Original Article

Syntactical analysis of Kipsigis Copula Clauses

Vincent Kiplangat[1], Prof. Peter Muriungi, PhD[1] & Dr. Mary Karuri[1]*

[1] Tharaka University, P. O. Box 193-60215, Marimanti, Kenya.
[*] Author for Correspondence ORCID ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0101-2049; Email: Vincent.rotich@tharaka.ac.ke

ABSTRACT

Copula is a verb whose main function is to link subjects with predicate complements. In a limited sense, the copular refers to a verb that does not have any semantic content but links subjects and predicate complements. In a broad sense, the copular contains a verb that has its own meaning and bears the syntactic function of "the copular". This study aimed at investigating the syntactical structure of copular clauses in Kipsigis, a Kalenjin dialect majorly spoken in the counties of Bomet, Kericho, and partly in counties of Nakuru, Narok, and Uasin Gishu. The objective of the study was to examine the types of copular clauses in the Kipsigis dialect. This study was couched within the confines of Chomsky's Minimalist program. This model has been used successfully to analyse a wide range of structures from distinct languages and therefore it seems to be justified to adopt it for the examination of copular clauses in the Kipsigis dialect. This approach advocates for the economy of representation in linguistics analysis and description to ensure that syntactic specification and derivational procedures contain only the essential elements. The study adopted a descriptive research design and the data was collected through self-introspection and corroborated by five informants through Language Generative Exercise. This study has established that Kipsigis has only one copula element ko. The study has also identified that Kipsigis has four distinct types of copula clauses; Predicational, Specificational, Identificational, and Equative Clauses. These various types can be distinguished by using common tests like distribution and licensing of copula dropping and by inversion test. The findings of this study contribute to the existing syntax of Kipsigis. It also provides new data in the study of copula clauses as well as contributes to linguistic knowledge in copula clauses and syntax.

INTRODUCTION

Copula verb (be) stands out from other verbs in that it just has a role of a linker, an element joining two items surrounding it without imposing any easily noticeable syntactic or semantic restrictions on these items. Pustet (2003) states that a copula is a linguistic element which co-occurs with certain lexemes in certain languages when they function as a predicate nucleus and it does not add any semantic content to the predicate phrase it is contained in. The copula verb ***be*** stands out from other verbs in that it just has the role of a linker, an element joining two items surrounding it, without imposing any easily noticeable syntactic or semantic restrictions on these items. Kipsigis dialect is understudied, especially in syntax. The studies of syntax in this language have focused on the internal syntax of noun phrases and syntax of adjectival modifications, analysis of the basic word order properties, and the role of information structure in determining postverbal word order. Kipsigis copular clauses have not been given attention. This research aimed to analyse various types of Kipsigis copular clauses and establish their binding connectivity. This study contributed to the development of the syntactic theory in the area of copular verbs of the Kipsigis dialect.

This study presents the types of Kipsigis copular clauses as per the objective of the study. It is well-known that sentences with 'be' can express a variety of meanings, depending on the particular kind of 'be' that is being used. In this study, the type of construction investigated was basically that of the form Noun phrase (NP) be NP' although other construction of the form 'NP be Adjective' was considered.

Many linguists hold that sentences of the form 'NP be NP' fall apart into two semantic types, which are often referred to as 'predicational' and 'specificational'. Kipsigis copula is ***ko*** 'be'. This copula lacks lexical meaning and has a grammatical function, which includes conveying tense, aspect, agreement features, mood, and links the subject and complement. In this study, a copula is analysed in a much wider sense. All the clauses with the finite form of the verb 'be" *ko* was analysed as copula clauses.

Kipsigis is a verb-first language, and the order of the subject and the object depends on the context. Examples 1(a &b) provide illustrations.

1. a). Ki-am   Kipchoge   bandek
        PST-eat   Kipchoge   maise
          Kipchoge ate maise
            (CONTEXT: This answers the question 'Who ate maize?')

   b). Ki-am   bandek Kipchoge
          PST-eat   maise   Kipchoge
            Kipchoge ate maise.
              (CONTEXT: This answers the question 'What did Kipchoge eat?')

Although standard declarative sentences are V1 in Kipsigis, copula 'ko' allows for the fronting of lexical material before the verb. This fronting order can be referred to as verb-second order. A constituent is moved from its canonical position to a pre-verb position. A fronted subject occurs in 2 (a) and a fronted predicate occurs in 2 (b)

2. a). Jane   ko   konetindet
         Jane   COP   teacher
              Jane is a teacher.

b). Ne-ko-ibelis ko   John
         REL.SG-PRES-win   cop   John
              The winner is John

This fronting is caused by the assignment of focus to a phrase. As illustrated above, 2 (a) has the subject in the initial position, while 2 (b) has the complement of the verb in the initial position. According to Jones (2018), placing a phrase in the initial position gives it a first mention and this makes it more prominent than other phrases in the clauses. In example 2(a), the greater prominence falls on the subject and 2 (b) on the predicate. In example 2(a), the subject is not only made more prominence, but it can also be emphasised that it was only Jane, the teacher rather than any other person.

Focus in Kipsigis, then, can be said to convey the prominence of the first mention. Kipsigis copular clauses have fronted-order versions such as (Subject+ Verb+ Object) or (Object+ Verb +Subject).

Crystal, D. (2008) observes that most languages have one main copula, although some like (Spanish, Portuguese and Thai) have more than one, and some have none. In the case of Kipsigis, it has only one copula (*ko*). The principal use of a copula in Kipsigis is to link the subject of a clause to a subject complement as shown in sentence (3a, b & c)

3. a) Kitabut   ko   miiten meset barak
              Book   COP available table   top
                   The book is on the table

b) Ngeta-i   ko   berber
              Boy-this   COP   fool
                   This boy is foolish.

c) Temiik   che-   ikileke-i   ko   Joseph ak   Mary.
         Farmers   REL.PL-hardwork-prog COP   Joseph and   Mary.
              The hardworking farmers are Joseph and Mary.

In sentences, the noun phrase *Kitabut* and *ngetet* is the subject, the verb *ko* serves as the **copula**, and the predicational phrase *miiten Meset barak* and *yametit* are the predicative expression respectively.

