Syntactic deletion within resumptive pronouns in Swahili

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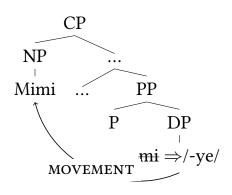
1 Introduction

- It has been observed in Swahili (Keach 1980,1986; Ngonyani 2006b) that when an object of a preposition like 'na' is relativized, the relative clause terminates in a resumptive pronoun, shown in (1).
 - (1) Sam ndi-ye amba-ye ni-li-zungumza na-ye. Sam cop-1 amba-1 1st.sg.s-pst-talk to-1 'It's Sam that I talked to (him).'12
- The following is a new observation: When a first and second person pronoun heads a relative clause, the prepositional object resumptive pronoun can *optionally* express person features:
 - (2) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-zungumza na-**mi/ye**. 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 Sam 1-pst-talk to-**1st.sg/1** 'It's me who Sam talked to.'
- I argue that these pronouns, while freely varying in simple relative clauses, correspond to different underlying structures.
 - It is well known that resumptive pronouns can either represent bound pronouns or movement copies (McCloskey 2006, Aoun et al 2001, Sichel 2014).
 - In Swahili, *mi* is a bound pronoun while *ye* is a movement copy.
- I analyze *ye* as lacking person features. Under this view, it is predicted that the bound pronoun resumptive pronoun expresses more features than the movement copy.
 - The Copy Theory of Movement (Chomsky 1993)
 - Chain-reduction Algorithm (Landau 2006, van Urk 2017)

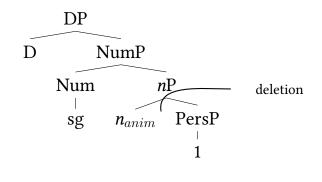
¹All data not cited, I elicited with a Kenyan speaker of Swahili in Berkeley, CA.

²Abbreviations used include: 1st=first person, 2nd=second person, 1,2,3, etc=noun classes, cop=copula, dem=demonstrative, hab=habitual, sg=singular, pl=plural, pst=past, prs=present, poss=possessive.

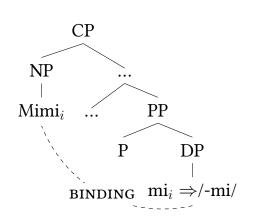
- (3) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-zungumza na-ye. 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 Sam 1-pst-talk to-1 'It's me who Sam talked to.'
- (4) Movement RP



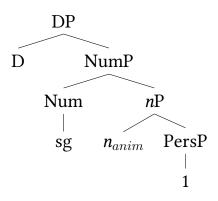
(5) Deletion



- (6) $[\operatorname{sg} n_{anim}] \longleftrightarrow /-\operatorname{ye}/$
- (7) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-zungumza na-**mi**. 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 Sam 1-pst-talk to-**1st.sg** 'It's me who Sam talked to.'
- (8) Bound RP



(9) No Deletion



(10) $[1 \text{ sg } n_{anim}] \longleftrightarrow /\text{-mi}/$

- Roadmap

- §2 Resumption
- §3 Swahili Relative Clauses
- §4 Swahili Resumption
- §5 Two types of resumptive pronouns in Swahili
- §6 Syntactic deletion
- §7 Conclusion

2 Resumption

- An informal definition
 - Resumptive pronoun

A resumptive pronoun is a pronoun in a long distance dependency construction (i.e-wh-question, relative clause, etc.) which is not the head of the dependency.

- It has been shown that resumptive pronouns can be syntactically bound pronouns (Shlonsky 1992; McCloskey 1990, 2002, 2006)
- It has also been shown that resumptive pronouns can be overt movement traces (Koopman, 1984; Engdahl, 1985; Aoun et. al, 2001; Sichel, 2014).
- Sichel (2014) shows that the two types of resumptive pronoun can co-occur in a single language.
- Conclusion: resumptive pronouns do not indicate one specific structure
- The data from Swahili add to our understanding of resumption by showing that both types of resumptive pronouns can co-exist in a single language and be morphologically *distinct* in predictable ways.

3 Swahili Relative Clauses

• There are three ways to form relative clauses in Swahili but this work is only concerned with the type with the overt complementizer *amba*.

