Syntactical analysis of Kipsigis Copula Clauses

Vincent Kiplangat1*, Prof. Peter Muriungi, PhD1 & Dr. Mary Karuri1

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

Date Published: 10 April 2023

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.

APA CITATION

CHICAGO CITATION

HARVARD CITATION
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 prominent, but it can also be emphasised that it was only Jane, the teacher rather than any other person.

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.

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)

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, Russian, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. a Predicational Clause</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| a) Nget-ik ko kiptangoi 
Boy-pl cop playful.pl  
The boys are playful  |
| b) Chito ko sirindet  
Person.sg cop writer.sg  
The person is a writer  |
| 2. Specificational Clause |
| a) Ne-ko ibelis ko John  
rel.sg-pres win cop John  
The winner is John  |
| b) Sirindet ko James  
Writer.sg cop James  
The writer is James  |
| 3. 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  |
| 4. 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 Sylvia  
That woman is Sylvia  |
**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 Specificalional 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 RELLSG-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 RELLSG-best.SG
    John became the best teacher.

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

342 | This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.
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 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;

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 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;

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

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 (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

   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
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

REL.ISG-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-ibelii 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.

\[
\text{TP} \rightarrow \text{DP}_{\text{pred}} \rightarrow \text{T} \rightarrow \text{VP} \rightarrow \text{PredP} \rightarrow \text{DP}_{\text{ref}} \rightarrow \text{Pred'} \rightarrow \text{Pred} \rightarrow \text{DP}'_{\text{pred}}
\]
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
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). John*ko* 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...
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 nywenen 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).

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.

15.a). Anee ko koimuti-et

I COP problem-SG

I am a problem
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
classified 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.'

17a). 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

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).

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 19d 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


https://users.aber.ac.uk/bmj/Ymchwil/Copula_clauses_in_Welsh.pdf

