

THE POSSESSIVE IN ZULU

BY

NONHLANHLA OMIC SABELO

BA HONS, S.T.D. (UZ)

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Supervisor : Prof L.C. Posthumus

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(i)

D E C L A R A T I O N

I hereby declare that THE POSSESSIVE IN ZULU
is my own work both in conception and execution.
I declare that all the sources used have been
indicated and acknowledged by means of complete
references.


N.O. SABELO

JANUARY 1990

DEDICATION

To: my late brother Mzwakithi Omsie
my parents Mvunge and Thino
my brother Mduduzi
and my sisters Kwenzekile, Zandile,
Zibuyile and Nompumelelo.

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SUMMARY

This study is a review of the Possessive in Zulu. Many grammarians that have dealt with the possessive in Zulu over-emphasised the structure of the possessive thus very often neglecting the meaning of the possessive in Zulu, and the so-called unmarked possessive. Different approaches to word identification have been discussed. The implications of the two approaches to word identification for the possessive in Zulu, namely, the conjunctive and the semi- X conjunctive approach, have been discussed.

The conjunctivists indicate that the possessive is one word made up of three parts, the agreement morpheme, the possessive morpheme and the possessor.

e.g. i + a - umfana

yomfana

(of the boy)

The semi-conjunctivists indicate that a possessive consists of two words, namely, a possessive particle and a complement.

e.g. ya-umfana

(of the boy)

Possessives that are direct in manner have been distinguished by inter alia Doke. These possessives are semantically and morphologically regular.

e.g. ibhola lomfana

(the ball of the boy)

Some structures do not include the possessive particle and yet they do carry a possessive meaning.

e.g. uyihlo

(your father)

There are possessives that are indirect in nature, having possessive particles, but which do not imply true possession. The noun-possessor, and the noun-possessee are thus not semantically in a true possessive relationship in an example such as the following.

e.g. intalantala yomsebenzi

(a lot of work)

Possessives which are structurally irregular in that they contain no possessive particle, are also discussed in this study. The possessor and the possessee are in a part-whole relationship in this sentence.

e.g. ngiphule umfana ingalo

(I broke the boy's arm)

OPSOMMING

In hierdie werk word 'n oorsig gebied van die possessief in Zulu. Talle grammatici wat die possessief in Zulu bestudeer het, het die struktuur van die possessief oorbeklemtoon en sodoende dikwels die betekenis daarvan en die sogenaamde ongemarkeerde possessief agterwee gelaat. Verskillende benaderings tot woordidentifikasie naamlik die konjunktiewe en die semi-konjunktiewe benadering lei tot verskillende interpretasies van die possessief.

Die konjunktiviste beweer dat die possessief een woord is wat bestaan uit drie dele; die kongruensiemorfeem, die possessiefmorfeem en die besitter.

bv. i + a + umfana

yomfana

(van die seun)

Die semi-konjunktiviste beweer weer dat die possessief bestaan uit twee woorde te wete die possessiewe partikel en die komplement.

bv. ya-umfana

Possessiewe waarin die verwantskap direk van aard is, is bespreek. Hierdie possessiewe is semanties en morfologies reëlmatig.

bv. ibhola lomfana

(die bal van die seun)

In sommige strukture kom die possessief-partikel nie voor nie en tog dra hulle sodanige struktuur 'n possessiewe betekenis.

bv. uyihlo

(jou vader)

Daar word aangetoon dat by sommige possessiewe die verwantskap indirek van aard is. Hierdie possessiewe beskik wel oor 'n possessief partikel

maar dui nie op 'n besitsverhouding nie. Die naamwoord-besitter en die naamwoord-besitting is semanties nie 'n egte possessiewe verhouding nie.

bv. intalantala yomsebenzi

('n groot hoeveelheid werk)

Struktureel onreëlmatige posseßsiewe d.i. strukture wat geen possessief partikel het nie, word ook bespreek. Die besitter en besitting staan in 'n deel geheelverwantskap tot mekaar.

bv. ngiphule umfana ingalo

(ek het die seun die arm gebreek)

(ek het die seun se arm gebreek)

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 MOTIVATION OF STUDY

The possessive has long been a problem to grammarians of Zulu because of the problem of word identification as well as the subcategorisation of this grammatical structure. The role played by semantics in the identification and description of the possessive, which is in fact of paramount importance to the proper treatment of the possessive, has long been neglected by many Zulu grammarians.

Traditional terminology is somehow directed to structure rather than semantic content. Doke for instance defines the possessive thus:

"A possessive is a word which qualifies a substantive and is brought into concordial agreement therewith by the possessive concord."

(Doke, 1984:115)

Other linguists, as we share their view, conclude that grammatical structure as such is not enough to subcategorise and describe the possessive without a proper evaluation of the actual language usage. We cannot lose sight of the fact that knowing a language means a great deal more than simply knowing the morphological structure. Meaning should also be considered in the study of the possessive.

For these reasons one has come to the conclusion to evaluate the possessive's form, function, distribution and mutual relationship with words and word groups within larger stretches of speech.

1.2 Aim of study

The aim of this study is to review the treatment of the possessive in Zulu. The accepted views on the derivation and usage of the possessive in Zulu need to be re-evaluated. Another aim of this study is to point out some semantic-syntactic problems, reviewing those possessives

that are semantically regular but morphologically irregular and to look closely at possessive constructions as they realise in language usage.

1.3 Research Methodology and Sources of Data

This research espouses no particular theoretical viewpoint to the exclusion of the others. However, some preference of word identification is given to the semi-conjunctive approach. A thorough investigation and comparison of the conjunctive and the semi-conjunctive approach was made in as far as word identification with reference to the possessive, is concerned.

- A questionnaire was compiled and submitted to a group of students of Esikhawini College of Education with the aim of investigating whether in their opinion the semantically regular but morphologically irregular possessives (unmarked possessives) may be regarded as possessives in order to

establish the criteria they use to identify possessives.

- Literature dealing with the possessive in Zulu has been reviewed and the data obtained has been analysed.
- A number of mother-tongue speakers have been used to verify certain findings.

1.4 Presentation of Chapters

CHAPTER 1

This chapter is an introductory chapter dealing with the motivation and aim of study, stating clearly the purpose or objectives of this study and the methodology. It introduces each chapter for the sake of clarity and it gives definitions of some terms used in an unconventional way.

CHAPTER 2

This chapter is a review of the treatment of the possessive in Zulu comparing the conjunctive approach with the semi-conjunctive approach.

CHAPTER 3

This chapter deals with the possessive word group. The possessive as a word group consists of an antecedent, an introductory member and a complement.

CHAPTER 4

This chapter deals with the possessee as a member of the possessive word group.

CHAPTER 5

This chapter deals with unmarked possessives. Unmarked possessives are semantically regular but morphologically irregular.

CHAPTER 6

This chapter consists of the summary, analysis and interpretation of data and the references used in this research.

1.5 Definition of Terms

Possessive

The possessive may be defined as the grammatical case which consists of the possessee and the possessor. The possessor and the possessee may either be in a true possessive relationship or not in a true possessive relationship. The possessive may either be marked through the presence of the possessive particle or marked by the absence of the possessive particle.

Gove et. al. (1961:1770) define the possessive in the following manner:

- (a) of, relating to, or constituting a grammatical case that denotes ownership or a relation felt to be analogous to ownership;
- (b) of, relating to or constituting a word or word group that denotes ownership or a relation felt to be analogous to ownership;
- (c) of, or relating to the possessive case, a possessive construction.

Inalienable Possessive

Inalienable possessives may be defined as those possessives which are structurally irregular in that they contain no possessive particle.

Wilkes in Nkabinde (1988:250) says:

"This possessive is strictly limited to cases where there is a part-whole relationship between the possessor NP and the possession NP."

Word Group

This is a group of words forming a syntactic-semantic unit, which is a member of a certain word group category. The possessee, possessive particle and the possessor are members of the word group category, the possessive.

CHAPTER 2

A REVIEW OF THE POSSESSIVE

The term possessive has been used in such a way that it is applicable to a particular type of qualificative. It is not seen as an independent word category but as a construction which employs the noun and pronoun in all variations as basis.

2.1 General Treatment of the Possessive in Zulu

Grammarians view the possessive in different ways. The crux of the matter in this chapter is word identification. What is regarded as the possessive concord plus possessive stem by certain grammarians is regarded as two separate words by others, namely a possessive particle and a complement, which is either a noun or pronoun. Grammarians are, therefore discussed according to their approaches, i.e. how they regard the possessive in as far as word

identification is concerned. The two major approaches of word identification which are discussed in this study are the conjunctive and the semi-conjunctive approaches.