3.1 Two ways to derive relative clauses

• Barrett-Keach (1980), Keach (2004): Base-generation and binding of a null *pro* (non-movement)

- Evidence: lack of relative clause island effects
 - (11) Mtu amba-ye ni-li-wa-ona watoto amba-o a-na-wa-penda...
 1.person amba-1 1P.SG.S-PST-2-see 2.child amba-2 1-PRS-2-like
 Person who I saw the children who (he) likes (them)...'
 Keach (1980:71)(Gloss added)
- Ngonyani (2001, 2006a): Head raising (movement)
 - Evidence: reconstruction effects

Idiom reconstruction

- (12) Maji amba-yo komba a-li-pig-a ya-li-kuwa ma-kali 6-water amba-6.REL 1.komba 1-PST-hit-FV 6-PST- INF-be-FV 6-strong 'The beer that the bushbaby drank was very strong.' Nongyani (2001:68)
- Pronoun binding
 - (13) Kitabu ch-ake cha kwanza amba-cho kila mwandishi 7.book 7-3s.poss 7-con first amba-7.rel every 1.writer hu-ji-vuni-a hu-w-a ki-zuri sana.

 HAB-RFL-be.proud-APP-FV HAB-be-FV 7-good very 'His first book for which the writer is very proud is very good.' Ngonyani (2001:65)
- Today I will present data in favor of the view that relative clauses in Swahili can be derived either through movement or through base-generation and binding.
- This conclusion makes sense of the data in (11), (12), and (13) because with both strategies available, we expect to see reconstruction and pronoun binding as well as a lack of island effects.

4 Swahili Resumption

- Swahili does not show overt pronominal resumption for subjects and objects.
 - Subject resumption ungrammatical
 - (14) Mwanafunzi amba-ye (*yeye/*ye) a-na-soma a-li-ondoka. 1.student amba-1 (*1) 1-PRES-read 1-PST-leave 'The student who is reading left.'
 - Object resumption ungrammatical

- (15) Daktari amba-ye Kamugisha a-li-mw-ona (*yeye/*ye) a-li-ondoka.

 Doctor amba-1 Kamugisha 1-PST-1-see (*1) 1-PST-leave

 'The doctor who Kamugisha saw left.'
- However, relativization of objects of preposition always results in a resumptive pronoun.
 - (16) M-tu amba-ye ni-li-zungumza na-*(ye)
 1.person amba-1 1st.sg-pst-talk to-*(1)
 'The person that I talked to'

4.1 Phonological Motivation for Resumption

- Resumption is due to a strict phonological Minimality requirement in Swahili
 - Disyllabic Minimality (Park, 1995); Bimoraic Minimality (Scott, 2015)
 - Both accounts analyze a two-unit minimal word, which would be violated in monosyllabic preposition stranding.
- Other monosyllabic prepositions like *kwa* and *a*, shows resumption as well in the genitive case. Most prepositional meaning is expressed with heavy nouns like kando and an agreeing -*a*.
 - (17) Ni-na-fahamu m-tu amba-ye u-na-simama kando y-a-ke 1st.sg-pres-know 1-person amba-1 2nd.s-pres-stand 9.side 9-of-1.gen 'I know the person who you are standing next to.'
 - (18) Kata nyama kwa-cho. cut meat with-7 'Cut the meat with it.'

Keach (1986: 560)

• Multi-syllabic prepositions are ungrammatical with resumptives. The applicative suffix is used instead.

4.2 Form of pronouns

- Resumptive pronouns in Swahili look morphologically identical to regular pronouns, supporting McCloskey's (2002) claim that resumptive pronouns are just ordinary pronouns.
 - (19) Ni-li-zungumza na-ye. 1st.sg.s-pst-talk to-1 'I talked to him.'

- (20) Mtu amba-ye ni-li-zungumza na-ye... 1.person amba-1 1st.sg.s-pst-talk to-1... 'The person that I talked to...
- I adopt Carstens' (1991) view of noun class in Bantu: it is the expression of number specified for gender.³

	Singular	Plural
Animate	Noun Class 1	Noun Class 2
Gender B	Noun Class 3	Noun Class 4
Gender C	Noun Class 5	Noun Class 6
Gender D	Noun Class 7	Noun Class 8
Gender E	Noun Class 9	Noun Class 10

Table 1: Bantu Gender

- The 3rd person pronouns are also the pronouns for gender A singular and plural.
 - A Distributed Morphology approach (DM; Halle and Marantz 1993): I propose that *ye* is underspecified for person, spelling out only ANIMATE and SG.