In Kipsigis verbless copular clauses, the copular clause lacks the copula element in the present tense, but in past and future tenses, the copula element is obligatory as shown in (4a-c)

4   a) *Chorindet   John*   (Present)
                   Thief   John
                        The thief is John

b). Chorindet   ko   John   (Present)
         Thief   COP   John
              The thief is John

c). John ko   ki   chorindet   (Past)
       John COP   PST   thief
           John was a thief

d). John ko   tun   ko   chorindet   (Future)
       John   top   fut   COP   thief
           John will be a thief

Sentences 4(a & b) show that Kipsigis copula sentence is grammatical with or without a copula in present tense, but in past and future tense, the copula element is obligatory as shown in sentences 4(c&d). Dixon (2000) states that other researchers have found out that a number of languages such as Hebrew, Russsian, Illongo and Arabic do not have overt copular in present tense, but they have it in past and future tense. According to Thompson and Sawyer (1977), some languages such as many Austronesian and Australian languages, specifically Konkow and Nisenan, do not have a copula in any tense.

Types of Kipsigis Copular Clauses

In Kipsigis verbless copular clauses, the copula *'ko'* allows for the fronting of lexical material before the verb. This fronting order can be referred to as verb-second order. The presence of the copula in a clause characterises it as 'a copula clause' but it is the predicate which accounts for different types of copula clauses. The analysis of Kipsigis copula clauses is based on Higgins (1973) peculiar classification of copula clauses.

The table below shows various examples of Kipsigis copular clauses.

Table 1: Types of Kipsigis Copula Clauses

Clause Type	Examples

1. a Predicational Clause	a) Nget-ik ko kiptangoinik
	    Boy-pl cop playful.pl
	    The boys are playful
	b) Chito ko sirindet
	    Person.sg cop writer.sg
	The person is a writer

b. Specificational Clause	a) Ne-ko ibelis ko John
	    rel.sg-pres win cop John
	    The winner is John
	b) Sirindet ko James
	    Writer.sgcop James
	    The writer is James

c. Equative Clause	a) Sobet ko sabarit
	    Life cop journey
	    Life is a journey
	b) Keset ko mileet
	    Marriage.sg cop burden
	    Marriage is a burden

d. Identificational Clause	a) Ngeta-i ko John
	    Boy.sg-this cop John
	    This boy is John
	b) Kwony-on ko Sylvia
	    Woman.sg-that cop Slyvia
	    That woman is Slyvia

Predicational Clause

Predicational sentence, predicates a property of the subject NP, for example, the sentence 'John is a good teacher' (when used without contrastive accent on any of the constituents). Just predicate John with the characteristics of being a good teacher. There is no sense that a value is being specified for a variable. Like English counterparts, Barnett (1994) observes that Kipsigis predicational clauses, the predicative expression accompanying the copula, also known as the complement of the copula, may take any of the several possible forms: it may be a noun or noun phrase, an adjective or adjective phrase, a prepositional phrase, an adverb or adverbial phrase expressing time or location.

2. a).　John　　ko　　　sirindet
　　　　　John　　　COP　　writer.SG
　　　　　　　John is a writer

b).　　　Muren　ko　　　toror
　　　　　　Man.SG　　COP　　tall.SG
　　　　　　　The man is tall

c).　　　Lakweet　　　ko　　　miten　　　　　yuu
　　　　　　Child.sg　　　　COP　　available　　　here
　　　　　　　The child is here

d).　　　Muren　　　ko　　　miten　　　　　ko.
　　　　　　Man.SG　　　COP　　available　　　house.SG
　　　　　　　The man is in the house

In sentences 2a, there is a predicational relation between two Determiner Phrases (DPs), the predicate DP and subject NP. In 2(b), the DP and Adjective phrase (AP), 2(c) DP and Adverb Phrase (AdvP) and 2(d) DP and Preposition phrase (PP). In these sentences, the complement ascribes a given feature to the subject DP.

In predicational sentences, we cannot reverse the order of subjects and complements, when reversed the sentences become Specificational sentence. The copula can be replaced with *'become'* as in sentence 3c but in predicational sentences *'follow'* cannot replace the copula as shown in sentence 3d as shown below:

3. a) John　　　ko　　　konetindet　　　ne-korom
　　　　John COP　　teacher.SG　　　RELI.SG-best.SG
　　　　　　John is the best teacher

　　b.　Konetindet ne-korom　　　ko　　　John　　　　　(reversed order)
　　　　　　Teacher.sg　reli.sg-best.sg　COP　　John
　　　　　　　The best teacher is John

　　c.　John　　　ko　　kiik　konetindet　　ne　　korom (complement　of become)
　　　　　　John　FOC　　PST.become　　teacher.SG　　　RELI.SG-best.SG
　　　　　　　John became the best teacher.

　　d.　* ne-isubu John　　ko　　　konetindet　　　　　ne-korom　　　(*following …*)
　　　　　　reli.sg-follow　　　John　　FOC　teacher.SG　　　RELI.SG-best.SG
　　　　　　　The following John is the best teacher

Sentence (3a) shows the characteristics of predicational sentences. (3b) is the version of it in which the order of the subject and the complement is reversed, becomes a specificational sentence, where the predicate becomes a subject and the subject becomes a complement of the copula. We

4. a) Jane   ko   sirindet
            Jane   COP   writer
                Jane is a writer

b)   Jane   sirindet
            Jane   writer
                Jane is a writer

c)   James ko   konetindet
             James COP   teacher
                    James is a teacher

d).   James konetindet
            James   teacher
                James is a teacher

Sentence 4 (a & c) shows predicational sentences with copula elements, while sentence 4 (b & d) shows similar sentences in 4 (a & c) without copula element respectively. Functional Category Hypothesis can be used to analyse the structure of predicational sentences. Bowers (2001) assumes that Predicate (Pr) is a functional category that has the following basic properties: (a) the canonical D-Structure position for external argument is (Spec-Pr), (b). Pr' functionally selects the

This is an underlying structure of a small clause (1)

PredP

DP (subject)   Pred'

Pred   XP

X= (V, A, N, P)

It is assumed that the small clause in the structure of Kipsigis Predicational clause is a Predicational Phrase (PredP). The PredP structure is widely accepted in most recent works on copula clauses within the approach of the Minimalist Program

can replace the copular in (3a) with *become* as in (3c). We cannot paraphrase (3a) to (3d) by using *following*.

