

# THE ADJECTIVE IN ISIZULU

by

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## DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the work contained in this thesis is my own original work and that I have not previously in its entirety or in part submitted it at any university for a degree.

Date: .....13-10-99.....

## SUMMARY

This study deals with the syntax as well as the semantics of the adjective in isiZulu. The categories with the meaning of an adjective which may be used to modify a noun are identified. It is seen that the adjectival stems in isiZulu are very few. The need of the adjective is therefore also supplied by other categories such as the nominal relative, the copulative with *na*, the copulative with NP, the stative verb and the descriptive possessive.

An overview is given in Chapter 2 of the views of earlier linguists such as Bhat, Dixon, Gross, Jones, Radford, Quirk, Doke, Du Plessis and Mabaso on the category: adjective. Dixon's prototypes are used in the classification of the semantic types of the above mentioned categories.

The detailed account of the adjective, the nominal relative as well as the descriptive possessive is given. The semantic features and the distribution of these types in a phrase are looked at in depth. Nominal relatives have a describing meaning like adjectives although they can be distinguished from adjectives in that they always have inflection and secondly a relative does not have a prescribed number of stems from which it can be formed but it can be formed by the use of stems from other categories such as Noun (N).

Chapter 5 gives an exposition of the descriptive possessive. It is seen that noun phrases may appear as complements of nouns. The possessive [a] in descriptive possessive constructions has no possessive meaning, instead it has a descriptive meaning. This [a] can be treated in the same way as the English *of*.

## OPSOMMING

Die studie handel oor die sintaksis sowel as die semantiek van die adjektief in isiZulu. Die kategorieë met die betekenis van 'n adjektief wat gebruik kan word om 'n naamwoord te bepaal, is geïdentifiseer. Daar is bevind dat die adjektiefstamme in isiZulu 'n beperkte hoeveelheid is. Die behoefte aan 'n adjektief word dus ook voorsien deur ander kategorieë soos die nominale relatief, die kopulatief met **na**, die kopulatief met 'n naamwoordgroep, die statiewe werkwoord en die deskriptiewe possessief.

'n Oorsig is in hoofstuk 2 gegee van die standpunte van Bhat, Dixon, Gross, Jones, Radford, Quirk, Doke, Du Plessis en Mabaso oor die kategorie adjektief. Dixon se prototipes is gebruik in die klassifikasie van die semantiese tipes van die kategorieë hierbo.

Die adjektief, nominale relatief en die deskriptiewe possessief is vervolgens in detail behandel in afsonderlike hoofstukke. Die semantiese kenmerke en die distribusie van hierdie tipes in 'n frase is ondersoek. Nominale relatiewe het 'n deskriptiewe betekenis soos adjektiewe alhoewel hulle onderskei kan word van adjektiewe deurdat hulle altyd infleksie moet hê en verder het die relatief nie 'n voorgeskrewe aantal stamme nie, maar dit vorm 'n oop klas waar stamme uit ander kategorieë soos die naamwoord steeds bygevoeg kan word.

Hoofstuk 5 gee 'n oorsig oor die deskriptiewe possessief. Naamwoordgroepe kan verskyn as komplemente van naamwoorde. Die possessiewe [a] in deskriptiewe possessiefkonstruksies het nie 'n possessiewe betekenis nie, maar 'n deskriptiewe betekenis. Hierdie [a] kan op 'n soortgelyke wyse as die Engelse **of** behandel word.

## IMBUYISAMAZWI

Lesi sifundo siphathelene nesimiso sokuhlela isiphawulo (nesintekisi) emshweni kanye nesimo sokuchasisa isiphawulo (nesemantika) olimini lwesiZulu. Izingxenye zolimi ezingasetshenziswa ekuchasiseni njengesiphawulo ukuba siguqule kancane ibizo ziyavezwa. Kuyabonakala ukuthi iziqu zesiphawulo olimini lwesiZulu ziyingcosana. Isidingo sesiphawulo size sifezwe ezinye izingxenye zolimi njengesibaluli, isibanjalo sombekwa - phambili u-na, isibanjalo seqembu lamazwi ebizo, izenzosimo kanye nongumnini wesichasiso.

Isahluko 2 siveza imibono yezazi zezilimi njengo-Bhat, Dixon, Gross, Jones, Radford, Quirk, Doke, Du Plessis kanye noMabaso ngesiphawulo. Izibonelo zikaDixon ziyasetshenziswa ukwahlukanisa ngokuchasisa izingxenye zolimi eziyisithupha ezishiwo ngenhla.

Cishe kuvezwa yonke imininingwane ngesiphawulo, nesibaluli kanye nongumnini wesichasiso. Izimo ezigqamileyo zokuchasisa kanye nokuhlelwa kwamazwi emshweni kuyabhekwa ngokujulile.

Isibaluli siyachasisa njengesiphawulo nomake singahlukaniswa esiphawulweni ngokuthi iziqu zaso sihlala zinezinguqulo (INFLECTION) futhi isibaluli asinazo iziqu ezibaliwe ezakhiwa ngazo kodwa zakhiwe ngokusebenzisa iziqu ezithathwa kwezinye izingxenye zolimi njengebizo.

Isahluko 5 sinekeza umhlahlelo ngongumnini wesichasiso, Kuyabonakala ukuthi amazwi eqembu lebizu angavela engokugcwalisayo kwebizo. Isakhi songumnini u-[a] esitholakala kongumnini wesichasiso asichazi ubumnini kepha sinikeza incazelo echazayo. Lesakhi u-[a] singasetshenziswa olimini lwesiNgisi njengombekwa - phambili u[a].

## **DEDICATION**

**This study is dedicated to my beloved mother, JULIA "TU" MNGADI**

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## CHAPTER 1

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. AIM OF STUDY

The aim of this study is to try and identify the categories in isiZulu which may be used to modify a noun with the meaning of an adjective. Crystal (1980) defines an adjective as a term used in the grammatical classification of words to refer to the main set of items which specify the attributes of a noun. Richards (1993) defines an adjective as a word that describes the thing, quality, state or action which a noun refers to. The categories explored in this study do specify the attributes of a noun or in other words, they describe a noun. They have a descriptive meaning :

- 1) Adjective : intombi [enhle].  
(a beautiful young lady)
  
- nominal relative : ingubo [emanzi]  
(a wet dress)
  
- copulative with na : indoda [enobungwele]  
(a holy man)
  
- copulative NP : indoda [ewumdondoshiya]  
(a tall, stout man)
  
- stative verbs : inyama [enonile]  
(fat meat)

descriptive possessive : igula [lamasi]  
(a sourmilk calabash)

The need of an adjective (isiphawulo) in isiZulu is supplied by other categories as illustrated in (1) because isiZulu has a limited number of adjectival stems.

An exposition on the views of earlier linguists concerning the state of the semantic adjective will be dealt with. The possible adjectival categories in isiZulu will be identified. Prototypes of these categories will be classified according to their semantic features.

The three categories namely an adjective, nominal relative and descriptive possessive will be explored from the point of view of their semantic as well as morphosyntactic functions.

## 1.2. ORGANISATION OF STUDY

This study is organised in the following manner :

Chapter one presents the aims and objectives of this study as well as the method of study to be followed.

Chapter two is concerned with the previous works of authors on semantic and morphosyntactic functions of the category : adjective. The nominal relative, copulative with **na** , copulative NP, stative verbs and descriptive possessive are identified as possible adjectival categories. The semantic types of these categories are dealt with.

Chapter three gives a detailed account of the eight adjectival stems. The semantic features inflection (affixes) as well as the distribution of these stems in a phrase are explored.

Chapter four scrutinises the positions of nominal relatives in isiZulu phrase structure.

Chapter five is concerned with the descriptive possessive as one of the possible adjectival categories. The possessive [a] is looked at as having a descriptive meaning rather than a possessive meaning. The descriptive possessive construction is dealt with from the point of view of its semantic and morphosyntactic functions.

Chapter six presents a summary of the chapters 2 to 5.

### **1.3. METHOD OF STUDY**

#### **1.3.1. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

Material used in this project was collected from previous works and published materials. The research project of Mabaso (1996) was very useful in planning this study on the adjective.

#### **1.3.2. DATA**

Very few data based on proposed project was collected from books.

Most of the data was collected from the people of Ndwedwe community. The members of my family also came out with many examples. I verified my examples with a number of speakers of isiZulu among others I would like to mention a few :

1. Miss Agnes Nokukhanya Thembi Buthelezi who is doing a Master's Degree in African Languages at Durban Westville University.
2. Mrs Balungile Princess Mbokazi who has an Honours degree in African languages from the University of South Africa.
3. Mrs Mantombazane Lydia Mngadi a Home Economics educator at Nombuso High School (Port Shepstone).

My knowledge as a speaker of isiZulu was also very helpful in the verification of examples.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE SEMANTIC ADJECTIVE**

#### **1. AIM**

This chapter will be dealing with the authors' views to resolve the dispute whether adjectives are to be regarded as a distinct category or whether they are a mixed category. Bhat (1994) proposes three criteria for distinguishing the adjective from other categories such as a noun and a verb and to define it as a distinct category. To resolve the problems that the three criteria fail to overcome, Bhat (1994) suggests Rosch's prototype theory. He also points out that there is a need for multiple criteria. Semantic prototypes as given by Dixon, Word Net, Jones, Radford and Quirk will be looked at.

The second part of this chapter will give the possible adjective categories in isiZulu. Possible adjective categories are adjectives, nominal relatives, descriptive possessive, copulative with na, copulative with NP and stative verbs. Examples from each category will be classified in sub groups according to semantic features. Examples where these possible adjective categories are in use will be given.

#### **2. CRITERIA FOR ADJECTIVES**

##### **2.1. INTRODUCTION**

Bhat (1994) proposes the three criteria for differentiating the adjective from verbs and nouns. In the traditional literature adjectives differ from verbs and nouns in that nouns denote persons, places and things and verbs denote events and actions whereas adjectives denote properties and qualities. Secondly adjectives can be differentiated from nouns and verbs on the basis of their morphosyntactic properties. For example in English the use of degree modifiers with adjective does occur. The adjective does not have other



functions which occur with nouns and verbs. For instance nouns show number distinction and verbs show tense, aspect and mood. Thirdly, adjectives may be differentiated from nouns and verbs on the basis of their syntactic functions. In English for instance, adjectives are used as modifiers of nouns in noun phrases whereas nouns occur as heads of noun phrases and verbs as predicates of sentences.

The two problems which make it difficult for these criteria to define an adjective as a distinct category and to differentiate it from other categories are : their failure to account for variations inside word classes and their failure to be able to apply to all languages. Bhat points out that various scholars suggest some ways to resolve these problems.

## **2.2. PROTOTYPE**

Rosch (1978) as referred by Bhat has developed a theory of categorisation called "Prototype Theory". This theory is recommended as suitable for describing lexical categories in a language. According to this theory the category is defined from central to minor important instances. The central instance being the prototypical of that category. Bhat (1994) gives Dixon's study of adjectives as an example of this notion of prototype. Dixon states that four out of his seven semantic types, dimension, age, value and colour are included in the class of adjectives even in the case of languages with few adjectives. The semantic types : Physical property as well as Human Propensity and speed are associated with nouns and verbs respectively. Thus the latter are less prototypical than the former.

Bhat indicates that adjectives can be differentiated from other categories by the fact that there is a distinct semantic prototype which forms the central concept for this category and contrast with the semantic prototype of nouns and verbs. The notion of prototype resolves the first problem. It accounts for variations inside lexical categories.

### 2.3. MULTIPLE CRITERIA

The three criteria fail to be general enough to apply to all languages. Bhat points out that two or more criteria need to be used for a proper characterisation of categories. The criteria need to be used simultaneously. For example, the semantic qualities and the syntactic function of adjectives may be observed simultaneously. Thus adjectives can be described in terms of their properties or qualities (semantic features) and their modifying function (syntactic function). Bhat states that when the two clash in context languages tend to favour the syntactic function.

### 3. SEMANTIC PROTOTYPES

#### 3.1. DIXON

Dixon establishes ten different semantic types from his crosslinguistic study. The adjectives of English are grouped on the basis of both semantic and morphosyntactic criteria. Dixon's ten adjectival semantic types are :

#### SEMANTIC TYPES

#### EXAMPLES

1. Dimension	big, great, short, thin.
2. Physical property	hard, strong, soft.
3. Speed	quick, fast, slow
4. Age	new, old, young
5. Colour	red, brown, yellow
6. Value	good, bad, excellent
7. Difficulty	easy, difficult, tough, simple
8. Qualification	possible, normal, correct
9. Human propensity	angry, happy, eager, clever
10. Similarity	like, unlike, similar, different

(BHAT 1994)

### 3.2. WORDNET

Wordnet divides adjectives into two groups : ascriptive and nonascriptive. Ascriptive adjectives take different meanings when they modify different nouns. The adjective **tall**, for example takes different meanings when used with **building** a tall building, **tree** - a tall tree and **man** - a tall man. Ascriptive adjectives are organised in terms of binary oppositions (tall/short, empty / full, dry / wet) and similarity of meaning. Antonyms are important in the organisation of ascriptive adjectives. These adjectives also express values of attributes. For example, there are height and weight which express attributes for tall / short and heavy / light respectively. Ascriptive adjectives can appear before the noun as modifiers or after the noun as complements of copular verbs. For example : (a strong man) and (the man is strong). These adjectives are gradable a very strong man, it is extremely hot.

On the other hand, nonascriptive adjectives are regarded by Word Net as stylistic variants of modifying nouns. Nonascriptive adjectives mean something like “pertaining to”. They have qualities of modifying nouns. For example a musical instrument is not an instrument that is musical. Unlike ascriptive adjectives, non - ascriptive adjectives do not have direct antonyms. Like nouns they are not gradable :

- \* A very chemical reactions  
non - ascriptive adjectives cannot be used as complement of copular verbs :
- \* the instrument is musical (Gross : 265 - 272)

### 3.3. JONES (1996)

Jones (1996) points out that an adjective has two uses in French. It is used to modify a noun as in (1) and as complements of copular verbs as in (2)

(1) a. un livre intéressant

b. le petit chat.

(2) a. livré est intéressant

b. le chat est petit.

Jones classifies the French adjectives semantically : gradable and non - gradable adjectives, classificatory and argumental adjectives, classificatory and argumental adjectives, intentional adjectives, attitudinal adjectives and specificational adjectives.

According to Jones gradable and non - gradable adjectives which separate the extension of the noun in terms of a property are used predicatively :

(3) a. Cette table est hexagonale.

(non - grade)

b. Ce livre est intéressant.

(gradable)

Gradable adjective which are relative can also be used as complement of copular verbs.

(4) a. Cette table est grande.

b. Cette maison est petite.

- c. Ce piano est (tres) lourd.

Jones also claims that classificatory and argumental adjectives, intentional adjectives, attitudinal adjectives and specificational adjectives cannot be used as complement of copular verbs, i.e. they can only be used to modify a noun.

- (5) a. un problème financier.  
b. un phénomène est social.
- (5) a. \* Ce problème est financier.  
b. \* Ce phénomène est social.

#### **Argumental adjectives :**

- (6) La victoire gaulliste.
- (6) \* Cette victoire est gaulliste.

#### **Intentional Adjective**

- (7) un gros beveu.
- (7) \* Ce beveu est gros.

Specificational and attitudinal adjectives normally precede the noun, i.e. used prenominally.

- (8) a. une seule question.  
b. ma petite amié.

Ordinal adjectives follow the noun when referring to time in relations to the present.

- (9) La semaine (dermiere / prochaine)

Adjectives which systematically follow nouns are amongst others classificatory adjectives, adjectives derived from proper nouns etc.

- (10) a. une situation économique  
b. une interention militaire

Adjectives which can occur in both positions (prenominally and postnominally) are long, court, large, adjectives which describe subjective, gradable properties.

### **3.4. RADFORD (1997)**

Radford (1997) points out that all words in a language belong to a set of grammatical categories : Adjectives, adverbs, nouns , verbs etc. are grammatical categories. The words such as short, tall, clever, full, sharp, beautiful belong to the grammatical category - adjective.

Radford states that the evidence which supports that words belong to categories is morphological and syntactical in nature. The morphological evidence manifests the different forms of the same word i.e. inflectional properties. For example the comparative and superlative forms of the adjective

- **tall** is formed by adding inflections
- **er** and **est** respectively to give the forms taller and tallest. This evidence also relates the formation of a different kind of word by the addition of another morpheme. For example by adding the suffix - **ness** to the adjective - happy, the noun happiness is formed. This is derivational category.

Radford also claims that although the inflectional and derivational (morphological) properties of items are important clues in identifying the category of the word, they may not work in some cases. For example, in a language like English, the use of inflectional morphology is limited because the majority of words are uninflected. For example, the morphological rule of adding the negative prefix **un** - in English does not work with adjectives such as tall, short, empty and full. The problem with derivational process is that it is of limited productivity. For example, the derivation of adverbs from adjectives such as **little**, **old**, **empty**, **tall** has no common inflection - **ly**.