(21) Vocabulary Insertion Rules:

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\begin{split} & \left[ \varphi(\text{pers: 1, Gen: Anim, num: sg}) \right] \leftrightarrow /\text{mi/} \\ & \left[ \varphi(\text{pers: 1, Gen: Anim, num: pl}) \right] \leftrightarrow /\text{si/} \\ & \left[ \varphi(\text{Gen: Anim, num: sg}) \right] & \leftrightarrow /\text{ye/} \\ & \left[ \varphi(\text{Gen: Anim, num: pl}) \right] & \leftrightarrow /\text{o/} \end{split}
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4.3 Features of resumptive pronouns

- The two types of resumptive pronouns differ in their expression of person features.
- Most of this data come from first and second person pronominal clefts, which I take to use relativization of the clefted element.
- First and second person pronominal clefts can terminate in resumptive pronouns that match in person features or the resumptive pronoun can optionally surface as the personless singular pronoun -ye.

First Person

(22) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-zungumza na-mi/ye.

1ST.SG COP-1 amba-1 Sam 1-PST-talk to-1ST.SG/1

'It's me who Sam talked to.'

³This table shows noun classes 1-10 only. There are up to 18 noun class in any Bantu language, with Swahili having 1-10 and 14-18 (not shown).

Second Person

- (23) Wewe ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-zungumza na-we/ye. 2ND.SG COP-1 amba-1 Sam 1-PST-talk to-2ND.SG/1 'It's you who Sam talked to.'
- However, resumptive pronouns obligatorily match in number and gender.
 - Resumptive pronouns must match in number

Singular Clefts

- (24) a. Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-zungumza na-mi/ye/*si/*o.

 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 Sam 1-pst-talk to-1st.sg/1/*1.pl/*2

 'It's me who Sam talked to.'
 - b. Wewe ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-zungumza na-we/ye/*nyi/*o. 2ND.SG COP-1 amba-1 Sam 1-PST-talk to-2ND.SG/1/*2.PL/*2 'It's you who Sam talked to.'

Plural Cleft

- (25) a. Sisi ndi-o amba-o Sam a-li-zungumza na-si/o/*mi/*ye.

 1ST.PL COP-2 amba-2 Sam 1-PST-talk to-1ST.PL/2/*1ST.SG/*1

 'It's us who Sam talked to.'
 - b. Nyinyi ndi-o amba-o Sam a-li-zungumza na-nyi/o/*we/*ye. 2ND.PL COP-2 amba-2 Sam 1-PST-talk to-2ND.PL/2/*2ND.SG/*1 'It's you all who Sam talked to.'
- Resumptive pronouns must match in gender
 - (26) Hivi ni vi-tu amba-vyo ni-li-cheza na-vyo/*o/*zo.

 DEM-8 be 8-thing amba-8 1st.sg-pst-play with-8/*2/*10

 'These are the thing that I played with.'
- Person mismatches alongside number matches is a typologically common pattern (see Dinka Bor, van Urk 2017; Nupe, Kandybowicz 2007, Finnish et al 2008; a.o.)
- The special-ness of person has been observed before (Baker 2008, Preminger 2011) and Baier (2016) proposes a feature neutralization hierarchy which explains why if a language shows Anti-Agreement effects for ϕ -features, it will show them for person first.
- Summary of resumptive pronoun features in Swahili:
 - Resumptive pronouns are only found as objects of mono-syllabic prepositions.

- Resumptive pronouns look identical to ordinary pronouns.
- /ye/ and /o/ are unspecified for [PERSON].
- Resumptive pronouns obligatorily match in number and gender, but may optionally surface without person features.

5 Two types of resumptive pronouns in Swahili

- Since Chomsky (1977) it has been assumed that if wh- questions and relative clauses can be formed from a construction, it is formed by movement and that if not, it is formed through base generation and binding.
- My hypothesis: the two forms of resumptive pronouns in Swahili can be pulled apart my movement tests. The data supports this claim.

5.1 Bound resumptive pronoun

• We can isolate bound pronoun constructions in Swahili clefts with adjunct islands, known to block movement. Resumptive pronouns obligatorily match in person features inside adjunct islands.

