



## PRAGMATIC ROLES OF PARTICLE *-sh-* IN BANTU: KÉMUNASUKUMA PERSPECTIVES

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### Abstract

The paper describes the roles of Kisukuma *sh* particle in Kisukuma language classified zone F unit 21. The *sh* particle seems to have portmanteau facet as native speakers use it in different pragmatic contexts, such contextual roles be a magnet for the desired descriptions. The work applied Relevancy Theory which gears cognitive and communication inferences. The study applied pragmatic paradigm in which the communicative context housed the data, case study design designed the study from Njigami village of Geita rural district in Geita region. The envisioning of the *sh* gist was analysed qualitatively whereby words, phrases and sentences were constructed using Leipzig glossing roles. The study used Sukuma population in which ten (10) Sukuma native speakers aged 50-70 were selected purposively as they speak the language and are Sukuma monolingual speakers. Focus group discussion, document analysis and intuition technique were the methods of data hotchpotch. The discussion took two days, within the discussion; the researcher jotted down notice and recorded the discussion pertinent to practices done by informants in exemplifying the *sh* functions. The study found that the *sh* particle is a portmanteau morph factorizing permission, compulsion role, emotive role, lexical role, numbers, and caress role, requesting role, deverbal role, sanction role and causer roles. Basing on the *sh* envisioning, it was recommended that the same particle can be studied in the scope of its phonological manifestation domains, also other syntactic particles as in phrasal verbs, conjunction and prepositions should be investigated to see how Bantu languages contribute to the development of phonological and syntactic theories.

**Keywords:** Bantu, Pragmatics, Relevance Theory, Particle *sh*, Kisukuma.

## Introduction

Most of the Bantu linguists (Masangu, 2003; Maganga and Schadeberg, 1992; Batibo, 1985; Muhdhar, 2006; Lothi, 2002; Simon, 2023; Yuka, 2008; Good, 2002; Chabata, 2007; Chipalo, 2013; Kimenyi, 1980; Good, 2002) to mention just but a few have had discussed on particle *sh* but with limited function being its causative role. Bantu native speakers including Sukuma speech community use the mentioned particle with various roles which have not been investigated in Bantu literatures. With this regard the study lined with Strauss and Corbin (2008) observation that, incomplete knowledge in technical and non-technical literature is one among the sources of research problem thus, therefore, incomplete understanding that the particle *sh* has more than causative roles justifies the need for the current research.

## Previous literature on –*sh*– particle

**General literatures from Bantu languages:** Chipalo (2013) investigated verb extension in Cigogo and the study reveals that there are five morphs in Cigogo verbal extension applicative {*el-*, *il-*}, causative *-i-*, *-is-*, stative *-ek-*, *-ik-*, passive *-w-*, *-igu*, and reciprocal *-an-*. The two authors indicate that the lexicalized Bantu *-is-*, *-es-* and *-sy* particles are synonym to Sukuma *-sh-* particle of which hereby is proteritized by only single function being its causative role. The current investigation expects to provide extended insights of different roles out of causation within the framework of relevance theory.

Kimenyi (1980) investigated in Kinyarwanda language and the author identifies *-ish-* as causative particles. The same line of investigation was done by Good, (2002) who investigated on the reconstructing morpheme order in Bantu languages the case of causativization and applicativization. The author identified *-ish-* particle in different Bantu languages as in Chimwini, Kirundi, Kinyamwezi, Swahili, Kimeru to mention just but a few, all these languages have the particle *sh* but is used as causative morph.

Simon (2023) investigated verbal affix ordering in Hangaza language spoken in Tanzania. The author identified *sh* particle is used by Hangaza naïve speakers as in *lima* cultivate and *limisha* make to cultivate (Simon, 2023, p. 47). Similarly, in Kiswahili (Kihole, 2008, p.219; Ngonyani, 2016, p. 63) languages, it has been shown that the particle *sh* indicates valency increasing or causative only in these languages.

