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Title of Thesis: The syntax of Luganda NPs

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Abstract:

This study deals with the syntax of Luganda NPs within the framework of Chomsky's Government and Binding Theory, the Principles and Parameters Theory and the Minimalist Program. The dissertation is divided into 4 chapters, the first of which is the theoretical framework of the study. The 2nd chapter deals with the internal structure of Luganda NPs as well as word order. The 3rd chapter studies overt and non-overt NPs in the light of co-reference in both active and passive constructions. The 4th chapter highlights the case of NPs within the framework of Case Theory and sheds light on the semantic roles of NPs in Luganda which are determined by the verb. The study shows that the NP consists of a number of constituents whose order may vary according to the context. It also shows that Luganda is a pro-drop language where pronouns are recovered by subject markers which carry their Phi-features. Finally, the study reveals that case in Luganda is abstract except when the object NP is topicalized.

Keywords:

Overt NPs; Non overt NPs; PRO; pro; Trace; Binding; Control.