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## A Nominal Morphological Analysis of Kunda

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### Abstract:

*This manuscript is an extract of one of the research objectives from my thesis, The Grammatical Sketch of Kunda. It presents a nominal morphological analysis of Kunda, a language spoken in Mambwe district, in the Eastern part of Zambia. The objective of this study was to establish the Nominal morphological system of the language. The paper investigated a number of linguistic aspects of nominal morphology. Data for this analysis was collected in three chiefdoms of Mambwe district, that is Nsefu, Mnkhanya and Jumbe. Six adult native speakers of Kunda were selected for this study.*

*The analysis of data shows that Kunda has eighteen noun classes and some noun classes may be involved in the formation of diminutives and augmentatives. Aspects of Kunda noun phrase which includes pronouns, adjectives, demonstratives, possessives, interrogatives and quantifiers were also dealt with in this paper.*

**Keywords:** Kunda, Morphological sketch, Nominal morphology, Mambwe district

### 1. Introduction

Kunda is coded as N42 (Guthrie (1967) as such it is treated as an independent language, though many confuse it to be a dialect of CiNsenga, a language which shares linguistic boundary with it.

According to Banda *et al.* (2013), the language is surrounded by other Bantu languages such as Bisa, CiNsenga and Chewa, which to some extent influence its structure due to language contact. Census of Population and Housing (2010), estimates the number of Kunda Native speakers at 6,760. The linguistic data collected by Central Statistics Office (CSO) does not capture the actual language practices of a Kunda language speakers, as is the case with sociolinguistic studies. Kunda is spoken in all the chiefdoms in Mambwe with some aspects of CiNsenga in some instances. Kunda language has been greatly influenced by CiNsenga due to its close relatedness with lexical similarity of (72.6%) (Banda *et al.*, 2013). One of the scholarly work that has been conducted on Kunda language and traceable is a Kunda-Nsenga version of the New Testament Bible, known as 'Mapangano a lomb'a' published in 1923 with some aspects of CiNsenga in it (Banda *et al.*, 2013). Other works are an Anglican hymn book and the Kunda Oral and Traditions book called 'Visiilano' by Anifield (1936), the text which also incorporate some Nsenga aspects.

A linguistic survey report by Banda *et al.* (2013), might be described as the first linguistic treatment of Kunda language, although the scope of their survey was for language development assessment with the aim to translation the bible and other literacy programs in Kunda. The study does not specifically address the overall linguistic structure of Kunda language, such as aspects of phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics.

Kunda is one of those languages considered to be endangered. It is not used in schools, or in any formal audiences. The language has not been linguistically described in any linguistic aspect. Hence this paper focusses on the basic description of Kunda Nominal morphology so as to establish its morphological system.

### 2. Theoretical Framework

The study used documentary and descriptive linguistic field work. Descriptive linguistic fieldwork was used in order to investigate the morphological structure of the language through the collection of primary language data, through interaction with native speakers (Chelliah and. de Reuse, 2011). Document analysis was used to analyse existing unpublished manuscripts written in the language.

### 3. Methodology

Data was collected using qualitative approach and a descriptive linguistic design was used to analyse and describe the morphology of the Kunda language, as spoken by the native speakers. A purposive selection of Kunda native speakers was done with the sample size of six (6) adult informants from Nsefu, Mnkhanya and Jumbe chiefdoms.

English words, phrases and sentences were distributed to informants for translation into Kunda in the written form. 207 Swadesh list was used for the study. These lists were used to obtain basic vocabulary and morphological patterns. The informants were encouraged to give equivalents to CiNsenga that is intelligible to them and the researcher, for aspects that needed clarity.

#### 4. Nominal Morphology

Nominal morphology of Kunda comprises several linguistic properties just like most other Bantu languages. These linguistic properties are pronouns, adjectives, possessives, demonstratives, interrogatives and quantifiers.