Radford suggests that morphological criteria have to be used in conjunction with the syntactic criteria. Different categories have different distributions. Adjectives are used to modify nouns : **a happy boy** whereas adverbs are used to modify other expressions such as the verb : **a boy plays happily**. Thus substitution is one of the syntactic criteria that may be used. Thus according to Radford morphological as well as syntactical criteria must be used to determine to which category a word belongs.

### 3.5. **QUIRK et al (1972)**

Quirk (1972) and his associates propose four characteristics of adjectives that distinguish it from other categories.

**The four characteristics are :**

- 1) Adjectives can appear before the noun as modifiers, e.g. **strong in the strong man.**
- 2) They can occur as complements of a copular verb (in predicate position) e.g. **young in the man is young.**
- 3) They can be premodified by the intensifier very, e.g. **The man is very young.**
- 4) They can take comparative and superlative forms - **The boy is younger. John is the youngest of them all.**

Quirk (1972) and his associates also give the syntactic classification of adjectives. Adjectives according to them can function as :

- (11) a. Both attribute and predicative e.g. an old man - the man is old.
- b. Attributive only e.g. and utter fool
- \* the fool is utter.
- a criminal law.
- \* the law is criminal.
- c. Predicative only
- \* the woman is loath to admit it.
- \* an afraid boy.
- the boy is afraid.

Quirk and his associates also give a semantic classification. Their three semantic scales are : stative / dynamic gradable / non-gradable, inherent / non-inherent. Adjectives are characteristically stative.

Adjectives which are susceptible to subjective measurement are capable of being dynamic. For example stative adjectives such as tall, short, large cannot be used with the progressive aspect or with the imperative : \* **She is**



**being short. \* Be short.** The dynamic adjective - **brave** - on the other hand can be used : **He is being brave. Be brave**

Adjectives can be gradable or non - gradable. Gradability includes comparisons.

Short        ~        shorter        ~        shortest

Beautiful    ~        more beautiful    ~        most beautiful

and other forms of intensification very poor, extremely useless , quite right.

All dynamic adjectives are gradable. Most stative adjectives (tall, short, large, old) are gradable some adjectives like chemical, atomic are non - gradable.

Adjectives can be inherent or non - inherent. Quirk defines inherent adjectives as adjectives that characterise the referent of the noun directly and non - inherent adjectives that do not. For example the inherent adjective in **a new book** applies to the referent of the object directly : a new book is also a new object. On the other hand in a new book applies to the referent of the object directly : **a new book** is also a new object. On the other hand in **a new friend**, the adjective is non - inherent; **a new friend** is not **a new man**. Gradable adjectives are either inherent in a black coat or non - inherent as in a new friend. Dynamic adjectives are generally inherent but there are exceptions : for example wooden in - The actor is being wooden - is both dynamic and non - inherent.

#### 4. SEMANTIC TYPES IN ISIZULU

In isiZulu there are a number of categories that can be possible adjectives. They are namely an adjective, nominal relative descriptive possessive, copulative with na, copulative with NP and stative verbs.

##### 4.1. ADJECTIVE

There are very few adjectival stems in all African Languages. Doke (1973) also points out that the need of an adjective is even supplied by the relative construction and possessive constructions because of its limited number in isiZulu. Adjectives form a close class. In isiZulu, there are only eight (8) adjectival stems. Consider the exhaustive list in (12)

- bi (bad, ugly)
- hle (beautiful)
- sha (new, young)
- dala (old)
- de (long, tall)
- fuphi / - fusha / fisha - fishane and fushane (short)
- khulu (big, great)
- ncane / - nci / - ncinyane (small)

Some authors such as Doke include quantities in their list which are not adjectives.

- (13)
- bili (two)
  - thathu (three)
  - ne (four)
  - hlanu (five)
  - ningi (much, many)

- ngaki (how much, many?)
- nye (others, some )

Looking at Carlson (1977) and Kratzer (1989) adjectival stems may be grouped into individual - level adjectives and stage- level adjectives.

According to these authors individual - level adjectives are properties that an individual retains more or less throughout its life time and can be identified with the individual directly. On the other hand stage-level adjectives are identified with non-permanent states of individuals. All the adjectives in isiZulu denote individual level properties. One cannot change from **[de]** long to **[fuphi]** short or from **[bi]** ugly to beautiful **[hle]**, from great **[khulu]** to small **[ncane]**.

There is only one adjective stem which denotes a stage - level feature and that is **[sha]**

**[sha]** with the meaning young has an individual level feature.

One cannot change from **old [dala]** to **young [sha]**

**[sha]** with the meaning **new** or **fresh** is stage - level. For example a car can change from new **[sha]** to old **[dala]**

#### 4.1.1. PAIRS OF ANTONYMS

The eight adjectival stems in isiZulu form pairs of antonyms.

- (14) bi / hle (ugly / beautiful)  
 fuphi / de (short / tall, long)  
 ncane / khulu (small / great, big)  
 sha/ dala (new, young / old)

**4.1.2. EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF THE ADJECTIVE**

(15)

<b><u>CLASS</u></b> :	1	[umuntu [omude ]	(a tall person)
	2.	[abantu [abadala] ]	(old people)
	3.	[umuzi [omkhulu] ]	(a big house)
	4.	[imithi [emide] ]	(tall trees)
	5.	[ikhanda [elincane] ]	(a small head)
	6.	[amantombazane [amahle]]	(beautiful girls)
	7.	[isihlalo [esisha] ]	(a new chair)
	8.	[izitsha [ezinkulu] ]	(big dishes)
	9.	[inkawu [embi]]	(an ugly monkey)
	10.	[izinti [ezimfuphi] ]	(short sticks)
	11.	[uphondo [olude] ]	(a long horn)
	14.	[ubuso [obuhle] ]	(a beautiful face)
	15.	[ukudla [okusha] ]	(fresh food)

**4.1.3 SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION**

The eight adjectival stems may be classified according to their semantic features :

(16)

**SEMANTIC TYPE****EXAMPLES****1.Dimension**

-khulu / (big, great)  
 -ncane (small)  
 -fuphi / (short)  
 -de (tall, long)

<b>2. Age</b>	-sha (new, young) -dala (old)
<b>3. Value</b>	-hle (beautiful) -bi (bad, ugly)

#### 4.2 NOMINAL RELATIVE

A nominal relative, like an adjective is a word which modifies a noun(N).

Nominal relative stems are mostly derived from nouns:

(17)

a. ubuhlungu >	-buhlungu
b. ubukhali >	-bukhali
c. usizi >	-lusizi
d. amanzi >	-manzi

These stems have the same meaning as the adjective of description. In some languages such as English, adjectives and relatives are recognised as one and the same thing. These stems form an open class. The list of nominal stems include colours. The list in eighteen(18) is non- exhaustive:

(18)

- banzi (wide)
- bomvu (red)
- bubende (maroon)
- buhlungu (painful)
- bukhali (sharp)
- buthuntu (blunt)
- luhlaza (green, blue)

- lukhuni (hard)
- lula (light weight)
- lunama (sticky tenacious)
- lunga (speckled black and white)
- duma (tasteless)
- lusizi (self - sacrificing)
- luthuthwa (cream - coloured)
- makhaza (cold)
- manzi (wet)
- mbalwa (few)
- mdaka (mauve)
- mdubu (light mauve)
- makhwezikhwezi (colourful)
- mfusi (dark brown)
- mhlophe (white)
- mnandi (nice pleasant)
- mnene (kind)
- mnyama (black)
- mpemvu (white - faced)
- mpofu (dun, poor)
- mpunga (grey)
- mthubi (yellow)
- mtoti (sweet)
- msulwa (innocent)
- muncu / munyu (acid, sour)
- nco (speckled red and white)
- ndikindiki (luke - warm)
- nkone (white - striped on back)
- nsundu (brown)
- ntusi (red with white mark)

- nyaluthi (light mauve)
- ngwevu (grey)
- nzima (heavy, difficult, black)
- ntofontofo (downy)
- mzulu (deep)
- waba (red with white spot on flank)
- ze (naked)
- zibhadu (speckled)
- ngcono (better recovered from sickness)
- qatha (strong)
- qotho (honest)
- phuzi (yellow)
- ngcwele (holy / pure)
- nhlamvu (stingy)
- buthakathaka (limp, weak)
- bushelelezi (smooth, slippery, polished)
- lufifi (hazy, dim, dull)
- mcingo / mngcingo (narrow)
- mathambo (thin)
- maganga (eager)
- buswezi (poor)
- luthuqasana (dark coloured, faded)

#### 4.2.1. EXAMPLES OF NOMINAL RELATIVES WITH NOUN AS HEAD OF AN NP.

(19)

##### CLASS

1                    [Umuntu [onsundu] ]  
                          (a brown person)

[Umfana [omnene] ]  
(a kind boy)

2. [abantu [abampofu] ]  
(poor people)

[abantu [abambalwa] ]  
(few people)

3. [umfula [onzulu] ]  
(a deep river)

4. [imimmese [ebukhali] ]  
(sharp knives)

[imithi [eluhlaza] ]  
(green trees)

5. [ikhanda [elibuhlungu] ]  
(a painful head)

[ilanga [elibuhlungu] ]  
(red sun)

6. [amawolintshi [amuncu] ]  
(sour oranges)

[amathunzi [amnyama] ]  
(dark shadows)



7. [isinkwa [esimhlophe] ]  
(white bread)

[isibalo [esinzima] ]  
(a difficult sum)

8. [izinkwa [ezinsundu] ]  
(brown breads)

[izidlo [ezimnandi] ]  
(nice meals)

9. [inkomo] [empemvu]  
(white - faced cow)

[inkabi [enco]]  
(speckled red and white ox)

10. [izingubo [ezimanzi] ]  
(wet clothes)

[izinkunzi [ezibomvu] ]  
(red bulls)

11. [uphondo [olulukhuni] ]  
(a hard horn)

[uthi [olubuthuntu] ]  
(a blunt stick)

14. [ubusuku [obumakhaza] ]  
(a cold night)

[ubuso [obumanzi] ]  
(wet face)

15. [ukudla [okumtoti] ]  
(sweet food)

[ukufa [okubuhlungu] ]

#### 4.2.2. THE BEHAVIOUR OF STATES

Nominal relative stems may be stage or individual level. Colours such as mhlophe (white) - mnyama (black) - bomvu (red) are individual - level. Colour is a property that an individual retains throughout its lifetime. For example, a red cow cannot change to a black cow. All nominal relatives are stage - level except colours. For example something can change from [bukhali] sharp to [buthuntu] (blunt). The weather can change from [makhaza] cold to hot or warm. Thus properties such as - ngcono (better) ze (naked) mtoti (sweet) , nzima (heavy) - manzi (wet) - lula (light) are identified with non - permanent states of individuals.

#### 4.2.3. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

Nominal relatives can be grouped according to their semantic features.

(20)

**SEMANTIC TYPES****a. COLOURS****EXAMPLES**

- bomvu (red)
- mnyama (black)
- mhlophe (white)
- luhlaza (green, blue)
- mdaka (mauve)
- mdubu (light mauve)
- nco (speckled red and white)
- luthuqasana (dark coloured)
- mabalabala (spotted)
- mpunga (grey)
- mpemvu (white faced)
- ntusi (red with white mark)
- mpofu (dun)
- lubisi (cream coloured)
- nkone (white - striped on back)

**b. WEIGHT**

- lula (light)
- nzima (heavy)

**c. LENGTH**

- banzi (broad/wide)
- nzulu (deep)

**d. TASTE OR FLAVOUR**

- duma (tasteless)

- mnandi (nice, sweet)
  - mtoti (sweet)
  - munyu / muncu  
(acid , sour)
- e. **DIFFICULTY**
- lula (easy)
  - lukhuni (difficult)
  - nzima (difficult)
- f. **HUMAN PROPENSITY**
- mnene (kind)
  - lusizi (sad, grieved,  
sorrowful)
  - maganga (eager)
  - bukhali  
(keen,clever,vicious)
  - qatha (sincere, honest)
  - manzi (weak in  
character)
- g. **PHYSICAL PROPERTY**
- lukhuni (hard)
  - ntofontofo (soft)
  - lula (light)
  - nzima (heavy)
  - qatha (strong)
  - gotho (reliable, strong  
of good quality.
  - buthakathaka (weak  
physically)
  - buthuntu (blunt)
  - bukhali (sharp)

- manzi (wet)
- makhaza (cold)
- lunama (sticky)
- ze (naked)
- buhlungu (painful to body)
- ngcono (better recovered from sickness)
- lucwatha (hairless, smooth)
- lubengu (sharp)

There are stems that denote only physical features such as **makhaza** (cold) **lunama** (sticky) , **buthuntu** (blunt) and those that denote only psychological features such as **mnene** (kind) **maganga** (eager) **lusizi** (sad) and also those that refer to both physical and psychological states such as **qatha** (strong, sincere) , **gotho** (strong , of good quality, honest) **bukhali** (sharp, clever) **buhlungu** (painful to body or mind) **buthakathaka** (weak mentally or physically)

#### 4.3. **DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE**

The descriptive possessive is also a possible adjective category. Doke agrees with this when he points out that descriptive possessives give the meaning of adjectives in isiZulu. Descriptive possessives appear as complements of a possessive [a] where the [a] has no possessive meaning. The possessive [a] has an adjective meaning. Descriptive possessives in isiZulu form an open class. The list in (20) is not exhaustive.

(20)

**umhlambi wezinkomo**  
(herd of cattle)

**iqembu labadlali**  
(club of players)

**iqela labadlali**  
(team of players)

**ihele labantu**  
(procession of people)

**isixuku sabantu**  
(group of people)

**ithala lemikhonto**  
(a shower of assegais)

**ithala lamaqabunga**  
(a shower of leaves)

**isithungu sotshani**  
(bundle of grass)

**inyanda yezinkuni**  
(a bundle of firewood)

**isivivane samatshe**  
(a heap of stones)

**iqulu lezinyosi**  
**(swarm of bees)**

**iviyo lezinyoni**  
**(flock of birds)**

**isihla sezinyoni**  
**(flock of birds)**

**igula lamasi**  
**(calabash of sourmilk)**

**ujeke wobisi**  
**(a milk - jug)**

**ibhakede lamasi**  
**(a bucket of water)**

**isaka lommbila**  
**(a mealie - bag)**

**iqatha lenyama**  
**(a piece of meat)**

**ulofu wesinkwa**  
**(a loaf of bread)**

**ucezu lwesinkwa**  
**(a piece of bread)**

**isitini sensipho**  
**(bar of soap)**

iqa lezinyosi  
(a small lump of bees)

isihlalo sensimbi  
(an iron chair)

indlu yesitini  
(a house of brick)

indlu - yotshani  
(a grass hut)

inkomishi yetiye  
(a cup of tea)

ibhodwe lobumba  
(a clay pot)

isikhathi sokudla  
(eating time)

isikhathi samanje  
(present - day time)

izindaba zamanje  
(current matters)

isikhathi sokuqala  
(the first time)

umuntu wesine  
(fourth person)



igeja lokulima  
(hoe of hoeing)

indlu yokudlela  
(dining room)

izifundo zokuthunga  
(sewing lessons)

izicathulo zokugijima  
(running shoes)

umkhuba wakhona  
(a local custom)

isilwane sasendle  
(wild animal)

ingane yalapha  
(a child from here)

umqulu wencwadi  
(a roll of book)

uhuntshu lwebhasi  
(a long bus)

obhadawozi bezinyawo  
(very big feet)

ingane yomfana  
(baby boy)

ingane yentombazane

(baby girl)

umuntu wesilisa

(male person)

ihhashi lensikazi

(female horse)

ihhashi leduna

(male horse)

iduku lokufinya

(handkerchief)

ummese wesinkwa

(bread knife)

ishumi leminyaka

(10 years)

ikhulu leminyaka

(100 years)

isinkwa semihla ngemihla

(daily bread)

umgodi wezibi

(rubbish pit)

ungqwaza lwensizwa

(a tall young man)

**inqolobane yombila**

**(grain hut)**

**isixhwanguxhwangu somfana**

**(mannerless boy)**

**umthamo wamanzi**

**(mouthful of water)**

**umthunzi wezinkukhu**

**(dagga)**

**isudi yesele**

**(naked)**

**unyaka wezikhukhula**

**(flood year)**

**abantu base Maqadini**

**(people of Qadi tribe)**

**indondo yegolide**

**(gold medal)**

**umhloli wesiyingi**

**(circuit inspector)**

**umculo wokholo**

**(gospel music)**

**indandatho yesethembiso**

**(engagement ring)**

ubunzima bomsebenzi  
(difficulty of the work)

iningi lezingane  
(most of the children)

ukuvalwa kwesikole  
(when the school closes)

ukushona kwelanga  
(when the sun sets)

ithunzi lokufa  
(shadow of death)

imoto yezidumbu  
(hearse)

iYunivesithi yase Stellenbosch  
(University of Stellenbosch)

iziqu zika B.A.  
(BA Degree)