'Because' island: kwa sababu...

(27) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-lia kwa sababu a-li-zungumza na-**mi**/*-ye. 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 Sam 1-pst-cry for reason 1-pst-talk to-1st.sg/*-1 'It's me who Sam cried because he talked to.'

'When' island: -po-

(28) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-lia a-li-po-zungumza na-mi/*-ye. 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 Sam 1-pst-cry 1-pst-when-talk to-1st.sg-1 'It's me who Sam cried when he talked to'

'While' island: wakati wa...

- (29) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye Sam a-li-lia wakati wa a-li-zungumza na-mi/*-ye. 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 Sam 1-pst-cry while of 1-pst-talk to-1st.sg-1 'It's me who Sam cried while he talked to'
 - Conclusion: Bound pronoun RPs must match the head of the relative clause in person features.

5.2 Movement resumptive pronouns

- We can isolate movement constructions in Swahili using parasitic gaps.
- In a parasitic gap construction, the 'parasitic gap' is only licensed for movement if the other gap is a 'true gap' (movement site) (Engdahl 1985).
- Parasitic gaps in English:
 - (30) Which articles did John file _____ without reading _____p?
- Resumptive pronouns in parasitic gap constructions obligatorily surface without person features.⁴
 - (31) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye u-li-kula na-ye $_t$ kabla ya ku-cheza na-ye $_p$ 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 2nd.s-pst-eat with-1 before of inf-dance with-1 'It's me who you ate with $_t$ before dancing with $_p$ '

Conclusion: There are two types of resumptive pronouns in Swahili. In first and second person clefts:

- Resumptive pronouns with person features are bound pronouns.
- Resumptive pronouns without person features are movement copies.

6 Syntactic Deletion

6.1 Overview

• The difference between the realization of the resumptive pronouns *ye* and *mi* is in the size of the structure they realize.

$$-/ye/\longleftrightarrow [# [n]]$$
$$-/mi/\longleftrightarrow [# [n [\pi]]]$$

 $^{^4}$ The sentence is grammatical if both pronouns are mi. This is expected if mi represents a bound pronoun: there are no movement sites.

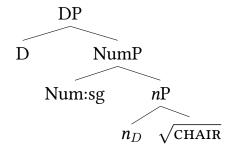
- The extra structure in /mi/, π , is *deleted* in movement copies, resulting in /ye/
- The deletion occurs because movement copies are subject to a chain deletion algorithm at PF and bound pronouns are not.
 - The chain-deletion algorithm is constrained by MaxElide (Merchant 2001, 2008; Takahashi 2006).

6.2 Gender on n

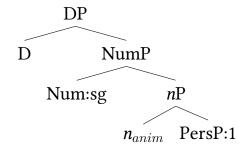
- Kramer (2015) argues that gender is on n for languages like Amharic with grammatical gender.
- Fuchs & van der Wal (2018) argue that gender is on *n* for Bantu specifically.
 - Num + $n \longleftrightarrow$ Noun Class
 - Their evidence comes from diminutive, augmentatives, locatives, nominalization, and multiple exponence of number and gender on a single noun.

6.3 Structure

(33) Lexical DP structure



(35) Pronoun Structure



(34) ki-ti 7-chair 'chair' (37) mimi 1st.sg 'me'

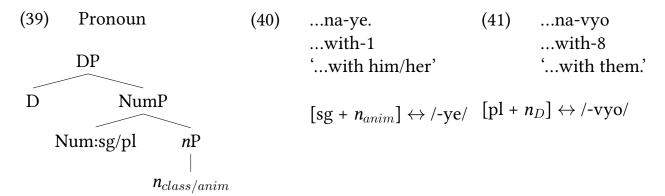
(35) $[sg + n_D] \longleftrightarrow ki - / \sqrt{ }$ $\sqrt{chair} \longleftrightarrow ti$

- $(38) \qquad [sg + n_{anim} + 1] \longleftrightarrow mimi$
- Flavors of *n* in Bantu: Class, Diminuitive, Augmentative, Locative (Fuchs & van der Wal, 2018)
- I propose a fifth flavor of n is available in Bantu languages: animacy $(n_{anim})^5$

 $^{^{5}}n_{anim}$ is similar to Pesetsky's (2016) analysis of an interpretable animacy feature on a n above the typical n.