Yuka (2008) reported different verb extended particles from Lamnso' verbal extensions; the language spoken in the North West Province of the Republic of Cameroon; it is also spoken in Nigeria in Taraba state (Welmers, 1973, p. 159). Yuka's investigation found different morphemes of verb extensions in this language, along with other things; he found that *-nin-* is reciprocal, *-kir-* or *-kfən-* 'repetitive' or doing it again, *-ri-* 'iterative', *-ti-* 'applicative', *-si-* 'causative', *-sìn-* or *-sín-* 'contactive', *-ir-* or *-er-* augmentative, *-é/è-*, *-ó/ò-*, *-a-* extensive (durative) and *-ám-*, *-óm-* or *-éy-* or *-óy-*, *-áy-* intensive. However, observationally, the particle *sh* was not identified by the author instead he identifies *si* which is pronounced as *sh* by Lamnso native speakers of the language, the role of the particle is causative.

Simon (2023) investigated on envisioning the Semantics of Kinyarwanda causative and applicative morphemes in the Cognitive Grammar Theory. Along with other identified particles, the study revealed that, *-sh-* is the post radical verb extended particles in Kinyarwanda examples *vuga* "speak" and *vugisha* "cause or make to speak". Therefore, the role of this particle is to cause or make to do something directly or indirectly (Simon, 2020, p. 96). Also Simon (2022), researched in Kipare language of Tanzania on the valence increasing and decreasing arguments, the study revealed that *sh* particle is causative particle and valence increasing argument. For example *vuka* "wake up" and *vusha* "cause or make to wake up" (Simon 2022, p. 170). These studies conclude that only causative is the role of *sh* particle in Bantu languages something which is doubtful.

**Specific Literatures from Kisukuma Language:** Maganga and Schadeberg (1992) presented the bare outlines of Kinyamwezi grammar and lexicon within nine months from September 1986 to June 1987. Kinyamwezi (Jinakiiya) is part of Kisukuma. In their discussion along with other verb morphemes in Kinyamwezi grammar, they identified the particle *-sh-* as causative morph whose function is making or causing something happen. Maganga and Schadeberg (1992, p. 152) gave us the following data from Kinyamwezi grammar *kusha* "to grind" and *kushiisha* "cause or make to grind". The question is that is it only causative function represented by the particle? In doubt the native speakers use the same particle in various multiple semantics conventionalization which is left to be researched in their investigation. This desires investigation focusing of other various roles of the particle *sh* in Kisukuma grammar.

Lothi (2002) investigated on verb extension particles in Nyamwezi and Kiswahili, namely; subtractive, e.g. reduplication, static morph *ma, mana*, contactive morph *-ta-*, conversive morph *-ul-*, causative particle *-y-, -sh- -ch-, -j-*, applicative particle *{-il-*, stative particle *-ik-, -ka-*, passive particle *-w-* and reciprocal particle *-an-* augmentative particle *ul-, -il-, -ug-* and inceptive extension (e.g. *-pa-* in Kiswahili and *-ha-*, in Kinyamwezi. In Lothi's investigation Kinyamwezi appear to have *sh* particle as in *gwa* "fall" to *gwish* "make to fell" (Lothi, 2002, p. 15). This shows that the particle *sh* in Kinyamwezi has valence increasing argument according to Lothi, this leaves a chance for the other study, as it seems there are practical experiences and roles of *sh* which have not been investigated.

In his descriptive study, Muhdhar (2006) investigated on *verb extensions in Jinakiiya dialect of Kisukuma*. The study reveals five verbal extensions in Kemunakiya, another dialect of Kisukuma namely; these are Applicative morph *-il-/el-*, Causative morph *-ij-, -ish-/ish-*, Reciprocal morph *-i-*, Passive morph *-w-/iw-/ng'w-, -nv-* and Reduplicative. In his study, it was shown that the particle *sh* with narrow or limited functions. With this regard, the particle mentioned still under studied following the fact that native speakers have options to use in different roles as in hesitation or questionability, this requires investigation.

Masangu (2003) investigated on tonal transfer in Kisukuma language and Jinakiiya dialect in specific. His study mentioned some Kisukuma verbal morphs that can be attached or ordered from the verbal base or stem using Optimality Theory. These are causative morph *-y-*,

passive morph *-iw-*, applicative morph *-il-*, *-el-*, inversive morph *-ul-*, reciprocal morph, *-an-*, stative morph *-ik-*, *-ek-* and persistive inversive morph *-ol-*. In his study, Masangu did not discover or identify particle *-sh-*, while native speakers of Jinakiiya often use this particle. Therefore, the current investigation feels to fulfill this gap.