The conjunctivists view the possessive as a combination of two morphemes, a possessive concord plus possessive stem thus forming one word. The semi-conjunctivists view the possessive as two distinct but interdependent words thus forming a word group. A number of grammarians namely Voeltz, Wilkes and others have investigated the so-called inalienable/part-whole possessives and have made a major contribution in this regard.

2.2 The Conjunctive Approach

2.2.1 The Morphology of the Possessive

Doke (1984:115), Ziervogel et al (1981:117) and Nyembezi (1973:98) regard the possessive as a word which qualifies a substantive. It consists of a possessive concord that refers to the noun

which is the grammatical possession and a stem which expresses the grammatical possessor.

They refer to the possessive as a word having two forms namely:-

- (a) Pronominal possessive stem with possessive concord prefixed;

e.g. inkomo yami

(my cow)

- (b) Nominal possessive stem with possessive concord prefixed;

e.g.inja yomfana

(the boy's dog)

The submission by these grammarians reveals their stress on derivational morphology. They regard the possessive as consisting of two morphemes; the concord plus the stem which is either a noun or pronoun, which combine thus resulting in a different part of speech.

2.2.1.1 Formation of Possessive Concorde

In as far as the formation of the possessive concord is concerned, the conjunctivists maintain that the possessive concord is formed by means of the subject concord plus possessive formative "a" (Ziervogel), qualificative formative "a" (Doke), or a concord equal to the subject concord followed by the possessive a (Van Eeden).

<u>NOUN</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>
<u>CLASS</u>	<u>CONCORD</u>	<u>FORMATIVE</u>	<u>CONCORD</u>
1. umu-	u- +	a	> wa-
2. aba-	ba- +	a	> ba-
3. umu-	u- +	a	> wa-
4. imi-	i- +	a	> ya-
5. i(li)	li- +	a	> la-
6. ama-	a- +	a	> a-
7. isi-	si- -	a	> sa-
8. izi-	zi- -	a	> za-
9. in-	i- -	a	> ya-
10. izin-	zi- -	a	> za-

<u>NOUN</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>
<u>CLASS</u>	<u>CONCORD</u>	<u>FORMATIVE</u>	<u>CONCORD</u>
11. u(lu)	lu- +	a	> lwa-
14. ubu-	bu- +	a	> ba-
15. uku-	ku- +	a	> kwa-
16. pha-	ku- +	a	> kwa-
17. ku-	ku- +	a	> kwa-

The formation of the possessive concords leads to the phonological processes elision and consonantalisation. In the case where the class concord is a vowel only, the formative a is suffixed to the class concord and consonantalisation takes place.

e.g. umfana (u+a>wa) wami

(my boy)

imizi (i+a>ya) yabo

(their houses)

In some cases if the class concord has the phonological structure ^{ku}/CV/ the formative a is suffixed to it and vowel elision takes place.

e.g. abazali (ba+a>ba) bami
(my parents)
izinkomo (zi+a>za) zabo
(their cattle)

There are some cases where the class concord has the phonological structure /CV/ that do not allow the occurrence of vowel elision but instead consonantalisation takes place.

e.g. uluthi (lu+a>lwa) lwabantwana
(the children's stick)

2.2.1.2 Possessive Stems

According to the conjunctivists the possessor can be expressed by nearly any word which acts as a possessive stem, e.g. noun, adverb, possessive pronominal stem etc.

e.g. ukudla kwezingane
(the children's food)

intsha yanamuhla

(today's youth)

ingane yami

(my child)

The possessive pronominal stem (in the conjunctivists terms) is similar to the absolute pronoun for most classes (-na discarded.)

e.g. izingane zabo(na) zabo

(their children)

incwadi yami(na) yami

(my book)

There is an exception with the first person plural, second person singular and plural, and Class 1 as far as these forms having their own possessive pronoun stems is concerned, which do not correspond to the absolute pronoun stems.

First person plural as possessor

-ithu - izingane za+ithu > izingane zethu
(our children)

Second person singular as possessor

-kho - izingane za+kho > izingane zakho
(your children)

Second person plural as possessor

-inu - izingane za+inu > izingane zenu
(your children)

Class 1 as possessor

-khe - izingane za+khe > izingane zakhe
(his/her children)

2.2.2 The Use of the Possessive together with other
Qualificatives

The conjunctivists say that whether direct or descriptive, the possessive has a tendency to immediately follow its antecedent.

e.g. inkomazi yami ebomvu isesibayeni

(my red cow is in the kraal)

Sometimes it happens that the possessive is moved from its position of following its antecedent to that of preceding its antecedent. According to the conjunctivists the possessive is then regarded as a qualificative pronoun, after the introduction of a relative concord.

e.g. eyami inkomazi ebomvu isesibayeni

(my cow which is red is in the kraal)

The above argument poses a problem because it is clear that the conjunctivists' argument is limited to cases where the possessive consists of the possessive particle plus the pronominal possessive stem. The problem is then, what about those cases where the possessive consists of the possessive particle plus any other word that can act as a stem such as a noun, copulative etc.

e.g. eyomuntu ingane ikhula kangcono

(a human being's child grows up better)

Therefore it does not necessarily mean that if the possessive takes the initial position, it is a qualificative pronoun. The conjunctivists are also not justified to say it is a qualificative pronoun after the introduction of the relative concord. This is not a relative concord but a morpheme that had been introduced to bring about agreement and harmony. A relative concord may not be introduced before a possessive particle.

It may be concluded that when the possessive precedes the antecedent it qualifies, it is used contrastively to stress or to clear a certain point.

e.g. eyami inkomo iyagula

(my beast is ill) (as opposed to yours)

The above example is used contrastively to stress that my beast is ill as opposed to yours.

Grammarians under the conjunctive approach further maintain that when two possessives are used qualifying a common antecedent one will be direct and the other descriptive.

e.g. indlu yami yamatshe

(my house of stones)

At times this poses a problem because there are cases where two descriptive possessives qualify one antecedent.

e.g. ingola yombila yokhuni

(a wooden mealie cart)

It may be concluded that if the direct possessive is formed from a pronominal it will precede the other in word-order.

e.g. indlu yami yamatshe

(my house of stones)

In cases where both possessives are formed from nouns as stems, choice of word-order is possible.

e.g. isifundo sabantwana sokuqala

(the children's first lesson)

isifundo sokuqala sabantwana

(the first lesson of the children)

2.2.3 Characteristics of the Possessive according to

Doke

Doke distinguishes between direct and descriptive possessives. A direct possessive is according to Doke (1984:117) formed with pronominal possessive stems indicating the actual possessor of the antecedent qualified.

e.g. umthwalo wami

(my luggage)

A direct possessive may also be formed with a noun base and a pronominal base such as

demonstrative pronouns.

e.g. inja yomfana

(the boy's dog)

ubisi lwaleli

(this one's milk)

A descriptive possessive is according to Doke (1984:117) formed when a possessive concord is prefixed to some other parts of speech in such a way that it does not reflect the actual possessor, but indicates character, content, material etc.

e.g. indlu yotshani

(house of grass)

ibhakede lamanzi

(bucket of water)

2.2.4 Some Deviations from the Conjunctive Approach

Doke (1984) and Cope (1986) being conjunctivists, deviate from some of the conjunctivists in that they include the kinship terms as possessives. They deviate from the conjunctive approach in the sense that the conjunctivists submit that the possessive is identified by the possessive concord plus possessive stem. Some kinship terms that are regarded as possessives by Doke and Cope have no possessive concord and possessive stem.

e.g. umfowethu

(my brother)

udadewenu

(your sister)

umkami

(my wife)

uyise

(his father)

Doke (1984:123) further submits that contracted forms of the possessives are found acting as possessive suffixes (enclitics) in many terms of relationship such as:

e.g. umntanami

(my child)

umntanakhe

(his child)

Doke (1984:119) and Cope (1986:164) deviate from other conjunctivists when they say that nouns of class 1(a) do not use possessive concords, but the possessive prefix ka- which replaces the initial vowel of the noun and which is preceded by the agreement morpheme unless the agreement morpheme consists of a vowel only.

e.g. iduku likanina

(her/his mother's headscarf)

ingubo kamama

(my mother's dress)

2.2.5 Summary and Comments on the Major Contributions
and Shortcomings of the Conjunctive Approach

This analysis of the conjunctivists is considered important for the study of the possessive in Zulu. For decades it has provided the framework for the analysis that has been undertaken on the possessive in Zulu.

Grammarians under the conjunctive approach defined the possessive as a word which qualifies a substantive and is brought into concordial agreement by the possessive concord. According to the above definition, a possessive is regarded as a sub-category of the word class qualificative. What is of significance here is that the conjunctivists regard the possessive stem together with its possessive concord as a word.

e.g. umfana wenkosi

(the king's boy)

In his classification of the parts of speech in Zulu, Doke states that it is the complete words and not the individual parts composing words, which must be considered as parts of speech. Therefore the idea of a possessive concord and a possessive stem forming one word, poses a problem within his classification.