##### 4.1. Noun Class System

Kunda has 18 noun classes. Every noun is made up of two parts that is the prefix and stem, the prefix indicates the class of a noun. The noun class system forms a concordial agreement system of the languages (Fudeman 2005)

Class	Prefix	Examples
1	Mu-{mu-mw-}	Munthu 'person', mwana 'child' muzya 'slave', mwanakazi 'female'
2	ŵa	Ŵanthu 'persons' ŵana 'children' ŵazya 'slaves' ŵanakazi 'females'
3	Mu-{mu-mw-m-}	Munzi 'village' mwezi 'moon' munda 'field' msitu 'grave yard'
4	mi	Minzi 'village' myezi 'moons' minda 'fields' misitu 'grave yards'
5	li,	Linso 'eye' liziwi 'word' Lulimi 'tongue'
6	ma	Menso 'eyes' maziwi 'words' malilimi 'tongues',
7	ci,	Cinongo 'big/bad clay pot', Cola 'bag', Citoŵo 'lake'
8	vi	Vinongo 'big/bad clay pots', Vyola 'bag', Vitoŵo 'lake'
9	n, m, ng, ny	njinga, 'bicycle' mbowo 'buffalo' nguluŵe 'wild pig'
10	n, m, ng, ny	njinga, 'bicycles' mbowo 'buffalos' nguluŵe 'wild pigs'
11	lu	Lunzi 'fly'
12	Ka	Katemo 'axe' kasimbi 'girl' Kanongo 'small/beautiful clay pot'
13	tu	Tutemo 'small axes' tusimbi 'small girls' Tunongo 'small/beautiful clay pot'
14	u-	Ule 'millet' ulesi 'laziness', unga 'maize meal' 'a cob of maize meal'
15	ku-	Kuseka 'to laugh' kuimba 'to sing' kulila 'to cry'
16	pa-	Pamtenje 'on the roof' pamulu 'on/at the top', panze 'outside'
17	ku	kumunzi, 'to the village' kumwesu 'to my home' kunze 'outside'
18	mu-	Munyumba 'in the house' muno 'in here' mucitundu 'in the basket'

Table 1: Nominal Class System

##### 4.2. Semantics of Nominal Classes

In Kunda language classes are associated with particular semantics or rather nouns with certain meaning belong to certain classes.

##### 4.2.1. Class 1 /mu-, /mw-/and 2 /ŵ-/

Classes 1 and 2 comprises nouns to do with human beings such as; persons, children, men, women and their personal relations. Prefix mu-. and ŵa represents singular and plural respectively.

1. munthu ŵanthu

Nouns of this class can sometimes be used in plural form to denote respect, even when the meaning is singular (honorific plural).

(b). ŵanakazi ŵanthu  
Cl.2- 'female/woman' Cl.2- 'elderly person'

Females/women (to mean a woman of strong character/ hard work/courage)

##### 4.2.2. Class 3 /mu-, /mw-/and 4 /mi-/

These classes are reserved for names of impersonal objects, some body parts and natural phenomena. Class 3 prefix are mu-, mw- is identical to class one.

2. (a). munzi minzi  
Cl.3- 'village' Cl.4- 'villages'  
(b). mu-aka (mwaka) mi-aka (myaka)  
Cl.3- 'year' Cl.4- 'years'

##### 4.2.3. Class 5 /li-/and 6 /ma-, /m-/

Class 5 and 6. deal with parts of the body, plants, fruits and natural phenomena

3.(a). liziwi maziwi  
Cl.5- 'word' Cl.6- 'words'  
(b). linso ma-inso (menso)  
Cl.5- 'eye' Cl.6- 'eye'

4.2.4. Class 7 /ci-/ and 8 /vi-/

Class 7 and Class 8 contain miscellaneous items and can also be used argumentatively or pejoratively with nouns inherently belonging to other classes.

