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This is the first book on the syntax of the Niger-Conger language family, which includes most of the languages of sub-Saharan Africa. Aboh, who is a native speaker of one of the languages (Gungbe) discussed, analyzes different aspects of the syntax of the "Kwa" language group.

Ameka, To appear Aspect and modality in Ewe: The early stages of creolization, By Jacques Arends, pp. Arends, Early Surinamese Creole texts: A collection of 18th-century Sranan and Saramaccan documents, Frankfurt: Relexification and reanalysis, Bickerton, Roots of language, Bickerton, The language bioprogram hypothesis, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, vol. Pagliuca, The evolution of grammar, Capo, Renaissance du Gbe: Chaudenson, Creolization of language and culture. Revised version of Chaudenson , in collaboration with Salikoko Mufwene , An introduction to the study of verbal aspect and related problems, Dahl, Tense and aspect systems, Degraff, Creolization, language change, and language acquisition: Language Creation and Language Change: Creolization, Diachrony and Development, pp. Detges, Two types of restructuring in French creoles, pp. Essegbey, Inherent complements revisited: Essegbey, Auxiliaries in serialising languages: On why the a-morpheme is not a tense marker M. Dakubu, Aspect and modality in Kwa languages. Amsterdam, Reduplication and object movement in Ewe and Fongbe, Jondoh, Some Aspects of the predicate phrase in Ge n gbe,

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Chapter 2 : Enoch Oladunmoye Aboh (Author of The Morphosyntax of Complement-Head Sequences)

This book examines the syntax of the Niger-Congo language family, which includes most of the languages of sub-Saharan Africa. The book's author, who is a native speaker of Gungbe – one of the languages discussed – analyses different aspects of the syntax of the 'Kwa' language group.

Here the head is a verb, and the complements are most commonly objects of various types. The ordering here is related to one of the chief questions in the word order typology of languages, namely the normal order of subject, verb and object within a clause. Languages are classed on this basis as SVO, SOV, VSO, etc. Here the head is a noun; various kinds of complementizer phrase and adpositional phrase may be considered to be complements. This contains an adjective as the head, and can take as a complement, for example, an adverbial phrase or adpositional phrase. Such phrases are called prepositional phrases if they are head-initial. For more on these, see Preposition and postposition. The complement is a determiner phrase or noun phrase, depending on analytical scheme followed. This has a determiner as the head of the phrase. DPs were proposed under generative syntax; [1] not all theories of syntax agree that they exist. This contains a complementizer, like that in English, as the head. In some cases the head is covert not overtly present. The complement can be considered to be a tense phrase. Tense phrase TP and aspect phrase AspP. These are phrases in which the head is an abstract category representing tense or aspect; the complement is a verb phrase. In more traditional analysis the entire phrase including any elements denoting tense or aspect is considered to be simply a verb phrase. In some cases, particularly with noun and adjective phrases, it is not always clear which dependents are to be classed as complements, and which as adjuncts. Although in principle the head-directionality parameter concerns the order of heads and complements only, considerations of head-initiality and head-finality sometimes take account of the position of the head in the phrase as a whole, including adjuncts. The structure of the various types of phrase is analyzed below in relation to specific languages, with a focus on the ordering of head and complement. In some cases such as English and Japanese this ordering is found to be the same in practically all types of phrase, whereas in others such as German and Gbe the pattern is less consistent. Different theoretical explanations of these inconsistencies are discussed later in the article. English[edit] English is a strongly head-initial language. In a typical verb phrase, for example, the verb precedes its complements, as in the following example: Nouns also tend to precede any complements, as in the following example, where the relative clause or complementizer phrase that follows the noun may be considered to be a complement: For preceding determiners, see below. Adjectives themselves may be preceded by adjuncts, namely adverbs, as in extremely happy. In the following example [8] the head is taken to be the determiner any, and the complement is the noun phrase book: English DP structure any book [DP [D any] [NP book]] English also has head-initial complementizer phrases, as in this example [9] where the complementizer that precedes its complement, the tense phrase Mary did not swim: This indicates that, if finite verb phrases are analyzed as tense phrases or aspect phrases, these are again head-initial in English. In the example above, did is considered a past tense marker, and precedes its complement, the verb phrase not swim. In the following, has is a perfect aspect marker; [10] again it appears before the verb phrase which is its complement. In the tense phrase in b, the tense-marking element T precedes its verb phrase VP complement. The subject of the tense phrase, the girl, is a specifier, which does not need to be considered when analyzing the ordering of head and complement. In the verb phrase in c, the verb V precedes its two complements, namely the determiner phrase DP the book and the prepositional phrase PP on the table. In d, where a picture is analyzed as a determiner phrase, the determiner D a precedes its noun phrase NP complement, while in e, the preposition P on precedes its DP complement your desk. You know that the girl will put a picture on your desk. German also features certain head-final structures. For example, in a nonfinite verb phrase the verb is final. In the following example, [12] the verb phrase es finden is head-final, whereas the tense phrase werde es finden headed by the auxiliary verb werde indicating future tense is head-initial.