Batibo, (1976) investigated on Kisukuma phonology and morphology. Along with other things, the author reported thirteen verb morph particles in Kisukuma under morphophonological analysis namely: inversive *-ol-*, neuter/stative *-ek-*, *-ik-* repetitive *-agol-*, reflexive *-i-*, intensive reciprocal *-ann-*, causative complex *-isy-*, applicative *-el-*, *-il-*, simple causative *-sh-*, complex causative *-isy-*, benefactive-directive *-e-*, *-el-*, reciprocal *-an-*, passive *-w-*, *-iw-*, fofitive *-agan-*, contactive *-ot-* and inversive neuter *-ok-*. Also the current Batibo (2022)'s text has also indicated that the particle *-sh-* is a causative morph in the language under discussion. *However*, although native speakers use the particle *shí* in a variety of pragmatic contexts, existing literature has not yet fully described these functions

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study was underpinned by the relevance theory. It is a communication theory which was proposed by Sperber & Wilson (1986b). The theory works on Grice's central claim that an essential feature of most human communication is the expression and recognition of intentions (Grice, 1989). The relevance theory is built on inferences, an inference is inferential mode of communication, with this communication, a communicator provides parameters of her or his intention to convey senses which are inferred by her or his audiences. The goal of inferential pragmatics is to explain how the hearer infers the speaker's meaning on the basis of contextual evidences provided. Grice's base made Sperber and Wilson (1986b) recognize two principles or assumptions of relevance theory namely: recognition and communication. The former infers contextual implications by maximizing relevance of thoughts or memories and observable inferences while the later informs on understanding of the speaker's communicative and informative intentions, in other words it is the intention to inform audiences on one self or one's informative intention (Sperber and Wilson 1995). Therefore, relevance theory seems fit in describing the different roles of Sukuma particle *sh*. This follows the fact that the particle is envisioned in different contextual and situational functions, as it depends on the place or context of usage. Therefore, the relevance theory with its two theoretical apparatuses handles the multiple functions this particle and its relevance.

### **Methodology**

The study used descriptive design for describing the roles of particle *sh* in Kisukuma. The process of describing was done qualitatively whereby words, phrases and clauses were used to provide the roles of the particle thematically. Focus group discussion and critical documentary analysis were the methods used for data collection. The former was used with ten (10) Sukuma native speakers aged 50 -70 from Njigami village, whereby the discussion took place two days, during the discussion the researched jotted down points of view on the roles of the particle under discussion and the later was applied by analysing available Sukuma documents which appeared to have particle *shi* as in Matondo (2003), Batibo (1985) and Simon (2018). It must be noted that ten (10) informants were selected by using snowball techniques by featuring their age in living the area and they were monolingual native speakers of the language under discussion. The

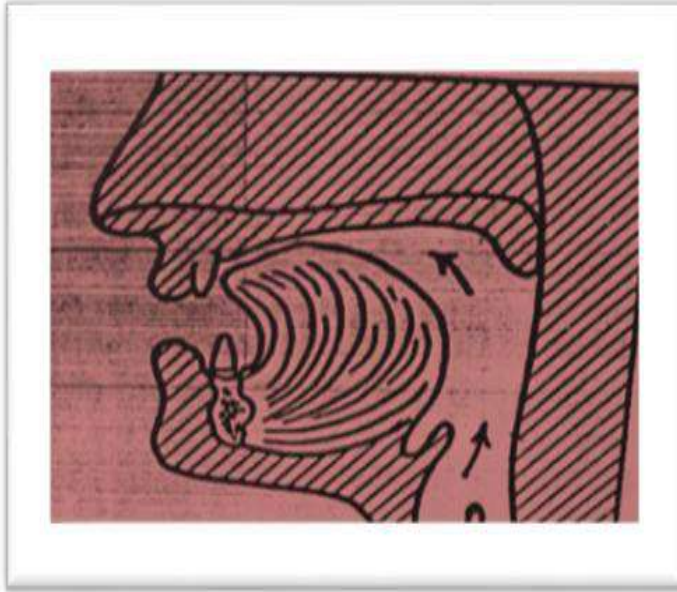
author used to read in lines determining the roles of *sh* in these documents. The process of data analysis, the author adapted Braun and Clarke (2006)'s approach to develop themes thematically pertinent to the function of particle *sh* in the discussion. The data was presented using Leipzig glossing rules; some functions of the particle were presented using discourse description methods as in feelings or emotions. It must be noted that the analysis of the data was done thematically using content analysis. Thus coding of the *sh* particle roles depended on the function it in different contexts. In the context of ethical considerations, the researcher obtained the informed research consent from the informants for them participate in the study while this is true, they did not permit the use of a voice recorder during field interviews.