The possessive as a word is subcategorised as a qualificative. A problem arises with possessives in cases such as:

e.g. inja yomfana omuhle

(the handsome boy's dog)

In an example such as this the syntactic analysis would have to account for the qualificative (adjective) omuhle qualifying the qualificative (possessive) yomfana. Even within the Dokean approach the qualificative has been defined as a word qualifying a nominal yet in the above example it will have to be concluded that the qualificative omuhle qualifies another qualificative yomfana.

As far as the formation of the possessive concord is concerned, the conjunctivists say that it is formed by the subject concord plus the qualificative formative "a". The idea of a subject concord is inappropriate to refer to the constituent morpheme contained in the possessive "concord". In this regard it is more appropriate to refer to this concordial element equal to the subjectival morpheme simply as an agreement morpheme as Van Eeden (1956) has done.

One can also mention that there is an aspect of the possessive which they have not dealt with. There are words that have a possessive meaning but do not have a typical possessive structure.

e.g. uSomandla

(father of power)

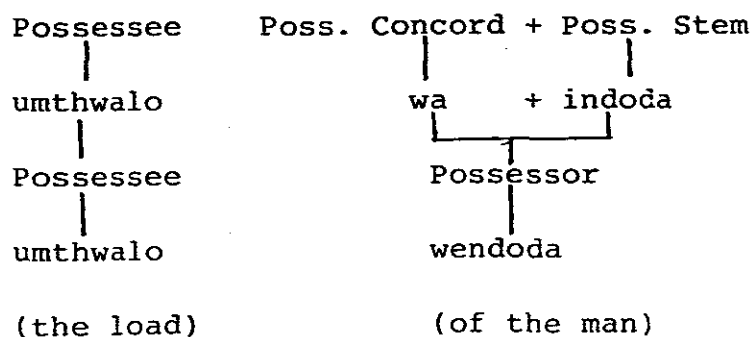
This kind of possessive is contracted i.e. it is a word which has evolved from a diachronic possessive structure.

2.3 The Semi-Conjunctive Approach

The principles of word identification of the semi-conjunctivists differ from that of the conjunctivists. The semi-conjunctivists regard the possessive as three separate but interdependent words i.e. the possessee, possessive particle plus the noun/pronoun. The possessive particle plus the noun/pronoun are however rigid members of the word group.

The two opposing views can be represented schematically as follows:

CONJUNCTIVE APPROACH



SEMI-CONJUNCTIVE APPROACH

Possessee	Poss. Particle	Complement
umthwalo	wa	+ indoda
Possessee	Poss. Particle	Noun/Pronoun
umthwalo	wa-	indoda
(the load	of	the man)

There are grammarians who are included under the semi-conjunctive approach because they have written the possessive as three words, and regarded the so-called possessive concord as a particle. Those are grammarians such as Torrend, Colenso and Stuart.

Torrend regards the possessive as a possessive expression when he says:

"In most Bantu languages possessive expressions are formed by placing the particle before substantives and pronouns."

(Torrend, 1891:189)

Being thus formed, these expressions are treated as if the possessive particles were properly a verb, meaning "to belong to" or "to appertain to." When possessive expressions are formed from nouns, three morphonological processes; elision, coalescence and consonantalisation come to play.

Elision: amahhashi a+abafana > abafana
 (the boys' horses)

Coalescence: amachwane a+inkukhu > amachwane
enkokhu
(the fowl's chicks)

Consonantalisation: ingane (i+a) + bona > yabo
(their child)

Colenso states that:

"The want of a possessive or generative case in Zulu is supplied by means of a possessive particle which is set before the governed noun or its representative pronoun."

(Colenso, 1904:28)

members of exocentric word groups. Semantically, particles denote relations. This can be illustrated by an example of a possessive word group.

e.g. iduku la-intombi

(the girl's headscarf)

In the above example la is a possessive particle which denotes the relation between iduku and intombi. It is an introductory members of the word group la-intombi thus lentombi.

Van Wyk says that the most important function of a particle is that of denoting relations. Relations are denoted even in words with complex meaning. There are possessive word groups that have a complex meaning, where relations are denoted by possessive particles.

e.g. umuntu wezinkuni usendlini.

(the wood's person is in the house).

The meaning of the previous example will be determined by extra linguistic factors such as context, pre-knowledge, and other factors. This can mean "the person who sells wood", or "the person who buys wood" or "the person who owns wood" or "the person who collects wood".

2.4 Conclusion

Both the conjunctivists and the semi-conjunctivists based their treatment of the possessive word group on the structure. Despite the fact that they used different approaches in word identification but they both directed their stress on the structure. The idea of meaning in the treatment of the possessive has not yet received full attention from these grammarians. This poses a problem because the possessive as a word group has both the form and function in the field of linguistic communication. The treatment of the possessive should account for both morphology and semantics.

CHAPTER 3

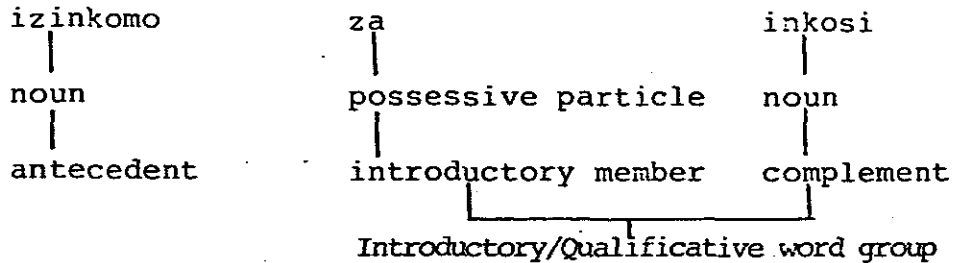
THE POSSESSIVE WORD GROUP

3.1 The Possessive as Word Group

The possessive as a word group consists of an antecedent, an introductory member and a complement. The antecedent is the possession, the introductory member being the possessive particle and the complement being the noun or pronoun used as the possessor. The introductory member together with the complement form an introductory - or qualificative word group. The antecedent with the qualificative word group form an antecedent word group which can be the subject or object of the sentence or have other syntactic functions.

This can be represented schematically as follows:

e.g. izinkomo zenkosi
(the king's cattle)



3.2 The General Structure of the Possessive Particle

According to Selkirk (1982:126) the possessive particle is regarded as the head of the qualificative word group. The head can be regarded as the nucleus of the word group. Through the percolation process, the possessive particle and its entire feature content percolate up the structure thus changing the category of the noun to that of being a complement/possessor.

The primary function of the possessive particle is to add a semantic property to the qualificative word group.

As the head of a word group the possessive particle displays the syntactic and semantic characteristics that are expected of a head. The qualificative word group is regarded as a left-headed construction. The possessive particle as a constituent of a construction is said to be the head of a constituent possessor. If a constituent possessive particle is the head of the constituent possessor it therefore means the possessive particle and possessor are associated with an identical set of features that are expected of constituents of a construction.

3.3 The Morphological Structure of the Possessive Particle

The possessive particle consists of a basic agreement morpheme (which is derived from the norm of the real prefix minus a nasal) of the class to which the possession belongs plus a possessive morpheme -a-.

<u>CLASS NO</u>	<u>NOUN</u>	<u>AGREEMENT</u>	<u>POSS.</u>	<u>POSS.</u>
		<u>MORPH</u>	<u>MORPH</u>	<u>PART</u>
1	umufo	u-	-a-	wa
2	abafo	ba-	-a-	ba
3	umuzi	u-	-a-	wa
4	imizi	i-	-a-	ya
5	i(li) tshe li-		-a-	la
6	amatshe	a-	-a-	a
7	isitsha	si-	-a-	sa
8	izitsha	zi-	-a-	za
9	inkomo	i-	-a-	ya
10	izinkomo	zi-	-a-	za
11	uluthi	lu-	-a-	lwa
14	ubuhle	bu-	-a-	ba
15	ukudla	ku-	-a-	kwa
16	phandle	ku-	-a-	kwa
17	kude	ku-	-a-	kwa

If the agreement morpheme consists of a vowel only, it is consonantalised to y- or w-. Here a vowel becomes a semi-vowel thus attaining the status of being a consonant.

<u>AGREEMENT</u>		<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>
<u>MORPHEME</u>		<u>MORPHEME</u>	<u>PARTICLE</u>

u	+	a	wa
i	+	a	ya

e.g. umuzi wakhe
(his house)

ingane yakhe
(her child)

If the agreement morpheme consists of a consonant and vowel u-, the vowel changes to a semi-vowel w-.