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Chapter 3 : Tense, Aspect, and Mood: The Preverbal Markers : The Morphosyntax of Complement-Head S

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Chapter 4 : Head-directionality parameter - Wikipedia

The Morphosyntax of Complement-Head Sequences: Clause Structure and Word Order Patterns in Kwa (Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax) Doc Free Download Download The Morphosyntax of Complement-Head Sequences: Clause Structure and Word Order Patterns in Kwa (Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax) EPub.

Tue, 14 Sep His main concern is to develop a rather articulate phrase structure -- both in the clausal and the nominal domains -- that can account for the surface orders of this language family. Given that he takes Antisymmetry Kayne as his framework of choice, such a rich structure must be coupled with a number of movements to the left in order to derive certain surface head final orders. Although at some points the analysis seems a bit too far-fetched, Aboh always manages to give interesting empirical evidence in its favour. On top of that, the book is also gives also a description of the Gbe languages of quite an impressive width and breadth. Ignoring the Introduction and the Conclusion, where not much is really going on the Introduction contains brief summaries of Minimalism, Antisymmetry, and the split DP, IP and CP hypotheses; the Conclusion consist of a mere three-page summary of the main results , the bulk of the work is in chapters 2 through 8, which we will go through briefly right below. Given the wealth of constructions examined by Aboh, commenting on all of them would amount to little less than rewriting the book. Therefore, I will only talk about what I consider are the major attractions of each chapter. Chapter 2 is an outline of the grammar of the Gbe family a cluster of languages within the Kwa group , spoken in various parts of Ghana and Nigeria. As many other African languages, the Gbe languages are tonal. Aboh argues that some of these tones are actually the realisation of certain syntactic heads -remnants of an ancestral morpheme that has been lost except for the tone. However, this will come later in the book. The main part of ch 2 is devoted to an overview of the major word order patterns of Gbe. His starting assumption is that Gbe objects always raise overtly to a case position. Therefore, VO orders arise from subsequent verb movement to the left of the raised object. OV orders are the result of verb movement being blocked. The detailed analysis of the aspectual layer necessary for this claim is developed in chs 5 and 6. Before getting to issues of clausal syntax, Aboh takes a detour through the structure of the nominal domain. In chapter 3, he examines the Gbe noun phrase, which displays the fixed order, with: At this point, the numeral phrase undergoes spec-to-spec movement, first through the number phrase, and then to the specificity phrase. This derives the observed word order. Leaving aside the fine details of this derivation, I would like to mention two other aspects of this analysis. First, the parallelism that Aboh tries to establish between the nominal and the clausal domains. He argues that, in the same way as we have a left periphery and an inflectional layer for clauses, so have we for noun phrases. Specifically, he takes the Number Phrase to be the equivalent to an agreement projection in clauses, and the Specificity Phrase as the counterpart of clausal type markers. The second issue is the analysis in terms of roll-up movement. Aboh claims that head-to-head movement is banned in the Gbe nominal domain. In order to establish the spec-head checking relation, Gbe languages resort to XP movement, and this is what eventually leads to roll-up movement, and the consequent reversion in the surface order of constituents see Pearson for similar argumentation in the clausal domain, this time bearing on Malagasy data. Chapter 4 is dedicated to pronouns. He attributes their different behaviour and distribution to differences in the number projections each class includes. Strong pronouns have the same structure, and receive the same analysis in terms of movement as full noun phrases in chapter 3. Weak pronouns lack some of this structure. Specifically, he argues that they only project the nominal left peripheral projections, NumberP and DP. Finally, clitic pronouns are instantiations of the D head alone. This analysis is quite novel. As Aboh notes at the end of the chapter p. After the excursus on the nominal domain, chapter 5 examines the syntax of Tense, Aspect, and Mood preverbal markers. Gbe verbs are not inflected in any way. Instead, inflectional features are realised as markers that surface in different heads of an expanded IP layer. I will ignore here the Mood markers and concentrate on the one Tense and three Aspect heads Aboh proposes. In case it is [-future], it is occupied by a null morpheme the reason for the

