

## A MICRO-VARIATION ANALYSIS OF THE WORD ORDER OF THE NOUN PHRASE BY MODIFICATION IN LUNGU AND NAMWANGA LANGUAGES

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### Abstract

*This paper presents a comparative analysis of the word of the noun phrase (henceforth, NP) by modification by accounting for similarities and micro-variations in Lungu and Namwanga languages. Lungu is spoken in Mpulungu district while Namwanga is spoken in Nakonde and Isoka districts in Zambia. Using the micro-variation linguistic theory and the comparative Bantu morpho-syntax theoretical locale, the paper identifies the modifiers which are prominent in Lungu and Namwanga languages and establishes the prevailing word orders in the NP by modification. The study used a qualitative approach backed by elicitation and comparative methods. The paper outlines that the two languages have similarities in the word order of the NP by the modification which suggests that the languages are genetically related. The analysis also shows that Lungu and Mambwe languages have more similarities than variations in their morphology of nouns which are used to form the NP which shows that they are mutually intelligible. On the other hand, the paper reveals that there are some morphological micro-variations in the two languages, though not wide enough to be considered to be mutually unintelligible. Therefore, the common word orders in the NP by modification in Lungu and Namwanga languages include; Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj, N+Adj (NAdj) and N+Dem (NDEM).*

**Keywords:** Comparative, Lungu, micro-variation, modification, Namwanga, noun phrase

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This paper analyses micro-variations in the word order of the noun phrase (henceforth, NP) by modification in Lungu and Namwanga languages. Guthrie (1948) classifies Lungu as M14 and Namwanga as M22. Nurse and Philipson (1999) have characterized Lungu and Namwanga languages as emanating from a language called Fipa. The Lungu language is spoken in Mpulungu district of Northern Province while Namwanga is spoken in Nakonde and Isoka districts of Muchinga Province in Zambia.

Literature shows that very few studies have been conducted and documented on Lungu and Namwanga languages. To the best knowledge of the researchers, there has been no research that has documented a syntactic comparative analysis of the two Bantu languages in terms of micro-variations in syntax, especially

word order in the noun phrase. This shows that the Lungu and Namwanga languages are less explored and documented, and as such very little is known about the languages.

It is noteworthy that negligence of research and documentation of Bantu languages endangers their existence which correlates with Brenzinger (1998). Brenzinger (1998) points out that the majority of the small African languages are no longer endangered by the languages of their former colonial masters but there is a great risk of being replaced by other major and recognized African languages. These major African languages have already been coded and given the official status for use in governance and initial literacy in primary schools as well as secondary and tertiary education. For example, Bemba which Guthrie (1948) classifies as M42 is the regional official language in Northern and Muchinga provinces in Zambia where the Lungu and Namwanga languages are spoken. Therefore, Bemba has taken over the teaching and learning of initial literacy in Northern and Muchinga provinces, a situation which can lead to language death of Lungu and Namwanga languages if research and documentation are not prioritised.

The paper is further motivated by Siame (2023) who documented word order in the Mambwe language. Siame's study only dealt with Mambwe and not Lungu and Namwanga which lays the foundation for a comparative analysis of micro-variations of the two languages in terms of word order in the noun phrase. Therefore, the above work acts as a point of departure for the present study which draws insights from the established literature to analyse the micro-variations in the Lungu and Namwanga languages.

Further justification for this study is based on the attestations by Halemba (1994), Doke (1945), and Watson (1958) that the studies on the Mambwe, Lungu, and Namwanga languages are not of full-length, hence literature is scarce because they are less documented. Therefore, this paper rides on the scarcity of literature on the grammar of the Lungu and Namwanga languages and also to save the two languages from possible death.

Therefore, the paper aims to contribute to comparative, descriptive, and documentary linguistics by analysing the similarities and variations of the word order of the noun phrase by modification in the two languages. The above-stated aim is achieved by addressing the following objectives: to identify the modifiers used in Lungu and Namwanga languages; to establish the word order of the noun phrase by modification; to determine the similarities in the word order of the noun phrase by modification in Lungu and Namwanga languages; and to analyse the micro-variations in the word order of the noun phrase by modification in the two languages. The paper progresses as follows; introduction, literature review, theoretical locale, methodology, results and discussion, and conclusion.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The study by Mann & Kashoki (1978) shows that the Lungu language is related to the Mambwe language in terms of ethnicity. The above literature entails that the two languages are closely related and are found in neighbouring geographical locations. This would also mean that the languages are genetically related and originate from the same language, the Fipa (Nurse & Phillipson, 1999). On the other hand, the Namwanga language does not have enough documentation on verbal morphology. However, literature shows that there is evidence of some phonological studies such as *The Downstep of Namwanga* (Bickmore, 2000). It is worth noting that the few available literature on phonology, morphology, and other levels of linguistics on the Namwanga language includes; a collection of texts and their translations (Busse, 1940/1941; Lungu, 2020).