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4. (a) ci- nongo         | vi- nongo                 |
| Cl.7- 'big/bad clay pot' | Cl.8- 'big/bad clay pots' |
| (c). ci-ulu (culu)       | vi- ulu (vyulu)           |
| Cl.7- 'anthill'          | Cl.8- 'anthills'          |

4.2.5. Class 9 and 10 /n-/ /ng-/ and/ ny-/

These classes contain miscellaneous objects, animals, birds and animals etc. They have the same forms in both singular and plural. The noun class is determined by way of concord on other elements in the noun phrase. The subject verb agreement differs as exemplified below;

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5. (a). njinga yanji   | njinga zanjji           |
| Cl.9- bicycle (my) sg. | Cl.10- bicycle (my) pl. |
| 'my bicycle'           | 'my bicycles'           |

4.2.6. Class 11 /lu-/

Nouns in this class take class 6, as their plural prefixes. The plural prefix ma- is attached to the fully fledged noun as below:

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 6. (a). lulimi  | ma-lulimi            |
| Cl.11- 'tongue' | Cl.6-Cl.11 'tongues' |

4.2.7. Class 12/ka-/ and 13 /tu-/

These classes include small things (diminutives) .

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 7. (b). kasimbi     | tusimbi              |
| Cl.12- 'small girl' | Cl.13- 'small girls' |

4.2.8. Class 14 /u-/

This class is reserved for abstract ideas and mass nouns.

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 8. (a). ulesi                |  |
| Cl.14- 'being lazy/laziness' |  |
| (b). unga                    |  |
| Cl.14- 'meal/meal'           |  |

When derived from other noun classes or adjectives class 14 nouns usually result into quality of being.

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.(a). mu-ana (mwana)   | u- mwana (umwana)           |
| Cl.1- 'child' (noun)    | Cl.14- 'childhood/childish' |
| (b). niweme             | uweme                       |
| 'beautiful' (adjective) | Cl.14- 'beauty'             |

4.2.9. Class 15 /ku-/

Class 15 contains infinitives of verbs.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 10. (a). kuseka   |  |
| Cl.15- 'to laugh' |  |

4.2.10. Class 16 /pa-/

Class 16 is a locative class to mean on/at as in the example below

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 11.(a). pamtenje        |  |
| Cl.16- 'on the roof'    |  |
| (b). pamunzi            |  |
| Cl.16- 'at the village' |  |

4.2.11. Class 17/ku-/

This class is also to mean at, or to. The ku- indicates being somewhere in a known place.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 12. (a). kumunzi        |  |
| Cl.17- 'to the village' |  |

4.2.12. Class 18 /mu-/

This locative class takes the mu- prefix to mean 'in'. mu- indicates being inside.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 13. (a) mumunzi         |  |
| Cl.18- 'in the village' |  |

4.3. Number Pairings

Number pairings for noun classes in Bantu languages is an important feature to express singulars and plurals.

Gender	Classes	Singular/Plural Examples of Prefix
1	1/2	Mu- / wâ-
2	3/4	Mu- / mi-
3	5/6	Li-z/ ma-
4	7/8	Ci- / vi-
5	9/10	n/ n
6	11/6	Lu- / ma-
7	12/13	Ka- / tu-
8	15/6	Ku- /ma-

Table 2: Pairs of Noun Classes

#### 4.4. Diminution and Augmentation

Classes 12/13, 7/8 express diminution and augmentation respectively, to connote a good quality and bad quality rather than smallness and largeness (Wicks 2006). Noun class shift by diminution and augmentation is another feature in Kunda. A noun class shift is a replacement on noun prefix by a different noun prefix, creating a different meaning as below; (Morrison 2011:165).

14. **munthu**                      **tunthu**                      **vinthu**  
 Cl.1 – 'person'      Cl.13 – 'small/good things'      Cl.8 large/big/bad things

Noun	Diminutives (Sg.) Cl.12	Diminutives (Pl.) Cl.13
mwana Cl.1	ka-mwana 'beautiful/good child'	tu-wana 'beautiful/good children'
nongo Cl.9	ka-nongo 'a small/good pot'	tu-nongo 'small/good pots'
linso Cl.5	ka-linso 'a small eye'	tu-linso 'small eyes'
katemo Cl.12	ka-nkwino 'axe'	tu-nkwino 'more than one axe'
mutwe Cl.3	ka-mutwe 'small/nice head'	tu-mitwe 'small/nice heads'
kwendo Cl.15	ka-kwendo 'small/good legs'	tu-mendo 'small/good legs'