<u>AGREEMENT</u>		<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>
<u>MORPHEME</u>		<u>MORPHEME</u>	<u>PARTICLE</u>

ku	+	a	kwa
----	---	---	-----

e.g. ukudla kwakhe
(his food)

In the case of the ubu- class, the semi-vowel is elided because the phonology of the Zulu language does not allow the two bilabial consonants /b/ and /w/ to be juxtaposed. The two bilabial consonants are incompatible.

<u>AGREEMENT</u>		<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>
<u>MORPHEME</u>		<u>MORPHEME</u>	<u>PARTICLE</u>
bu	+	a	bwa > ba
e.g.		ubuhle bakhe	
		(her beauty)	

In class 6 coalescence takes place between the agreement morpheme and a (possessive morpheme) consequently resulting in the possessive particle a.

<u>AGREEMENT</u>		<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>
<u>MORPHEME</u>		<u>MORPHEME</u>	<u>PARTICLE</u>

a	+	a	a
---	---	---	---

e.g. amatshe ami
 (my stones)

If the agreement morpheme consists of a consonant and vowel i-, the vowel is elided.

<u>AGREEMENT</u>		<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>
<u>MORPHEME</u>		<u>MORPHEME</u>	<u>PARTICLE</u>

si	+	a	sia > sa
zi	+	a	zia > za
li	+	a	lia > la

e.g. isitsha sakhe
 (her container)

izinto zabo

(their things)

Itshe lami

(my stone)

3.3.1 Possessive Particle with Class 1(a) as Possessor

Instead of using a possessive particle, Class 1(a) uses the particle ka. In the case where the agreement morpheme of the possessee has the syllabic structure /V/ the vowel is elided resulting in ka used as possessive particle. The particle ka may be regarded as the archaic possessive particle.

e.g. ingubo i + ka + umama

ingubo kamama

(my mother's dress)

ingane i + ka + unina

ingane kanina

(his mother's child)

If the syllabic structure of the agreement morpheme of the possessee is /CV/ it precedes the morpheme ka, the possessive particle thus being zika- / lika etc.

e.g. izibuko zi + ka + umalume

izibuko zikamalume

(my uncle's spectacles)

isikhwama si + ka + ugogo

isikhwama sikagogo

(my grandmother's bag)

ikati li + ka + uyise

ikati likayise

(his father's cat)

3.3.2 Possessive Particle with Class 2(a) used as Possessor

Before nouns of Class 2(a), the prefix is retained while the a of the possessive particle is deleted. An alternative form is used where both the prefix

and the vowel of the possessive particle are retained. Juxtaposition of vowels is avoided by infixing the semi-vowel between the possessive particle and the prefix o-.

(a) Vowel of the possessive particle deleted

e.g. izinkomo za + obaba

izinkomo za**o**baba

izinkomo zobaba

(our fathers' cattle)

abantwana ba + omalume

abantwana ba**o**malume

abantwana bomalume

(our uncles' children)

(b) Both the prefix and the vowel of the possessive particle retained

e.g. izinkomo za + obaba

izinkomo za**o**baba

(our fathers' cattle)

abantwana ba + omalume

abantwana bawomalume

(our uncles' children)

3.4 Manifestations of the Noun as Possessor

The most commonly used complement of the particle is a noun from the noun classes. The possessive particle and possessor form a qualificative word group which qualifies the antecedent (possessee).

e.g. isinkwa sʒ + (a+i) ngane

> isinkwa sengane

(the child's bread)

Both elision and coalescence took place in the above example.

3.4.1 Locative Derived Nouns as Possessors

Before locative derived nouns. (with initial e)
-s- is infixed between the possessive particle
and the locative derived noun. The -s- is
according to Doke a pre-locative "s".

e.g. izingane za + s + ekhaya

izingane zasekhaya

(children of my home)

umfana wa + s + eGoli

umfana waseGoli

(the boy of Johannesburg)

Possessives are formed from place names by
prefixing the possessive particles to the locative
case with the pre-locative -s- between them.

e.g. izwe la + s + eMvoti

izwe laseMvoti

(the land of Mvoti)

3.4.2 Deverbative Nouns as Possessors

Deverbative nouns can be possessors in a possessive word group.

e.g. imoto yomhambi [hamba]
(the traveller's car)

isigqi somculo [cula]
(the rythm of music)

ingubo yomphathi [phatha]
(the guardian's dress)

3.4.3 Deideophonic Nouns as Possessors

Nouns that are derived from ideophones can be possessors in a possessive word group.

e.g. inhlamvu yesibhamu [bhamu]
(the bullet of a gun)

ihembe lesibhaxa [bhaxa]

(broad-shouldered person's shirt)

3.5

The Possessor Represented by the Possessive

Pronoun

The possessor can also be represented by the possessive pronoun which resembles the absolute pronoun (-na discarded) for all classes except 1st person plural, 2nd person singular, and plural, and Class 1, which is, -ithu, -kho, -inu and -khe respectively.

LIST OF POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

SINGULAR

PLURAL

1ps -mi (mine)

1pp -ithu (ours)

2ps -kho (yours)

2pp -inu (yours)

Class 1 -khe

Class 2 -bo

3 -wo

4 -yo

5 -lo

6 -wo

Class 7 -so

Class 8 -zo

9 -yo

10 -zo

11 -lo

14 -bo

15 -kho

16 -kho

17 -kho

Multiple coalescence takes place in the cases where -ithu and -inu are used as possessors.

e.g. z (i+a) > z (a+i) thu > zethu

izinkomo zethu

(our cattle)

(i+a) y(a+i) nu > yenu

imizi yenu

(your houses)

With the rest of the possessive pronouns the basic possessive particle is prefixed to the possessive pronoun.

e.g. zabo [izinja]
(theirs) dogs

kwabo [ukudla]
(theirs) food

zami [izingane]
(mine) children

lawo [ikhaya]
(theirs) home

When the possessive pronoun represents the possessor, it can be used either pronominally or as a determiner (qualificatively). If the possessive pronoun is used on its own with the antecedent, (noun possessor deleted) it is said to be pronominal but if the possessive pronoun is in apposition to the antecedent, it is said to be used as a determiner.

- (a) ihhashi lakhe liyagula (pronominal)
(his horse is ill)

- (b) ihhashi lakhe umfana liyagula (determiner)
(the horse of him, the boy, is ill)

3.6 The Syntactic Usage of the Possessive Word Group

The sentence is a grammatical form which can be analysed into constituents. The possessive word group may be used as subject or object of the sentence.

3.6.1 The Possessive Word Group as Subject of the Sentence

The possessive word group can occupy the subject position. The normal word order in a sentence is when the subject is before the predicative. The predicative will then contain an agreement morpheme agreeing to the possessor.

e.g. izinsizwa zikagogo zihambe le umhlangano.
(my grandmother's sons has left for the meeting).

Induku yami ilahleke izolo.

(my stick got lost yesterday).

3.6.1.1 Logical and Grammatical Subjects

The terms grammatical and logical subjects are often used to distinguish between position and meaning. These types of subjects are as a result of the change of word order caused by passivation.

e.g. ingane yesikole ifunda incwadi.

(the school child reads the book).

incwadi ifundwa ingane yesikole.

(the book is read by the school child).

3.6.2 The Possessive Word Group as Object of a Sentence

The proximate position of an object is after the predicate. The possessive word group as object of the sentence follows the predicate.

preceeding the possessor. Morphologically, it differs from the basic form by having a relative concordial morpheme added to the basic form. This is as a result of topicalisation.

e.g. abafana bethu

(our boys)

abethu abafana

(ours, the boys)

izingane zami

(my children)

ezami izingane

(mine, the children)

3.6.3.1 Formation of the Emphatic Possessive Word Group

The emphatic possessive word group consists of a qualificative morpheme a + full class prefix (minus nasal) followed by the ordinary possessive

particle (which consists of the basic agreement morpheme + possessive morpheme a) and noun or pronoun as possessor.

e.g. (a+u>o) + (u+a>wa) owa

owakhe umntwana

(hers, the child)

(her child)

However, in the noun classes with the agreement morpheme having the structure /CV/ the repeated /CV/ structure leads to the deletion of one of the repeated agreement morphemes.

(a+isi>esi) + (si+a>sa) esisa > esa

esakhe isikhwama

(his bag)

(a+ili>eli) + (li+a>la) elila > ela

elakhe ikati

(his cat)

(a+uku>oku) + (ku+a>kwa) okukwa > okwa

okwami ukudla

(my food)

(a+ubu>obu) + (bu+a>ba) obuba > oba

obakhe ubuhle

(her beauty)

3.6.3.2 Emphatic Possessive Word Group Used Copulatively

The emphatic possessive word group may be used copulatively by prefixing the particle ng(i).

e.g. ng(i) + eyakhe

ngeyakhe lengane

(the child is hers)

ng(i) + awami

ngawami lawomahhashi

(those horses are mine)

3.7 Archaic and Contracted Forms

Morphology and semantics goes hand in hand since morphemes are meaning-carrying parts of words. Archaic and contracted possessives are semantically marked but morphologically unmarked.