Several studies have been conducted on the concept of micro-variations, particularly on the major Bantu languages and very few works have been done on minority languages like Lungu and Namwanga. With the above background in mind, this paper explores the literature of both major and minor languages on micro-variation. As has been depicted in the literature, Lungu and Namwanga languages have been less explored and as such will greatly benefit from this documentation which will not only enrich literature and contribute

to the general body of knowledge of micro-variations but will also preserve the linguistic knowledge and possible death of the two languages.

Mtenje-Mkochi (2018) does a micro-variation investigation of the nominal class marking system of Cisukwa, Cindali, and Cilambya [henceforth, SuNdaLa], which are closely related languages. The three languages have been indicated as similar in the literature while their speakers characterise them as different languages (Botne, 2008; Mtenje, 2016). Based on the parameters developed by Guérois et al, (2017), Mtenje-Mkochi (2018) observes that there are minute variations, but substantial similarities in SuNdaLa languages. Therefore, the scholar concludes that the SuNdaLa languages are the same language and on a dialect continuum.

It is envisaged that Bantu languages use various syntactic features that constitute the NP and basic sentence levels. Möller (2011) reveals that the NP in Kwere consists of several different elements which agree with the head noun, such as; demonstratives, quantifiers, and other determiners. Guérois (2015) documents that the noun class system productively interacts with other constituents in the sentence, within the NP as well as on the predicate, whose agreement is controlled by the head constituent which is usually a noun where the modifiers usually follow the head noun.

Alphonse and Lusekelo (2021) argue that adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in both gender and number features. Corbett (1991, 2011a & 2012) posits that gender is the particular type of noun classification strategy which reflects the agreement in the NP. Di Garbo (2013) argues that for the gender system of a language to be considered productive, the gender of a noun needs to be cross-referenced by those elements in the utterance that entertain some kind of morpho-syntactic relation with the noun itself, such as; adjectives, pronouns, demonstratives, determiners, verbs, and relative pronouns including positions and complementisers (Greenberg, 1978; Roberts, 1992).

Möller (2011) also shows that when the NP in Kwere language is made up of both the demonstrative and possessive, the order is; N + DEM + POSS. Lusekelo (2013) argues against the use of the determiner phrase [henceforth, DP] in Bantu languages by indicating that it differs from Indo-European ones where the head noun generally precedes all dependents, namely; determiners and modifiers considering that most Bantu languages maintain the number feature. The above argument is due to the agreement patterns in Bantu languages which reveal a slightly different structure from the one found in Indo-European languages due to the DP internal agreement patterns in which the number is marked on the head noun (Lusekelo, 2009a). Lusekelo (2009b) posits that indicating only one dependent in Bantu DPs is erroneous as it does not give its full picture.

## 2.1 Theoretical Framing

This article is informed by the micro-variation and comparative Bantu morpho-syntax (CBM) frameworks. It must be pointed out that the initial theoretical inspiration of this paper is the macro-level comparative Bantu morphophonology theoretical framing as postulated by scholars such as (Hyman & Mtenje, 1999; Bickmore, 2004; Mkochi, 2017; Mtenje-Mkochi & Mtenje, 2019). The focal point of macro-variation analysis is that genetically related languages manifest major differences in syntactic, morphological, phonological, and other linguistic features. However, it is cardinal to argue that related languages like Lungu and Namwanga languages are also likely to manifest micro-variations as a consequence of historical, geographical, and social factors.

Therefore, this paper is motivated by what the researchers shall call micro-variation linguistic theory which particularly applies to Bantu languages. Micro-variation studies investigate subtle variations within the same or similar languages. For instance, these micro-variations manifest due to social factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, and social class, or across closely related languages or dialects. Nonetheless, since literature depicts the two languages to be genetically related, the paper attempts not only to show the similarities but also to bring out the subtle differences between the two languages. It is hoped that this study

will contribute to a broader understanding of Bantu linguistic theory, and particularly to the documentation and preservation of the Lungu and Namwanga, which are the minority languages.