Table 3: Noun Class Diminutives

Noun	Augmentations (sg.) Cl.7	Augmentations (Pl.) Cl.8
mwana Cl.1	ci-mwana 'big/bad child'	vi-wana 'big/bad children'
nongo Cl.9	ci-nongo 'big/bad claypot'	vi-nongo 'big/bad clay pots'
linso Cl.5	ci-linsi 'big/bad eye'	vi-linso 'big/bad eyes'
njinga Cl.9	ci-njinga 'big/bad bicycle'	vi-njinga 'big/bad bicycles'
kwatu Cl.15	ci-kwatu 'big/bad ear'	vi-kwatu 'big/bad ears'

Table 4: Augmentation

Class markers are used for derivative functions as well. Both diminutives and augmentatives trigger agreement on modifiers and verbs. Agreement takes the outer class prefix in case of double pre-fixation on both plural diminutives and augmentation. The inner class prefix agreement results in ungrammaticality as in (15c)

15. (a). kanthu                      kamunthu  
       ka - nthu                      ka - mu - nthu  
       Cl.12- thing                      Cl.12-Cl.1- person  
       'small/good thing'                      'small/good person'
- (b). kamunthu kanji kakoiza  
       ka - mu - nthu      ka - nji      ka - ko - iz- a  
       Cl.12-Cl.1- person Cl.12-agr-pos Cl.12 agr-fut come-fv  
       'my small/good person will come'
- (c). \*Kamunthu wanji wa koiza.

#### 4.5. Class Agreement

In Bantu languages, agreement is cardinal in that there exists a concord system for each class where a substantive agrees with its determiners and the verb of which it is the subject (Miti 2001:17). The concords of various elements must agree with the class of the controlling nominal (Miti 2001:156).

##### 4.5.1. Class Particle

Prefix-agreement between various parts of speech such as verbs, adjectives, numerals and pronouns is a key feature in Kunda morphology. Kunda presents the use of class particle consisting either the dominant element in the noun such as -u, -a for Cl.1 and Cl.2 or the prefix itself as in -Cl.12 -ka

16. (a). tuwana twanji tweme  
       tu- wana    tu - a - nji    tu - wem-e  
       Cl.13- child Cl.13pp (cp)-stem Cl13-cp- rad - fv

*'my good/ beautiful child'*

(b). *wana wānji waweme*

*wā - na    w̄ - a - nji    w̄ - a - wem - e*

Cl2 child Cl2pp(cp)- stem Cl2- cp - rad - fv

*'my children good/ beautiful'*

#### 4.5.2. Relative Particle

A relative particle is a genitive or possessive particle, equivalent to English (of) or (for). In Bantu languages (of) is always in agreement with the thing possessed (Ranger 1928:26). The relative particle helps the noun to relate with other nouns and personal pronouns. In Kunda the relative particle is formed by the letter **-a** preceded by the class particle such as Cl.3 munzi the relative particle is **-a** preceded by class particle **-u** giving rise to relative particle (**wa**).

Munzi **wa** wata *'my father's village'*

In some noun classes when the class particle precedes **-a**, it coalescence as in example below;

17. (a) vitonga vi-a(vya) wama

Cl.8maize RP Cl2 mother

*'my mother's maize' (maize of my mother)*

The relative particle in the above example agrees with kuseka 'laugh' (Cl.15). The dominant element of this class and number is the Class Particle **ku-** which when combined with **-a**, thus **ku-a** forms the relative particle **kwa-**.

18. nanda za wanakazi

Cl.10.houses RP Cl2. women

*'houses for women'*

In Kunda the Relative Particle may also be used to express the Possessive Case.

19 (a). Minzi ya mfumu

Cl.3.villagesRP- chief

*'the chiefs' villages'*

(b). liziwi lya mwana

Cl.5.word RP cl.1.child

*'the child's voice'*

#### 4.6. Noun Phrase

The structure of the noun phrase in Kunda is head-initial as in **m'sambo unini** 'a small branch', in that **m'sambo** is a noun and **unini** is a modifier. Components of the noun Phrase include pronouns, adjectives, demonstratives, possessives and quantifiers.

##### 4.6.1. Pronouns /Personal Pronouns

They are different types of pronouns in Kunda, and they include personal pronouns, possessive pronouns, demonstrative pronouns and many more. In Kunda, pronouns are used primarily for persons and emphasis.