### **Discussion of the Findings**

The article focused on the role of the particle *sh* in Kisukuma language of Tanzania, the data was obtained from focus group discussion of ten (10) Sukuma native speakers from Njigami village of Geita region as well as from written documents. The theory of Relevance (Sperber & Wilson, 1986b) was very expressive in describing the multiple conceptual senses of Sukuma *sh* particle in their socio-cultural communication system. Before describing the roles of particle *sh* it is better to articulated where and how this particle comes from in Sukuma articulatory physiology. In other words, the study aims to show the place and manner of articulation in which the sound comes. This proves the way Sukuma speakers articulate the particle *sh* different from other Bantu languages.

The particle *sh* phonetically written [ʃ] is produced from the place called palato-alveolar. This is the place where sounds are produced between the hard palate and the blade of the tongue as in [ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ] and [dʒ] consonant sounds are produced. However, the production of [ʃ] particle involves the blocking almost the air stream and having the air push through the narrow opening of which the air is pushed with friction, thus it is known as fricative sound. Gimson (1980) said that fricatives sounds produced with two organs being brought together and held sufficiently close together for escaping airstream to be produced. The figure in 1 shows the production of [ʃ] particle:

**Figure 1:** Production of [ʃ]



**Source:** Simon (2021)

The figure in 1 show the way Sukuma particle *sh* or *ʃ* is produced with friction which results with voiced stricture as in *sha* "grind", *shika* "arrive". Therefore the next subsection discusses pragmatic roles of this particle in difeerent Sukuuma contexts.

During the process of data collection different roles were determined as in insistence, requesting, permission, deverbilization, feeling expressions, perfective aspects, and necessity, and causation, content word category, silencing and showing an approval. The next subsection starts with insistence:

### **Insistence Roles**

This is one among the role of *-sh-* particle in Kisukuma language. The particle in some contexts is being used by Sukuma native speakers when insisting things in their daily speech. It must be noted that the things which are insisted are known among communicators, hence relevance to contextual conclusion. During the process of data collection, informants demonstrated the way they use the particle for insisting, the data in 1 exemplifies:

1. (a) *βulugu! -ng'wil -e -shi U - Juma*  
*βulugu -tell-OM-please-SP-Juma*  
"Please *βulugu!* tell *Juma*"

- (b) *βulugu- nzugu -shi tulye wangu!*  
*βulugu- come -please -eat-quickly*  
" Please *βulugu!* come quickly for eating "

The data in 1(a-b) indicate that the particle *sh* plays the role of insistence. The data in 1(a) shows the way *Bulugu* is insisted to tell *Juma*; likewise the data in 1(b) shows that insistence of telling a person (*Bulugu*) to come. The relevance theory like other theories satisfy adequately what the hearer infers by the speakers, here the particle has been used to let the hearer reflects the cognitive inferences of the speaker (Sperber, 1994a). When *Bulugu* is insisted in 1(a) she or he is aware of that *Juma* is needed on board, and in 1 (b) *Bulugu* is aware being called but in the rate of high speed other than the requested person (*Juma*) in 1(a). However, with this commonness, Relevance theory activate inferential mode which requires a communicator to provide evidence on his or her intention to convey certain meaning whose evidence is inferred by the hearers for attention. For example in 1(b) *Bulugu* is insisted for eating some food.

### Lexical Roles

This is one among the roles of particle *sh* in Kisukuma; it is sometime called contentive role or lexical verb role because it stands alone and brings complete semantic scopes. The main verb is the principal verb that describes the action performed by the primary subject in the sentence structure. The Sukuma particle *sh* appeared to have the status of a verb. The data in 2 below demonstrates:

2. *Bulugu -sh-a Ø- wangu*  
*Bulugu - grind- fast*  
"*Bulugu grind Ø quickly*"

The particle *-sh-* data in 2 above stands as a main verb of the primary subject. This shows that such particle has actionable peculiarities in the language other than previous literatures which documented a single role of the particle being it a causative one. Sperber & Wilson (1995) in their version of relevance theory insisted on an input which is known and relevance to the individual when processing in the context available, and this attracts positive cognitive effects. In other words, when *Bulugu* is requested to grind *Ø*, and does so, means the context and the available input is relevance and communicative. This is general aim of relevance theory of communication.