Uhlanga lomhlabathi  
(the reed of the soil) (king)

ingadi yemifino  
(vegetable garden)

**ibhola lezinyawo**  
(football / soccer)

**iphoyisa lomgwaqo**  
(traffic police)

**isiyathayatha somuntu**  
(irresponsible person)

**ingxathu yomuntu**  
(dirty person)

**ingqungumbela yentombi**  
(a huge, young woman)

**umtatama wexhegu**  
(a tottering old man)

**umzaca wenduku**  
(a fighting stick)

**Wathenga ibhola lokuba badlale.**  
(He bought a ball for them to play with)

**Kwakhiwe ibhuloho lokuba siwele.**  
(The bridge for us to cross has been built)

**Zifikile izingubo zokuba adayise.**  
(Clothes that he should sell have been brought)

Iqhawe lamaqhawe

(hero of heroes)

indoda yamadoda

(man of men)

umuntu wabantu

(man of people)

#### 4.3.1. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

The descriptive possessive constructions may be classified according to their semantic features :

(21)

#### SEMANTIC TYPE

#### EXAMPLES

a. Groups

- iqulu labantu  
(group of people)
- isixuku sabantu  
(group of people)
- iqela labadlali  
(team of players)
- impi yamasosha  
(army of soldiers)
- umhlambi wezinkomo  
(herd of cattle)
- isihla sezinyoni  
(flock of birds)

**b. COLLECTIVES**

- iviyo lezinyoni  
(flock of birds)
- iqulu lezinyosi  
(swarm of bees)
- umhlambi wezimvu  
(flock of sheep)
  
- ithala lemikhonto  
(a shower of assegais)
- ithala lamaqabunga  
(a shower of leaves)
- isithungu sotshani  
(bundle of grass)
- inyanda yezinkuni  
(a bundle of firewood)
- isivivane samatshe  
(a heap of stones)
- umqingo wezincwadi  
(pile of books)

**c. SEX**

- umuntu wesilisa  
(male of person)
- umfundisi wesifazane  
(female educator)
- ihhashi leduna  
(male horse)
- ibhubesi lensikazi  
(lioness)
- ingane yomfana  
(boy)

d. AGE

- ingane yentombazane  
(girl)
- umtatama wekhehla  
(a tottering old man)
- intothololo yesalukazi  
(an old woman)
- ingwevu yendoda  
(a man with grey hair)
- injejana yezinsizwa  
(young men)
- utshatshavu lukamakoti  
(young bride)
- unyonyovu lwemoto  
(brand new car)
- ukhahlavu lwemoto  
(an old car)

SIZE

- uhuntshu lwebhasi  
(a long bus)
- isizemazema sekhandanda  
(big head)
- obhadawozi bezinyawo  
(big feet)
- ingqungqumbela  
yentombi  
(a huge young woman)



- **uzwambuzwambu  
lomfana**  
(tall thin - bodied boy)
- **umzime wentombi**  
(stockily - build young  
woman)
- **umzilikihli womfazi**  
(tall, heavily built  
woman)

**COLOUR**

- **inzimakazi lentombazane**  
(dark, skinned girl)
- **iphofukazi lentombi**  
(light in complexion  
young woman)

**DIFFICULTY**

- **ubunzima bomsebenzi**  
(difficulty of the job)
- **ubulula besibalo**  
(easiness of the sum)
- **ubulukhuni besibalo**  
(difficulty of the sum)

**PARTITIVES**

- **ulofu wesinkwa**  
(a loaf of bread)
- **ucezu lwesinkwa**  
(a slice of bread)
- **iqebelengwana lekhekhe**  
(a piece of cake)

- isitini sensipho  
(a bar of soap)
- iqatha lenyama  
(piece of meat)
- iqhuzu lika - ayisi  
(ice cube)
- iqa lezinyosi  
(a small lump of bees)
- iconsi lamanzi  
(a drop of water)

### **MEASUREMENT**

- imitha yendwangu  
(metre of material)
- ikilogram yenyama  
(kilogram of meat)
- ithani lomoba  
(ton of sugar cane)
- ihekthari yomhlaba  
(hectar land)

### **MATERIAL**

- isihlalo sensimbi  
(an iron chair)
- ingubo kakotini  
(a cotton dress)
- isicathulo sesikhumba  
(a shoe of leather)
- indondo yegolide  
(gold medal)
- indlu yotshani  
(grass hut)

**INSTRUMENT**

- indlu yesitini  
(a house of brick)
- umgwaqo wetiyela  
(tar - road)
  
- ummese wesinkwa  
(bread knife)
- iduku lokufinya  
(handkerchief)
- umshini wokuthunga  
(sewing machine)
- uthi lokuvungula  
(tooth pick)

**CONTENT**

- isitolo sezicathulo  
(shoe store)
- igula lamasi  
(calabash of sourmilk)
- umgqomo wezibi  
(rubbish bin)
- inkomishi yetiye  
(a cup of tea)
- ithange lamanzi  
(tank of water)
- isigubhu segesi  
(gas cylinder)
- isitsha sikashukela  
(sugar basin)
- isikhwama seposi

**TIME**

- (post bag)
- isikhwama semali  
(purse)
- isikhathi samanje  
(present day time)
- isikhathi sakudala  
(olden time)
- izindaba zamanje  
(current matters)
- isikhathi sokuvala  
(closing time)

**ORDER**

- isikhathi sokuqala  
(the first time)
- isikhathi sokugcina  
(the last time)
- umuntu wesine  
(4th person)
- isifundo sesikhombisa  
(7th lesson)
- usuku lokuphela  
(the last day)

**NUMBER**

- ishumi leminyaka  
(10 years)
- ikhulu leminyaka  
(100 years)
- izinkulungwane zabantu  
(thousands of people)

**EMPHASIZERS**

- indoda yamadoda  
(man of men)
- iqhawe lamaqhawe  
(hero of heroes)
- umuntu wabantu  
(man of people)
- usuku lwezinsuku  
(day of days)

**IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS**

- umthunzi wezinkukhu  
(dagga)
- uhlanga lomhlabathi  
(zulu king)
- isudi yesele  
(naked)
- umnsinsi wokuzimilela  
(a person of born and  
bred in the place)

**HUMAN PROPENSITY**

- ububele benhliziyo  
(kindness of the heart)
- izizindlo zenhliziyo  
(meditations of the heart)
- umona wokuzalwa  
(born with jealous)
- uluzocolo lwendoda  
(short tempered man)

**ACTION**

- igeja lokulima  
(hoe of hoeing)
- indlu yokudlela  
(dining room)
- indoda yokusebenza  
ensimini  
(a man to work in the  
garden)

**VALUE**

- isingqazu sentombi  
(a beautiful young  
woman)
- inhlikivana yomuntu  
(a very ugly person)
- unongonongo lokudla  
(nice, tasty food)
- ugqoyi lokudla  
(delicious food)
- ulunqekethe lokudla  
(delicious food)
- ulovela lokudla  
(delicious food)

**LOCATIVE**

- umkhuba wakhona  
(a local custom)
- umuntu wakwaZulu  
(a Zulu, a person from

Zululand)

- izilwane yalapha  
(wild animals)
- ingane yalaphe  
(a child from here)
- abantu basekhaya  
(people of the home)  
(our home folk)

### PHYSICAL PROPERTY

- ubuntofontofo bomcamelo  
(the softness of the  
pillow)
- ubunzima bomthwalo  
(the heaviness of the  
parcel)
- ubulukhuni betshe  
(the hardness of the  
stone)
- isidlakela sendoda  
(physically fit man)
- uzwathi lomfana  
(thin bodied boy)
- umzilikihli wendoda  
(tall, heavily built man)

In this classification semantic features (such as size, time, age, value, colour and human propensity) as well as syntax features (such as locative) were considered.

#### 4.4. COPULATIVE WITH NA

A prepositional phrase (PP) with the proposition (**na**) may appear as complement of a copular verb. Du Plessis points out that the relation referred to is the associative relation in which the subject is associated with the complement.

- (22) Le ndoda [inenkomo]  
(This man has a cow)

The relation illustrated in (22) is possessive. Such complement may even be descriptive.

- (23) Le ndoda [inobuhlakani]  
(This man is clever)

The construction in (23) gives the meaning of adjectives.

The following nominal complements combined with the preposition (**na**) appear with a descriptive interpretation as in (23)

- (24) unobunye (have unity)  
nobubele (friendly , good hearted)  
nengqondo (clever)  
namasu (sly)  
nomdlandla (interested in, interesting)  
unolwazi lomsebenzi (experienced)  
namandla (strong, has power)  
nempilo (healthy, lively)  
nenjabulo (happy)  
nomfutho (diligent, eager)



nobumnene (polite, kindness)  
nobuchwepheshe (skilled)  
nentukuthelo (angry)  
neshwa (unhappy)  
necala (guilty)  
nesibindi (brave)  
nomona (jealous)  
nomusa (compassionate)  
nesithukuthuku (lonely)  
nosizi (cowardly, frightened)  
namahloni (shy)  
nochuku (troublesome)  
nesisu (have stomach - ache)  
nesisu (pregnant)  
nokubukeka (handsomeness)  
nesifuba (have chest- ache)  
nesifuba (have secrets)  
unemizindlo (meditations)  
unobungcwele (has holiness)  
unesicefe (tiring, over emotional experience)  
unechilo (disgrace)  
unolaka (anger)  
unobuqili (sly)  
nesinyama (ill - starred)  
unenzondo (ill - feeling)  
unegqubu (ill - feeling)  
unokuzigqaja (pride)  
unokuzidla (pride)  
unenhlanhla (has luck)  
unonya (cruelty)

unobuphofu (poor)  
unobuhlakani (clever)  
unamanga (lies)  
unenkathazo (worry, annoyance)  
unokhanda (persistent good luck, good fortune)  
unekhanda (have intelligence)  
unogazi (handsomeness)  
unenhliziyo (patience)  
unomlomo (too much talk)  
unamawala (haphazard way of acting)  
unemikhuba (undesirable actions)  
unephimbo (fine voice)  
unethambo nomuntu (hatred)  
unethambo (tall)  
unesineke (patience)  
unehaba (exaggeration)  
uneququ (unpleasant smell)  
unosizo (helpful)  
unesandla (helpful)  
unexhala (burning desire, longing)  
unothando (love)  
unolimi (sociability)  
unamalimi (stuttering)  
unesinyama (bad omen)  
unenkani (stubborn)  
unomsangano (confused state of mind)  
unethemba (trust, hope)

The list provided in (24) is not exhaustive.

#### 4.4.1. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

Prepositional phrases with na - may be grouped according to their semantic features.

(25)

##### SEMANTIC TYPE

##### a. Physical Property

##### EXAMPLES

unamandla

(strong)

unempilo

(healthy)

unesisu

(have a stomach ache)

unesifuba

(have chest - ache)

unesisindo

(have weight)

##### b. Human Propensity

unomona

(jealous)

unokuzigqaja

(have pride)

unokuzidla

(have pride)

unobumnene

(polite)

unobubele

(friendly, good hearted)

unonya

(cruelty)

unesineke

(patience)

unenkani

(stubborn)

unegqubu

(ill feeling)

unenzondo

(ill feeling)

unolaka

(anger)

unenjabulo

(happy)

Most of the PP with na denote psychological states (human propensity)

c. VALUE

unephimbo

(has fine voice)

unesinyama

(has bad omen)

#### 4.4.2. EXAMPLES WITHIN NP.

(26) intombi [enomona]

(jealous young woman)

umfana [onobuhlakani]

(clever boy)

uthisha [onesiphiwo]

(gifted educator)  
indoda [enosizo]  
(helpful man)  
ingane [enomsindo]  
(noisy child)  
indoda [enengqondo]  
(clever man)  
insizwa [enobuchwepheshe]  
(skilled young man)  
umfana [onochuku]  
(troublesome boy)  
amadoda [anesibindi]  
(brave man)  
umuntu [onamandla]  
(strong person)  
isalukazi [esinesithukuthezi]  
(lonely old woman)  
intombazane [enamahloni]  
(shy girl)  
abantu [abanomfutho]  
(diligent people)  
umfundisi [onesineke]  
(patient educator)  
umfana [onenkani]  
(stubborn boy)  
umfowethu [onethambo]  
(my tall brother)  
umfazi [onenhlanhla]  
(good luck woman)  
izingane [ezinobunye]

(children with unity)  
 umndeni [onobuphofu]  
 (poor family)  
 intombi [enesisu]  
 (pregnant young woman)

#### 4.5. COPULATIVE WITH NP.

Copulative with noun phrases (NP) have nouns which appear as head of an NP which is a complement of a copular verb. These copulative with NP's describe the N e.g. [umfana [oyivila] ] (a lazy boy). The copulative with NP uyivila (lazy) describes the N (noun) umfana (boy). There are many such descriptive nouns in isiZulu. The list in (27) is not exhaustive.

(27)

ingxathu (dirty person)  
 isichwensi (rude person)  
 ixoki (trouble monger)  
 impabanga (poor person)  
 ingqungumbela (huge woman)  
 isixhwanguxhwangu (mannerless person)  
 umzime (stockily - build person)  
 umzilikihli (tall heavily built person)  
 ivila (lazy person)  
 uzaza (spoiled child)  
 igagu (bold, forward person)  
 ulixhaphaxhapha (untidy person)  
 igamanxandukwana (coward person)  
 indlobho (one eyed person)  
 inkawu (albino)

isazi (scientist)  
isicebi (rich person)  
isigwili (rich person)  
ingcweti (experienced person)  
ibhebhebhe (talkative person)  
isigcwelegcwele (plunderer)  
isiqhwaga (quick tempered person)  
ilembe (iqhawe)  
isidingidwane (foolish person)  
isibhubhummyeka (stupid person)  
inhliniva (ugly person)  
umzonzo (thin legged person)  
umahlekehlathini (bushy beard)  
umangqumu (person with prominent eyes)  
uswabuswabu (slender person)  
umdudla (well built person)  
isigangi (mischievous person)  
isitetelegu (stout person)  
isithulu (deaf)  
impumputhe (blind)  
isimungulu (dumb)  
ixhwele (heavy smoker)  
inxantela (intruder)  
iphisi (expert hunter)  
isithithithi (stupid person)  
umdodovu (old person)  
inculu (small eater or drinker)  
isiminzi (glutton)  
isidenga (lazy, unwilling, slovenly person)  
uyinyanga (herbalist)

isimomondiya (beautiful girl)  
ihhumuhumu (wasteful person)  
isihuluba (greedy person)  
impimpi (spy)  
ihathanga (rascal)  
ihuzu (native who has deserted his home for town life)  
isigilamkhuba (evil - doer)  
igcokama (neat person)  
isihlakaniphi (clever man)  
ihlongandlebe (disobedient person)  
iqola (ruffian, pickpocket, burglar)  
isiboshwa (prisoner)  
isithunywa (messenger)  
umnqolo (effeminate man)  
umnqologombotsheni (effeminate youth, who does not go out with other boys)  
isangoma (diviner)  
isigwadi (unmarried man rejected or disliked by woman).  
isoka (young man popular among girls)  
iwele / iphahla (one of twins)  
izibulo (first born child)

#### **4.5.1. EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF THE COPULATIVE WITH NP**

(28)

[umuntu [oyingxathu] ]

(dirty person)

[inkosikazi [elixoki] ]

(trouble monger woman)



[intombi [eyingqungqumbela] ]

(huge, young woman)

[indoda [eyisiqhwayiqhwayi] ]

(energetic man)

[umuntu [oyisixhwanguxhwangu] ]

(mannerless person)

[umndeni [oyimpabanga] ]

(poor family)

[umfana [oyisigangi] ]

(mischievous boy)

[umfundi [oyisichwensi] ]

(rude learner)

[inkosikazi [eyixhaphaxhapha] ]

(untidy woman)

[umuntu [oyixhwele]

(heavy smoker)

[indoda [eyigamanxandukwana] ]

(coward person)

[umuntu [oyisixhwe] ]

(a person who sings out of tune)

[insizwa [eyindlobho] ]

(one eyed young man)

[uthisha [oyisitetelegu] ]

(stout educator)

[umfana [oyisimungulu] ]

(dumb boy)

#### 4.5.2. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

Copulatives with NP can be grouped according to their semantic features :

(29)