In Kunda, there are distinctive forms of personal pronoun. Kunda, just like Cinsenga in Miti (2001:42) has four personal absolute pronouns.

Personal Pronoun	Gloss	Reflexive Pronoun	Gloss
neo (ne, neo)	I, me (1sg)	nemwine	myself
seo (se, seo)	we, us (1pl)	teŵene	ourselves
weo (we,weo)	you (2sg)	wemwine	yourself
mweo(mweo)	you (2pl)	mweŵene	yourselves
		mwine	him/herself
		ŵene	themselves

Table 5: Personal Pronoun and Reflexive pronouns

The structure of Kunda personal pronoun is a pronominal prefix (PPx) followed by a stem. /-eo/. The pronominal prefixes are (*n-*, *s-*, *w-*, *mw-*)

2o. (a). 1 sg n- eo (neo) *'I/me'*

PPx stem

(b). 1 pl s- eo (seo) *'we/us'*

PPx stem

(c). 2 sg w- eo (weo) *'you'*

PPx stem

(d). 2 pl mw- eo (mweo) *'you'*

PPx stem

Mweo 'you' (2pl) may be used in preference to the singular as a way of being polite

##### 4.6.2. Possessives

In Kunda, possessives nouns occur immediately after a head noun. The noun is brought into relation with the personal pronouns by prefixing the relative particles or agreement class prefix (ACP) of the various classes of nouns to the possessive (whose) hence possessive relative pronouns. The table below shows the summary of possessive pronouns.

Type	Stem	Example	Gloss
1 <sup>st</sup> person (sg)	-nji	Mwana wanjji	My child
1 <sup>st</sup> person (pl)	-su	Mwana wesu	Our child
2 <sup>nd</sup> person (sg)	-wê	Mwana woŵe	Your child
2 <sup>nd</sup> person (pl)	-nu	Mwana wenu	Your child
3 <sup>rd</sup> person (sg)	-ke	Mwana wake	His/her child
3 <sup>rd</sup> person (pl)	-wô	Mwana waŵo	Their child

Table 6: Possessive Pronouns

21. (a) Mwana wanjji 'my child'  
Mwana u-a -nji  
Cl.1child RP- my
- (b) Vyola vyesu 'our bags'  
vyola vi -esu  
Cl.8bag RP-our

The plural possessive connection **-nu** is used to show respect especially when addressing a stranger, a superior and an elderly.

22. nanda yenu 'your house'

#### 4.6.3 Demonstratives or Deictic Pronouns

Demonstratives are characterised with a feature that they are used to indicate proximity and non-proximity, indicating the location of the referent in relation to the speaker and hearers position (Dryer, 2007 b). Mathews (1997:91) defines demonstrative as 'a word whose basic role is to locate a referent in relation to a speaker, an addressee or some other person.'

- 23(a). eci cinthu 'this thing' (near speaker and (addressee))  
(b). cino cinthu 'this thing' (near speaker far from addressee)  
(c). eco cinthu 'that thing' (near addressee far from speaker)  
(d). ecila cinthu 'that thing' (far from both speaker and addressee)

In Kunda, the near demonstratives are used to denote things that are near to the speaker. They are formed for each class and number by prefixing the relative particle to the syllable.

24. (a). munthu u-no'  
Cl.1.person RP this  
'this person'
- b). ŵanthu ŵa-no  
Cl.2people RP these  
'these people'

The proximal demonstrative can also be used to express temporal proximity.

25. ya - no masiku yi - lokwa lyonse/ yi - lokwa lyonse ya - no masiku  
RP -these Cl.6 days it rains all the time/ it rains all the time RP -these Cl.6 days  
'these days it rains all the time'

The medial demonstrative is used when a thing is near the addressee and far from the speaker. It is formed by prefixing the class particle of each class to the syllable.

- 25.(a). munthu u-yo  
Cl.1 person CP-that  
'that person'
- b). ŵanthu a-ŵo  
Cl.2people CP- those  
'those people'

The distal demonstrative is used to refer to something that is far from both the speaker and the hearer. It is formed by prefixing the Agreement class particle of each class to the syllable **-la**.