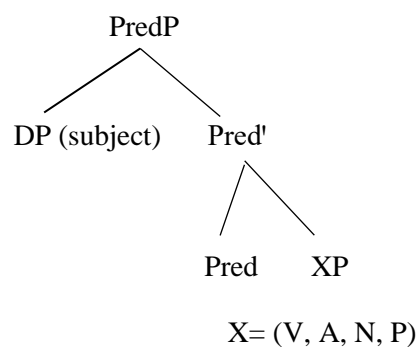Kipsigis predicational sentences can drop copula only in present tense as shown below;

maximal projection YP of any lexical category Y, (c). either PredP is F-selected by I' or complement of V, and (d). the semantic function of Pr is Predication.

Bondaruk (2012) posits that the Pred head, which is a functional category, relates a subject to a predicate. It takes the predicative expression XP as its complement and the subject DP as its specifier, as shown below,

(MP). The PredP clearly defines the syntactic and semantics predicational relation between two constituents, namely subject and a predicate. Bowers (2001) points out that the PredP provides a structural explanation of the predicational

relation between the complement of the Pred head and the argument in its specifier. The following structures shows Kipsigis predicational sentence structure.

5. John   ko   konetindet
       John   cop   teacher
          John is a teacher
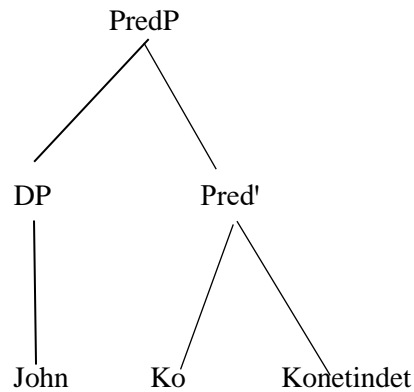
In Kipsigis predicational clauses, the small clause (SC) hosting the predicational relation is the PredP, which is selected by the VP or directly by the TP in the Kipsigis verbless sentences. In predicational clauses, the referential DP moves to Spec-TP.

This structure illustrates the derivation of predicational copula clause.
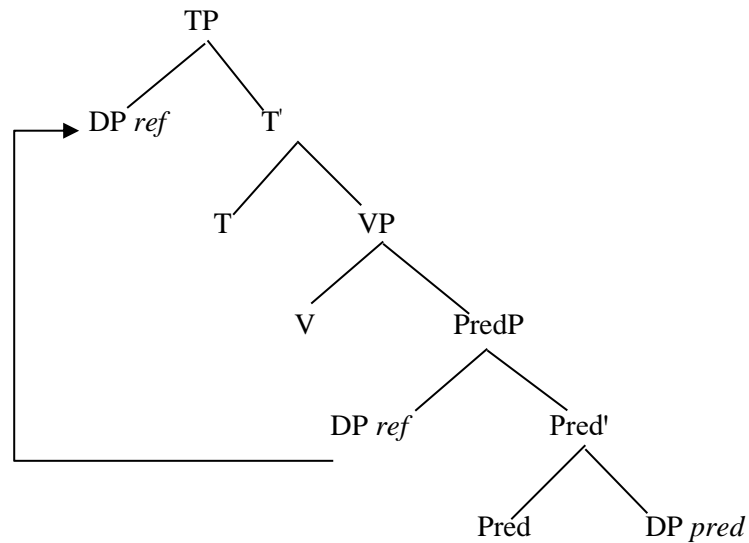
The following structures 6 (a & b) shows the derivation of Kipsigis predicational copula clause.

6.a). John ko-ki chorindet

  John COP-PST thief

  John was a thief

```
                           TP
                          /  \
                        DP     T'
                        |     /  \
                      John   T    VP
                                 /  \
                                V    PredP
                                |    /  \
                               ko  DP ref  Pred'
                                        /    \
                                      Pred    NP
                                              |
                                          chorindet
```
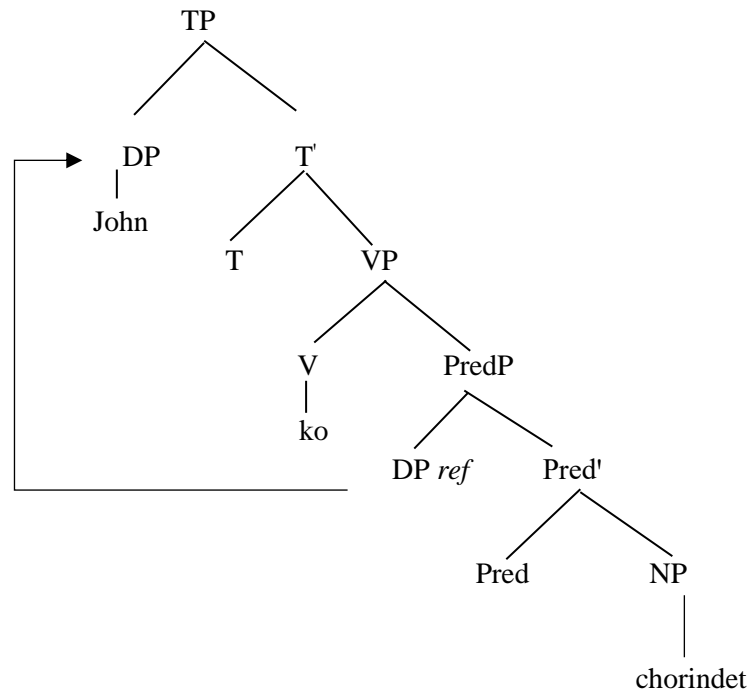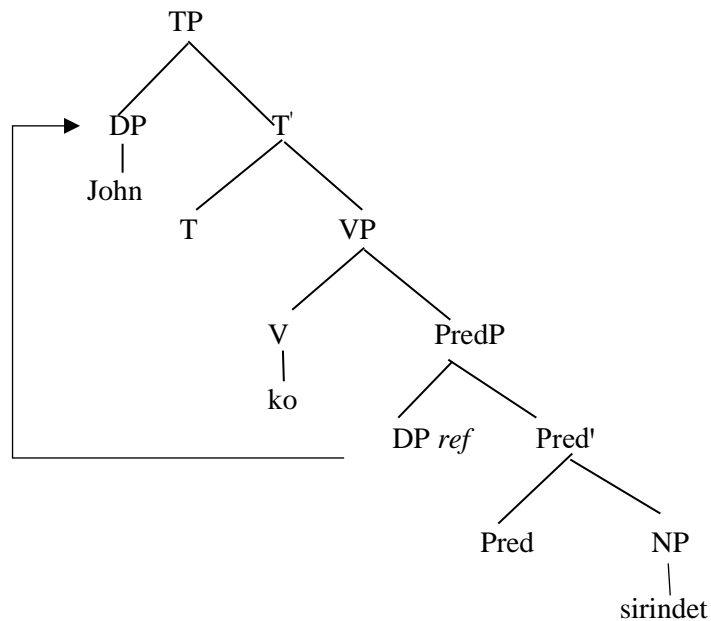
It is assumed that the copula 'ko' is auxiliary base-generated in a VP. The copula (ko) has the properties of a typical verb in Kipsigis.