Literature shows that Marten et al, (2007) considered a sample of ten Bantu languages to explore morpho-syntactic micro-variation across 19 parameters, grouped into six topics: object markers, double objects, relatives, locative inversion, conjunct agreement, and conjoint/disjoint parameters. The above documentation was groundbreaking to the application of micro-variation as a linguistic theory in the analysis of Bantu languages. There have also been increased numbers of edited volumes dedicated to the study of micro-variations in Bantu languages such as Downing & Marten (2019), whose volume focuses on syntactic doubling in various Bantu languages; Marten and Kula (2012) investigate micro-variation in the grammar of copulas across several Bantu languages; Bostoen (2009) examines micro-syntactic variations in three North-Central Bantu languages, Bemba, Pichinglis, and Giryama, and also shows differences and similarities in their syntactic structures. The above scholarly works are relevant to this study because they provide insights to micro-variation analysis and are in line with the objectives.

On the other hand, Marten & Van der Wal (2015) used the concept of micro-variation to explore Bantu subject inversion. Guérois et al, (2017) provide an analysis of micro-variation of 142 morpho-syntactic parameters or features, across a sample of some 50 Bantu languages. The study aimed to establish boundaries or considerations during micro-variations. All these studies are designed to highlight similarities and subtle differences within Bantu languages.

The current study examines the micro-variation of the noun phrase by modification in the Lungu and Namwanga languages. Studies have shown that many Bantu languages bear micro-variations in the verbal structure due to their relatedness (Mkochi, 2019; Mtenje-Mkochi, 2018; Kadenge & Simango, 2014). Drawing theoretical insights from the above studies, the paper adopts a descriptive approach to determine the similarities and micro-variations in the verbal structure of the Mambwe and Namwanga languages.

The article also applies the tenets of the comparative Bantu morpho-syntax (CBM) framing to account for similarities and micro-variations in the morphological structure of tense in Mambwe and Namwanga languages as attested by the following scholars (Bickmore, 2004; Mtenje-Mkochi & Mtenje, 2019). It is worth noting that a comparative analysis of languages does not always point out similarities because, during the comparison, the differences also manifest (Hachipola, 2017). The absolute expectation is that the two genetically related languages analysed in this paper should manifest similarities in the syntactic structure in the word order of the NP by modification, however, there is also a possibility of manifesting some variations as a result of different language-specific morpho-syntactic features coming into play. This shows that there could be some peculiar manifestations and variations based on the morphological structure of words and the rules governing the word order of the NP in Lungu and Namwanga languages due to time and space as the three languages are not spoken within the same location. In addition, most Bantu languages are likely to manifest morpho-syntactic variations even within the same language cluster. The similarities and variations of the word order in the NP by modification have been discussed in this paper.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

This article employs the qualitative approach and elicitation methodology. Burns & Grove (1997) argue that the qualitative descriptive design enables a holistic, non-numerical, inductive, subjective, and process-oriented approach to understand, describe, and interpret the phenomenon on which subsequent theories may be developed. This approach is, therefore, befitting for the present comparative and descriptive paper. Mutch (2005) postulates that the descriptive approach also enables the research findings to be reported descriptively using words and sentential expressions as used by ordinary speakers of the language. In other words, the syntactic description of Lungu and Namwanga languages is likely to derive a linguistic theory of aspects of word order in the noun phrase which may be developed in subsequent research.

The data analysed in this article were elicited through oral interviews involving ten key informants. Lungu and Namwanga languages had eight informants had four informants where each language had four

informants. The selected informants were mother-tongue speakers of the Lungu and Namwanga languages. The key informants also worked as data verifiers. The lead author is a speaker of the three languages under analysis. Being a speaker of the Lungu and Namwanga languages, the lead author’s knowledge, intuitions, and introspections were critical in sourcing the required data which were used during a micro-variation analysis of word order of the noun phrase by modification. This comparative and documentary paper should be seen as a contribution to the development of syntactic studies of the two languages.

#### 4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### 4.1 Noun Phrase by Modification in Lungu and Namwanga Languages

Modifiers are used to intensify the meaning of the noun in the NP and to express classes of grammatical categories and patterns of agreement which are marked by characteristic prefixes (cf. Mann, 1999; Miti, 2006; Maho, 1999; Marten et al, 2007; Zemba, 2015; Siame, 2023). For this reason, modification should be seen as the process in which the NP is formed in the presence of modifiers. Lungu and Namwanga languages use three categories of modifiers to form the NP, namely; possessive pre-prefixes, adjectives, and demonstratives.