3.7.1 Relationships in Archaic and Contracted Forms

Archaic and contracted possessives may be categorised deictically and in terms of relationship.

3.7.1.1 Paternal Relationship

Paternal relationship in this study refers to the relationship that is fatherly, (from the side of the father).

e.g. umngane uthenge imoto yakhe

(a friend bought her car)

niyalithanda ivangeli lami na?

(do you like my gospel?)

3.6.3 The use of the Possessive Word Group as Relative

Under normal circumstances the possessor follows the possessee.

e.g. abafana bethu

(our boys)

izingane zami

(my children)

There is, however, another form where the possessive word group is used emphatically. This form is conveniently called the emphatic possessive word group. Syntactically, it differs from the basic form by having the possessor

<u>FIRST PERSON</u>	<u>SECOND PERSON</u>	<u>THIRD PERSON</u>
ubaba	uyihlo	uyise
(my father)	(your father)	(his/her father)
ubabekazi	uyihlokazi	uyisekazi
(my paternal aunt)	(your paternal aunt)	(his/her paternal aunt)
ubabamkhulu	uyihlomkhulu	uyisemkhulu
(my grandfather)	(your grandfather)	(his/her grandfather)
ugogo	unyokokhulu	uninakhulu
(my grandmother)	(your grandmother)	(his/her grandmother)
umfowethu	umfowenu	umfowabo
(my brother)	(your brother)	(his/her brother)

3.7.1.2 Maternal Relationship

Maternal relationship in this study refers to the relationship that is motherly. (from the side of the mother)

<u>FIRST PERSON</u>	<u>SECOND PERSON</u>	<u>THIRD PERSON</u>
umama (my mother)	unyoko (your mother)	unina (his/her mother)
umalume (my maternal uncle)	unyokolume (your maternal uncle)	uninalume (his/her maternal uncle)
umalumekazi (my maternal uncle's wife)	unyokolumekazi (your maternal uncle's wife)	uninalumekazi (his/her maternal uncle's wife)
umamekazi (my maternal aunt)	unyokokazi (your maternal aunt)	uninakazi (his/her maternal aunt)

3.7.1.3 Matrimonial Relationship

Matrimonial relationship in this study refers to the kind of relationship that arises as a result of marriage.

<u>FIRST PERSON</u>	<u>SECOND PERSON</u>	<u>THIRD PERSON</u>
umkami (my wife)	umkami (your wife)	umkakhe (his/her wife)
umamezala (my mother-in-law)	unyokozala (your mother-in-law)	uninazala (her mother-in-law)
ubabezala (my father-in-law)	uyihlozala (your father-in-law)	uyisezala (her father-in-law)

3.7.1.4 Affectionate Relationship

Affectionate relationship in this study refers to the kind of relationship that arises as a result of love and affection.

<u>FIRST PERSON</u>	<u>SECOND PERSON</u>	<u>THIRD PERSON</u>
umntakwethu (my kinsman)	umntakwethu (your kinsman)	umntakwabo (his/her kinsman)

3.7.1.5 Companion Relationship

Companion relationship in this study refers to the relationship where there is companion in age or common interest.

FIRST PERSON

SECOND PERSON

THIRD PERSON

uwethu

uwenu

uwabo

(my peer)

(your peer)

(his/her peer)

uzakwethu

uzakwenu

uzakwabo

(my colleague)

(your colleague)

(his/her
colleague)

3.7.2 Compounding in archaic possessives

Some of the archaic possessives are blended. They combine shortened forms of two words thus resulting to compounds.

NOUN + ADJECTIVE

ubaba + omkhulu

ubabamkhulu

(my grandfather)

uyihlo + omkhulu

uyihlomkhulu

(your grandfather)

uyise + omkhulu

uyisemkhulu

(his/her grandfather)

NOUN + QUALIFICATIVE

umuntu + wakwethu

umntakwethu

(my kinsman)

umuntu + wakwenu

umntakwenu

(your kinsman)

umuntu + wakubo

umntakwabo

(his/her kinsman)

umfo - wakithi

umfowethu

(my brother)

umfo - wakini

umfowenu

(your brother)

umfo + wakubo

umfowabo

(his/her brother)

NOUN + RELATIVE

umama + ozala (umyeni wami)

umamezala

(my mother-in-law)

unyoko + ozala (umyeni wakho)

unyokozala

(your mother-in-law)

unina + ozala (umyeni wakhe)

uninazala

(her mother-in-law)

3.7.3 Ellipsis in Archaic Possessives

There are archaic possessives which are a result of ellipsis, that is, the result of omitting some part of a word or word group. The words or parts of words deleted are often said to be understood.

In possessive word groups where the possessee is a male, the possessee and the possessive particle are contracted to uSo.

uyise wamandla

> uSomandla

(father of power)

uyise wekhaya

> uSokhaya

(father of the house)

uyise wezimali

> uSozimali

(father of money)

In possessive word groups where the possessee is a female, the possessee and the possessive particle are contracted to uNo.

unina wenhlanhla >

uNonhlanhla

(mother of luck)

unina wemvula >

uNomvula

(mother of rain)

Koopman (1986) disagrees with the fact that No is used for females. He states that this morpheme can also be used with males.

e.g. uNompempe

(referee)

3.7.4 The use of -kazi in Archaic Possessives

When the suffix -kazi is affixed to the noun, the result is either augmentation or feminine gender. In archaic possessives -kazi is used to indicate feminine gender as it refers to a female relative who may either be maternal or paternal.

3.7.4.1 Maternal Relatives

umalumekazi

(my maternal uncle's wife)

unyokolumekazi

(your maternal uncle's wife)

uninalumekazi

(his/her maternal uncle's wife)

3.7.4.2 Paternal Relatives

ubabekazi

(my paternal aunt)

uyihlokazi

(your paternal aunt)

uyisekazi

(his/her paternal aunt)

3.7.5 Postulation of Some Archaic Possessives

Semantically marked possessives which fall under kinship terms pose a necessity of research in sociolinguistics because they reflect the culture of the mother-tongue speakers. Most of them are rapidly falling into disuse because of the impact of the cultures of other peoples with whom Zulu mother-tongue speakers intermingle. For example if you take the possessive compound umamezala you find that it is wrongly used by some male persons to refer to their mother-in-laws

whereas the correct possessive compound for male persons to refer to their mother-in-laws is umkhwekazi.

umntwana kamamekazi umntakamame
(maternal cousin)

This is one of the terms that are rapidly falling into disuse. Some mother-tongue speakers substitute this term with terms such as umntakamamncane, umntakamamkhulu, which did not originally have the same meaning as umntakamamekazi. This possessive compound is a combination of two types of possessives, that is, the morphologically marked possessive word group umntaka and a semantically marked possessive, umamekazi. The diachronic structure of this kinship term is:

<u>PREFIX</u>	<u>STEM</u>	<u>POSSESSIVE</u>	<u>POSSESSOR</u>	<u>SUFFIX</u>
		<u>PARTICLE</u>	<u>FEMININE</u>	
um-	ntwana	ka	mame	kazi

umfowethu

(my brother)

Umfowethu is a general form of brother in Zulu. This is a possessive compound which does not distinguish between the youngest or eldest brother.

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Root</u>	<u>Poss. Particle</u>	<u>Pronominal Stem</u>
um-	fo	wa	ithu > umfowethu
um-	fo	wa	inu > umfowenu
um-	fo	wa	bo > umfowabo

umalume

(maternal uncle)

Some Zulu mother-tongue speakers maintain that "lume" in "malume" (maternal uncle) suggests that although the person referred to thereby, is a kin to one's mother, he is not as kind and loving as one's mother, or as other maternal relatives are.

One of the informants further proposes that the "lume" in "malume" (maternal uncle) suggests some sort of a biting maternal relative. The maternal uncles in a traditional Zulu set-up were renowned for being harsh to their nephews and nieces in comparison to the other relatives. It can be concluded that it originates from the word group umfo kamame olumayo thus umalume.

umkami

(my wife)

This term can only be used by the husband referring to his wife. For the second person it is umkakho (your wife) and for the third person it is umkakhe (his wife).

<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Possessive Particle</u>	<u>Possessive Pronoun</u>
um-	ka-	mi
um-	ka-	kho
um-	ka-	khe

In the above example it can be concluded that it originates from the word group umfazi ka mina

(my wife).