### Deverbal Roles

This is the derivation process whereby a lexeme changes its word class. However, in the process of data collection, the study revealed that the particle *sh* in the language under discussion is able to change the word category. Deverbal affixes may change from verbs to any category, for example changing verbs to adjective as in English language wash o washable (Simon, 2024, p. 32). To be specific from Kisukuma language native speakers demonstrated the changing of verb to noun using *sh* particle. The data in 3 demonstrates:

3. (a) *U- ku- ng'ol-a*  
*SP-FT-cry -FV*  
"*You will cry*"

- (b) Ni -nhí *shi* ng'ola  
SP-give-SP-cry  
"Give me sound bait"

The data in 3 above shows derivation process known as deverbalizing in linguistics phenomenon. The verb *Ng'ola* has various semantic representations; as such it may imply somebody crying after being punished, however the way of crying in this context goes reciprocally with producing sound. From this base, the data in 3(b) it is shown that the attachment of the prefix particle *sh* changes the word category (verb) to noun which refers to instrument that is used to produce sound or somebody who cries often.

### Causee Roles

A causative construction indicates that a subject agent or force causes some entity to do or become something, or causes a change in the state of a non-volitional event, thus languages have ways of expressing causation, and may also differ on how they do so (Comrie, 1985). Within the same scope of understanding, Simon (2018) added that causative morphs encode causativity, that is to say it causes someone or something do x' or 'to make someone or something do x'. Therefore, causative was another role which was indentified during the process of data collection. The data in 4 demonstrates data from literatures:

- 4 (a) Shok-a  
Turn-FV  
"Return"
- (b) Sho-sh-a  
Turn-CAUS-FV  
"Cause to turn"                      Simon, (2018)

The data in 4(a) shows that the lexical verb *shoka* which means turn in English language attaches particle *sh* and changes the meaning into causing or making somebody to turn back. The form of causative in Kisukuma pertinent to the identified particle is known as morphological causative, due to the fact that the morph is extended from the word (Comrie, 1981). The finding lined up with Simon (2024)' findings in Kinyarwanda language, the language spoken in Rwanda, the author observed the particle *sh* plays causative role as in data 5 below:

5. (a) Vug -a  
Speak-FV  
"Speak"
- (b) Vug-*ish* -a  
Speak-CAUS-FV  
"Cause to speak"                      Simon, (2024, p. 6)

The data in 5 (a) show that the verb *Vuga* 'speak' has been derived in 5(b) as in *vugisha* which means 'cause to speak'. The meaning presented in 5(a) differs with that 2(b) because the former shows basic verb while the later shows the increase of argument structure. The data (see 4b, 5b) is propertilised within the relevance theory (see in Sperber, 1994b) in that the speaker's cognitive knowledge should be known equally to the hearer's understanding, thus triggers positive communication. This means that the lexeme *shoka* which means turn is known to all interlocutors, this should reflect the derived lexeme *shosha* which means make to turn, both speakers are aware of the statement as the result of relevance. This account of communication has practical envisioning for pragmatics following the fact that the context and the cognitive experiences of the interlocutors create commonness or cooperative relevance (Sperber, 1994, 1985).

**Demonstrative Roles**

Demonstrative is “a word (a pronoun or a determiner) which refers to something in terms of whether it is near to or distant from the speaker” (Richards & Schmidt 2010, p.161). They are the forms of deixis expressions that point out either persons or things. During the process of data gathering, the particle *sh*, was revealed to indicate pointing in the style of demonstrative pronoun. These forms of pronouns semantically indicate either plurality or singularity formation. The table in 1 below demonstrates:

**Table 1:** demonstrative role of *sh*:

Demonstratives	Numbers	Gloss
i-sh-o	Singular	That
i-sh-i	Singular	This

The table in, show that Kisukuma particle *-sh-* plays the role of pointing something or people. Literatures as in Swan, (1989) show that demonstratives are of two forms namely: those referring to people or and those referring to things that are physically near the speaker, as well as the abstract situations to which a speaker is referring at the moment. With this regard, Kisukuma demonstratives regarding to *sh* particle indicate things. The structure in 6 below indicates sentences with *sh* demonstrative:

- 6. (a) Diima -i *shi*  
 Take -SP-this  
 " Take this one"

- (b) I-sho- a ho

SP-DEM-there  
"That is there"

The table in 6 above indicates demonstratives are pointers, this understanding line with Leech and Svartvik (2013) who argued that demonstratives are referred to as *pointer words*. 6(a) shows that something is in hand of somebody while this is true, the data in 6 (b) shows that what is pointed is far a bit from somebody. With reference to Grice (1989) and Sperber (1984) and within the scope of relevance theory in specific, the structures in 6 represent verbal communication and they encode logical forms that the hearer conceptualizes from the speaker. 6(a) is more relevance because it requires the hearer to bear attention in a present situation, and the utterance creates a layer of attachment. This is different from 6(b) in the sense that it creates context in which the action can be done later though being relevance. Thus, Sperber & Wilson, (1989) suggested recovery implicatures of sub tasks which allows speakers to construct an appropriate hypothesis on explicit content using decoding a relevance resolution for quenching positive communication.

### Roles of Request

The request is a polite statement or is the way of using the word politely for asking someone do something. During the process of data collection with the Sukuma native speakers, the study identified request as one among the function particle *sh* used by Sukuma native speakers. The request which is done using the *sh* Sukuma particle has a sense of adding some kind of flavor in speech, it is a kind of strategic flavor requesting technique when somebody requests something. The data in 7 demonstrates a requesting role:

7. (a) Bhà goshà *shì* ka ni leki  
SP-men-DEM-let-OM-leave  
" Please would you leave me!"

(b) Nà nè -*shì*- Juma  
Help-particle-Juma  
"Please! Juma help me"

In 7(a, b) structures, it is observed *sh* particle is envisioned for request context in Kisukuma language. The tone of request is very low and harmony, that is why each vowel is toned with low tone when the speaker requesting somebody or something.

### Caress Roles

This is one of the manifestations of *sh* particle within the Sukuma speech community. This is done in different contexts when speakers want somebody or something keeps quite. One among the contexts where *sh* particle is used for silencing is during milking milks from cows. One among the informants was a pastoralist and he commended that the mentioned particle is also used when making cows. The data in 8 exemplified the way of silencing:

8. (a) shiii shiii

(b) shi shi shi

(c) shi shi shi shi

The data demonstrates the way of silencing cows or goats of which they settle when people are milking milks from them. The data 8(a-c) are used depending on the cow's disturbances. That is to say if the cow is more hyperactive, the 8(b) and 8(c) are used, but when it is not more disturbing, the 8(a) is used for keeping quite. Also it was observed that the same vocal cues are used when silencing kids by the mother or baby care persons for sleeping in their hand or at their backs. Not only silencing children but also even in other events, these signs are used to make people silencing for effective listening. However, 8(a) may differ with 8(b) and 8(c) because the user depend on the magnitude and rate of hyperactive, the 8(a) low hyperactive, and 8(b) high and 8(c) very high or disturbing one. This is figures in Relevance theory and relevance of input in specific, according to Relevance theory (Sperber & Wilson, 1981, 1982), action, emotion or altitude may be equal, the more the greater worthwhile conclusion achieved by processing an input, the more relevant it will be. Thus, silencing shown in 8(c) is greater or relevant than in 8(a) or 8(b), this depends on the hyperactive rate of a child or cow.

### **Emotive Roles**

This is the way of conveying feelings and altitudes of the speaker and speakers often use it to influence the altitudes and behaviour of the hearer in different contexts (Leech & Svartvik, 2001, p. 152). Human animals use feeling expressions by using various signs as in words, actions, bodily language. This is done to make others know one's feelings she or he experiences. The example in 9 below demonstrates feeling in pain:

9. (a) A shii ... shii!  
" Haa.... shii "

(b) Bhaa shi! Bhaa shi!  
"Enough ... please!"

The example in 9 demonstrates the way emotional expressions can be manifested by during pain. It must be noted that feeling of this kind can be denoted by mental or physical response being marked by pain contingently. The role of emotion expressions is relevance to the Relevance theory (Sperber and Wilson (1995)'s theoretical tenet of input processing that easier communication in that speaker make efficiency use of the available state of processing actionable behaviour, thus Relevance theory argues that humans do have an automatic tendency to maximize relevance because of the way cognitive system has evolved. This means that 9(a) differs with 9(b) in that the 9(b) is maximized with prefix *bha* orally in as one severely is in strong pain than that in 9(a)'s degrees extremely.