b). John ko sirindet

  John COP writer

  John is a writer

```
                        TP
                       /  \
                     DP     T'
                     |     /  \
                   John   T    VP
                             /  \
                            V    PredP
                            |    /  \
                           ko  DP ref  Pred'
                                     /    \
                                   Pred    NP
                                           |
                                        sirindet
```
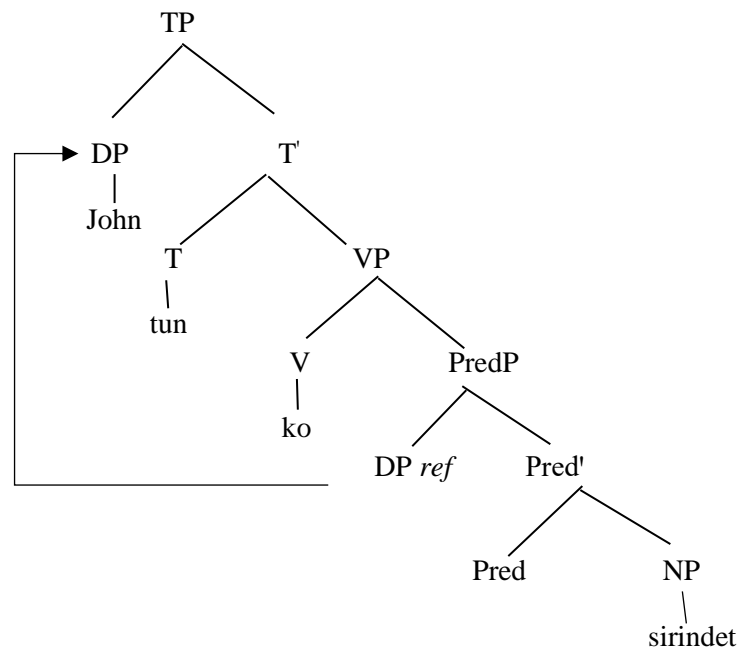
The copula (ko) follows the subject as shown in sentence (6). It has no inflection features like other verbs.

c. John   ko   tun   ko   sirindet

     John   foc   fut   cop   writer

         John will be a writer

Given that the future and past morpheme *(ki & tun)* are tensed markers in Kipsigis located in T, the copula (Ko) should be generated in a position lower than TP that is a VP position.

Specificational Clause

Partee (1999) defines a specificational clause as one whose semantic function is to specify a value for a variable. Thus, the sentence 'The one who stole mangoes is John' is specificational, because it specifies a value 'John,' for the variable 'X' who stole the mangoes. This is a type of copular clause in which the referent of the post-copular noun phrase is the entity that meets a condition denoted by the pre-copular noun phrase. Most researchers have proposed that in specificational sentences, in some sense the predication is 'turned around'. All agree that in specificational sentences, NP2 is 'more referential' than NP1. As noted by researchers starting with Higgins (1973), specificational sentences can usually be 'reversed' with little change of meaning.

Geist (2007) proposes that specificational sentences are reversed predicational sentences, the predicate comes as the XP1, while the XP2 is referential.

7 a. Konetindet   ko   John

       Teacher   COP   John

          The teacher is John

    b. Ne-bo   koi   ko   konetindet

         RELI.SG-for   house.SG   COP   teacher.SG

          The owner of the house is a teacher

c. Koimutiet-neo   ko   konyony-osiek.
  Problem.SG-big.SG   COP   quarrel-PL
   The biggest problem is quarrels

d. Kiit ne   ki-am ko   kekiit
  thing.SG   RELI.SG   PST-eat COP   cake.SG
   What I ate was a cake

e. Ne-ki-ibeliis ko   John
  RELI.SG-PST-win   COP   John
   The winner is John

In Kipsigis specificational clauses exemplified in (7a-c), NP1 is a predicate and NP2 is the subject, a referential expression. Mikkelsen (2005) postulates that in some languages (such as English), NP1 in specificational sentences is universally topical (discourse-old), that means it is accomplished by putting NP1 into canonical position.

In specificational copular sentences, the post-copular phrase is used referentially rather than predicatively or attributively: instead of predicating a property of the entities '*what I ate*' and '*the winner*', these entities are identified as '*a cake*' and '*John*', as in sentence (7d and e). According to Higgins (1979) a specificational sentences consist of two parts, a variable part and a value part, and their semantic function is to identify the referent of the variable part.

The kind of copular sentences exemplified by (7) has been known as 'specificational' since the classic work of Higgins (1973). As described by Higgins, this kind of copular sentences, the second noun phrase, NP2, provides the 'specification' of the individual described by the first noun phrase, NP1 typically an attributive definite NP. Higgins refers to the NP1 as a 'superscriptional NP' functioning very much like the heading of list which may in these sentences have just one item.

As exemplified in sentences (7a-e), Kipsigis does have inversion around the copula, while agreeing with Partee (1999) that the subject of the specificational sentences in NP1 is converted to NP2.

In specificational sentences, we can reverse the order of subjects and complements as in (8a and b), *become* cannot be used as in (8 c), and the paraphrase with *following* is possible as in (8 d).

8. a. Chorindet   ko   John
   Thief   COP   John
    The thief is John

b. *John ko chorindet* (reversed order)
   John COP thief
    John is a thief

c. **Chorindet ko ki-ik* *John* (complement of become)
   Thief FOC PST-become John
    The thief became John

d. Chichi i-subii ko Chorindet: John (following
   Person   PRES-follow FOC thief: John
    The following person is the thief: John.

Sentence (8a) is a specificational sentence. This sentence can be reversed, where the subject and complement change position as shown in sentence 8 (b), when reversed it becomes a predicational clause. The paraphrase with *following* is possible as in (8d). Thus, Kipsigis specificational sentences behave in the same way as their English counterparts.