6.4 Pronouns

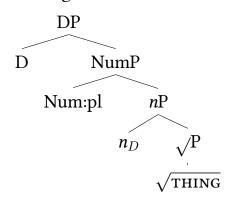
• *n* is spelled out as a person-less **pronoun** when it doesn't have a context



6.5 Derivations of movement resumptive pronouns in the morphology

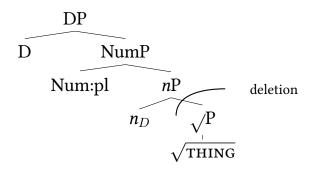
6.5.1 Lexical DPs

• Life begins for a lexical DP in the syntax



- After undergoing Ā movement from the object of a monosyllabic preposition, it is marked for deletion by the chain reduction algorithm.
- The algorithm applies MaxElide to decide how much of the phrase can be deleted.
- Since objects of monosyllabic prepositions have a phonological requirement, only partial deletion is allowed.
- Since Num and n_D together spell out a pronoun, \sqrt{P} is deleted.

(42) Deletion



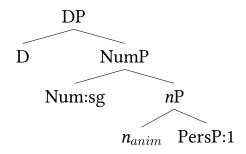
- What is left to spell out is [pl + n_D] [pl + n_D] \longleftrightarrow /-vyo/
- This is the pronoun found in the following sentence:
 - (43) Hivi ni vi-tu amba-vyo ni-li-cheza na-**vyo**.

 DEM-8 be 8-thing amba-8 1st.sg-pst-play with-8

 'These are the things that I played with.'

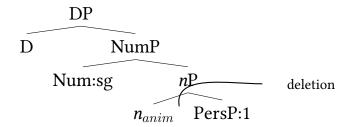
6.5.2 Pronouns

• Life begins for a 1st person singular pronoun in the syntax



- After undergoing Ā movement from the object of a monosyllabic preposition, it is marked for deletion by the chain reduction algorithm.
- The algorithm applies MaxElide to decide how much of the phrase can be deleted.
- Since objects of monosyllabic prepositions have a phonological requirement, only partial deletion is allowed.
- Since Num and n_{anim} together spell out a pronoun, PersP is deleted.

(44) Pronoun Structure



- What is left to spell out is [sg + n_{anim}] sg + $n_{anim} \longleftrightarrow$ /-ye/
- This is the pronoun found in the following sentence:
 - (45) Mimi ndi-ye amba-ye u-li-kula na-ye $_t$ kabla ya ku-cheza na-ye $_p$ 1st.sg cop-1 amba-1 2nd.s-pst-eat with-1 before of Inf-dance with-1 'It's me who you ate with $__t$ before dancing with $__p$ '
- The derivation of the non-movement resumptive pronoun will not undergo any of the steps in 6.5.2. Instead it will simply be spelled out as $[sg + n_{anim} + 1] \longleftrightarrow mi$

7 Conclusion

7.1 Summary

- Swahili has two types of obligatory resumptive pronouns and they are morphologically distinct.
- One type of resumptive pronoun is a movement copy which is pronounced without person features while the other type is a bound pronoun, pronounced with person features.
- Movement copies in clefts and relative clauses are subject to a chain-deletion algorithm (Landau 2006, van Urk 2017) and bound pronouns are not.
- ullet Gender on n motivates MaxElide to capture gender-matching pattern
 - Gender is on n (Kramer 2015, Fuchs & van der Wal 2018) and one flavor of n in Swahili, n_{anim} is present in animate nouns and pronouns
 - Full personal pronouns are spelled out by Num + n_{anim} + PersP.
 - /ye/ is spelled out by Num + n_{anim} only

• Since Swahili employs both movement and base-generation and binding for Ā dependencies, person marking on RPs is mostly optional. It is only in islands and parasitic gap constructions that the difference is seen.

7.2 Remaining questions

- How can we capture the fact the suffix on the relative complementizer in all constructions shows the same suffix we see on prepositions except that it never inflects for person (*amba-mi)?
- Why does Swahili allow both movement and base generation?
 - One possible answer: In Swahili, there is covert ambiguity between different types of relative complementizers, a distinction made overt in Irish.

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