##### 4.2 Modification of the NP by the Possessive Pre-Prefix

Zemba (2015) shows that some adjectives are used to describe or modify a noun by specifying its quality or state and other adjectives are meant to agree with nouns or pronouns which are used to qualify the nouns according to class and number using the class particle. Zemba further argues that adjectives comprise the adjectival root mark in the form of a prefix which corresponds to the class of the noun to be modified. The function of adjectives in the English language is performed by participles in Lungu and Namwanga languages and sometimes by nouns with a possessive pre-prefix as illustrated below:

**Table 1: Word Order of NP with Adjective and Possessive Pre-Prefix**

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Uwamanyikwa</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-</i>	<i>u-a-manyiku-a</i> [wamanyikwa]
	Class pattern:	[person] (Poss. Pre-prefix)	Cl.1 agr. famous (Adj)
	Literal gloss:	‘person famous’	
	Actual gloss:	‘A famous person’	
	Word order of NP:	Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Wowamanyikwa</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-o</i> [wo]	<i>u-a-manyiku-a</i> [wamanyikwa]
	Class pattern:	[person] (Poss. Pre-prefix)	Cl.1 agr. famous (Adj)
	Literal gloss:	‘person famous’	
	Actual gloss:	‘A famous person’	
	Word order of NP:	Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj	

Table 1 shows that the word order of the NP in both Lungu and Namwanga is Possessive Pre-prefix +Adjective (Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj). We argue that particles or possessive pre-prefixes in the two languages take the initial position in the NP and express the singular form. On the other hand, we note that there is a micro-variation in terms of the form of the pre-prefix where Lungu uses [u-] while Namwanga uses [wo-] to express the singular noun. The other micro-variation is that Lungu uses the vowel (V) prefix while Namwanga uses the consonant + vowel (CV) prefix type to express the syllable structure of the pre-prefix.

##### 4.3 Modification of the NP by Adjectives in LuMaNa Languages

The adjective agrees in class with the noun being modified (Zemba, 2015). This shows that adjectives in Bantu languages are used to modify the noun and not the whole construction. The Lungu and Namwanga languages use three kinds of adjectives to modify the noun in the NP, namely; *-suma* ‘good’ in Lungu languages and *-zima* ‘good’ in Namwanga language, *-muze* ‘other or another’ in Lungu and *-winji* ‘other/another’ in Namwanga as well as the adjectives which give the general description.

#### 4.4 Modification of NP by *-suma/-zima* ‘good’ Adjectives

In Lungu and Namwanga languages, the adjectives *-suma/-zima* ‘good’ are used to modify nouns and behave like nouns. These adjectives are formed by attaching the prefix [mu-] to the stem of both languages which agrees with the Cl.1 noun prefix in singular form as demonstrated below:

**Table 2: Word order of NP by an adjective *-suma/-zima* ‘good’ (SG)**

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Umuvyazi umusuma</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-mu-vi-az-i</i> [umuvyazi]	<i>u-mu-sum-a</i> [umusuma]
	Class pattern:	Cl.1 parent (N)	Cl.1agr. good (Adj.)
	Literal gloss:	‘parent <b>good</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘A <b>good</b> parent’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Umukwasi umuzima</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-mu-ku-as-i</i> [umukwasi]	<i>u-mu-zim-a</i> [umuzima]
	Class pattern:	Cl.1 parent (N)	Cl.1agr. good (Adj)
	Literal gloss:	‘parent <b>good</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘A <b>good</b> parent’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj	

Table 2 shows that the word order of NP with the adjective *-suma/-zima* ‘good’ (sg) in Lungu and Na languages is Noun + Adjective (N+Adj or NAdj). The example shows that there is a similarity of concordial agreement in the augment of both the noun and the adjective where [u-] is used as well as in the prefix position where [-mu-] is used. The other similarity is that both languages undergo gliding in the noun. Nonetheless, there is a micro-variation in the form of the glides of the noun where Lungu uses the high front vowel [i] which glides to [y] while Namwanga uses that high back vowel [u] which glides to [w].