3.8 CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it may be concluded that the possessive as a word group has different variations. These different variations conform to both diachronic and synchronic approaches. The synchronic approach in this study is used in cases where the possessive word group is made up of the possessee, the possessive particle, and the possessor (complement i.e. noun or pronoun).

e.g. isikhwama sami

(my bag)

ikati lentombazane

(the girl's cat)

The diachronic approach in this study is used in archaic and contracted forms whereby their origin is traced; morphologically.

e.g. uyise + wamandla

> uSomandla

(father of power)

umntwana + wami

> umntanami

(my child)

This brings in the importance of the spoken word in the study like this, whereby the daily use of language by mother-tongue speakers is important.

CHAPTER 4

THE POSSESSEE

This chapter deals with the possessee. The possessee may be regarded as a noun (in a possessive word group) that is limited by another noun (possessor) which denotes origin, ownership or designation. Possessive word groups may be divided into three sub-categories, namely those that have a syntactically regular noun as possessee, those that have a syntactically irregular noun as possessee and those that have compound nouns as possessee.

This can be represented as follows:

SYNTACTICALLY REGULAR NOUN AS POSSESSEE

e.g. ingane kamama

(the child of my mother)

indlu yotshani

• (a house of grass)

SYNTACTICALLY IRREGULAR NOUN AS POSSESSEE

e.g. intalantala yomsebenzi

(a large quantity of work)

COMPOUND NOUN AS POSSESSEE

e.g. ilambalidlile lentombi

(well figured young woman)

usofasilahlane wami

(my beloved one)

4.1

SYNTACTICALLY REGULAR NOUN AS POSSESSEE

Syntactically regular noun in this study refers to the noun possessee that is syntactically justified. It is said to be regular because it has an independent lexical meaning.

The syntactically regular noun as possessee may be realised in two types of possessive word groups. It is found in both direct and indirect possessive word groups. In direct possessive

word groups the possessee and the possessor are in a true possessive relation to each other.

e.g. ingane kamama

(the child of my mother)

In indirect possessive word groups the possessee and the possessor are not in a true possessive relation to each other in spite of the presence of a possessive particle. When discussing the indirect possessives, Doke says:

"Here, instead of the concord agreeing with the possessee, it agrees with the possessor of some quality, characteristic or material."

(Doke, 1984:121)

According to Doke this possessive word group may indicate the following:

Material

indlu yotshani

(a hut of grass)

Contents

ujeke wobisi

(a jug of milk)

Use

imbiza yamanzi

(a pot of water)

Types, features, characteristics

abantu besilisa

(male persons)

into yokudla

(something to eat)

indoda yokusebenza

(a man to work)

One may reclassify Doke's divisions, content and use. There is ambiguity between the two because they both refer to purpose.

Purpose

ujeke wobisi

(jug of milk)

imbiza yamanzi

(pot of water)

Purpose distinguished by infinitive

complement

into yokudla

(something to eat)

indoda yokusebenza ensimini

(a man to work in the field)

4.1.1 The noun in a copulative form as possessee

Two basic types of copulatives are found in Zulu. The one is a copulative which is formed by the modification of the tone on the pre-prefix while the second type is the one that employs a copulative particle.

Nouns with prefixes commencing in the vowel
i- lower or rise the tone on that vowel or
preplace y- before the vowel.

e.g. ingane kababa

(my father's child)

ingane kababa/

yingane kababa

(it is my father's child)

isinkwa sengane

(the bread of the child)

isinkwa sengane

yisinkwa sengane

(it is the child's bread)

Nouns with the prefixes commencing in vowels
u- and a-, lower or rise the tone on those
vowels or preplace ng-/h- (the voiced / *h* /)
before those vowels.

e.g. umfana kagogo

(the boy of my grandmother)

ũmfana kagogo

ngumfana kagogo

humfana kagogo

(it is the boy of my grandmother)

amanzi oThukela

(water of Thukela river)

ãmanzi oThukela

ngamanzi oThukela

hamanzi oThukela

(it is the water of the Thukela river)

4.2 Syntactically Irregular Noun as Possessee

Syntactically regular noun in this study refers to the noun possessee that is syntactically not justified; because it has no independent lexical meaning.

A possessive word group with a syntactically irregular noun as possessee is also semantically irregular. The possessee and the possessor are not in a true possessive relation. The "possessee" instead of being the thing possessed, describes the possessor.

This kind of word group has a fixed word order, it cannot be changed. It consists of two types of words namely, the content word and the function word.

e.g. isiphalaphala sentombi

(a very beautiful young woman)

The possessee is a function word because it has no independent lexical meaning but merely contributes to the grammatical realisation of the possessive word group. The possessor on the other hand is a content word because it has a full lexical meaning of its own.

4.2.1 Different Syllabic Structures of the Syntactically
Irregular Noun as Possessee

4.2.1.1 Monosyllabic Stems

The possessee may be a monosyllabic stem with
an appropriate prefix.

e.g. isigqi sengoma

(the rhythm of a song)

isixha sokhiye

(a bunch of keys)

isabo somsindo

(a very loud noise)

isamba semali

(a lot of money)

4.2.1.2 Disyllabic stems

The possessee with disyllabic stem is miscellaneous in nature.

e.g. isibozi semoto

(a worthless car)

isigqigqi sentombi

(a short strongly built woman)

umthala wezinkanyezi

(a constellation of stars)

4.2.1.3 Duplicated stems

The possessee may be formed by prefixing a suitable prefix to duplicated stems.

e.g. intalantala yomsebenzi

(abundant work)

imbidlimbidli yentombazane

(a badly built girl)

inyavunyavu yemali

(a large sum of money)

isiminyamina sabantu

(a thick crowd of people)

ubhazabhaza wendlu

(a very big house)

intekenteke yengane

(a weakly built child)

isiphekupheku somfazi

(a very active wife)

igidigidi lensini

(a loud laughter)

4.2.1.4 Stems of verbal origin

In most cases the possessee with stems of verbal origin are characterised by a deverbative ending -i.

e.g. isi + lilitheka sa + umfana

isililitheki somfana

(an abnormal boy)

isi + lelesa sa + umfana

isilelesi somfana

(crime-comitting person)

4.2.1.5 Stems of ideophonic origin

In this case, the possessee consists of stems that are either disyllabic or polysyllabic. There are cases where disyllabic stems are re-duplicated.

e.g. isi + phihli sa + ingozi

isiphihli sengozi

(a big accident)

isi + dinsi sa + imali

isidinsi semali

(a large sum of money)

isi + bukubuku sa + ingane

isibukubuku sengane

(a healthy child)

isi + nambunambu sa + indoda

isinambunambu sendoda

(a soft man)

4.2.2 The locative form of the syntactically irregular
possessee

The possessee may be in a locative form. The initial vowel of the noun possessee is substituted by e and either -eni, -ini, -weni or -wini is suffixed for final vowels.

e.g. umqansa wentaba

(steep of the mountain)

emqanseni wentaba

(at the steep of the mountain)

izihlwelee zabantu

(crowds of people)

ezihlweleni zabantu

(in the crowds of people)

isiphithiphithii sabafundi

(commotion of students)

esiphithiphithini sabafundi

(in the commotion of students)

isaho somsindo

(a very loud noise)

esahweni somsindo

(in a very loud noise)

isiyaluyalu sabasebenzi

(commotion of workers)

esiyaluyalwini sabasebenzi

(in a commotion of workers)

4.2.3 The meaning of the Syntactically Irregular Possessee in Isolation

When taken in isolation, a syntactically irregular possessee is like any other noun that may be used as a possessee: According to the traditional grammarians a noun is a name of anything concrete or abstract. It is composed of two elements, a prefix and a stem. Like other nouns the prefixes of these irregular nouns generate concords that bring about concordial agreement between the possessee and the possessor.

e.g. isibozi (si + a) > sa + imoto

isibozi semoto

(a worthless car)

4.3 Morphological Characteristics of a Syntactically Irregular Possessee in Compound Form

Morphologically, this possessee consists of two or more words each of which has word status when used on its own.

This possessee has more than one root, it is formed of two parts of speech.

a) NOUN + PREDICATE

inkamba + beyibuza yengozi

inkambabeyibuza yengozi

(a large wound)

b) NOUN + NOUN

ukushisa + indlu lomoya

ishisandlu lomoya

(north-west wind)

c) DEVERBATIVE + PREDICATE

usofa + silahlane womngane

usofasilahlane womngane

(intimate friend)

4.4

CONCLUSION

The syntactically irregular possessee is auxiliary in nature. It is a word which has no independent function on its own but it can only be used in a possessive word group.

e.g. inkambabeyibuza yengozi

(a large wound)

Inkambabeyibuza as the possessee cannot be used in any other syntactical function, it depends on yengozi for its meaning.

CHAPTER 5

UNMARKED POSSESSIVES

Unmarked possessives consist of those word groups which are semantically interpreted as possessives although they do not contain the possessive particle.