- 26.(a). mwana o - la (ola)  
Cl.1 child CP - that  
'that child'
- (b) Cinongo ci-la(cila)  
Cl.7big clay pot CP-that  
'that big clay pot'

#### 4.7. Interrogatives

Interrogatives in Kunda are rendered by the stem -ndo, -ni, and -lali and preceded by copula -ni in some cases.

- 27.(a). nindo? 'what/why' Nindo acitile evila 'why did he do that'  
(b). cindo? 'which' Nicindo 'which one'  
(c). kwani? 'where' Buku ili kwani 'where is the book'  
(d). ŵani? 'who/whom/whose' Nibani waŵonele 'who did you see'  
(e). yando 'how' M'nzila yando 'in what manner'

#### 4.8. Adjectives

In Kunda, some adjectives are made to agree with nouns or pronouns which they are used to modify according to class and number by use of Class Particle or the noun class prefix NCP. They take noun class prefix as agreement.

- 28(a). ŵana ŵaweme  
ŵana ŵa- weme  
Cl.2-child Cl. 2adj.pref-stem  
'good children'
- (b). Nanda zabwino zikulu  
n-and-a za-bwino zi-kulu  
Cl.10house-fv Cl.10 Agr.good Cl.10Adjpref.big-fv  
'good big houses'

When these adjectives modify nouns which are also related to other nouns, they always take the relative particle of the noun they qualify.

- 29 (a). ka - temo ka mu - alimu ka - weme

Cl.12-stem PPof Cl.1 teacher RP good

Katemo ka mwalimu kaweme 'the good axe of a teacher'

(b). ka - temo ka mu - alimu mu - weme

Cl.12- stem PP Cl.1- teacher RP- good

Katemo ka mwalimu muweme 'the axe of the good teacher'

In this case, in example (29a), the adjective muweme 'good' takes the Relative Particle of the noun it qualifies that's katemo 'axe' which is ka- hence kaweme where as in example (29b), the same adjective 'muweme' takes the Relative Particle of mwalimu 'teacher', the noun it qualifies which is mu- hence mu-weme.

#### 4.9. Quantifiers

Quantifiers are 'noun modifiers that indicate quantity and scope' (Schachter and Shopen 2007:37). Kunda quantifiers include cardinal numerals, ordinal numerals and other quantifiers.

##### 4.9.1. Cardinals

One is a pronominal form and takes the pronominal prefix. Numbers two, to five are nominal forms and they consist of nominal prefix and an enumerative stem. Six is a noun just as the words for ten, hundred and thousand.

The morphological structure of the cardinal numbers from one to five is generally prefix

+ stem, example; ci- mo 'one'

Cardinal Numerals	Gloss
- mo	one
- wili	two
- tatu	three
- ne	four
- sano	five
mtanda	six
cine luwili	seven
cine konse konse	eight
pawula	nine
kumi	ten

Table 7: The Basic Numerals from One to Ten

30. (a). munthu umo

mu - nthu u - mo

Cl.1 - person Cl.1con - one

'one person'

(b). vigayo viwili

vi - gayo vi - wili

Cl.8-hammmermill-CL.8con-two

'two hammmermills'

31. Wanthu mutanda 'six people'

The numerals eleven (11) to nineteen (19) are formed by additions to numeral ten (10) and are introduced by the nominal conjunction (-na) and followed by the basic numerals with the right concord where necessary as below;

32. (a). Kumi na cimo 'eleven' Wanthu kumi na cimo 'eleven people'

(b). kumi na cine luwili 'seventeen' Viti kumi na cine luwili 'seventeen trees'

The multiples of ten (10) up to a hundred use the plural of ten that is makumi, followed by basic numerals.