It is envisaged that the two languages also form NP by modification using the adjective *-suma* ‘good’ in Lungu and *-zima* ‘good’ in Namwanga to express the plural by attaching the prefix [a-] in Lungu and [wa-] in Namwanga to the stem which agrees with the Cl.2 noun prefix as shown in the example below:

**Table 3: Word order of NP with an Adjective *-suma/-zima* ‘good’ (PL)**

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Avyazi asuma</i>	
	Segments:	<i>a-vi-az-i</i> [avyazi]	<i>a-sum-a</i> [asuma]
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 parents (N)	Cl.2 agr. good (Adj.)
	Literal gloss:	‘parents <b>good</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Good</b> parents’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj	
	Noun phrase:	<i>Awakwasi awazima</i>	

Namwanga	Segments:	a-u-a-ku-as-i [awakwasi]	a-u-a-zim-a [awazima]
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 parents (N)	Cl.2 agr. good (Adj)
	Literal gloss:	‘parents <b>good</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Good</b> parents’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj	

Table 3 reveals that the word order of the NP with the plural adjective *-suma/-zima* ‘good’ in Lungu and Namwanga languages is Noun + Adjective (N+Adj or NAdj). The results show that the word order of the NP with a plural adjective in the two languages is similar. Nouns in both languages undergo gliding. However, there is a micro-variation in the noun where Lungu uses the high front vowel [i] while Namwanga uses the high back vowel which glides to [w]. The other micro-variation is that Namwanga uses the augment [a-] in both the noun and the adjective to express concord which is absent in the Lungu language. Further micro-variation lies in the prefix of the adjectives where Namwanga is affected by gliding in which [u] is realized as [w] while Lungu is not.

#### 4.5 NP by Modification using *muze/winji* ‘another’ Adjectives

The adjectives *muze/winji* ‘another’ have a special stable form more like that of nouns which they modify in the NP in Lungu and Namwanga languages. The stem [-uze] ‘another’ combines with the prefix [mu-] in the Lungu language while the stem [-nji] combines with [wi-] in Namwanga adjectives which are used to modify the nouns in the singular form as shown in the example below:

Table 4: Word order of NP with *muze/winji* ‘another’ adjective

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Umons</i> <i>muze</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-mu-ons-i</i> [umonsi]	<i>mu-z-e</i> [muze]
	Class pattern:	Cl.1 man (N)	Cl.3 another (Adj.)
	Literal gloss:	‘man <b>another</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Another</b> man’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj (NAdj)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Umons</i> <i>winji</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-mu-ons-i</i> [umonsi]	<i>u-i-nj-i</i> [winji]
	Class pattern:	Cl.1 man (N)	Cl.1 agr. another (Adj.)
	Literal gloss:	‘man <b>another</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Another</b> man’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj (NAdj)	

Table 4 shows that the word order of the NP with the adjective *muze/winji* ‘another’ in Lungu and Namwanga languages is Noun + Adjective (N+Adj or NAdj). The other similarity is that in both languages, the noun undergoes deletion as a vowel hiatus resolution where [u] in the prefix is deleted. The micro-variation is in the adjectives where only Namwanga is affected by gliding.

On the other hand, in the Lungu language, the stem of the adjective [-uze] ‘other’ combines with the prefix [ya-] in Cl.2 while [-nji] combines with the prefix [wa-] in Cl.2 in Namwanga language to modify the nouns in the plural form as illustrated below:

**Table 5: Word order of NP with *yauze/wanji* ‘other’ adjective**

Lungu	Noun phrase:		<i>Ayonsi yauze</i>
	Segments:	<i>a-i-a-ons-i</i> [ayonsi]	<i>i-a-uz-e</i> [yauze]
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 men (N)	Cl.2 agr. other (Adj.)
	Literal gloss:	‘men <b>other</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Other</b> men’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj (NAdj)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:		<i>Awonsi wanji</i>
	Segments:	<i>a-u-a-ons-i</i> [awonsi]	<i>u-a-nj-i</i> [wanji]
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 men (N)	Cl.2 other (Adj.)
	Literal gloss:	‘men <b>other</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Other</b> men’	
	Word order of NP:	N+Adj (NAdj)	

Table 5 reveals that the word order of the NP with the adjective *yauze/wanji* ‘other’ in both Lungu and Namwanga languages is Noun + Adjective (N+Adj or NAdj). The examples reveal that both languages are affected by gliding in nouns and adjectives. The other similarity is that both languages undergo deletion of the low central vowel [a]. The micro-variation exists in both the noun and the adjective where Lungu uses the high front vowel [i] which glides to [y] while Namwanga uses the high back vowel [u] which is realised as [w] respectively.