##### 1. PHYSICAL FEATURES

###### a. AGE

OLD : intothololo, umtatama, umdodovu, ingwevu

YOUNG : injejana, ikhaba, intangana, intekane, iklume

###### b. PHYSICALLY DISADVANTAGED

BLIND : impumputhe

DEAF : isithulu

DUMB : isimungulu

CRIPPLE : unyonga, isidalwa, isishosha  
isinqekle, isipete, inzuthunzuthu

c. **BODY SHAPE**(i) **GOOD SHAPE**

<b>STRONG</b>	:	ibheleba, isiqhwaga, iqhawe, isidlakathi
<b>WELL BUILT</b>	:	ubhabhadlolo, umdudla, unqqa, umzime
<b>TALL</b>	:	uswahla, unqqa
<b>SLENDER</b>	:	uzwathi, ucuthwane, uswazi, uluswabuswabu

(ii) **BAD SHAPE**

<b>STOUT</b>	:	imbaxambaxa, isitetelegu, ingqungumbela
<b>EMACIATED</b>	:	amaphalo, amagagana, isigcaka
<b>DWARF</b>	:	isinoko, isichwe, imbashela
<b>THIN</b>	:	uluzwambuzwambu, uluzuncu ingcwani

d. **BODY PART**

<b>PROTRUDING EYES</b>	:	amangqumu
<b>BUSHY BEARD</b>	:	ubhebhenene, umahlekehlathini

e. **BODY POSITION**

<b>MISSHAPE</b>	:	ulugando, ulungamfu, ugalonci
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f. **COLOUR**

<b>PITCH - BLACK</b>	:	isitime, isitile, isitileka, indoniyamanzi
<b>ALBINO</b>	:	inkawu

g. **APPEARANCE**

<b>WELL DRESSED</b>	:	uswenka
<b>VAIN</b>	:	iqhoshela
<b>BEAUTY</b>	:	igeza, isingqazu, isimomondiya

2. **PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES**a. **GOOD**

<b>INTELLIGENT</b>	:	isazi
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b. **BAD**

<b>RETARDED</b>	:	uzaza, intetemisa
<b>HALF - WIT</b>	:	isithutha, isiyingayinga
<b>STUPID</b>	:	isithutha , isibhukuza, isiduphunga, isibhubhunyeka, inkumabulongwe
<b>FOOLISH / MOOD:</b>	:	isidingidwane, isilima, isiphukuphuku, ingcwaneka uhlanya
<b>MEEK</b>	:	imvu isivi
<b>TIMID</b>	:	isichobonyeka
<b>UNDECIDED</b>	:	isithithithi

3. **BEHAVIOUR**a. **GOOD BEHAVIOUR**

<b>FRIENDLY</b>	:	igxebe, ikholane
<b>BRAVE</b>	:	iqhawe, ilembe, imbudle, umfokoqeli
<b>GENTLE</b>	:	ingcwabasi, inene
<b>GOOD</b>	:	isivi
<b>BOLD , FORWARD</b>	:	igagu

(good sense)

b. **BAD BEHAVIOUR**

<b>TROUBLESOME</b>	:	inkathazo, uluchuku, isixako, isimilamongo
<b>DECEITFUL</b>	:	igecegece, imbulu, igwilikici, umkhohlisi, ihumuhumu
<b>CUNNING</b>	:	iqili, iphiciphici, ixoki, iphixiphixi
<b>QUICK TEMPERED</b>	:	isiqhwaga, isififane
<b>CRUEL</b>	:	inhlulo
<b>RUDE</b>	:	isichwensi, isedeleli
<b>GREEDY</b>	:	isihali, isihuqa, isihubengu, isidlakudla
<b>PLUNDER</b>	:	umphangi, isigebengu, isigcwelegcwele, umgulukudu.
<b>DESPOIL</b>	:	umphangi, umthumbi
<b>BOLDNESS</b>	:	igagu
(bad sense)		

4. **HABITS**

<b>DIRTY</b>	:	inuku, isihwaduhwadu, ingxathu
<b>DISGUSTING</b>	:	isicasulo, isinyankala, isiphishi
<b>LAZY</b>	:	ivila isibhaca, ilibhaxakezi
<b>DRUNK</b>	:	ixhwele
<b>GLUTTONOUS</b>	:	isiminzi, igovu
<b>TALKATIVE</b>	:	ibhebhebhe, isibhavubhavu, igavugavu, igavuzane
<b>SPEND THRIFT</b>	:	umoshi, ihumuhumu
<b>OFFICIOUS</b>	:	inxantela, umxantela
<b>UNTIDY</b>	:	idlabha, ivamba, idixa
<b>NEAT / TIDY</b>	:	inono, igcokama, incwasimende

## 5. SKILLS

<b>EXPERIENCED</b>	:	ingcweti
<b>SKILLED</b>	:	uchwepheshe, ingcweti
<b>CLUMSY</b>	:	ibhadabhada, igqizolo, uphamaphama
<b>INSIGNIFICANT</b>	:	idukumba, imfanayo

## 6. WEALTH

<b>POOR</b>	:	isichaka, impabanga
<b>RICH</b>	:	isicebi, injinga, isigwili

## 7. PROFESSIONALS

uthisha (educator)

umeluleki (counsellor adviser)

ummeli (advocate)

umfundisi (priest)

umongi (nurse)

imantshi (magistrate)

umhwebi (merchant)

injiniya (engineer)

unobhala (secretary)

ingcweti (expert)

udokotela (doctor)

umseshi (detective)

iphoyisa (policeman)

umakhi (builder)

isazi (scientist)

Many of descriptive nouns in isiZulu are also applicable to animals.

Consider the following examples :

(30)

[inyumba]

(barren person or animal)

[umdlwembe]

(undisciplined person or wild uncontrolled animal)

[umdokofu]

(emaciated person or beast)

[intekenteke]

(weak helpless person or animal)

[injengelezi]

(sneaking person or animal)

[amafufununu / isifufununu]

(huge, fat person or animal)

From the illustrations in (28) and (29) it is clear that copulative with NP is also a possible adjective category.

#### 4.6. STATIVE VERBS

According to Doke stative verbs are verbs which indicate a state already completed and still persisting. The list is provided in (31) below :

(31)

nona (be fat)

- fa (die)

lamba (be hungry)

kholwa (be christian)

boshwa (be in prison)

phuka (be broken)

jabula (be happy)

- ma (stand)

- mila (grow)

- oma (be thirsty)

khula (grow)

hlakanipha (be wise)

- esutha (be full)

- enama (be happy)

lala (sleep, lie down)

khathala (be tired)

hlonipha (pay respect)

hlala (sit)

khwela (ride on)

khululeka (be at freedom)

khuluphala (be stout)

lamba (be hungry)

phakama (be lifted up)

phatha (carry, treat)

phila (be healthy)

shona (be bankrupt)

thukuthela (be angry)

thula (be silent)



thwala (carry)  
xhoshwa (have something in eye)  
zaca (be thin)  
bonakala (be visible)  
buthana (be gathered together)  
casha (hide)  
cindezeleka (be in trouble)  
cwila (be under water)  
- emitha (be pregnant)  
- enaba (sit with legs out)  
- ethemba (trust)  
jwayela (be accustomed to)  
mbatha (put on clothes)  
cweba (be pure)  
- onda (be thin)  
bola (be rotten)  
lunga (be in order , be morally good)  
fudumala (be warm)  
phela (be finished)  
- aphuka / ephuka (get broken)  
lahleka (be at a loss)  
gcwala (become full)  
fukama (be confined, be broody)  
swakama (be wet)  
dinwa (be tired)

The stative verbs may appear in relative clauses within noun phrases where they absorb the meaning of descriptive adjectives :

(32)

[indoda [ecebile] ]

(rich man)

[inyama [enonile] ]

(fat meat)

[ingane [elambile]

(hungry child)

[umfana [ojabulile]

(happy boys)

[indoda [ehlakaniphile]

(wise man)

[intombi [eyomile]

(thirsty young woman)

[umfana [olele]

(slept boy)

[inkosikazi [ekhuliphele]

(stout woman)

[umuntu [oboshiwe] )

(person in prison)

#### 4.6.1. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

(33)

##### SEMANTIC TYPE

Human propensity

Physical Properties

##### EXAMPLES

- enama  
(be happy)

- zaca  
(be thin)

- oma  
(thirsty)

- lamba  
(be hungry)

- phila  
(be healthy)

- esutha  
(be full)

- emitha  
(be pregnant)

- nona  
(be fat)

- khathala  
(be tired)

#### 4.6.2. PROPERTIES OF STATIVE VERBS

Stative verbs are stage level predicates. Stage - level predicates are predicates which have the property of appearing mostly in the perfect tense with a present tense meaning. Stative verbs are characterised by the same property.

(34)

- thukuthele (angry)
- lambile (hungry)
- khwele (ridden on)
- enamile (happy)
- ethembekile (trusted)
- phakeme (lifted up)
- lele (slept)
- hloniphile (paid respect)
- esuthile (full)

These verbs indicate that the action has been completed resulting in a perfect tense, the state is being maintained in the present tense. For example the state : khwele (ridden on) indicates that the action of riding on has been completed in the past, but the complete result remains.

Stative verbs indicate states, not events. Events may take short or long time whereas states take a long duration. For instance - lambile (be hungry) you cannot suddenly become hungry.

The perfect negative makes use of the negative prefix **(k) a -** and the suffix - **anga** whereas the stative verbs make use of the prefix (k) a only, not the suffix - anga.

(35)

umfana [akahlakaniphile]

ingane [ayilele]

amadoda [awakhathele]

abafana [abalambile]

With anga the clauses are ungrammatical

(36)

- a. \* ingane [ayilelanga]
- b. \* amadoda [awakhathanga]
- c. \* abafana [abalambanga]

The stative may take the progressive [sa] however the perfect cannot have a progressive meaning :

(37)

- a. umfana [osalele]  
(a boy who is still asleep)
- b. amadoda [asakhathele]  
(men who are still tired)
- c. umuntu [osathulile]  
(person who is still silent)
- d. intombazane [esanebe]  
(a girl who is still spread out)

Many of the stative verbs do not like to appear in the passive :

(38)

- a. \* umfana [ohlakaniphiwe]  
\* (a being wised boy)
- b. \* inyama [enoniwe]  
\* (being fatten meat)

- c. \* umuntu [onamiwe]  
(being happy person)
- d. \* inkosikazi [elambiwe]  
(being hungry woman)

Some stative stems may be used in the passive :

(39)

- |    |                              |   |                                       |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| a. | - lele (be asleep)           | - | leliwe<br>(is being slept)            |
| b. | - oma (be thirsty)           | - | omiwe<br>(is being thirsty)           |
| c. | - hlonipha<br>(paid respect) | - | hloniphiwe<br>(is being paid respect) |
| d. | thwala<br>(carry)            | - | thwaliwe<br>(is being carried)        |
| e. | ethemba<br>(trust)           | - | ethenjiwe<br>(is being trusted)       |

The stative verbs may appear in the past tense. The past tense is formed by the past tense morpheme (a). The past tense morpheme (a) and the subjectival agreement contract to form one syllable :

(40)

- a. [isilwane [sasondile] ]  
(the animal was thin)
- b. [amanzi [ayecwebile] ]  
(the water was pure)
- c. [izingane [zazilambile] ]  
(the children were hungry)
- d. [indoda [yayihlalile] ] or [indoda yayihlezi]  
(the man was sat) (the man was sitting)

Stative verbs in the past tense may appear after the noun, modifying it :

(41)

- a. [umfana [owayethukuthele] ]  
(the boy who was angry)
- b. [ingane [eyayilele] ]  
(the child who was asleep)
- c. [indoda [eyayihlakaniphile] ]  
(the man who was clever)
- d. [inyama [eyayinonile] ]  
(the meat which was fat)

## 5. CONCLUSION

In this chapter , the six possible adjective categories were dealt with. The examples in each categories were grouped according to their semantic features. Dixon's three semantic types - dimension, age and value are included in the class of adjectives even though the adjectival stems in isiZulu are only eight. Nominal relatives amongst other semantic features include colours. Physical properties and psychological state features are common in all the groups for example :

### Physical properties :

(42)

- a. khuluphele (stative verb)  
(be fat)
- b. ingqungumbela (copulative NP)  
(huge person)
- c. unesifuba (copulative with na)  
(chest-ache)
- d. qatha (nominal relative)  
(strong)

### PSYCHOLOGICAL STATES :

(43)



- a. enamile (stative verb)  
(be happy)
- b. inene (copulative NP)  
(gentle)
- c. unobubele (copulative with na)  
(friendly)
- d. izizindlo (zenhliziyo) (descriptive possessive)  
(meditations)
- e. mnene (nominal relative)  
(kind)

From the above discussion it has been found that adjectives can be described in terms of their properties or qualities (semantic features). All six categories have a descriptive function.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **THE MORPHOLOGICAL ADJECTIVE**

#### **1. AIM**

This chapter will be dealing with the morphology of the adjective. The three minimal meaningful elements of an adjective will be explored : the definite morpheme **a**, the agreement morpheme and the adjectival stem. The suffixes of the adjectival stem such as - **ana**, - **nyana**, **anyana** (diminutive) - **kazi** (feminine) and **kazi** (augmentative) will be looked at. The derivation of new lexical categories such as Nouns (N), Verbs (V) and Adverb (ADV) from adjectives (A) will be dealt with. Examples will be used to illustrate the syntactic function of the adjective i.e. it may appear as complement of a noun, as complement of a verb, before comparatives and as bases of exclamations.

#### **2. PREVIOUS STUDIES ON THE ADJECTIVE**

##### **2.1. DOKE**

Doke (1973) provides an exhaustive list of adjectives which is semantically divided into descriptive as well as quantitative adjectives. Doke examines the suffixes of the adjectival stem : - **ana** - **nyana** - **anyana**, **kazi** (feminine) and **kazi** (augmentative). The derivation of abstract nouns i.e class prefix **ubu** - from adjectives as well as adverb derivation by prefixing the morpheme **ka** - is found in Doke.

## 2.2. ZIERVOGEL et al 1976 (a)

Ziervogel points out that the noun and its adjective together may be subject or object of sentences. He also claims that descriptive and quantitative stems are adjectives.

## 2.3. BHAT

Bhat (1994) observes that the characteristic of adjectives to denote a single property make it possible for them to occur in comparative constructions and to be the bases of exclamations.

## 2.4. DU PLESSIS

Du Plessis observes the semantic classification of adjectives into individual - level adjectives and stage - level adjectives. Du Plessis also found that the adjectival stem takes all suffixes except the locative suffix - ini. Du Plessis also observes that adjectives in Xhosa have no inflection corresponding to the comparative and superlative. He further uses adjectives in comparative constructions. He also examines the use of adjectives as complement of copular verbs in his Zulu syntax.

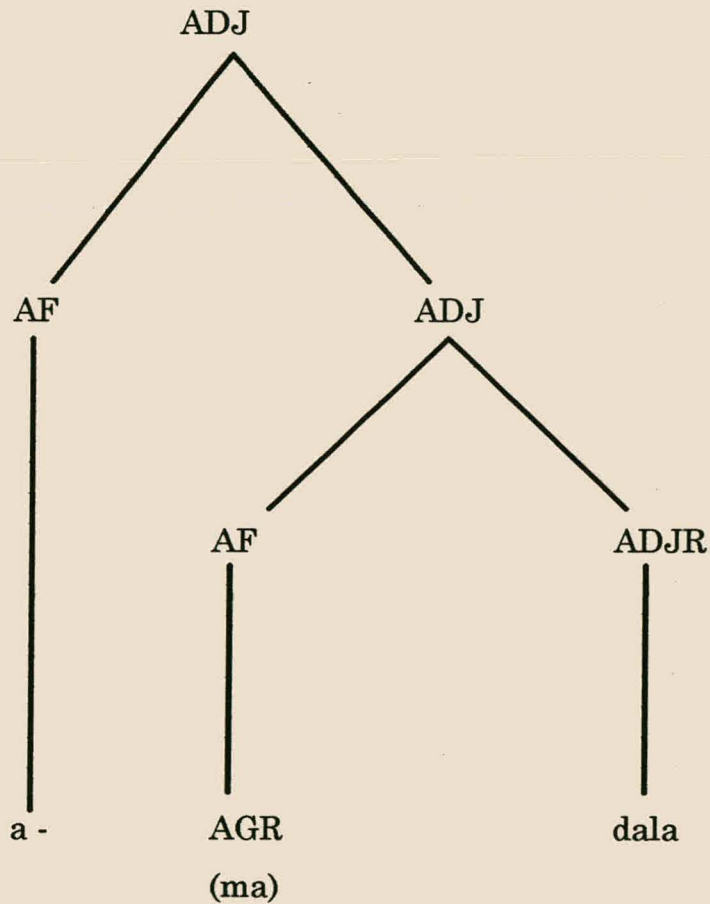
## 2.5. MABASO

Mabaso (1996) examines the three morphological elements of an adjective : the definite morpheme a, the agreement morpheme and the adjectival stem. Mabaso uses the list of adjectives provided by Doke but for the sake of his studies he excludes the quantitatives (numerals). He makes use of descriptive adjectives. He explores the distribution of an adjective in a sentence.