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postulation of this morpheme being to prevent head movement of the verb into T. As for the three Aspect heads, they correspond to habitual Asp1 , perfective Asp2 , and progressive Asp3 aspect. Of interest here is the distribution that Aboh proposes for the different heads. He argues that Asp2 selects a nominalised small clause containing Asp3. This implies that perfective and imperfective clauses are quite different. In particular, Aboh argues that, while imperfective sentences are monoclausal, the extra structure of perfective sentences makes them biclausal. Aboh suggests that verb movement into T is impossible, since the T head is always occupied though sometimes only by a null morpheme. However, lower heads i. He refines the structure proposed in the previous chapter: Asp2 dominates the nominalising phrase, which dominates Asp3, which dominates an AgrP, which finally dominates VP. Aboh argues that this is possible only in non-imperfective sentences, where the verb moves to Asp2. Further, he argues that Asp3 moves into SpecNomP for nominalisation purposes. Since the Nom head is represented only by a tone, this hypothesis captures the extra sentence final tone present in non-imperfective sentences. In chapter 7, Aboh moves upwards and takes a look at the left periphery of the clause, in particular, focus and wh- constructions. This chapter is interesting in that it provides a quite clear-cut argument that spec-head is a licit feature checking configuration contra recent proposals such as Hallman and Chomsky. Of interest as well is the double focus construction, in which two foci originating in an embedded clause can be licensed if one of them stays in the lower SpecFocP and the other one raises to the matrix SpecFocP. Given that double foci in a matrix clause are banned, Aboh assumes that there is a unique FocP per clause, and that raising to the matrix FocP involves an intermediate step not in the lower SpecFocP, but in the Force phrase. Moreover, raising to the matrix FocP is not possible in the case of adjuncts. The presence of the topic marker is optional. However, Aboh does not treat it as pure optionality. The choice of either one of them result in a different phenomenology of topics. Another important point with regard to Gbe topics is that Aboh shows them to share characteristics of both hanging topics and clitic left dislocation CLLD structures cf. In order to account for these characteristics, he proposes an analysis in terms of movement, where a resumptive pronoun is left in the base position. This allows us, amongst other things, to account for the island insensitivity of topics, and, at the same time, the impossibility of moving across another topic a standard Relativised Minimality effect. In the last part of the chapter, Aboh turns to yes no questions, whose distinctive mark is the presence of a falling tone at the right edge of the clause. If they co-occur in a declarative sentence, the topic marker precedes the focus marker. However, in an interrogative sentence, the order is the reverse. In this respect, its value is undoubtable. What I would like to focus on here is in the kind of theory Aboh wants to construe. I must admit that he makes a pretty strong case in favour of Antisymmetry, by showing that Gbe languages can be optimally accommodated under a fully head initial structure. It is therefore laudable that, unlike some analyses in this tradition e. Moreover, he very often considers alternative analysis and lies out very clearly the reasons why he considers them not appropriate. A theory based on Antisymmetry will eventually need massive leftward movement so as to derive surface head final orders. In recent work e. Thus, whatever feature YP may check by movement to SpecXP, it can also be checked in a head-complement configuration. Hence, roll-up movement is unwarranted. Note though, that what Aboh is proposing is not that it is YP as a whole that has a feature to check. It is only the head Y of YP, which needs to check its relevant feature by head-to-head movement to X. In cases where head movement is blocked for whatever reason , one can resort to roll-up movement to satisfy this feature unfortunately, Aboh implements this analysis in a pretty intuitive level, with little formalisation. This is not the case in systems where head-to-head movement still exists. To sum up, I believe that this book is a very valuable contribution to the field. On top of its descriptive work, it proposes bold and well argued analysis that favours one specific line of thought. If you are an adherent to this line of thought, you will find here very strong support. I have worked on relativisation, head movement, the syntax-phonology interface, scrambling, and the structure of OV languages.

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Chapter 5 : Argument Topics and Yes-No Questions - Oxford Scholarship

His publications include The Morphosyntax of Complement-head Sequences (). In he was awarded the renowned one-year NIAS fellowship, and in he obtained the prestigious Dutch Science Foundation (NWO) five-year vidi grant to study the relation between information structure and syntax.

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Chapter 6 : LINGUIST List Syntax/Morphology: Aboh ()

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The Morphosyntax of Complement-Head Sequences: Clause Structure and Word Order Patterns in Kwa precede the sequence of modifiers that it occurs with, in a.