#### 4.6 Modification of the NP by General Adjectives

The Lungu and Namwanga languages have adjectives which are used in the NP to describe nouns in general terms. The general adjectives in LuMaNa languages are expressed using singular modifying stems such as [-wensi] ‘every’ and [-wenga] ‘alone, oneself’ whereas the Namwanga language optionally adds [-nye] to [-wensi] ‘every’ to form the stem [-wensinye] and [-wenga] ‘alone’ to form [-wenganye] with same glosses as illustrated below:

**Table 6: Word order of NP with singular adjective with stem *wensi* ‘every’**

Lungu and Namwanga	Noun phrase:		<i>Umulumendo wensi(nye)</i>
	Segments:	<i>u-mu-lumend-o</i> [umulumendo]	<i>u-e-ns-i</i> [ wensi (nye)]
	Class pattern:	Cl.1 boy (N)	every (Adj)
	Literal gloss:	‘boy <b>every</b> ’	
	Actual loss:	‘ <b>Every</b> boy’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Adj	

Table 6 shows that the word order of the NP modified by the adjective [-wensi/wensinye] ‘every’ (sg) in Lungu and Namwanga languages is Noun + Adjective (N+Adj=NAdj). The micro-variation is found in the adjective where Namwanga has an optional suffix marker (-nye).

Lungu and Namwanga languages also form plurals of general adjectives using modifying stems in the NP such as [-yonsi] ‘all’ in the Lungu language and [-wonsi] ‘all’ in the Namwanga language as shown below:



Table 7: **Word order of NP with plural adjectives *yonsi/wonsi* ‘all’**

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Alumendo yonsi</i>	
	Segments:	<i>a-lumend-o</i> [ulumendo]	<i>i-o-ns-i</i> [ yonsi]
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 boys (N)	all (Adj)
	Literal gloss:	‘boys <b>all</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>All</b> boys’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Adj	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Awalumendo wonsi(nye)</i>	
	Segments:	<i>a-u-a-lumend- o</i> [awalumendo]	<i>u-o-ns-i</i> [ wonsi]
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 boys (N)	all (Adj)
	Literal gloss:	‘boys <b>all</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>All</b> boys’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Adj	

Table 7 shows that the word order of the NP with the plural adjective in both Lungu and Namwanga languages is N+Adj (NAdj). It can be argued that both Lungu and Namwanga languages are affected by gliding in the adjectives. However, only the noun in Namwanga is affected by gliding where the vowel [u] is realised as bilabial glide [w]. The other micro-variation lies in the form of the stem of the adjectives where Lungu uses [-yonsi] ‘all’ while Namwanga uses [wonsi] ‘all’. The further variation lies in the form of the glide where Lungu uses the high front vowel [i] realised as [y] while Namwanga uses the high back vowel [u] which is realised as [w].

#### 4.7 NP by Modification with Demonstratives

Ranger (1928) posits that a demonstrative is a word whose basic role is to locate a referent regarding a speaker, an addressee, or some other person. This shows that a particular form of demonstrative is chosen and used depending on the distance from the speaker or the person being referred to. The Lungu and Namwanga languages use three demonstratives to modify the noun in the NP, namely; near or proximal, medium or medial, and distance or distal demonstratives.

##### 4.7.1 Forming NP with Proximal [near] Demonstratives

Proximal demonstratives are used to refer to things or nouns that are very close or near to the speaker (Ranger, 1928). The singular proximal demonstratives in Lungu and Namwanga languages belong to Cl.9 and are formed by attaching the class particle [-i] to the syllable [yi-] in Lungu language and [-o] to [yo-] in Namwanga which leads to vowel length as shown below:

Table 8: **Word order of NP with the single Proximal Demonstrative**

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Ing’anda yii</i>	
	Segments:	<i>i-ng’-and-a</i> [ng’anda]	<i>i-i-i</i> [yii]
	Class pattern:	Cl.9 house (N)	Cl.9 agr. this (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	‘house <b>this</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>This</b> house’	

	Word order of NP:	N+Dem (NDem)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Ing'anda yoo</i>	
	Segments:	<i>i-ng'-and-a</i> [ing'anda]	<i>i-o-o</i> [yoo]
	Class pattern:	Cl 9. house (N)	Cl.9 agr. this (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	'house <b>this</b> '	
	Actual gloss:	' <b>This</b> house'	
	Word order of NP:	N+Dem (NDem)	

Table 8 reveals that the word order of NP with a singular proximal demonstrative in both Lungu and Namwanga languages is Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem). We argue that it is also possible to reshuffle the order by saying *yii/yoo ing'anda!* 'This house!' when expressing surprise or exclaiming. The examples show that in both languages, singular proximal demonstratives are affected by gliding and vowel length. The micro-variation lies in the vowel length of the proximal singular demonstrative where Lungu lengthens the high front vowel [i] while Namwanga lengthens the back mid-vowel [o]. The other micro-variation lies in the initial consonant in the near singular demonstratives where Lungu uses the palatal glide [y] while Namwanga language uses the voiced fricative [z].