A number of grammarians have contributed towards the study of unmarked possessive word groups. According to Wilkes in Nkabinde 1988 p. 250, unmarked possessives lack a genitive marker. The structure of the unmarked possessives differs in accordance with their syntactic function in sentences. When acting as objects unmarked possessives consist of two nouns appearing in juxtaposition without a genitive marker separating them.

e.g. umfana unqumainja umsila

(the boy cuts the dog's tail)

Grammarians draw a distinction between marked and unmarked possessives. Marked possessives are regarded as possessives which signify alienability whereas unmarked possessives signify inalienability.

5.1 The Body Parts Approach

The body parts approach suggests that the noun possessor and the noun possessee stand in juxtaposition in the absence of the possessive particle. According to this approach the possessee, which is a body part, is compulsory possessed by the possessor.

e.g. uThemba uphule uThabo ingalo

(Themba broke Thabo's arm)

After a pilot study, a questionnaire was sent to a group of 100 students. It was found that 80% of the students regarded the unmarked possessive with reference to body parts as the most appropriate form as opposed to its marked

counterpart. Even interviews that were conducted it was found that the unmarked form is generally more frequently used in reference to body parts. They justified their responses by that the body part is compulsory possessed by the possessor.

5.2 The Part-Whole Relationship Approach

Voeltz (1976) is the great exponent of the part-whole approach. Instead of using the idea "inalienable possession", Voeltz used the idea "part of the whole". This idea of part of the whole includes the body parts as well.

Voeltz suggested well-formedness conditions in order to support his idea of "part of the whole". These conditions are as follows:

1. The possessee must be a possible part of the possessor.

e.g. umakhenikha ufutha imoto amasondo

(the mechanic pumps the car's tyres.)

uyopha umfana ikhanda

(the boy's head is bleeding)

This suggests that it would be inappropriate to have a possessee that is not a possible part of the possessor.

e.g. umakhenikha ufutha imoto umlenze

(the mechanic pumps the car's leg.)

2. The possessee must meet the selectional restrictions of the verb.

e.g. ukugeza ingane isandla

(to wash the child's hand)

This suggests that the verb must be an action that is possible to be acted upon the possessee. If the selectional restrictions of the verb are not met by the possessee this will result to inappropriate examples like:

e.g. ukugunda ingane isandla
(to shear the child's hand)

3. The verb that is used with the unmarked possessive word group must be an affective verb, i.e. the verb must bring about a certain change to the state of the possessor.

e.g. ukunquma ingane umlenze
(to cut off the child's leg)

This suggests that after the action has been carried out, there must be a change effected to the possessor. In the above example the child is left with one leg since the other one had been cut.

5.3 The Syntactic Valencies of the Unmarked Possessives

The unmarked possessive word group may either be subject or object of the sentence. Whether object or subject of the sentence, the noun possessor and the noun possessee are usually juxtaposed to each other.

5.3.1 The Unmarked Possessive Word Group in Object Position

The syntactic status of this unmarked possessive word group sometimes demands that the sentence must have two objects that are concordially not related.

e.g. ngigwaze uZwane ingalo

(I stabbed Zwane's arm)

UZwane and ingalo are both in an object position as possessor and possessee but unmarked as they are, are concordially not related. Wilkes

(1989:92) refers to these objects as direct and indirect objects.

Doke and Mofokeng in Wilkes (1989:92) remark in this regard:

"When the action is done to one's own person (affecting the eye, tooth, face, head, hair, limb etc.) the simple form of the verb is used with the person as principal object, but when the same action is done to someone belonging to the person, the applied form is used."

a) ukusula umfana ubuso

(to wipe the boy's face)

b) ukusulela ugogo umfana ubuso

(to wipe for grandmother her boy's face)

For an unmarked possessive word group with inalienable possession to exist, it must comply with a fixed word order where the possessor preceeds the possessee.

e.g. kulula ukufutha imoto amasondo
(it is easy to pump the car tyres)

5.3.2 The Unmarked Possessive in Subject Position

Wilkes in Nkabinde (1988:250) indicates that the NP denoting the whole, functions as grammatical subject, while the NP denoting the part follows the usually intransitive verb.

e.g. ingulube iphuke umlenze
(the pig's leg is broken)

lo mfana uphuke ingalo
(this boy's arm is broken)

This type of a possessive construction is formed by words which are syntactically related to each other thus forming syntagmatic relations. The kind of relationship that they enter into is a part-whole relationship.

Some grammarians believe that the inalienable possession is limited to cases where the possessor is an animate thing and the possessee a constituent part thereof. It may be argued that in some constructions the possessor can also be an inanimate thing.

e.g. isihlahla sephuke igatsha

(the branch of the tree is broken)

luyagubha ulwandle amagagasi

(the sea tide is high)

5.4 The Structure of Unmarked Possessive Word Groups

The unmarked possessive word group may be in primary or secondary forms. Primary form in this study refers to cases where the noun possessee is in its original form, whereas secondary form refers to cases where the noun possessee has been inflected.

5.4.1 Primary Form

- a) uThemba bamshaye ingalo
(they hit Themba's arm)
- b) uSipho bamshaye ikhanda
(they hit Sipho's head)
- c) uThula uvuvukele ulimi
(Thula's tongue is swollen)

In the above examples the noun ingalo, ikhanda and ulimi refer to possesseees and the possessors are Themba, Sipho, and Thula respectively. It would be noticed that the possesseees in the above constructions need not take possessive pronouns in the presence of possessee because they are already implied.

5.4.2 Secondary Forms

It would also be noted that unmarked possessives may also be in a secondary form.

a) Adverb of place

uThemba bamshaye engalweni

(Themba has been hit on the arm)

uSipho bamshaye ekhanda

(Sipho has been hit on the head)

uThula uvuvukele olimini

(Thula has his tongue swollen)

b) Use of Instrumental nga

Some unmarked possessive word groups with special reference to body parts may employ the instrumental particle nga.

e.g. igoli uThemba ulishaye ngekhandha

(he, Themba scored the goal by his head)

mina ngimbone ngamehlo

(I saw her with my eyes)

yena umkhahlele ngobhozo

(he/she kicked him with the tip of his
toe)

yena uhlale ngezinge

(he/she seated down)

c) Use of Associative Particle na

Associative particle na may also be prefixed
to unmarked possessive word groups in some
contexts.

e.g. ulimele nomlenze

(he/she is also hurt on the leg)

bamshaye nekhandu

(they hit (him/her) on the head as well)

uphume nezingane

(he/she went out with children)

d) Use of Copulative Particle

The possessee of the unmarked possessive word group may be used as complements of the copulative particle, as in:

e.g. umfana uphethwe yizinyo

(the boy is suffering from toothache)

ubaba uphethwe ngumlenze/wumlenze

(my father feels the pain in the leg)

uphethwe yigolo

(he/she is suffering from backache)

5.5 Inalienable Possessives as Realised in Proverbs

Proverbs with unmarked possessive word groups usually refer to the parts of the body. These proverbs may be arranged according to their meaning and implication. Proverbs are part and parcel of the language that we use for linguistic communication. The possessor is usually pre-positioned to the verb.

5.5.1 Misfortune

e.g. inkomo iwe ngophondo

(the beast is lying on its horn)

inyoni ihluthuke isisila

(the bird has lost its tail feathers)

inkunzi inqunywe amanqindi

(the bull has had its horn cut short)

5.5.2 Failure

e.g. inkuku inqunywe umlomo

(the fowl has had its beak cut)

5.5.3 Beware of danger

e.g. inyoka ayishaywa isibili ikhanda lingabonwa

(a snake is not hit on the body if its
head is not visible)

akukho qili lazikhotha emhlane

(there is no cunning person who has ever
licked his own back)

ingwe idla ngamabala

(the leopard eats by means of its spots)

5.5.4 Encouragement

e.g.inja iyawaqeda amanzi ngolimi

(the dog will finish the water with its
tongue)

5.5.5 Threats

e.g. hamba juba bayokucutha izimpaphe phambili

(go pigeon, they will pluck your feathers
ahead)

5.5.6 Hurt

e.g. ungishaye ngendlebe etshani

(he has struck me on the stone by my ear)

5.5.7 Borrowing

e.g. ngingenwe iphela endlebeni

(a cockroach has entered my ear)

5.5.8 Pride or conceit

e.g. uthwele ishoba

(he has his tail up)

5.5.9 Deception

e.g. ungikhaphazele umhlabathi esweni

(he has thrown soil in my eye)

wamthela ngobulawu emehlweni

(he threw the love charm into his eyes)

ungiphatha ngodaka emehlweni

(you hold me with mud on my eyes)

5.5.10 Unfaithfulness

e.g. wakhahlelwa yihhashi esifubeni

(he was kicked by a horse on his chest)

5.5.11 Callousness

e.g. wamfaka umunwe esweni

(he put a finger into his eye)

ukuze ubone inge lihluthuke intamo

(do you see for the first time a vulture
with feathers plucked from its neck)

umthele ngenkovu emehlweni

(he threw pumpkin water in his eyes)

wamphakamisela ikhwapha

(he raised up his armpit for him)

5.5.12 Feuds

e.g. indaba isiwe ngophondo

(the matter has fallen by the horn)

5.6 CONCLUSION

The idea of unmarked possessive word groups is part and parcel of the Zulu language. Interviews with mother-tongue speakers revealed that they use unmarked possessives in their speech. It was found that the unmarked form is generally frequently used with more reference to body parts. In the questionnaire they used the unmarked form extensively for body parts.

