

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6. a. ilmu   mata=ro   Borno-ro lewono

   Knowledge look-INT Borno-DIR he went

  "He went to Borno so as to seek for knowledge"

 b. Yim laa   Bultu   karaa-ro karga   kəmbu   mata=ro

    one day   hyena bush -DIR he entered food   look-INT

    "One day hyena entered into the bush so as to look for food"

 In the above examples (6a and b) the postposition ro is cliticized to the verb roots to express adverbial clause of intension in Kanuri.

   1.2 Postposition –la(n) as clitics
        1.2.1   Time or Temporal –(la)n

The postposition –(la)n also expresses time and adverbial claue of time in Kanuri. The adverbial clauses are constructed with the head noun "kawu" (before), "ngawo" (after) and "sa" (time) and they were all being extended by a relative clause which are equivalent to those clauses introduced by (before) in English. In adverbial temporal clause formation, the postposition –la(n) is cliticized to adverbs, genitive markers and relativizer "də" to form adverbial clauses in Kanuri. Consider examples (7a, b and c) below.

 7. a. kawu   gana-be   ngawo=n   kwa   nui

      After   small-GEN after-TEM husband died

     "The husband died after few days"

   b. ngawo   magə fal -be   -lan maləm-də kadio

      bak   week   one-GEN-TEM teacher-the came

     "After one week, the teacher came"

    c. sa   askər –wa -nəm isai rukəna- ³la-də -n,   fər –nyi -ro bake lewoko

      time army-PL – your they come I saw RTV-TEM horse-my-to climbed I went

        "By the time I saw your armies coming, I took my horse and went away"

The above examples in (7a, b and c) show that the postposition –(la)n function as temporal. The temporal postposition –la(n) is cliticized to adverbs "ngawo" (after) to express adverbial temporal phrase in example (7a), the temporal la(n) is also cliticized to genitive marker –be to express adverbial temporal phrase and the temporal (la)n can also be cliticized to relativizer "də" to express adverbial clause of time in Kanuri.

    4.2.2. Intrument –la(n)

      According to Crystal (2008) instrument refers to the form taken a noun phrase when it expresses such a notion as "by means of". This study identifies postposition –(la)n is cliticized to inanimate nouns or entity to express instrumental role in Kanuri. Consider the following examples (8a, b and c) below.

    8. a. na-nəm-ro suluyi –ga shi-ga kazaa=n bangne

       Place-your-to comes-if him-DOM spear-INST you hit

      "If he comes to you, hit him with your spear"

    b. Am –so –də   kala=n   lene   yilzain

      people-Pl   -the   stick-INST you touch they will scream

    "You touch the people with your stick they will scream"

The above examples in (8a and b) show that the postposition –(la)n is cliticized to inanimate nouns to express instrumental role in Kanuri.

CONCLUSION

This paper discusses the postposition –ro and –la(n) as clitics in Kanuri language. The study also discusses and identifies different syntactic and semantic functions of the postpositions –ro and –

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³ We have the case of postposition split where the –the relativizer də functions as endoclitcs inserted in-between the full form of the postposition –lan. The sentence can be grammatical as in dəlan or ladən.

la(n) in Kanuri using Kanuri written text as our source of data. On the relationship between the postposition –ro and –la(n) with their host/ stem, the study observes that the postpositions in Kanuri can be cliticized to virtually every lexical categories in Kanuri –nouns, verbs, inflected verbs, adverbs, pronouns, relativizers, dependent possessive pronouns and genitive markers to express different functions. The study also examines the general behavior of inflectional affixes in Kanuri adopting the works of Zwicky and Pullum (1983) and Spencer and Luis (2012).

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