

**Morphosyntactic features typical of African languages**, according to Creissels, D., G. Dimmendaal, Z. Frajzyngier & C. König, 2008, 'Africa as a morphosyntactic area', in Heine, B. & D. Nurse (eds.), *A linguistic geography of Africa*, pp. 86-150, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- (a) The ergative type of core syntactic role coding is exceptional among African languages.
- (b) Case marked subjects or objects are less common among African languages than at world level.
- (c) The so-called "Marked-Nominative" type of case contrast between subjects and objects is exceptional in other parts of the world but very common among African languages that have a case contrast between subjects and objects.
- (d) Obligatory agreement of transitive verbs with their object does not seem to be attested among African languages.
- (e) Second position clitics are relatively common in the languages of the world, but exceptional among African languages.
- (f) In a relatively high proportion of African languages, the construction of verbs with an argument frame of the type *giver – given – recipient* tends to assimilate the recipient (rather than the thing given) to the patient of prototypical transitive verbs, and double object constructions are particularly frequent.
- (g) Focus strategies implying morphosyntactic alterations, and in particular focus marking by means of verbal inflection, are particularly common in Africa.
- (h) The use of special verb forms in sequential constructions is particularly widespread among African languages.
- (i) Applicatives are particularly common in Africa, and a relatively high proportion of African languages make a wide use of obligatory applicatives and of various types of non-canonical applicatives.
- (j) Classifier systems are exceptional among African languages.
- (k) Relatively few African languages are devoid of morphological plural, or have a morphological plural restricted to a subset of nouns occupying a high position in the animacy hierarchy.
- (l) African languages that do not use the same morpheme as a noun phrase coordinator and as a comitative adposition are relatively rare.
- (m) The proportion of languages with a syntactically flexible constituent order is much lower among African languages than at world level.
- (n) The constituent order SOVX, relatively rare at world level, is relatively frequent among African languages.
- (o) Clause-final negative particles occur among African languages much more frequently than in other parts of the world.
- (p) Changes in the constituent order triggered by negation are particularly common among African languages.
- (q) True relative pronouns are particularly rare in African languages (most words currently identified as relative pronouns are relative linkers), and the use of dependent verb forms in postnominal relatives, relatively rare in the languages of the world, is common among African languages.
- (r) Logophoricity is particularly widespread among African languages.
- (s) Systems of coding of spatial relations in which the distinction *location at/movement toward/movement from* manifests itself exclusively on verbs are more frequent in Africa than in most other parts of the world.