### 3. THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE ADJECTIVE

All adjectives in isiZulu consist of three minimal meaningful elements namely a definite morpheme **a** - an agreement morpheme and an adjectival stem

- 1) Amadoda - a - ma - dala (old men). The morphological structure of (1) is :



This structure shows the adjective amadoda. The definite morpheme **a** and agreement morpheme are prefixed onto the stem.

The adjectival stem also allows the addition of the suffixes such as - **ana**, - **nyana**, **anyana** , **kazi** (feminine) and - **kazi** (augmentative) . The stem of an adjective can be reduplicated. New lexical categories can be derived from adjectival stems for example :

- (2) - hle (adjectival stem) > ubuhle (noun)  
 - bi (adjectival stem) > kabi (adverb)  
 - de (adjectival stem) > dephe (verb)

### 3.1. THE DEFINITE MORPHEME

The definite morpheme is the initial prefix of an adjective as indicated in (1). There is an emphasis on the definite morpheme **a** to show that the adjective refers to a particular example of something . The definite morpheme **a** - may appear as **a** - with noun classes 2 and 6 . The morpheme **a** - coalesces with the vowel of the basic prefixes of - **ba** - and - **ma** - respectively : a + a = a

(3)

- CLASS 2 : **A**bafo [a] badala  
 CLASS 6 : **A**masi [a] madala

The morpheme **a** - appears as **e** - with noun classes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The morpheme **a** - coalesces with the vowel of the basic prefixes **mi** - , **li**, **si** - , **zi**n - / **zi**m - , **n(i)** - and **zi**n - / **zi**m - : i a + i = e

(4)

- CLASS 4 : **I**mithi [e]midala  
 CLASS 5 : **I**litshe [e]lidala  
 CLASS 7 : **I**sitsha [e]sidala  
 CLASS 8 : **I**zihlalo [e]zindala

- CLASS 9 : Inkomo [e]ndala  
 CLASS 10 : Izimvu [e]zindala

The morpheme a - appears as o with noun classes 1,3,11,14 and 15. The morpheme a - coalesces with the vowel u of the basic prefix : a + u = o.

(5)

- CLASS 1 : umuntu [o] mdala  
 CLASS 2 : umuzi [o] mdala  
 CLASS 11 : uluthi [o] ludala  
 CLASS 14 : ubuso [o] budala  
 CLASS 15 : ukudla [o] kudala

The definite morpheme is always compulsory when the adjective follows a noun. For example when the noun follows a demonstrative , it loses its preprefix but this does not extend to the adjective :

(6)

- a. lo mfana [omubi]  
 (this ugly boy)  
 b. le ngane [encane]  
 (this small child)  
 c. le ndoda [endala]  
 (this old man)

When the adjective, precedes the noun, it may appear with or without its preprefix .

(7)

- a. (i) lo [mubi] umfana  
(this ugly boy)
- (ii) lo [omubi] umfana  
(this ugly boy)
- b. (i) le [ncane] ingane  
(this small child)
- (ii) le [encane] ingane  
(this small child)

In negative the noun may become indefinite by losing its preprefix but this does not extend to the adjective :

(8)

- a. Angihleki [mfana]  
(I do not laugh at any boy)
- b. Angihleki mfana [omubi]  
(I do not laugh at an ugly boy)
- \*c. Angihleki mfana [mubi] the illustrations in (6) and (8) indicate that, the definite morpheme is always compulsory , when the adjective is used after the noun to modify it.

### 3.2. AGREEMENT MORPHEME

Agreement is a type of grammatical relationship between two or more elements in a phrase in which both or all elements show a particular feature.

In this case grammatical relationship is between a class prefix of a noun that is modified and an agreement morpheme of an adjective which is a modifier.

(9)

CLASS 1 U[m]fana o[m]ncane (a small boy)

CLASS 5 I[li]fa e[li]khulu (a great estate)

CLASS 14 U[bu]so obuhle (a beautiful face)

These examples indicate that an adjective modifying a noun has to agree with it. The agreement morphemes are exactly the same as the noun class prefixes :

(10)

CLASS	CLASS PREFIX	AGREEMENT MORPHEME
1	-m - / - mu -	- m - / - mu -
2	- ba -	- ba -
3	- mu -	- mu -
4	- mi -	- mi -
5	- li -	- li -
6	- ma -	- ma -
7	- si -	- si -
8	- zi -	- zin -
9	- n -	- n -
10	- zin -	- zin -
11	- lu -	- lu -
14	- bu -	- bu -
15	- ku -	- ku -

Class 1 has two prefixes : mu - is used with monosyllabic stems :



- (11) **umu**[ntu] (person)  
**umu**[fo] (man)  
**umukhwe** (father - in - law)  
**umuThwa** (bushman)

Class 1 nouns having stems of more than one syllable, take the shortened prefix - **m** - , eg.

- (12) **umntwana** (child)  
**umfana** (boy)  
**umfazi** (wife, woman)  
**umngane** (friend)  
**umzala** (cousin)

e.g. **umfana omdala** (the old boy)

Classes 8 and 10 have the same agreement : - **zin** - / **zim** -

- (13) CLASS 8 : **izitsha ezindala**  
 (old dishes)  
**izihlalo ezinkulu**  
 (big chairs)  
**izigqoko ezimbi**  
 (bad hats)  
**izivalo ezintsha**  
 (new lids)

- CLASS 10 : **izimpondo ezinhle**  
 (beautiful horns)  
**izinti ezimfuphi**

(short sticks)

izinkukhu ezincane

(small fowls)

izinzipho ezinde

(long nails)

It is not possible to use adjectives with the locative noun classes 16 and 17

(14)

CLASS 16 : \* phansi okukhulu  
\* phandle okuncane

CLASS 17 : \* kude okubi  
\* kumama okuhle  
\* kumuntu okufuphi

### 3.3. THE ADJECTIVAL STEM

The adjectival stems in Zulu are :

(15)

- bi (bad, ugly)
- hle (beautiful)
- sha (new, young)
- dala (old)
- de (long, tall)
- fuphi / - fusha / - fisha / - fishane and -
- fushane (short)
- khulu (big, great, large)

- ncane / - na / - ncinyane (small)

Richards and his associates (1993) define the stem as the part of a word to which an inflectional affix can be added. The prefixes : definite morpheme and agreement morpheme are added to the adjectival stem. The adjectival stem together with its morphemes (definite and agreement morphemes) is a single word which qualifies a noun.

(17)

- a. Amatshe [amakhulu]  
(big stones)
- b. Uphondo [olubi]  
(a bad horn)
- c. Abafana [abakhulu]  
(big boys)

The examples in (17) indicate that the adjectival stem bears the meaning of an adjective.

### 3.3.1. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

The two separate semantic categories of an adjectives are : descriptive and quantitative (Du Plessis : (Zulu syntax)

(18)

- a. **DESCRIPTIVE**
  - bi (bad, ugly)
  - hle (pretty, beautiful)
  - khulu (big, large)
  - ncane , / - nci / - ncinyane (small)

- dala (old)
- sha (young, new)
- de (long, tall)
- fuphi / - fisha / - fisane / - fushane (short)

b. **QUANTITATIVE**

- ningi (much, many)
- ngaki (how many)
- thathu (three)
- nye (one)
- bili (two)
- ne (four)

Some authors such as Doke (1973) regard quantitatIVES as adjectives.

Looking at Carlson (1977) and Kratzer (1989) adjectival stems may be grouped into individual - level adjectives and stage - level adjectives.

According to these authors individual - level adjectives are properties that an individual retains more or less throughout its lifetime and can be identified with the individual directly. On the other hand , stage - level adjectives are identified with non - permanent states of individuals. All the adjectives in isiZulu denote individual level properties. One cannot change :

from long [**de**] to short [**fuphi**] or

from ugly [**bi**] to beautiful [**hle**] or

from great [**khulu**] to small [**ncane**]

There is only one adjectival stem which denotes a stage level feature and that is [**sha**]

[**sha**] with the meaning young has an individual level feature. One cannot change from old [**dala**] to young [**sha**]

[**sha**] with the meaning new or fresh is stage level. For example, a car can change from new [**sha**] to old [**dala**]

The eight adjectival stems in isiZulu form pairs of antonyms :

(19)

bi / hle	(ugly / beautiful)
fuphi / de	(short / tall, long)
ncane / khulu	(small / great, big)
sha / dala	(new, young / old)

The adjectival stems may be grouped according to their semantic features  
Dixon's three semantic types - dimension age and value are included in this class of adjectives :

(20)

### SEMANTIC TYPES

### EXAMPLES

#### DIMENSION

- khulu (big, great)
- ncane (small)
- fuphi (short)
- de (tall, long)

#### AGE

- sha (new, young)
- dala (old)

#### VALUE

- hle (beautiful)
- bi (bad, ugly)

### 3.3.2. SUFFIXES

(a)    -ana            -nyana            -anyana

The adjectival stems may appear with the diminutive suffix -ana

(21)

- a.    (I)    **umfana [omkhulu]**  
               (a big boy)
- (ii)    **umfana [omkhudlwana]**  
               (a biggish boy)
- b.    (i)    **Imbewu [enhle]**  
               (nice seed)
- (ii)    **imbewu [enhlana]**  
               (a rather, nice seed)
- c.    (i)    **uthi [olude]**  
               (a long stick)
- (ii)    **uthi [oludana]**  
               (a longish stick)

The suffixes -nyana and -anyana may be used to represent double diminutives.

(22)

- a.    (i)    **Umuntu [omubi]**  
               (An ugly person)
- (ii)    **Umuntu [omubanyana]**  
               (A rather ugly person)

- b. (I) Umuthi [omude]  
(A tall tree)
- (ii) Umuthi [omudanyana]  
(A rather, tall tree)
- c. (I) Ingane [emfushane]  
(A short child)
- (ii) Ingane [emfushanyana]  
(A shortish child)

According to Doke (1973 : 103) the stems - fushane and - nciniyane were originally regular diminutive forms

In addition to indicating “smallness” adjectives ending in - ana may be used pejoratively or affectionately (23)

(23)

a. **PEJORATIVE**

- (i) Le nsizwa [emfushanyana]  
(this shortish young man)
- (ii) Le ntombi [embana]  
(this ugly young woman)

b. **AFFECTIONATE**

- (i) Le ngane [enhlana]  
(This small beautiful child)
- (ii) Le ngane [encanyana]  
(This very small child)

b. - KAZI (Feminine)

Doke (1973 : 104) points out that the feminine suffix - **kazi** may appear with the adjectival stems to express harmony with feminine nouns.

(24)

- a. (i) Inkomazi [ende]  
(a tall cow)
- (ii) Inkomazi [endekazi]  
(a cow as tall as such)
- b. (i) Umfazi [omkhulu]  
(a big woman)
- (ii) Umfazi [omkhulukazi]  
(a woman as big as such)
- c. (i) Intombazane [ende]  
(a tall girl)
- (ii) Intombazane [endekazi]  
(a girl as tall as such)

C. - KAZI (AUGMENTATIVE)

Doke (1973 : 104) observes that the augmentative suffix - **kazi** can be added to the adjectival stems to express additional greatness :

(25)

- a. (i) Ikhala [elikhulu]  
(a big nose)
- (ii) Ikhala [elikhulukazi]



(a very big nose)

- b. (i) Indoda [ende]  
(a tall man)
- (ii) Indoda [e]  
(a very tall man)

All nominal suffixes, except the locative - **ini** are suffixed to adjectival stems :

- \* Ikhala elikhulwini
- \* Ingane enhlini

### 3.3.3. REDUPLICATION OF ADJECTIVE STEMS

The following stems may be repeated :

(26)

- a. (i) Ukudla [okunci]  
(small food)
- (ii) Ukudla [okuncinci]  
(very small / tiny food)
- b. (i) Imoto [entsha]  
(a new car)
- (ii) Imoto [entshasha]  
(a very new car)
- c. (I) Umsebenzi [omuhle]  
(good work)

- (ii) Umsebenzi [omuhlehle]  
(very good work)
- d. (i) Ingubo [endala]  
(old blanket)
- (ii) Ingubo [endalandala]  
(very old blanket)
- e. (i) Isiwa [esikhulu]  
(large cliff)
- (ii) Isiwa [esikhulukhulu]  
(very large cliff)

#### 3.4. MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE ADJECTIVE

From the above discussion it is clear that nominal suffixes are also found with adjectival stems. The adjectival stem takes all nominal suffixes except the locative affix - ini.

omdadlana (diminutive)

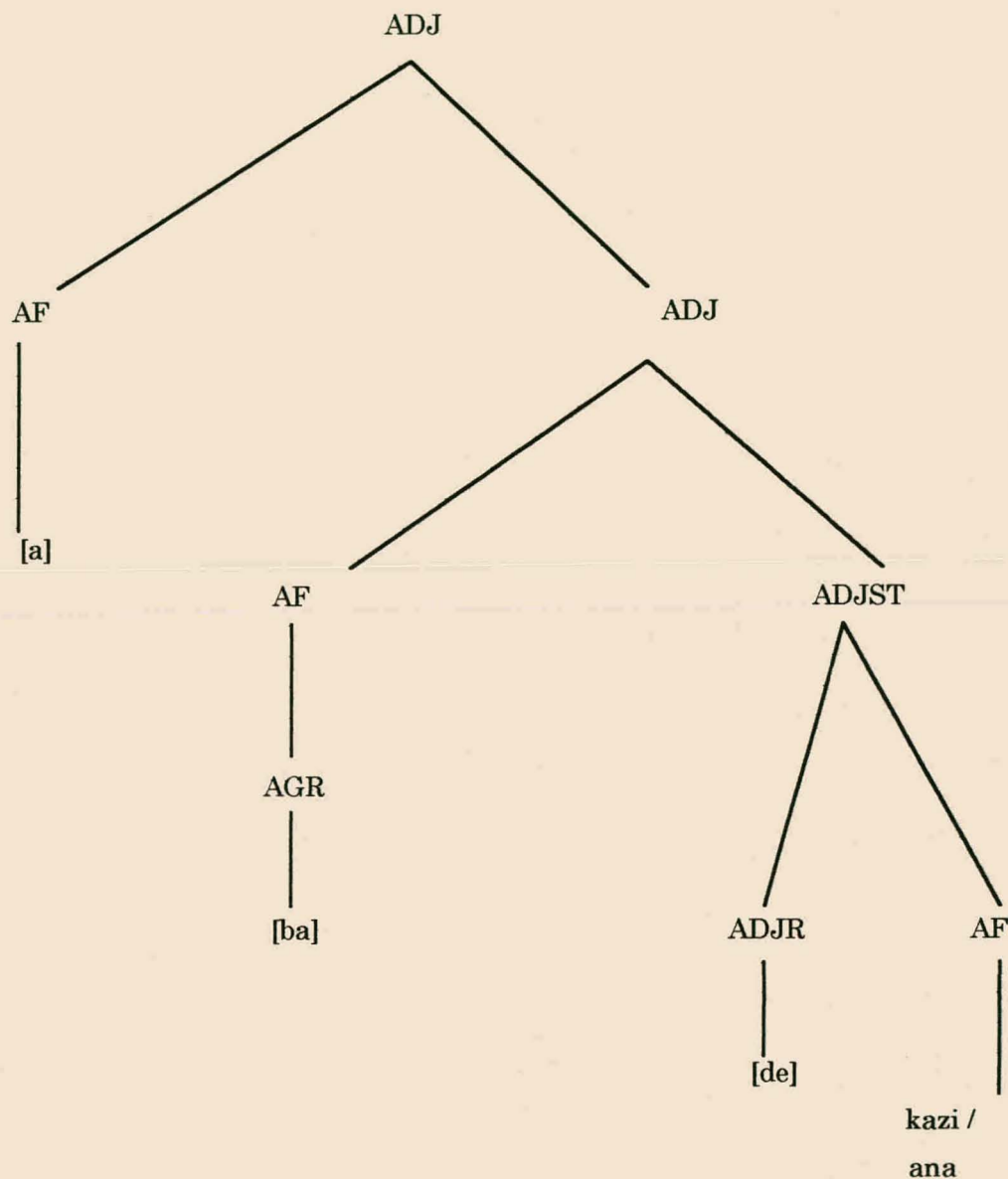
omdalakazi (augmentative)

It has been observed that - ana and - kazi (augmentative) may not appear together because they are semantically opposites. Thus a derived morphological structure :

for : Abadekazi is :

Abadana

(27)



The structure in (27) illustrates that the adjectival stem takes prefixes as well as suffixes.