The proximal demonstrative *yaa* 'these' in the Lungu language and *zyoo* 'these' in the Namwanga language are used to express plurality in the NP. The plural proximal demonstratives are formed by attaching the class particles which agree with the vowel in the syllable to create vowel length, such as [-a] to the syllable [ya-] in the Lungu language and [-o] to [zyo-] in Namwanga as shown in:

Table 9: **Word order of NP with the Plural Proximal Demonstrative**

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Amang'anda yaa</i>	
	Segments:	<i>a-mang'and-a</i> [amang'anda]	<i>i-a-a</i> [yaa]
	Class pattern:	Cl.6 houses (N)	Cl.10 agr. these (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	'houses <b>these</b> '	
	Actual gloss:	' <b>These</b> houses'	
	Word order of NP:	N+Dem (NDem)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Ing'anda zyoo</i>	
	Segments:	<i>i-ng'and-a</i> [ing'anda]	<i>z-i-o-o</i> [zyoo]
	Class pattern:	Cl. 10 houses (N)	Cl.10 agr. these (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	'houses <b>these</b> '	
	Actual gloss:	' <b>These</b> houses'	
	Word order of NP:	N+Dem (NDem)	

Table 9 shows that the word order in the NP of LuMaNa languages involving the plural proximal demonstrative *yaa/zyoo* 'these' is Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem). Similarly, it is also possible to say *yaa amang'anda!* 'These houses!' in Lungu language and *zyoo ing'anda!* 'These houses!' in Namwanga when expressing surprise or exclaiming using the plural proximal demonstrative. The examples demonstrate a micro-variation in the noun class prefix where the Lungu language uses [ya] in Cl.6 while Namwanga

applies [zyo] in Cl.10. The other micro-variation lies in the initial consonant in the near plural demonstratives where Lungu uses the palatal glide [y] while Namwanga uses the voiced fricative [z].

## 2. Forming NP with Medial [Medium] Demonstratives

Ranger (1928) posits that medial or medium demonstratives are used to denote something close to the hearer or far from the speaker or something that is near to the hearer but far from the speaker. The two languages use single and plural medial demonstratives in the formation of the NP which is nearer to the hearer. The single medial demonstratives in both Lungu and Namwanga languages are formed by the prefix [ka-] in Cl.12a which agrees with the diminutive prefix of the noun as shown in the examples below:

Table 10: Word order of NP with the Single medial Demonstrative

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Kakuza kaka</i>	
	Segments:	<i>ka-kuz-a</i> [kakuza]	<i>ka-k-a</i> [kaka]
	Class pattern:	Cl.12a small rat (N)	Cl.12a agr. that (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	‘small rat <b>that</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>That</b> small rat’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Kakuza kako</i>	
	Segments:	<i>ka-kuz-a</i> [kakuza]	<i>ka-k-o</i> [kako]
	Class pattern:	Cl.12a small rat (N)	Cl.12a agr. that (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	‘small rat <b>that</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>That</b> small rat’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)	

The word order of NP with single medial demonstratives in Table 10 is Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem). In rare occasions, the word order of the above examples can be rearranged when expressing surprise about the noun regarding past events, such as, in Lungu language, *kaka kasimbwa* ‘that small dog!’ and in Namwanga *kakokambwa* ‘that small dog!’ Both languages harmonize the nouns and demonstratives by using the prefix [ka] in Cl. 12a. The micro-variation is seen in the demonstratives where Lungu reduplicates the prefix and harmonises it with the stem using the harmonizing vowel /a/→/a/ while Namwanga uses /a/→/o/.

Lungu and Namwanga languages also have the word order of the NP with a plural medial demonstrative which describes nouns that are at a distance from both the speaker and the listener and agree with the plural diminutive. The NP is formed by using the plural diminutive prefix [tu-] of the demonstrative ‘those’ in Cl.12a which agrees with the prefix of the noun in Lungu language and the plural prefix of the demonstrative [tu-] ‘those’ in Cl.12a in Namwanga language as in below:

Table 11: Word order of NP with the Plural Medial Demonstrative

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Tukuza tutu</i>	
	Segments:	<i>tu-kuz-a</i> [tukuza]	<i>tu-t-u</i> [tutu]
	Class pattern:	Cl.12a small rats (N)	Cl.12a agr. those (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	‘small rats <b>those</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Those</b> small rats’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Twakuza toto</i>	
	Segments:	<i>tu-a-kuz-a</i> [twakuza]	<i>to-t-o</i> [toto]
	Class pattern:	Cl.12a small rats (N)	Cl.12a agr. those (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	‘small rats <b>those</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>Those</b> small rats’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)	