The presence of **'ko'** is not obligatory in Kipsigis specificational sentences. In present tenses, copula can be dropped as shown in example 9 below;

9. a). Chorindet ko   John
       Thief.SG   COP   John
         The thief is John

b) Chorindet   John
       Thief.SG   John
         The thief is John

c). Konetindet ko   John
       Teacher.SG   COP   John
   The teacher is John

d). Konetindet John
       Teacher.SG   John
         The teacher is John

Sentence 9 (a & c) shows the presence of copula element in specificational sentences while sentence 9 (b & d) shows that the copula element can be dropped and the sentences remain grammatical.

Specificational copula clause has a fixed topic-focus structure in which the subject is always a topic and the predicate expression is always focus. In Kipsigis specificational clause, the predicative DP moves to Spec-TP to satisfy the EPP feature.
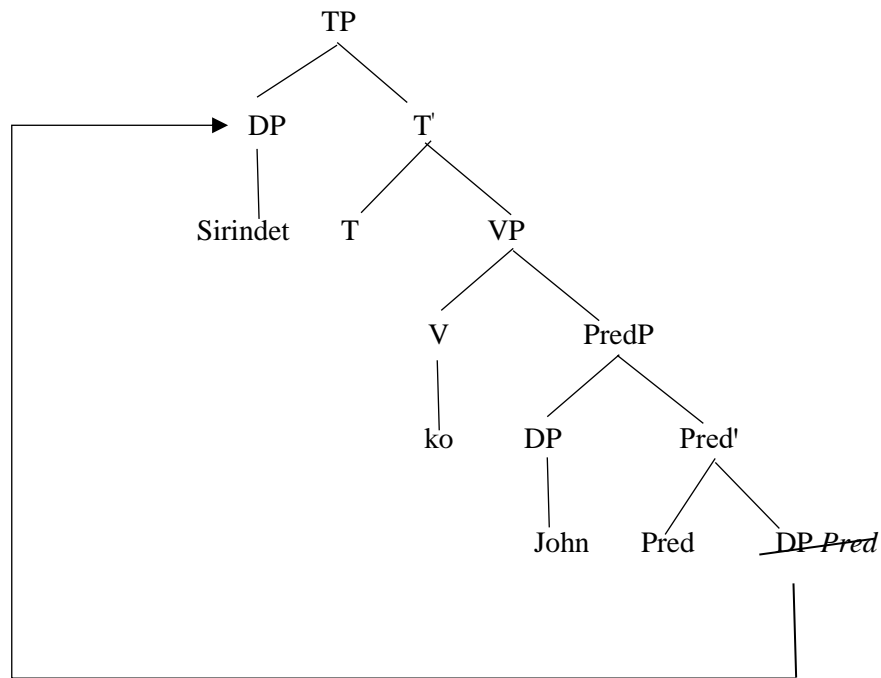
This structure illustrates the derivation of specificational clause below.
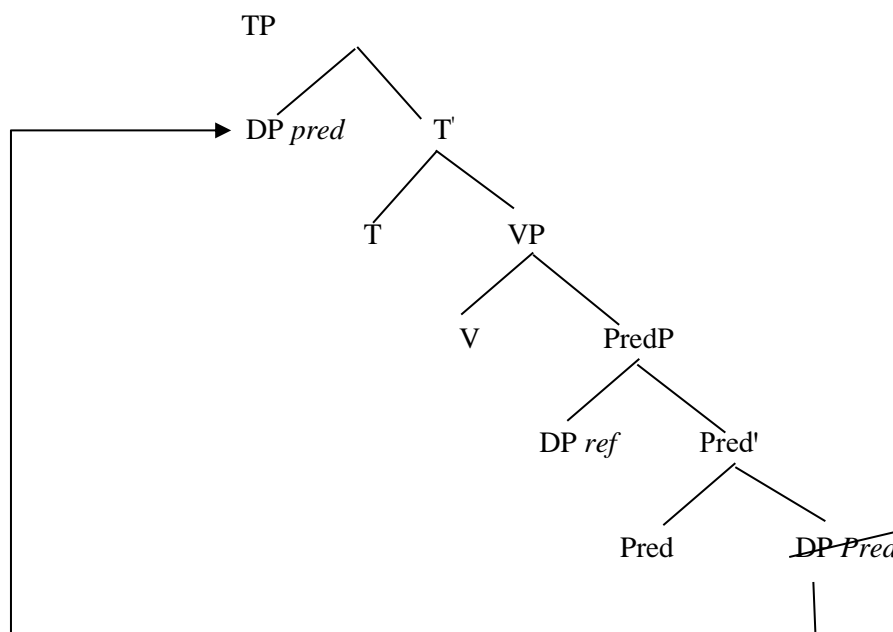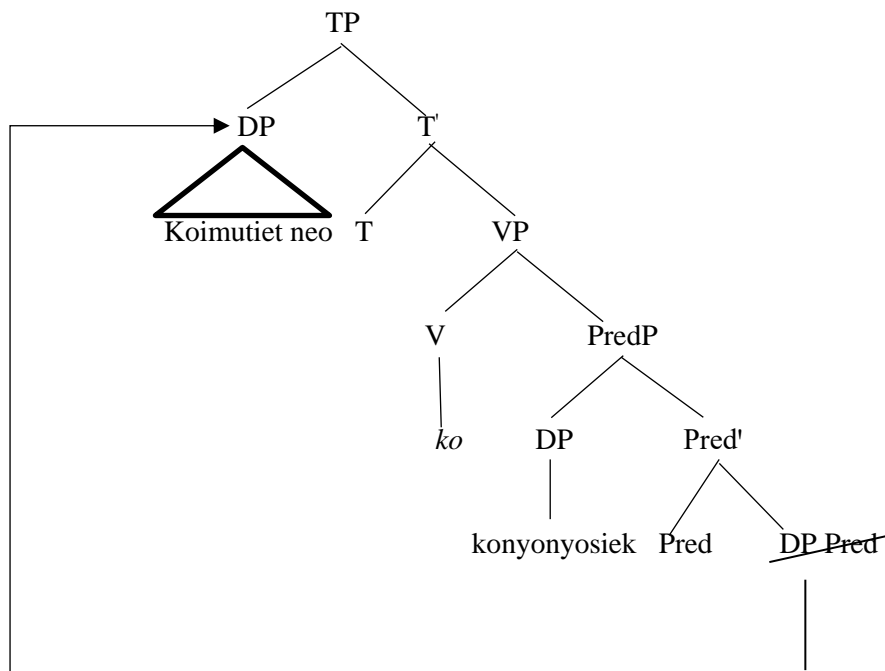
The following structures 10 (a & b) show the derivation of Kipsigis specificational copula clauses.