### 3.5. TRANSPOSITION

Du Plessis (1997) points out that transposition is one of the lexical derivational categories. According to Du Plessis (1997) transposition has

semantic content. Marchand (1967) named semantic reclassification rules “transposition”. Du Plessis states that the lexicon may transpose any member of any major lexical class (N,V,A) to any other major lexical class by providing it only with the lexical features of the target class and neutralizing the inherent features of the base. For example the adjective (A) may be transposed to a noun (N) i.e. A  $\rightarrow$  N. In this case the features of an adjective such as gradability, comparative and superlative degree may be neutralized and the adjective will be provided with the features of nouns - number, noun class, gender etc. Derivational data of isiZulu is :

### 3.5.1. A $\rightarrow$ V (ADJECTIVE $\rightarrow$ VERB)

(28)

- de (tall) > depaha (be deep)
- khulu (big) > khuluphala (become big)
- bi (ugly) > bipha (become ugly)
- nci (small) > ncipha (become very small)
- > nciphisa (make it small)
- fushane > fushanisa (make it short)
- fuphi > fuphaza (shorten)

The examples in (28) illustrate that the derived verbs can also have the feature - causative. In some cases the meaning of the original stem changes as with de (tall) > depaha (be deep)

### 3.5.2. A $\rightarrow$ ADVP (ADJECTIVE $\rightarrow$ ADVERB)

Doke (1973) observes that adverbs are formed from adjectives by prefixing the morpheme [ka-]

(29)

-hle	>	kahle	(carefully well)
-be	>	kabi	(badly)
-khulu	>	kakhulu	(greatly, very)
-ncane	>	kancane	(slightly, gradually)
-fuphi	>	kafuphi	(shortly)

The examples in (29) demonstrate that the adverbial forms of manner are often constructed from adjectival stems. The stem [dala] does not allow this derivation - there is no such adverb as [\*kadala]

### 3.5.3 $A \longrightarrow N$ (ADJECTIVE $\longrightarrow$ NOUN)

Doke(1973) points out that abstract nouns may be constructed from adjectival stems by prefixing the class 14 prefix **ubu-**

(30)

- de (tall , long)	>	ubude (length)
- khulu (great)	>	ubukhulu (greatness)
- hle (beautiful)	>	ubuhle (beauty)
- fuphi (short)	>	ubufuphi (shortness)
- ncane (small)	>	ubuncane (smallness)
- bi (evil)	>	ububi (evil)
- sha (young)	>	ubusha (youthfulness)
- dala (old)	>	ubudala (oldness)

By prefixing the class 7 prefix **isi -**, nouns may be derived from the following adjectival stems.

A → N

(31)

- dala (old) > isidala (old fashion)
- bi (bad) > isibi (dirt)
- hle (beautiful) > isihle (favour)
- khulu (great) > isikhulu (great honoured person)

By prefixing the class 5 prefix **ili** - the following noun results.

(32) A → N

- khulu (great, big) > (ili) khulu (hundred)

Nouns may also be derived from adjective stems by prefixing the class 1 prefix **um** - / **umu**

(33) A → N

- sha (new) > umusha (new comer)
- dala (old) > umdala (an old man / a man who is a church leader)
- khulu (big) > ukhulu (grandmother)
- > umkhulu (grandfather)

A noun of class 9 is also found .

A → N

(34)

- sha (new, young) > intsha (young people company of youth)

### 3.6. COMPOUND NOUNS WITH THE ADJECTIVE

Mabaso (1996) observes that adjectives may appear in compound nouns. This implies that an adjective may combine with other categories to form a compound noun. Consider the examples in (35) :

(35)

umuthi + omkhulu	>	uMthimkhulu
ithemba + elihle	>	uThembelihle
intambo + ende + ulayini	>	Intambendekalayini
izindaba + ezinhle	>	uNdabezinhle
uthisha + omkhulu	>	uThishomkhulu

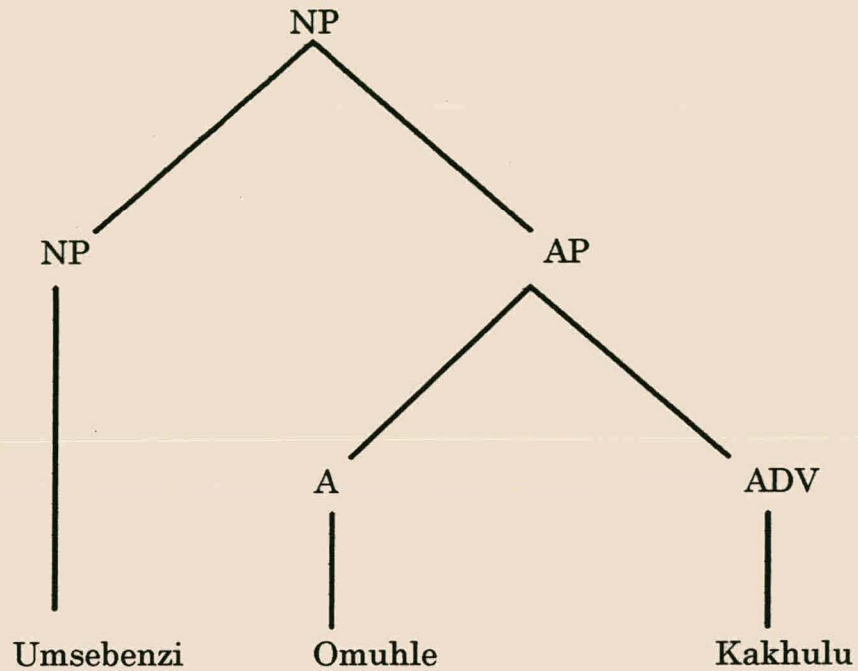
### 4. THE ADJECTIVAL PHRASE

Mabaso (1996) states that adjectives appear in adjectival phrases as complements of their heads, e.g. [umfana [omkhulu] ] (a big boy). Adverbs and prepositional phrases may appear as complements of these adjectives.

(36) umsebenzi [omuhle kakhulu]  
(a very good work)

The sentence (36) can be structurally represented as follows :

(37)



(38)

- a. Umsebenzi [omuhle kakhulu]  
(a very good work)
- b. Umsebenzi [omuhle kunalona] okhona  
(the work better than this is here)
- c. Umsebenzi [omuhle ngaso sonke isikhathi]  
(the work which is good all the time)
- d. Umsebenzi [omuhle kangaka]  
(the work which is so very good)



## 5. DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADJECTIVE

### 5.1. COMPLEMENT OF A NOUN

The adjective may appear in following positions.

#### 5.1.1. THE POSITION BEFORE AND AFTER ITS HEAD

All adjectives , may appear before and after their head, but they normally come after the head.

(39)

- a. [Indoda **ende**] ifikile  
(the tall man has arrived)
  
- b. [**Ende** indoda] ifikile  
(the tall man has arrived)

#### 5.1.2. TWO OR MORE CO - ORDINATED ADJECTIVES

In co - ordinated adjectival phrases, any number of adjectives may appear next to their head nouns.

(40)

- a. Ngibona [intombi (enhle ende) ]  
(I see a tall beautiful young woman)
  
- b. Bageza [imoto (entsha enhle) ]  
(They are washing a good new car)

c. [Abazingeli [abakhulu noma abancane] ] bazingela kahle.  
(The big or small hunters hunt well)

d. [Izingane [ezincane futhi ezinde] ] zidlala kahle.  
(The children who are small and tall play well.)

## 5.2. SYNTACTIC POSITION IN A CLAUSE

### 5.2.1. THE SUBJECT POSITION

Ziervogel and his associates state that the noun and its adjective may be subject or object of the sentence. According to Mabaso (1996) adjectives in the subject position can occur before or after their head. They can occur without their head nouns.

(41)

a. [Abantu abasha] bazofika kusasa.  
(The young people will arrive tomorrow)

b. [Abasha abantu] bazofika kusasa.  
(The young people will arrive tomorrow)

c. [Abasha] bazofika kusasa.  
(The young ones will arrive tomorrow)

### 5.2.2. THE OBJECT POSITION

Adjectives may occur before or after their head or without their head.

(42)

- a. Ubiza [abantu ababi].  
(He calls the bad people).
- b. Ubiza [ababi abantu].  
(He calls the bad people).
- c. Ubiza [ababi].  
(He calls the bad ones).

### 5.2.3. THE COMPLEMENT OF P - NGA -

Adjectives may occur as complements of preposition **nga** - with or without their head.

(43)

- a. Ngizothunga ng [enaliti ende].  
(I shall sew with a long needle).
- b. Ngizothunga ng [ende inaliti].  
(I shall sew with a long needle).
- c. Ngizothunga ng [ende].  
(I shall saw with a long one).

### 5.2.4. THE COMPLEMENT OF P - na -

Adjectives may occur as complements of preposition (P) **na** - with or without their head :

(44)

- a. Bazohamba n[entombi enhle].  
(They will go with a beautiful young woman)

- b. Bazohamba n[enhle intombi]  
(They will go with a beautiful young woman)
- c. Bazohamba n[enhle]  
(They will go with a beautiful one)

#### 5.2.5. LOCATIVE

Adjectives may occur with locatives. They may appear without a locative affix but only with a preposition ku as in (b,c) :

(45)

- a. Ngihlala [endlini entsha]  
(I live in a new house).
- b. Ngihlala kw[entsha indlu]  
(I live in a new house)
- c. Ngihlala kw[entsha]  
(I live in a new one)

#### 5.2.6. POSSESSIVE

Adjectives may occur before or after possessive phrases. They may also occur without the possessor :

(46)

- a. Bakha [indlu [yabantu abadala] )  
(They built the house of old people)
- b. Bakha [indlu [yabadala abantu] ]  
(They built the house of old people)

- c. Bakha [indlu yabadala]  
(They built the house of old ones)

### 5.2.7. COMPLEMENT OF A COPULA

Adjectives may occur as complement of a copula.

(47)

- a. Le ndoda ng[umfundisi omkhulu]  
(This man is a big minister)
- b. Le ndoda ng[omkhulu umfundisi]  
(This man is a big minister)
- c. Le ndoda ng[omkhulu]  
(This man is a big one)

### 5.2.8. AGENT OF A PASSIVE VERB

Adjectives may appear as agents of passive verbs with or without their head nouns :

(48)

- a. UThemba uboshwe y[iphoyisa elide]  
(Themba has been caught by a tall policeman)
- b. UThemba uboshwe ng[elide iphoyisa]  
(Themba has been caught by a tall policeman)
- c. UThemba uboshwe ng[elide]  
(Themba has been caught by a tall one)

### 5.2.8 NEGATIVE

Adjectives may appear in the negative when used attributively i.e. to modify a noun

(49)

- a. [Umfana[omdala]] usendlini  
(An old boy is in the house)

Umfana [ongemdala] usendlini  
A boy who is not old is in the house.

- b. Intombazane [enhle] ujakhala  
(A beautiful girl is crying)

Intombazane [engenhle] ujakhala  
A girl who is not beautiful is crying

- c. Isitsha [esikhulu] siphezu kwetafula.  
(A big dish is on the table)

Isitsha [esingesikhulu] siphezu kwetafula.  
A dish which is not big is on the table

The negative is formed by placing the negative suffix nga- before the adjectival stem. The negative verb nga becomes nge.

**5.2.9 EXISTENTIAL MORPHEME KU :**

Adjectival stems may appear with the existential ku :

(50)

- a. Ku[hle] ukuhlonipha abantu abadala  
(It is good to respect older people )
- b. Intombi [enhle kabi]  
(A very beautiful young woman)
- c. Ku [sha] ukuba nohulumeni.  
(It is new to have a democratic government)

**5.2.10. WITH INTENSIFIERS**

Adjectives may be intensified by appearing with the adverb fo manner :

(51)

- a. Indoda [endala kakhulu]  
(A very old man)
- b. Intombi [enhle kabi]  
(A very beautiful young women)
- c. Isitsha [esikhulu kakhulu]  
(A very big dish)
- d. Umuntu [omusha kabi]  
(A very young person)

**5.3. COMPLEMENT OF A VERB**

Adjectives may appear as complements of a verb. Copulatives are formed from adjectives by eliding the initial vowel (definite morpheme) except class 9, where the initial vowel is retained.

(52)

- a. umuntu [omkhulu] (a big man)  
umuntu [mkhulu]  
the man is big
- b. izwi [elibi] (a bad voice)  
izwi [libi]  
(the voice is bad)
- c. inkosi [endala] (an old chief)  
inkosi [indala]  
(the chief is old)
- d. izimvu [ezinhle] (fine sheep)  
izimvu [zinhle]  
(the sheep are fine)

### 5.3.1. ABSTRACT VERB COP or LI

An abstract copulative verb LI which has disappeared in isiZulu may take adjectives as complements.

(53)

- a. Lo mfana [mkhulu]  
This boy is big  
Lo mfana [LT] - [mkhulu]
- b. Le ntombi [(y) inhle]  
(This young woman is beautiful)  
Le ntombi [LT] - [yinhle]
- c. Leli saha [lidala]  
(This saw is old)



Leli saha [LT] - [lidala]

### 5.3.2. WITH THE COPULATIVE VERB BA

The copulative verb **ba** which has an inchoative meaning may also take adjectives as complements.

(54)

- a. Uz**aba** (muhle) uThembi  
(Thembi will be beautiful)
- b. U**ba** [musha] lo mthetho  
(This policy is becoming new)
- c. Abantu bazo - **ba** [badala]  
(The people will be old)

### 5.3.3. WITH THE VERB - ENZA

Adjectives may occur as complements of the verb - enza

(55)

- a. Umama uzoyenza [mfuphi] le ngubo  
(Mother will make this dress short)
- b. Bazoyenza [nde] le ngubo  
(They will make this dress long)
- c. Bazoyenza [nkulu] le ndaba  
(They will make this story important)
- d. Bazolenza [lihle] leli tafula  
(They will make this table pretty)

### 5.3.4. ADJECTIVES IN RELATIVE SENTENCES

Adjectives may appear as complements of copulative verbs in relative clauses with the functional category inflection.

#### (a) NEGATIVE ADJECTIVES

The negative morphemes (ka) may be used : K (a) Agri morpheme - adjectival stem.

(56)

- a. Umuntu [mude]  
 (The person is tall)  
 Umuntu [a] kamude  
 (The person is not tall)  
 La bantu bakhulu  
 (These people are great)  
 La bantu [kababakhulu]  
 (These people are not great)

Note that the subject of the mu class (I) is ka - in the negative

(57)

- a. Lo mfana a[ka] mubi  
 (This boy is not ugly)  
 b. Ubaba a[ka] mkhulu  
 (Father is not big)

The negative a and agreement are prefixed to the stem : a - ka - mude.

The suffix - anga may also appear with the adjective to form a negative form :

(58)

- a. Umuntu [mude]  
(The person is tall)  
Umuntu [akamdanga]  
(The person is not tall)
- b. Lo muntu [muhle]  
(This person is beautiful)  
Lo muntu [akamhlanga]  
(This person is not beautiful)
- c. Le ntombazane i[mbi]  
(This girl is ugly)  
Le ntombazane ayiyimbanga  
(This girl is not ugly)

The third negative has been added with **kho**

(59)

- a. Akakho [mubi]  
(He / She is not ugly)
- b. Akakho [muhle]  
(She is not beautiful)

Copulative verb **ba** - in the negative :

(60)

- a. Izimbali zibazi[**nhle**]  
(Flowers can be pretty)
- b. Izimbali zingebezi[**nhle**]  
(Flowers cannot be pretty)

- c. Ukudla kuyobaku[bi]  
(Food will be bad)
- d. Ukudla akuyobaku[bi]  
(Food will not be bad)

b. **TENSES**

**PRESENT**

(61)

Lo mfana [mncane]  
(This boy is small)

**PAST TENSE**

IMMEDIATE : Umfana [ubemncane]  
PAST (The boy has been small)

REMOTE PAST : Umfana [wayemncane]  
(The boy was small)

FUTURE TENSE :

IMMEDIATE : Umfana [uzobamncane]

FUTURE : (The boy will be small)

REMOTE FUTURE : Umfana uyobamncane  
(The boy will be small)

c. **PARTICIAL MOOD**

(70)

- a. Uma beba[de], bazokhokha  
(If they are tall, they will pay)
- b. Nxa beba[hle] bazonqoba

(If they are tall, they will pay)

- c. Nxa beba[khulu] bazohlonishwa  
(If they are great, they will be respected)
- d. Lapho zinkulu izindaba  
(When stories are important)

d. **POTENTIAL NGA -**

(71)

- a. Izimbali ezingabazi[nhle]  
(Flowers which can be pretty)
- b. Le ngane ingaba[nkulu]  
(This child can be big)
- c. Isikhathi esingabasi[ncane]  
(The time which can be little)

e. **PROGRESSIVE - SA**

(72)

- a. Lo mfana use[mncane]  
(This boy is still young)
- b. uJessie use[muhle]  
(Jessie is still beautiful)
- c. Le mbobo ise[nkulu]  
(This hole is still big)
- d. Le ngubo ise[ntsha]  
(This dress is still new)

6. **COMPARISON AND THE ADJECTIVE**

Du Plessis (Doc VI : 424) observes that adjectives in Xhosa have no inflection corresponding to the comparative and superlative. Adjectives are used as

complement of copular verbs in comparative sentences. Like in Xhosa adjectives do not take comparative inflections in Zulu.