The examples show that the word order of the NP involving a medial demonstrative describing a plural noun in Lungu and Namwanga languages is N+Dem (NDem). Both languages have vowel harmony in the medial plural demonstratives with micro-variations in the prefix and suffix marker which can be represented as /u/→/u/ in Lungu and /o/→/o/ in Namwanga language. The two languages use the same noun class prefix [tu] in Cl.12a. However, there is a micro-variation in the Cl.12a prefix where Namwanga is affected by gliding where the high back vowel [u] is realised as [w].

#### 4.8 Forming NP with Distant or Distal Demonstratives

Distant or distal demonstratives are words that are used to describe nouns that are far from both the speaker and the hearer (Ranger, 1928). Both single and plural distal demonstratives are attested in Lungu and Namwanga languages. The single distal demonstrative is formed by prefixing the class particle [wi-] to the final syllable [-ya] in the Lungu language, and [we-] to [-yo] in Namwanga as shown below:

Table 12: Word order of NP with single distal demonstratives

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Umwana wiya</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-mu-an-a</i> [umwana]	<i>u-i-i-a</i> [wiya]
	Class pattern:	Cl.1 child (N)	Cl.1 agr. that (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	‘child <b>that</b> ’	
	Actual gloss:	‘ <b>That</b> child’	
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Umwana weyo</i>	
	Segments:	<i>u-mu-an-a</i> [umwana]	<i>u-e-i-o</i> [weyo]
	Class pattern:	Cl.1 child (N)	Cl.1 agr. that (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	‘child <b>that</b> ’	

	Actual gloss:	<b>'That child'</b>
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)

Table 12 shows that the word order of NP in the presence of a singular distal demonstrative in Lungu and Namwanga languages is Noun + Demonstrative (N+ Dem or NDem). Both languages use the nominal prefix [mu] in Cl. 1 to harmonize the first syllable of the demonstrative. In other words, the demonstratives agree with the prefix of the noun in number. The micro-variation is seen in the demonstratives in terms of vowel harmony in the first and final syllables where Lungu uses /i/→/a/ while Namwanga uses /e/→/o/.

The study also examines the word order of the NP in the presence of the plural distal demonstrative in the Lungu and Namwanga languages. Lungu forms the NP using the plural distal demonstrative *yaya* 'those' in Cl.2 whose prefix [ya-] agrees with the prefix of the noun and the Namwanga language uses *wawo* 'those' in Cl.2 to exclaim or express shock as shown in:

Table 13: **Word order of NP by the plural distal demonstrative**

Lungu	Noun phrase:	<i>Ana yaya!</i>	
	Segments:	<i>a-n-a</i> [ana]	<i>i-a-i-a</i> [yaya]!
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 children (N)	Cl.2 agr. those (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	'children <b>those!</b> '	
	Actual gloss:	<b>'Those children!'</b>	
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)	
Namwanga	Noun phrase:	<i>Awana wawo!</i>	
	Segments:	<i>a-u-an-a</i> [awana]	<i>u-a-u-o</i> [wawo]!
	Class pattern:	Cl.2 children (N)	Cl.2 agr. those (Dem)
	Literal gloss:	'children <b>those!</b> '	
	Actual gloss:	<b>'Those children!'</b>	
	Word order (NP):	N+Dem (NDem)	

Table 13 shows that the word order of the NP in the presence of plural distal demonstratives in Lungu and Namwanga languages is Noun + Demonstrative (N + Dem or NDem). There is a micro-variation in the structures of the nouns where Lungu has prefix + stem while Namwanga has augment + prefix + stem. The other micro-variation is that Namwanga is affected by gliding in the noun where the high back vowel [u] is realized as [w]. Further micro-variation is seen in the plural distal demonstrative where Lungu uses the glide [y] while Namwanga uses [w].

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The paper has presented and analysed the word order of the noun phrase by modification in Lungu and Namwanga languages. The analysis shows that the two languages are genetically related and exhibit related word order in the NP by modification. The word order of NP by modification in both Lungu and Namwanga languages is, Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj, N+Adj, and N+Dem. The above findings confirm that the two languages have more similarities in the word order in the NP and manifest morphological micro-variations in the nouns and modifiers. Based on the above findings, we conclude that Lungu and Namwanga languages

are mutually intelligible. We also conclude that there is limited literature on the word order of NP by modification in Bantu languages.

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