We thus agree with Nida when he says:

"Before discussing the semantic relationship between nuclear structures it is important to note that the relationship need not be marked in some particular way by conjunctions or overlapping repetitions of certain elements within a preceding nuclear structure.. Relationships may be clearly marked by conjunctions or the relationship may be completely unmarked, in other words may be paratactic."

(Nida, 1981:83)

CHAPTER 6

6.1 Evaluation of the study

From the foregoing discussion, it is now evident that the structure of a possessive word group cannot always determine meaning. There are some structures with possessive particles which do not imply possession. In these structures the function of the possessive particle is that of qualifying.

e.g. ungqwazi lwentombi

(a very tall lady)

umdodovu wekhehla

(a very old man)

umqingo wencwadi

(a very big book)

The above examples show that the presence of the possessive particle does not always imply a true possessive meaning.

On the other hand some structures do not employ the possessive particle and yet they do carry the possessive meaning.

e.g. umama

(my mother)

umfowethu

(my brother)

umalume

(my uncle)

uyihlo

(your father)

uyise

(his father)

The above examples show that the absence of the possessive particle does not always mean the absence of the possessive meaning.

In this discussion it has become clear that form does not always determine meaning and meaning is not always deduced from form.

The conclusion is thus that meaning, rather than form should be taken as the decisive criterion in identifying possessives.

From the foregoing discussion it was observed that the possessive may either be subjective or objective. Subjective possessive in this study refers to the possessive case where the possessor denotes that which has something:

e.g. izinkomo zabantu

(cattle of the people)

Objective possessive on the other hand refers to possessive case where the possessee further describes the possessor, or where the possessor is of some quality or character.

e.g. isiphalaphala sentombi
(a very beautiful lady)

imbiza yamanzi
(a pot of water)

When there are two or more noun possessors, the first of the two (or more) may take the possessive particle and the rest be connected to it by the use of na without the possessive particle.

e.g. izingane zikaThoko noNhlanhla noZodwa
(the children of Thoko, Nhlanhla and Zodwa)

There is an alternative form whereby the name of the first in the series is put in the plural and the rest connected with it by the use of na.

e.g. izinkomo zoMhlongo noMbopha, noVezi.
(the cattle of Mhlongo, Mbopha and Vezi)

If the thing possessed is from individual and separate origin, property or designation of two or more persons may be specified.

e.g. izwi lendoda nelomfana

(the word of the man and of the boy)

If the things possessed are more than one, the general indefinite particle ku plus the possessive morpheme a may be used as a possessive particle.

e.g. umlomo, nezindlebe, namehlo k~~u~~+a+umfana

>ka+umfana

umlomo nezindlebe namehlo >komfana

(the mouth, ears and eyes of the boy)

6.2 Appendix

6.2.1 Questionnaire

The structured questionnaire was used whereby the respondent was required to mark his/her responses by using numbers 0,1,2. The structured questionnaire was preferred by the researcher because it makes it easier for the researcher to code and classify the responses. It also minimises the risk of misinterpretation. This questionnaire was mainly used for unmarked possessives.

The questionnaire was structured as follows:

The aim of this survey is to establish the preference in terms of the usage of the possessive in Zulu. None of the structures are necessarily wrong. Please indicate the form which in your view is the most appropriate form, by marking

it with "1". If the other form is also acceptable mark it with "2". If, however, it is unacceptable, mark it with "0" in the appropriate box.

- | | | | |
|----|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | (a) | Ngiphule umfana ingalo. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (b) | Ngiphule ingalo yomfana. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | (a) | Sizofutha imoto amasondo. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (b) | Sizofutha amasondo emoto. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | (a) | Ayidatshulwa incwadi ikhasi. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (b) | Alidatshulwa ikhasi lencwadi. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | (a) | Itafula liphuke umlenze. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (b) | Umlenze wetafula uphukile. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. | (a) | Umfana uwe waphuka umunwe. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (b) | Umunwe womfana uphukile ewa. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. | (a) | Waze wopha umfana ikhanda. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (b) | Laze lopha ikhanda lomfana. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. | (a) | Kugingqike ibhasi uSipho waphuka umlenze. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | (b) | Kugingqike ibhasi umlenze kaSipho waphuka. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6.2.2 Analysis and Interpretation of data

The aim of the survey was to establish the preference of usage between the marked and unmarked possessives. There was a group of 100 students, 50 Course II students and 50 Course III students all doing P.T.D. at Esikhawini College of Education, with Zulu as one of their courses.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
1. (a) Ngiphule umfana ingalo	80-80%	10-10%	10-10%
(b) Ngiphule ingalo yomfana	10-10%	10-10%	80-80%

In the above table 80% of the respondents regarded the unmarked form ngiphule umfana ingalo as the most appropriate form, whereas 10% of the respondents regarded the marked form ngiphule ingalo yomfana as the most appropriate form. 10% of the respondents regarded ngiphule umfana ingalo as also acceptable. 10% of the respondents regarded ngiphule ingalo yomfana as also acceptable. 10% of the respondents regarded ngiphule ingalo yomfana as unacceptable,

whereas 80% of the respondents regarded
ngiphule ingalo yomfana as unacceptable.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
2. (a) Sizofutha imoto amasondo.	10-10%	10-10%	80 = 80%
(b) Sizofutha amasondo emoto	80-80%	10-10%	10 = 10%

In question (a) above the responses were as follows: 10% of the respondents regarded (a) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (a) as also acceptable and 80% regarded (a) as unacceptable.

In question (b) above 80% of the respondents regarded (b) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (b) as also acceptable and 10% regarded (b) as unacceptable.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
3. (a) Ayidatshulwa incwadi ikhasi	10-10%	10%	80%
(b) Alidatshulwa ikhasi lencwadi	80-80%	10%	10%

10% of the respondents regarded (a) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (a) as also acceptable and 80% regarded (a) as unacceptable.

80% of the respondents regarded (b) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (b) as also acceptable and 10% regarded (b) as unacceptable.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
4. (a) Itafula liphuke umlenze	10-10%	10-10%	80-80%
(b) Umlenze wetafula uphukile	80-80%	10-10%	10-10%

10% of the respondents regarded (a) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (a) as also acceptable and 80% regarded (a) as unacceptable.

80% of the respondents regarded (b) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (b) as also acceptable and 10% regarded (b) as unacceptable.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
5. (a) Umfana uwe waphuka umunwe	80-80%	10-10%	10-10%
(b) Umunwe womfana uphukile ewa	10-10%	10-10%	80-80%

80% of the respondents regarded (a) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (a) as also acceptable and 10% regarded (a) as unacceptable.

10% of the respondents regarded (b) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (b) as also acceptable and 80% regarded (b) as unacceptable.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
6. (a) Waze wopha umfana ikhanda	80-80%	10-10%	10-10%
(b) Laze lopha ikhanda lomfana	10-10%	10-10%	80-80%

80% of the respondents regarded (a) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (a) as also acceptable and 10% regarded (a) as unacceptable.

10% of the respondents regarded (b) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (b) as also acceptable and 80% regarded (b) as unacceptable.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
7. (a) Kugingqike ibhasi uSipho waphuka unlenze	80-80%	10-10%	10-10%
(b) Kugingqike ibhasi unlenze kaSipho waphuka	10-10%	10-10%	80-80%

80% of the respondents regarded (a) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (a) as also acceptable and 10% regarded (a) as unacceptable.

10% of the respondents regarded (b) as the most appropriate form, 10% regarded (b) as also acceptable and 80% regarded (b) as unacceptable.

This survey revealed that most of the mother-tongue speakers prefer to use unmarked possessives for body parts of animate things and marked possessives for parts of the whole of inanimate things.

This questionnaire was supplemented by unstructured interviews. Interviews consisted of some questions that were used for questionnaires. The main reason for conducting

interviews was to verify the responses of the questionnaire. Interviews were conducted among mother-tongue speakers. It was established that they prefer to use unmarked possessive for body parts because body parts compulsory belong to that particular somebody whereas with inanimate things it can be easily changed. For an example the car tyres can be easily replaced by other tyres.

6.3 Bibliography

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