### 6.1. THE COMPARATIVE KUNA -

Du Plessis points out that when one object is compared with another in regard to its possession of some particular feature, the preposition ku or kuna is used in the sense of “in comparison with” after the adjective :

(73)

- a. uThoko m[ncane] ku Thembi  
(Thoko is smaller than Thembi)
- b. uBaba m[dala] kunomalume  
(My father is older than my uncle)
- c. Imbuzi im[fuphi] kunenkomo  
(The goat is shorter than a cow)
- d. uThoko mu[sha] ku Thembi  
(Thoko is younger than Thembi)

The comparison is between the subject of the main clause as in (72) b. uBaba mdala and the noun phrase which appears after kuna - as kunomalume.

The comparison may revolve around the adjective :

(74)

- a. Ugogo mu[hle] kunakuthangi  
(My grandmother is more beautiful than the day before yesterday)
- b. Lo mfana mu[de] kunanyakemye

(This boy is taller than last year)

- c. Izulu li[bi] kunayizolo  
(The weather is worst that yesterday)

## 6.2. THE COMPARATIVES OKWA AND NJENGA

The comparatives **okwa** and **njenga** may appear after an adjective

(75)

- a. Umalumekazi m[khulu] okwendlovu  
(My aunt is as big as an elephant)
- b. Lesi sinambuzane si[ncane] njenge ntuthwane  
(This insect is as small as an ant)
- c. Lo mfana mu[de] njengendlulamithi  
(This boy is as tall as a giraffe)

## 6.3. THE COMPARATIVE NGAPHEZU-

The comparative **ngaphezu** - may appear after an adjective .

(76)

- a. uSithembisile mu[hle] ngaphezu kukazodwa  
(Stembisile is more beautiful than zodwa)
- b. Umsebenzi wami mu[bi] ngaphezu kowakho  
(My work is worst that yours)
- c. Inja i[nkulu] ngaphezu kwekati  
(The dog is bigger than the cat)
- d. Umuthi mu[de] ngaphezu komfana  
(The tree is taller than the boy)

#### 6.4. LOCATIVE NOUN PHRASE

The locative noun phrase may appear after an adjective in a comparative sentence :

(77)

- a. Inkomo i[nkulu] embuzini  
(The cow is bigger than the goat)
- b. Ubaba m[dala] kumama  
(My father is older than my mother)
- c. Isihlahla si[de] kwindlu  
(The shrub is taller than the house)
- d. Isihlahla si[de] endlini  
(The shrub is taller than the house)

Bhat observes that the characteristic of adjectives to denote a single property make it possible for them to occur in comparative constructions.

#### 7. EXCLAMATIONS

According to Bhat the adjectival property of singling out one property, allows them to be the bases of exclamations.

(78)

- a. How tall he is !
- b. How beautiful the girl is !
- c. How good his teaching is !

Adjectives also appear in isiZulu as bases of exclamations :



(79)

- a. Waze wa[mdala] !  
How old he is !
- b. Wa[mubi] umuntu !  
How ugly the person is !
- c. Yayi[nhle] le ntombi !  
How beautiful this young woman is !
- d. Yaze ya[nkulu] le ngane !  
How big this child is !

It is possible to use a negative adjective as an exclamation although the meaning becomes positive.

(80)

- a. [Ayisendala] le ndoda !  
This man is not very old.

The negative adjective **ayisendala**, means the man is very , very old.

- b. [Ayisenhle] le ngane !  
(This child is not so beautiful)
- c. [Ayisentsha] le moto !  
(This car is not very new)

## 8. CONCLUSION

In this chapter the morphopogy of the adjective has been explored. Inflectionally, the adjectival stem takes prefixes such as the definite morpheme **a** and the agreement morpheme as well as the nominal suffixes such as - **ana** (dimunitive) - **kazi** (feminine) and **kazi** (augmentative). It has been found that the adjectival stem does not take the locative suffix - **ini**. The derivational process has been observed when new lexical categories such as Verb, noun and adverb are derived from adjectival stems. It has been found that adjectives may appear in comparative sentences or clause before comparatives. Adjectives also form bases of exclamations. It has also been observed that adjectives may be used attributively modifying noun and predicatively i.e. as complement of copular verbs.

## CHAPTER 4

### THE NOMINAL RELATIVE

#### 1. AIM

In this chapter the nominal relative will be explored. The adjective and the relative in English are one and the same thing. In isiZulu, Nkosi and Msomi (1992) refer to an adjective category as an Isiphawulo and a relative category as an isibaluli. Both these categories have a modifying function :

- (they qualify the noun) - and a predicative function, (as complement of a copular verb). The relative is sub divided into two main classes : the nominal relative and the verbal relative. The nominal relatives are relatives derived from nouns - nzima > ubunzima while the verbal relatives are derived from verbs - dlalayo > dlala. The structure as well as the distribution of the nominal relative will be looked at.

#### 2. PREVIOUS VIEWS

Doke (1973 : 105 - 106) provides the list of relative stems and roots. Doke proposes three groups of these stems. They are namely, the primitive stems (banzi, duma - gotho etc.) , nominal relative stems (bomvu - buhlungu, bukhali) demonstrative relatives (ngaka - ngako - ngakaya) and miscellaneous stems (-thile, nyani, ngakanani etc.)

Du Plessis (Zulu Syntax) observes the occurrence of the relative stem as the complement of a copulative verb. Du Plessis claims that the adjective and the relative are the only two complements that are used only with the

copular verb and they do not occur with other verbs. According to Du Plessis, a descriptive relationship exists between the relative and the noun it modifies. This linguist divides the relative into two classes : individual level and stage level relatives.

Mabaso (1996) divides the relatives into nominal relatives and verbal relatives. Mabaso distinguishes the nominal relatives from the adjectives by pointing out that the former always have inflection (INFL).

### 3. THE STRUCTURE OF THE RELATIVE CLAUSE

#### 3.1. THE DEFINITE [a]

Morphologically, the nominal relative consists of three morphemes : the definite [a] , the agreement morpheme and the relative stem. The definite [a] may appear as a, e, or o because it assimilates with the vowel of the agreement morpheme. For example, the agreement morpheme of class 4 is - i - thus a + i will be e.

The definite morpheme a - appears as [a] with noun classes 2 and 6 (-ba- and -ma -) a + a - > a

(1)

CLASS 2 : Abantu [a] babomvu.  
(red people)  
CLASS 6 : Amadolo [a] bomvu.  
(red knees)

The definite a appears as [e] with noun classes 4,5,7,8,9 and 10.

(2)

- CLASS 4 : Imithi [e] nzima.  
(heavy trees)
- CLASS 5 : Ilitshe [e] linzima.  
(heavy stone)
- CLASS 7 : Isitsha [e] sinzima.  
(heavy dish)
- CLASS 8 : Izihlalo [e] zinzima.  
(heavy chairs)
- CLASS 9 : Inkinga [e] nzima.  
(a difficult problem)
- CLASS 10 : Izinkuni [e] zinzima  
(heavy woods)

(3)

The definite a - appears as [o] with noun classes 1,3,11,14 and 15

- CLASS 1 : Umuntu [o] nsundu  
(a black person)
- CLASS 3 : Umuthi [o] manzi  
(a wet tree)
- CLASS 11 : Uphondo [o] lumhlophe  
(a white horn)
- CLASS 14 : Ubuso [o] bumyama  
(a black face)
- CLASS 15 : Ukudla [o] kumnandi  
(nice food)

### 3.2. THE COPULATIVE VERB WITH SUBJECTIVAL AGREEMENT

Relatives may appear as complements of copular verbs as in *Le litshe linzima* (this stone is heavy). The relative stem - *nzima* complements the copular verb (C.O.P.) Copulatives are formed from relatives by prefixing the subjectival agreement. For example, the *li* prefixed to the relative stem - *nzima* is the subjectival agreement of class 5 (*ili -*). When the relative is used predicatively the definite morpheme *a -* is dropped. Thus the definite *a -* is found with the relative when it is used attributively i.e. when it modifies the noun.

Subjectival agreements of classes 2,5,7,8,10,11,14 and 15

(7)

CLASS 2	:	Abantu [b] bomvu (The people are red)
CLASS 5	:	Ilitshe [li] nzima (The stone is heavy)
CLASS 7	:	Ishlalo [si]lula (The chair is light)
CLASS 8	:	Izinkwa [zi]mnandi (The breads are nice)
CLASS 10	:	Izinkomo [zi]mhlophe (The cattle are white)
CLASS 11	:	Uphondo [u] bukhali (The horn is sharp)
CLASS 14	:	Ubuhlalu [bu] lukhuni (The heads are hard)
CLASS 15	:	Ukudla [ku] duma (The food is tasteless)

Subjectival agreements of nasal noun classes are :

(8)

- CLASS 1 : Umuntu [u] bomvu  
(The person is red)
- CLASS 3 : Umuntu [u] mhlophe  
(The tree / medicine is white)
- CLASS 4 : Imithi [i]mnyama  
(The trees are black)
- CLASS 6 : Amanzi [a] bomvu  
(The water is red)
- CLASS 9 : Inja [i] nsundu  
(The dog is brown)

Du Plessis (Zulu Syntax) points out that there is a relationship between the subject and the complement of the copulative verb and can be expressed as relation of description.

(9)

- a. Le sihlalo sinzima  
(This chair is heavy)
- b. Lo kudla kumnandi  
(This food is nice)
- c. Le lisaha libukhali  
(This saw is sharp)

There is a descriptive relation demonstrated by the examples (9) a,b,c i.e. the complements describe the subjects. For example in (9) .c the complement - **bukhali** defines or describes the subject **isaha**.

The relative stem as complement of a copulative verb will have the feature relative : NP rel. in structures like

- (10) Itshe [Agrs [ li - [nzima] ]  
(The stone is heavy)

Du Plessis (Zulu Syntax) states that (INFL) must always have an agreement morpheme with the relative as on (10)

### 3.3. THE RELATIVE CLAUSE

According to Mabuso (1996 : 175) the relative in isiZulu are usually classified into two i.e. nominal relatives and verbal relatives. The examples of nominal relatives are :

- (11) a. Izinkwa ezimhlophe  
(Breads which are white)  
c. Uphaphe olulula  
(the feather which is light)  
e. Amasi amnandi  
(Sourmilk which is nice)

The examples of verbal relatives :

- (12) a. Izinkomo ezigijimayo  
(Cattle which are running)  
b. Abantwana abadlalayo  
(Babies who are playing)  
c. Amasi adliwayo  
(Sourmilk which is eaten)



Unlike verbal relatives, nominal relative stems appear with copulative verbs only and not with any other verb (DU PLESSIS, ZULU SYNTAX : 52)

Consider the examples in (13)

- (13) a. With the copulative verb  
[COP]  
Izinkomo e-zi-[COP] [mhlophe]
- b. With the copulative verb [BA]  
Izinkomo e - zi - zo - [ba] [mhlophe]

The sentence structure of the relative sentence can be represented, using the phrase structure rule :

- (14) NP  $\longrightarrow$  NP S

The category S can be :

- (15) S  $\longrightarrow$  NP INFL VP

INFL, according to Du Plessis (51) have the functional categories : mood, tense, agreement to mention a few.

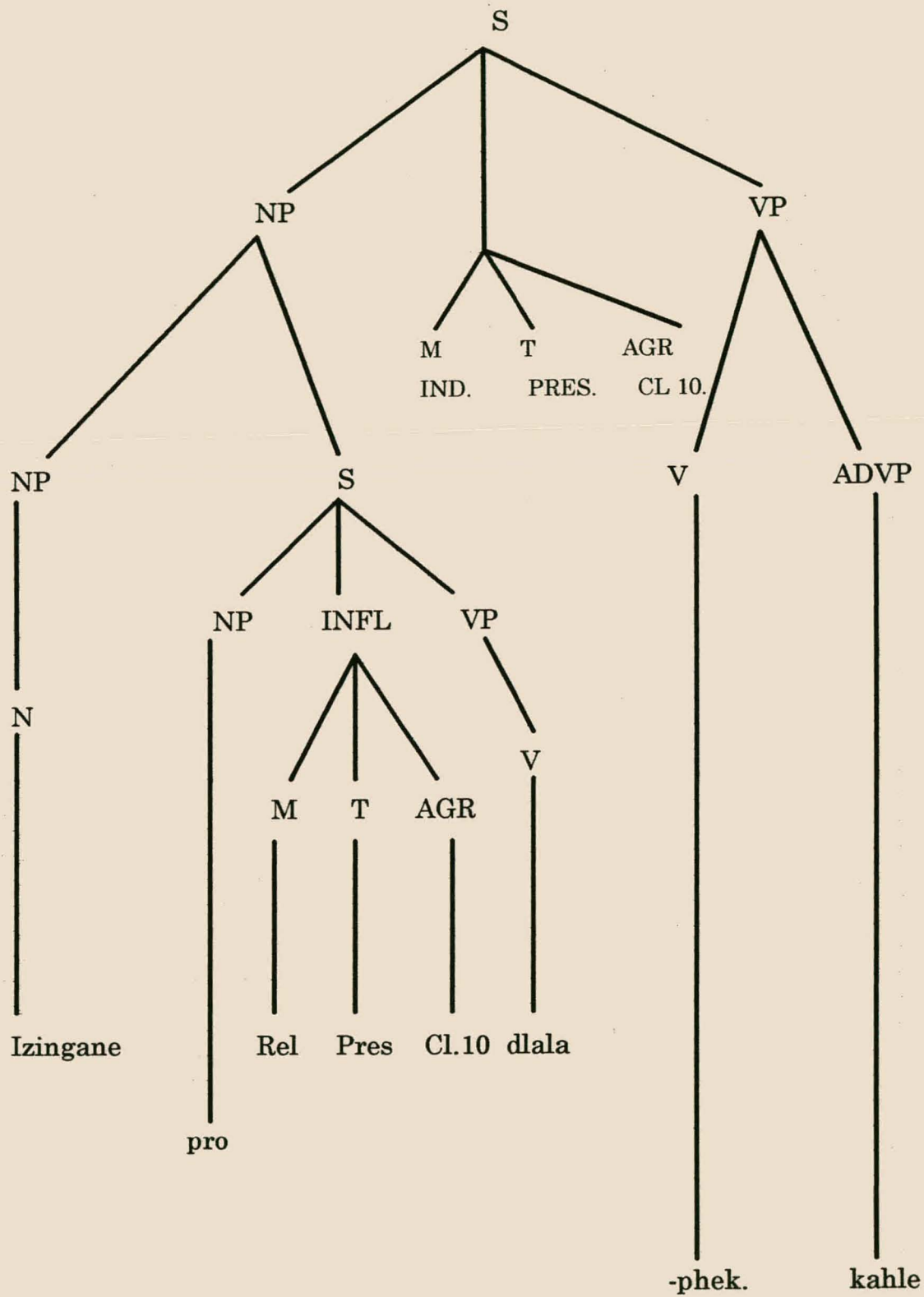
- (16) INFL  $\longrightarrow$  M(ood) T(ense) AGR

### THE SENTENCE

- (17) Izingane ezidlalayo zipheka kahle children who are playing cook well.  
(Children who are playing cook well)

May be structurally represented as :

(18)



According to Mabaso (1996) all antecedents of relative may be represented by a pronoun. This pronoun is an empty [pro], it lacks phonetic content.

Mabaso also mentions that there is a relationship which is found between the antecedent NP and the NP in relative. The antecedent and the subject of the relative share the same NP. This relationship occurs with both nominal and verbal relatives, as in the example :

(19)

Izingane ezinsundu ziyahlonipha.

(Black children have respect)

For example (19) contains a clause which is the main clause CP and the nominal relative clause which is the embedded clause CP<sup>2</sup>.

(20)

CP<sup>1</sup> : Izingane ziyahlonipha.

CP<sup>2</sup> : Izingane zinsundu

The NP, izingane is a NP referred to by both CP<sup>1</sup> and Cp<sup>2</sup>. This is confirmed by the use of subjectival agreement (AGRS) zi in ziyahlonipha (CP) and zinsundu (CP<sup>2</sup>).