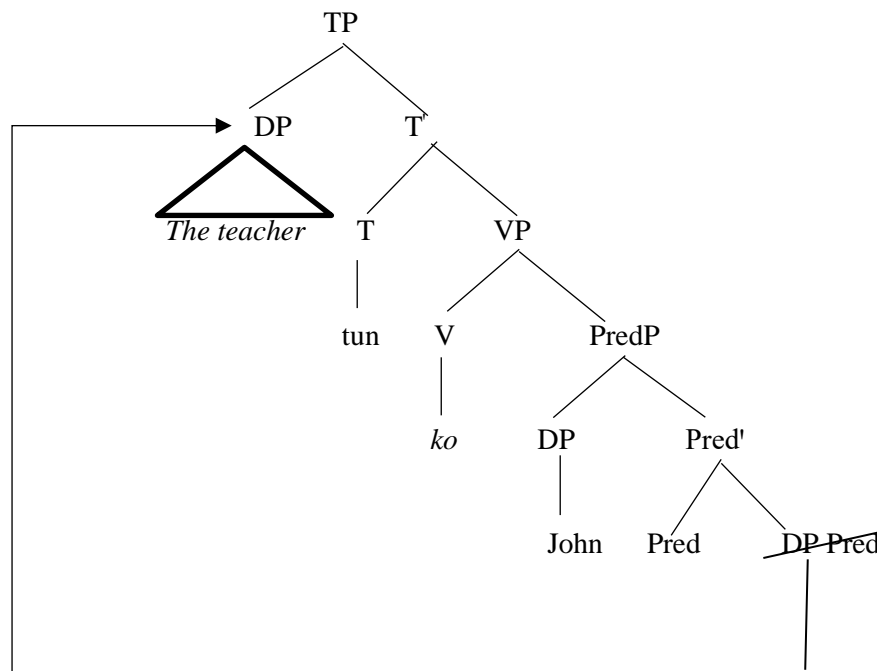10.a). Siriendet ko   John
         Writer.SG   COP   John
              The writer is John

b)   Koimutiet   neo   ko   konyony-osiek.
            Problem. SG big. SG   COP   quarrel-PL
                The biggest problem is quarrels

c) Konetindet   ko   tun   ko   John.
      Teacher.SG   FOC   FUT   COP   John
        The teacher is John

In Kipsigis Specificational Clause, the DP pred (Sirindet) and (*Koimutiet neo*) (moves to Spec-TP, while the referential DP remains in PredP.

Equative Clauses

Carnie, A. (2013) states that equative type of copula clause involves two elements of the same category specifically two DPs. The second DP in an equational sentence (predicate) is a definite NP (i.e., a name, a pronoun, a demonstrative NP, or a definite description). Equatives sentences resemble predicative sentences in that they have two noun phrases and the copula verb 'to be' ***ko***. Compare sentence (11a & b).

11 a). John   ko   chorindet
       John   COP   thief
          John is a thief

b). Johnko   bo   Kenya
      John COP   from   Kenya
         John is a Kenyan

Analysis of these sentences shows that there is a radical difference between the equative sentence and the predicational sentence in Kipsigis. The predicational sentence in (6a) ascribes the property to the referent noun phrase whereas the equatives sentence in (6b) basically says that the first and the second noun phrase share the same referent. It is difficult to distinguish between a predicative and equative sentence in Kipsigis as both use a similar construction and both require the copular '***Ko***'. Borsley (2005) discusses equative sentences and their syntactic structure in his book "Syntax: Theory and Analysis." He argues that equative sentences involve a special type of copular structure that is distinct from predicative constructions. Borsley suggests that equative sentences are formed by merging two noun phrases in a copular structure, resulting in a single unit of the same category as the two merged elements. He also notes that equative sentences cannot be analysed as syntactically inverted predications, as neither expression functions as a

predicate. Borsley's study provides a detailed analysis of the syntactic structure and properties of equative sentences.

In the equative sentences, pattern involves a simple copula 'am/is/are' which is equivalent to **'ko'** in Kipsigis. Examples of equative sentences below.

12. a). Paul ko bo koweet-nyun
    Paul COP from neighbour-poss.1SG
      Paul is my neighbour

b). Okweek ko o-chorono-kyuk
    prn.2pl   COP 2pl-friends-poss.1sg
      You are my friends

c). Okweek ko-ki-o-chorono-kyuk
    You COP-PST-2pl-friends- poss.1sg
      You were my friends

d). Okweek ko tun o-ikuu   chorono-kyuk
    You COP FUT 2pl-become friends- poss.1sg
      You will be my friends

e). Matoot ko tun iiku   chorwe-nyun
    neg COP FUT become friend- poss.1sg
      You will not be my friend

In equative sentences as shown in (12) above, the copula 'ko' denotes the equative relation between the subject and the complement of the copula.

In sentences (13) the complement of the copula describes the 'categorial membership' of the subject.

13 a) James ko lakweet ne-mie   mukuuleldo
      James COP child. sg   reli.sg-kind   heart.sg
        James is a kind hearted child.

b). Kirokto ko kirokto
     Cane. SG COP cane. SG
       Cane is a cane

The equative relations in (14), the complement of the copula describes the 'characteristics property' of the subject.

14. Kipkorir ko indoi en nyweny en bireetabimbireet   ab   keldo
     Kipkorir COP best at world at   play ball   for   foot
       Kipkorir is the world best football player.

In Kipsigis, when the copula is not present, no equative relation holds. Equative sentences involve two elements of the same category - specifically two DPs. The second DP in equational sentences (the predicate) is a definite NP (i.e., a name, a pronoun, a demonstrative NP, or a definite description).