### Sanction Roles

This is another role of the particle *sh* in the Kemunasukuma dialect of Kisukuma language under discussion. The particle can be used pragmatically to prove that something is true or went wrong. In other words, approval is an acceptance of something indicating that something is suitable correct or incorrect. Therefore, *sh* Sukuma particle is used for approval, see data 10 below:

10. (a) Ga shi!

"A ha!"

(b) Ga shí shí!

"A ha! Okay!"

The expression in 10 shows approval on something. The data in 10(a) indicates normal acceptance but in 10(b) the attachment of the particle with high tone (see shí) indicates that somebody has proved either by touching or eyewitnesses. This is another situational manifestation of Relevance theory, in that the identified explicit content (meaning) satisfies inferential deixis that covers implicatures (Grice, 1989). Thus, the hearer creates of 10(b) constructs hypothesis on speaker's meaning to approve. In other words, (Cf. Sperber, 1985) reaching to the level of approving, until speakers have elicited signified event or touchable materials.

### Roles of Aspect

Aspect in linguistics aspect is related to verb action or state. Therefore, aspect is a grammatical part of languages which expresses Aspect is a grammatical feature that shows how an action or state happens over time, such as whether it is ongoing, completed, or repeated. Therefore, during the process of data collection in was observed that *sh* particle indicates perfective aspect as it indicates grammatical aspect of the completed time in short period ago. The data in 11 exemplifies:

11 (a) Ø -òg-a

SP- bathe -FV

"Bathe"

(b) Ø sh- òg-a

SP-OM-bathe-FV

"Something has washed"

The data in 11(a) shows that *òga* implies get bathe or clean but when prefixed with *sh* particle the meaning changes into something or thing (in animate) that has made the work of cleaning. The context of this kind of prefixing *sh* particle specifies object or something but not human being. Therefore, looking in 11(b) *shòga* implies something has washed but not human being. The Relevance theory applies on aspect in the fact that the hearer infers the speaker's meaning. That is to say, if the time has passed, there are relevance contexts that speaker's senses communicate to the hearer and this creates commonness of the interlocutors. Sperber and Wilson

(1986b) argued that communicator provides evidence of his or her intention to convey meaning, in the context of perfective aspect; the event is justified by circumstances as in he has washed – meaning he or she is clean or she has gone – meaning that she is not present.

### Compulsion Roles

This is the state of being necessity. It was observed that *sh* article has the role of indicating obligatorily when used in communication contexts. When speakers use *sh* in the context of obligatory they imply that such a thing must be done with no options. Consider the data in 12 below:

12. (a) Giki - a li-za  
That -SP-FT -come-FV  
"That he will come"
- (b) Gikí - *shí*- a li z-a  
SP-OM- NEC-SP-FT-come-FV  
"That she or must come"
13. (a) A - li tol- w -a  
SP-FT- marry-PASS-FV  
"She will be married"
- (b) A - lí - tol - w -a -*shí*  
SP- FT- marry-PASS-FV -NEC  
"She must be married"

The data in 12-13 indicate that the Sukuma particle *sh* can be conceptualized in the context of necessity, which is showing obligatoriness of something to be done. With this function, the speakers indicates some kind of authority to others or others show form if authority to the speaker. Therefore, the particle *sh* in the language under discussion like particle *must* in English express speaker's authority (Leech & Svartvik, 2001).

### Conclusion

The paper has described the roles of Kisukuma *shí* particle in Kisukuma and its contextual manifestations against what have been stated in Bantu linguistics literatures. The study revealed different portmanteau factorizations as in permission, requesting role, compulsion, emotion, lexical verb, caress role, showing numbers, deverbal, and sanction and causee roles. This has practical scopes to Sukuma socio-cultural communicative facts. With rigorous functions, the Sukuma speech community uses the particle in a relevance and cognitive communication which accommodates effective communication. During the process of data collection, the particle seemed to have different phonological and syntactic manifestation domains, hence it calls for new investigation in these linguistics fields.

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### **Author's Bionote**



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