33. makumi yasano 'fifty' makumi cine konse konse 'eighty'

##### 4.9.2. Ordinals

The order of ordinals first, second, third, fourth, fifth, tenth, thousandth and last is expressed by prefixing several morphemes ci- or ca- to the numeral stem.

cakuyamba 'first', cauwili 'second', cautatu 'third', cine 'fourth', cisano 'fifth' cakumi 'tenth' caikana 'thousandth'

cakushalila 'last', cakuyamba 'the first thing', usiku wa uwili 'the second day', ica kumi 'tenth thing'

The adverbials once, twice, thrice, four times are expressed by prefixing li- to the numeral stem as;

34. (a). limo 'once'

(b). liwili 'twice'

(c). litatu 'thrice'

(d). lisano 'four times'

#### 4.10. Associative Nominal

Associative constructions are used to link two nouns or noun phrases that are associated with each other; the first noun which is the head noun is modified in some way by the second, often a semantic relationship of possession (Wicks 2006).

In Kunda, associative nominal consists of two nouns with a Relative Particle which is an associative marker between them two, with the structure represented as (Noun 1+ AM + Noun 2). The first noun which is the head noun is modified in some way by the second noun.

34 (a). *wana wa mwalimu*

*Wa - ana wa mu - alim-u*

*C12-child cl2AssM Cl.1- teacher-fv*

*'the teachers children'/ children of the teacher*

(b). *njinga za walimi*

*n-jinga za- wa - lim - i*

*Cl.10-bicycleCl.10AssM Cl.2 farmer-fv*

*'the farmers bicycle'/' bicycles for farmers'*

In Kunda, the Associative construction expresses a variety of purposes such as possession, location, part or whole relation and kind.

#### 4.10.1. Associative Constructions Expressing Possessive

When expressing possession in these constructions, the head noun (N1) is possessed by the second noun (N2) as in the example below:

35.(a). *mbuzi za mwalimu*

*mbuzi za mu - alim - u*

*Cl.10-goats cl10AssM Cl.1-teacher-fv*

*'the teacher's goats'*

(b). *manja yake*

*manja ya - ke*

*Cl.6 hands FCl.6AssM-3Sg pos*

*'his hands'*

#### 4.10.2. Associative Constructions Expressing Location

In Kunda, the associative construction may also be used with certain expressions of location. When the head noun is locative (N1), the Associative Marker agrees in concord with the nouns inherent class, which is the locative noun class as in example (36) below:

36. (a). *mukati mwa nanda*

*mu - kat -i -mu - a nand - a*

*Cl.18inside-fv Cl.18AssM (loc) Cl.9-house*

*'inside the house'*

(b). *kuminda kwa wata*

*ku - mind - a ku-a wa - ta*

*Cl.17 Inf to -field-fv Cl.17AssM (loc) Cl.2father*

*'to the field of my father'*

#### 4.10.3. Associative Constructions Expressing Part/Whole Relation

The part or whole associative marker agrees in concord with the head nouns inherent class and the associative marker takes the form of the relative marker.

37. *Kwanja kwa mwanakazi*

*ku - anja ku-a mu - anakaz - i*

*Cl.14-eye Cl.14AssM-Cl.1- female- fv*

*'the woman's hand'*

#### 4.10.4. Associative Constructions Expressing Kind

The second noun (N2) describes some characteristics of the head noun (N1).

38. *ulalo wa viti*

*u - lal - o u-a v -it - i*

*Cl.14bridge-fv Cl.14AssMCl.8-tree-fv*

*'a bridge made of trees'*

#### 4.10.5 Noun 2 Modifications

In Kunda associative constructions, noun 2 (N2) can be modified by various types such as adjectives and relative clauses.

When (N2) is modified by an adjective, the adjective agrees in class with it.

39. *mtenje wa nanda ikulu*

*Cl.3roof (N1) Cl3AssMCl.9house adj.*

*'the roof of the big house'*

When (N2) is modified by a relative clause in associative constructions. The agreement in class between N2 and the relative clause agrees in class with it.



40. mtenje wa nanda wamangile waliponele  
 mtenje wa nanda wa – mang - ile wali – pon – ele  
 Cl.3roof(N1) Cl.3AssMCl.9houseRCM-rad-app suf. TM – rad- app suf.  
 ‘the roof of the house that they built collapsed’

## 5. Conclusion

This paper has analysed some important features of Kunda nominal morphology. It has provided a description of the noun class system, the semantics of the noun classes, the number pairings and the class agreement. The paper has also dealt with the constituents of the noun phrase, such as pronouns, demonstratives, possessives, adjectives, numerals, and the associative constructions.

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