Kipsigis equative sentences whose predicate is a definite NP has a more complex structure than the predicational sentence whose predicate is a NP,

AP, or PP. Choueiri (2016) proposes that the structure of equational sentences involves an extra functional phrase (FP) located between TP and PredP as shown in structure (4),
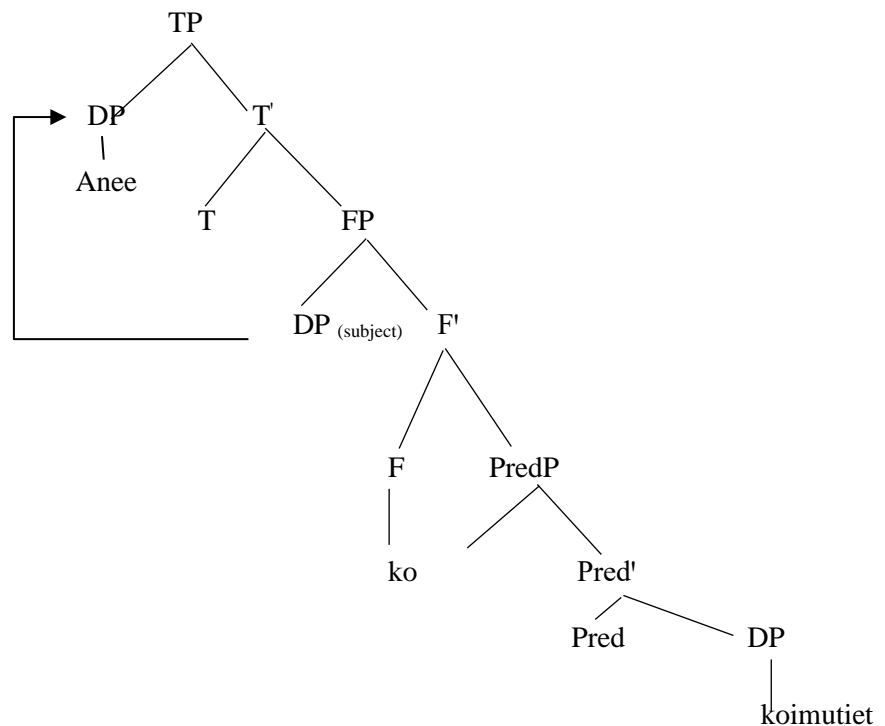
The structure below shows an underlying structure of equative copula clause (4).

```
                TP
              /    \
                    T'
                  /   \
                 T     FP
                      /   \
              DP (subject)  F'
                           /   \
                          F     PredP
                                  \
                                  Pred'
                                  /  \
                               Pred   DP (predicate)
```
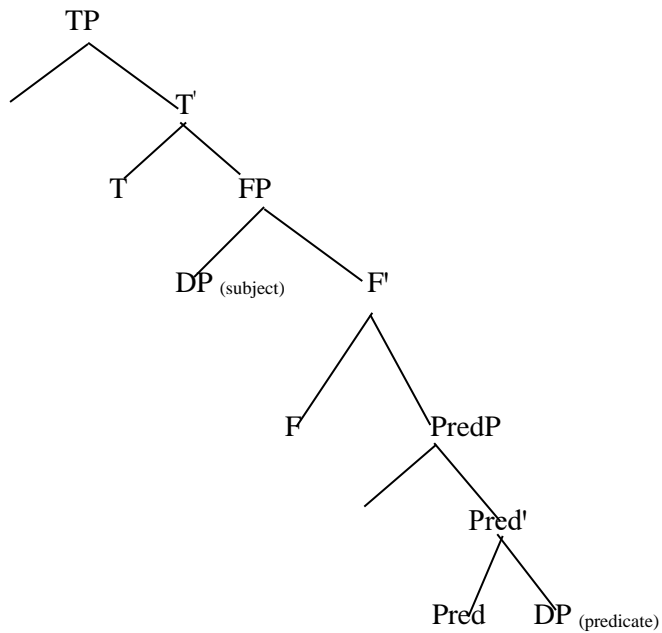
Choveiri assumes that if both subject and predicate DPs of the same category remain within PredP, then the two DPs cannot be linearised and hence the derivation will crash.

The following structures 15(a & b) shows the derivation of Kipsigis equative copula clauses.

15.a). Anee   ko   koimuti-et
         I   COP   problem-SG
           I am a problem

```
                TP
              /    \
            DP      T'
            |      /   \
          Anee    T     FP
                       /   \
               DP (subject)  F'
                            /   \
                           F     PredP
                           |      /  \
                          ko    Pred'
                                /    \
                             Pred     DP
                                       |
                                    koimutiet
```
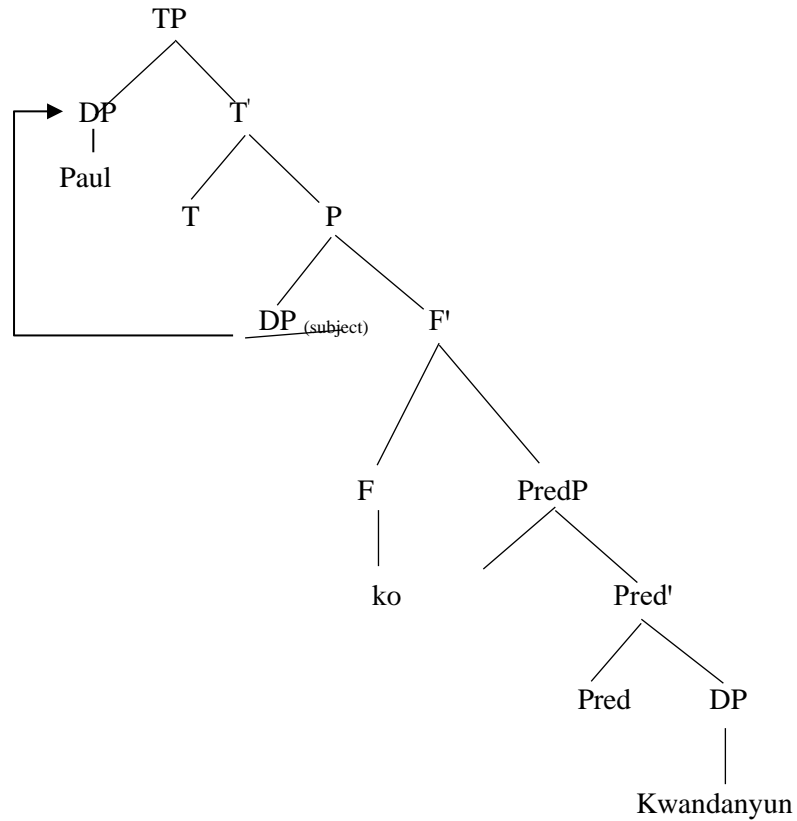
b).   Paul   ko   kwanda-nyun

          Paul   COP   father-POSS.SG

          Paul is my father

In equative structures the subject of FP, not the predicate complement, always raises to SPEC-TP to satisfy the EPP feature. The subject of the SC always raises to SPEC-TP. The DP in situ obtains accusative case.

Identificational Clause

Dixon (2010) discusses identificational clauses as a type of copular construction found in many languages. He explains that these clauses are characterised by having a demonstrative pronoun or demonstrative phrase in the subject position, and that they serve to identify or introduce a new referent. In Kipsigis, this demonstrative pronoun (niin/ chun/ choon/ noon/ nii) appears as the suffix of the subject as shown in the examples (16).

16. a). Kitabut-noon   ko   nenyun
              Book.SG-that   COP   mine
                  That book is mine

b) Chich-i   ko   John
              man.SG-this   COP   John
                  This man is John

c). Koneti-chun   ko   miach-en
              Teacher.PL-those   COP   good-PL
                  Those teachers are good

According to Higgins (1973), the subject of the Identificational clauses is referential, while the predicate complement is Identificational, meaning these sentences are used 'typically to teach the names of people and places.'

Just like predicational and specificational sentences, Identificational sentences can drop a copula element when the sentence is in present tense as shown below; 17 (a & b).

17.a). Koneti-chun   ko   miach-en
          Teacher.PL-those   COP   good-PL
                  Those teachers are good

b). Koneti-chun miach-en
          teacher. PL-those   good-PL
                  Those teachers are good

c). Kitabut-noon   ko   ne-nyun
          Book. SG-that   COP   reli.sg-poss.1.sg
                  That book is mine

d). Kitabut-noon   ne-nyun
          Book.SG-that   reli.sg-poss.1.sg
                  That book mine

Sentence 17(a & c) show the presence of copula element in Identificational sentences while sentence 17 (b & d) shows that the copula element can be dropped and the sentences remain grammatical.

Identificational clauses can also be used as responses to questions for more information about an individual.

18. John?   Ngo-no-ton?
          John? reli-sg-that

a. Ngeta-i   ko   John
       boy. sg-this   COP   John
               This boy is John

b. John ko   ngeta-i
       John   COP   boy.sg -this
               John is this boy

c. * Ngeta-I   ko   ki-koik   John
       boy-this   COP   PST-become   John
               This boy became John

d. Ngeta-I   isubi   John
       Boy. SG-this follow.PROG   John
               This boy following John

John? Who is that?

In sentence (18), it is imagined that the prior mention of the name John was not clear and it was not enough to satisfy the speaker, hence lead to the request for more information.

The characteristics of Identificational sentences include: that the reversed order is possible, that the sentences do not allow *become* as the main verb, and that this type can be paraphrased with *following*.

Sentence (19a) counts as an Identificational sentence, based on the referential properties of the subject and the complement. (19b) in which the order of the subject and the complement is reversed is grammatical. From sentence 19 d it is clear that the copula can be replace by *'following'* but the sentence becomes ungrammatical when paraphrased with 'become' as in 19 (c).

It is widely noted that some languages can drop the copula element, comprehensive account of distribution and licensing of copula dropping was used in this study to test the applicability of copula element in Kipsigis. From this study, Kipsigis can drop copula only in present tense for predicational, Specificational and Identificational clauses but not with Equative clauses.

In Kipsigis copula clauses, inversion can be used as a distinguishing feature between predicational clauses and other types of copula clauses. It is noted that Kipsigis predicational clause do not allow inversion of the two XP members it involves, but all other types of copula clauses do.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Kipsigis has different types of copula clauses namely; Predicational, Specificational, Equatives and Identificational clauses. All these types use the copula *'ko''* to link the subject and predicate, in the form (XP1 COP XP2). A syntactical analysis of Kipsigis copula clauses was carried out using Functional Category Hypothesis (FCH). In this analysis, the Pred head, which is a functional category, relates a subject to a predicate. It takes the predicative expression XP as its complement and the subject DP as its specifier. From this study it suggests then, that the understanding to be drawn from copular clause is that it is incorrect to characterise binding phenomena in terms of a particular syntactic configuration which must or cannot hold between two NPs.

REFERENCES

Barnett, S. A. (1994). Kipsigis grammar: a description of the phonology and grammar of the Kipsigis language (Vol. 3). Uzima Press.

Bondaruk, A. (2012). Predicational, specificational, equative and identificational copular clauses in English and Polish. *Roczniki Humanistyczne,* 60(05), 7-26.

Borsley, R. D. (2005). Syntax: Theory and analysis. Cambridge University Press.

Bowers, J. (2001). Predication. The handbook of contemporary syntactic theory, ed. by Mark Baltin and Chris Collins, 299-333. *Malden: Blackwell*.

Carnie, A. (2013). Syntax: A generative introduction. John Wiley & Sons. p. 328.

Choueiri, L. (2016). The pronominal copula in Arabic. *Brill's Journal of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics*, *8*(1), 101-135.

Crystal, D. (2008). A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics (6th ed.). Wiley-Blackwell. p. 110.

Dixon, R. M. W. (2000). A Typology of Grammatical Categories: A Handbook. Cambridge University Press. p. 235.

Dixon, R. M. W. (2010). Basic Linguistic Theory: Volume 2: Grammatical Topics. Oxford University Press.

Geist, L. (2007). Predication and equation in copular sentences: Russian vs. English. In *Existence: Semantics and syntax* (pp. 79-105). Springer, Dordrecht.

Higgins, F. R. (1973). *The pseudo-cleft construction in English* (Doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Higgins, F. R. (1979). The pseudo-cleft construction in English. Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Jones, B. M. (2018). Copular clauses in Welsh. Unpublished manuscript. Available online: https://users.aber.ac.uk/bmj/Ymchwil/Copula _clauses_in_Welsh. pdf

Mikkelsen, L. (2005). *Copular clauses: Specification, predication and equation* (Vol. 85). John Benjamins Publishing.

Thompson, S. A., & Sawyer, J. O. (1977). Subject and word order in Wappo. *International Journal of American Linguistics*, *43*(2), 85-100.

Partee, B. H. (1999). "The copula and individual concepts of property". In: Compositionality in formal semantics: Selected papers by Barbara H. Partee, 40-70. Oxford University Press