### 3.4. THE COMPLEMENT OF THE COPULATIVE VERB

It has been mentioned that relative stems can function as complements of copulative verbs. Unlike the adjective which has few stems, relative stems appear in an open system. Doke (1973 : 105 - 106) provides four classes of these stems :

(21)

a) **PRIMITIVE STEMS**

- banzi (wide)
- duma (tasteless)
- ngcono (better)
- qatha (strong)
- qotho (honest)

These nominal stems may appear as complements of verbs :

(22)

- a) Umfana ungcono namuhla  
(the boy is better today)
- b) Lo kudla kwakho kuduma  
(this food of yours is tasteless)

(23)

b) **NOMINAL RELATIVE STEMS** :

- bomvu (red)
- buhlungu (painful)
- bukhali (sharp)
- mnandi (pleasant)

The examples in (23) (b) indicate that these stems include colours.

c) **DEMONSTRATIVE RELATIVES**

Du Plessis (Zulu Syntax) refers to this type as comparative elements because they have a comparative meaning

(24)

- ngaka (as big as this)
- ngako (as big as that)
- ngakaya (as big as yonder)
- nje (na) (so like this)
- njalo (like that)
- nje : ya (like yonder)

They may occur in sentences like :

(25)

- a. Kudala izinto [zazingenjena]  
(Long ago the things were not like this)
- b. Inja yami [ingaka]  
(My dog is as big as this)
- c. Izimoto zethu [zinje]  
(Our cars are like this)

(d) **MISCELLANEOUS RELATIVE STEMS**

(26)

- thile - thize (a certain)
- ngakanani (how much, how many)
- njani (of what sort)
- ngakanyana (so small)

They may occur in sentences like :

(27)

- a. Ingubo yakhe [injani]  
(What is her dress like ?)
- b. Umuzi wakhe [ungkanani ?]  
(How big is his house ?)
- c. Umthinyana [ungakanani]  
(The kitten is so small)

Following Carlson (1977) and Kratzer (1989) Du Plessis (DOC IV) distinguishes two kinds of stative predicates, individual - level and stage - level predicates. Nominal relatives as complements of copulative verbs may occur as individual - level or stage - level predicates.

Nominal relative stems which are regarded as individual - level :

(28)

- mhlophe (white)
- mnyama (black)
- mpemvu (white - faced)
- mpunga (grey)
- mdubu (light mauve)
- nco (speckled red and white)
- nkone (white - striped on back)
- ntusi (red with white mark)
- luhlaza etc. (green, blue)

The examples above show that all colours are regarded as individual - level predicates.

Nominal relatives which may be considered as stage - level predicates.

(29)

- ze (be naked)
- buhlungu (painful)
- lukhali (sharp)
- buthuntu (blunt)
- duma (tasteless)
- ngcono (better)
- qatha (strong)
- qotho (honest)
- lukhuni (hard)
- manzi (wet)
- makhaza (cold)
- mnandi (pleasant)
- mtoti (sweet)
- munyu (acid)

### 3.4.1. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

Nominal relatives can be grouped according to their semantic features :

(20)

#### SEMANTIC TYPES

##### 1. COLOURS

#### EXAMPLES

- bomvu (red)
- mnyama (black)
- mhlophe (white)

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-luhlaza (green, blue)</li><li>-mdaka (mauve)</li><li>-mdubu (light mauve)</li><li>-mpunga (grey)</li><li>-mpofu (dun)</li></ul>   |
| 2. WEIGHT           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-lula (light)</li><li>-nzima (heavy)</li></ul>   |
| 3. LENGTH           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-banzi (broad/wide)</li><li>-nzulu (deep)</li></ul>  |
| 4. TASTE OR FLAVOUR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-duma (tasteless)</li><li>-mnandi (nice, sweet)</li><li>-mtoti (sweet)</li><li>-munyu/muncu<br/>(acid,sour)</li></ul>  |
| 5. DIFFICULTY       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-lula (easy)</li><li>-lukhuni (difficult))</li><li>-nzima (difficult)</li></ul>  |
| 6. HUMAN PROPENSITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-mnene (kind)</li><li>-lusizi (sad, grieved<br/>sorrowful)</li><li>-maganga (eager)</li><li>-bukhali (keen, clever<br/>vicious)</li><li>-qotho (sincere, honest)</li><li>-mpofu (poor)</li></ul> |



-buhlungu (painful to  
mind)

-msulwa (innocent)

## 7. PHYSICAL PROPERTY

-lukhuni (hard)

-lula (light)

-nzima (heavy)

-qatha (strong)

-ntofontofo (soft)

-buthuntu (blunt)

-lukhali (sharp)

-manzi (wet)

-makhaza (cold)

-ze (naked)

-buhlungu (painful to  
body)

-lucwatha (hairless  
smooth)

There are stems that denote only psychological features such as **lusizi** (sad) **msulwa** (innocent) **mnene** (kind) and **maganga** (eager) and those that denote only physical features such as **buthuntu** (blunt) **makhaza** (cold) and **lunama** (sticky). Some stems refer to both physical and psychological states such as **bukhali** (clever, sharp) **buhlungu** (painful to the body or mind) **gotho** (honest, strong) and **buthakathaka** (weak physically or mentally)

### 3.4.2. COPULATIVE VERB - BA

The nominal relative stems may occur as complement of the copulative verb - **ba**.

(30)

- a. Abafana ba - zo - [ba] [mhlophe]  
(The boys will have to be white)
- b. Izitsha - zi - zo [ba] [manzi]  
(The dishes will have to be wet)
- c. Inyama I - zo - [ba] [lukhuni]  
(Meat which will have to be hard)

### 3.4.3. EXISTENTIAL MORPHEME KU

Du Plessis (Zulu Syntax) observes that relative stems may appear with the existential ku :

(31)

- a. [Kulula] akunzima  
(It is easy, it is not difficult)
- b. UThoko wathi [kungcono] namuhla  
(Thoko said it is better today)

## 4. DISTRIBUTION OF THE RELATIVE

### 4.1. COMPLEMENT OF A NOUN

The nominal relative may appear in the following positions

#### 4.1.1. THE POSITION AFTER AND BEFORE ITS HEAD

Nominal relatives can appear before and after their heads, but they normally come after the head.

(32)

- a. Izingubo [ezimanzi] zisendishini  
(Wet clothes are in the basin)
- b. [Ezimanzi] izingubo zise ndishini  
(Wet clothes are in the basin)
- a. Abantu [abamnyama] bahlonipha amasiko abo  
(Black people respect their customs)
- b. [Abamnyama] abantu bahlonipha amasiko abo.  
(Black people respect their customs)

The examples in (32) b demonstrate that the relative, like the adjective may be accentuated by being placed before the noun.

#### 4.1.2. CO - ORDINATED NOMINAL RELATIVE

In co - ordinated relative phrases any number of relatives may occur next to their head nouns.

(33)

- a. Sifuna ummese [obomvu, obukhali]  
(We want a red, sharp knife)
- b. Unezingubo [ezimnyama nezimhlophe]  
(He has black and white blankets)

- c. Udinga umsebenzi [olula noma onzima]  
(He needs light or heavy work)
- d. Udla ukudla [okumnandi futhi okumtoti]  
(He eats nice and sweet food)

#### 4.2. POSITION IN A CLAUSE

##### 4.2.1. THE SUBJECT POSITION

Nominal relatives may occur in the subject position with or without their heads :

(34)

- a. [Abantu [abansundu] bazofika  
(The black people will come)
- b. [Abansundu abantu] bazofika  
(The black ones will come)
- c. [Abansundu] bazofika  
(The black ones will come)

##### 4.2.2. THE OBJECT POSITION

Nominal relatives may occur in the object position with or without their heads :

(35)

- a. Uxazulula [inkinga enzima]  
(He solves a difficult problem)
- b. Uxazulula [enzima inkinga]  
(He solves a difficult problem)

- c. Uxazulula [enzima]  
(He solves a difficult one)

#### 4.2.3. AS COMPLEMENT OF P NGA -

Nominal relatives may appear as complements of preposition **nga** - with or without their heads :

(36)

- a. Ngizofika [ngemoto ebomvu]  
(I shall come by a red a car)
- b. Ngizofika [ngebomvu imoto]  
(I shall come by a red car)
- c. Ngizofika [ngebomvu]  
(I shall come by a red one)

#### 4.3.4. AS COMPLEMENT OF P NA -

Nominal relatives may appear as complements of preposition **na** - with or without their heads.

(37)

- a. Bazofika [nenja ensundu]  
(They will come with a brown dog)
- b. Bazofika [nensunduinja]  
(They will come with a brown dog)
- c. Bazofika [nensundu]  
(They will come with a brown one)

#### 4.3.5. AS COMPLEMENT OF LOCATIVES

Nominal relatives may appear with NLOC before or after locatives. They may also occur without a locative :

(38)

- a. Ngihlala [esitulweni esilula]  
(I sit on a light chair)
- b. Ngihlala [kwesilula isitulo]  
(I sit on a light chair)
- c. Ngihlala [kwesilula]  
(I sit on a light one)

#### 4.3.6. POSSESSIVES

Nominal relatives may appear before or after possessive phrases. They may also occur without the possessor.

(39)

- a. Isibambo [sommese obukhali]  
(The handle of a sharp knife)
- b. Isibambo [sobukhali ummese]  
(The handle of a sharp knife)
- c. Isibambo [sobukhali]  
(The handle of a sharp one)

#### 4.3.7. AS COMPLEMENT OF A COPULA

Mabaso observes that nominal relatives may occur as complement of a copula

:

- a. Lona ng[umkhonto obuthuntu]  
(This is a blunt assegai)
- b. Lona ng[obuthuntu umkhonto]  
(This is a blunt assegai)
- c. Lona ng[obuthuntu]  
(This is a blunt one)

#### 4.3.8. AGENT OF A PASSIVE VERB

Mabaso points out that nominal relatives may occur as agents of passive verbs:

- a. Indoda iboshwe [iphoyisa elimhlophe]  
(The man has been caught by a white policeman)
- b. Indoda iboshwe [elimhlophe iphoyisa]  
(The man has been caught by a white policeman)
- c. Indoda iboshwe [elimhlophe]  
(The man has been caught by a white one)

#### 4.3.9. USED WITH INTENSIFIERS

##### (I) ADVERBS

The nominal relative may be followed by an adverb.

- a. Ubhala [isibalo - esilukhuni kakhulu]  
(He / she writes a very difficult sum)
- b. Lo kudla [kumnandi kabi]  
(This food is very nice)
- c. Lo kudla [kumnandi kakhulu kabi]  
(This food is very, very , nice)

**(ii) IDEOPHONE**

An ideophone may follow a relative :

- a. Ingubo [imanzi te]  
(The dress is very wet)
- b. Ishidi [limhlophe qwa / thwa]  
(The sheet is snow white)
- c. Ingubo yalengane [ibomvu klebhe / tebhu)  
(The dress of this child is blood red)
- d. Izinwele zakhe [zimnyama bhufe]  
(His hair is pitch black)

**5. CONCLUSION**

In this chapter the relative has been explored. It has been found that like the adjective the relative may be used attributively and predicatively nominal relatives can be distinguished from adjectives in that they always have INFL. Both these categories have a modifying function although they do not agree in form, as their agreement morphemes are not the same. It has been found that the relative is not as easy to explain as the adjective. The relative, unlike the adjective does not have a prescribed number of basic stems from which it may be formed, but it can be formed by the use of stems from other lexical categories such as nouns (N), verbs (V) and demonstrative (DEM) From the qualificative, morphosyntactic and syntactic functions of the nominal relative it can be deduced that the nominal relative has the same meaning as the descriptive adjective.



## CHAPTER 5

### THE DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE

#### 1. AIM

In this chapter the descriptive possessive construction will be dealt with. Noun phrases will appear as complements of nouns in these constructions. The descriptive construction will be classified semantically, and morphosyntactically. The semantic types of these constructions such as groups, collectives size, sex, time to mention a few will be given.

The possessive [a] will be looked at as having a descriptive meaning instead of a possessive meaning. The assimilation of the possessive [a] to the vowel of the class prefix of the NP complement will be explored.

#### (1) For Example

a.  $a + a > a$

umuntu wa + abantu wabantu (man of people)

b.  $a + i > e$

ucezu lwa + isinkwa > lwesinkwa (slice of bread)

c.  $a + u > o$

amanzi a + umthombo > omthombo

The descriptive may come before or after NP. For example the descriptive comes before the NP in :

- (2) [isidlakela]sendoda  
(physically fit man)

The descriptive NP [isidlakela] describes the N [indoda] (man)

In the construction :

- (3) ihhashi [leduna]  
male horse

the N [iduna] (male) is a descriptive which describes the N ihhashi (horse)

The position of a descriptive possessive in the construction will be looked at.

The descriptive NP as complement of a copula will be dealt with the two copulative verbs viz : the abstract verb COP or L1 and the inchoative BA may take descriptive NP as complements.

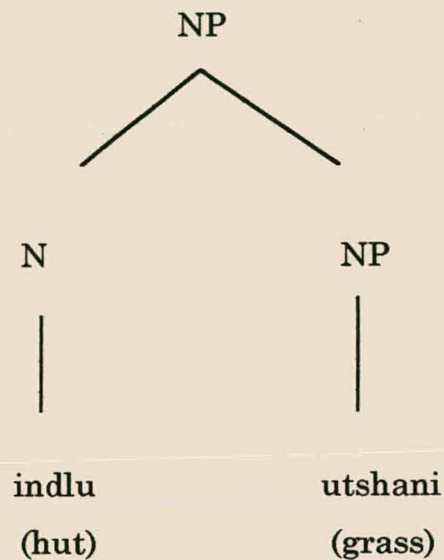
## 2. THE NOUN PHRASE

Noun phrases occur as complements of nouns in descriptive possessives

- (1) a. indlu yotshani  
(grass hut)
- b. isihlalo sensimbi  
(an iron chair)
- c. igula lamasi  
(calabash of sourmilk)
- d. iqulu lezinyosi  
(swarm of bees)

Consider the structure which illustrates the example (1a)

(2)



The NP [utshani] complements the head noun[indlu]. [utshani] modifies [indlu] (hut)

Quirk and his associate (240) observes that nouns in English may also function attributively, as modifiers of other nouns :

- (3)
- a. the city council.
  - b. a stone wall.
  - c. a love poem.
  - d. August weather.

The examples in (3) illustrate that nouns may function as adjectives. These nouns show the nominal features by their correspondence to prepositional phrases with the noun as complement.

- (4) a. the council of the city.  
b. a wall (made) of stone  
c. a poem about love.  
d. a weather (usual) in August.

It is observed that when the possessor is impersonal it is a true qualifier and may express English adjectives

- (5) a. Ummese wensimbi  
an iron knife  
b. insimu yombila  
a mealie land

## **2.1. NP COMPLEMENT IN DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTION**

Noun phrases as complements of nouns in descriptive possessive constructions may be noun or adverbial based.

### **2.1.1 THE DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE WITH NOUN BASED**

- (6) a. indlu yokhethe  
(a corrugated house)  
b. isihlalo sensimbi  
(an iron chair)  
c. igula lamasi  
(a calabash of sourmilk)

- d. amanzi omthombo  
(spring water)
- e. isihlahla somwolintshi  
(an orange tree)

### **2.1.1. THE DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE WITH ADVERBIAL BASE**

The adverbs may indicate time or place.

#### **(7) (i) INDICATING TIME**

- (a) isikhathi sakudala.  
(olden days )
- b. izindaba zamanje  
(current matters)
- c. usuku lwakusasa  
(day of tomorrow)
- d. ukudla kwanamuhla  
(food of today)

#### **(ii) INDICATING PLACE (LOCATIVE)**

- (8) a. inkosi yalapha  
(a chief from here)
- b. umuntu wakwaZulu  
(a Zulu, a person from Zululand)
- c. abantu bakhona  
(local people)

- d. umuntu wangaphandle  
(outside person)

When descriptive possessives are formed from locative adverbs with the initial vowel a prelocative - s is placed between the possessive agreement and the locative.

- (9) a. izincwadi zasekhaya  
(letters from / of home)
- b. abantu basenhla  
(northern people)
- c. umkhuba wasentshonalanga  
(western custom)
- d. izilwane zasendle  
(wild animals)
- e. umuthi wasemanzini  
(water plant)

## 2.2. THE MORPHEME a

Noun phrases appear as complement of a possessive [a] where this [a] has no possessive meaning. In descriptive possessives this morpheme [a] gives the adjective meaning.

- (10) a. ingubo kakotini  
(cotton dress)

- b. ujeke wobisi  
(milk - jug)
- c. unyonyovu lwemoto  
(brand new car)
- d. isikhathi sokugcina  
(the last time)

There is a possessive agreement for each noun class. It is formed by means of the subject agreement + possessive - a -

(11)

### CLASS

1.	u + a	>	wa -
2.	ba + a	>	ba -
3.	u + a	>	wa -
4.	i + a	>	ya -
5.	li + a	>	la -
6.	a + a	>	a -
7.	si + a	>	sa -
8.	zi + a	>	za -
9.	i + a	>	ya -
10.	zi + a	>	za -
11.	lu + a	>	lwa -
14.	bu + a	>	ba -
15.	ku + a	>	kwa -

The morpheme a coalesced with the initial vowel of the prefix of the NP complement.

(12)  $a + a > a$

- a. Iqulu la + abantu > Iqulu labantu  
(group of people)
- b. Umthombo wa + amanzi > umthombo wamanzi  
(spring of water)
- c. (Umthombo wa + amabele > umthombo wamabele  
(sorghum malt)
- d. (Udokotela wa + amazinyo > udokotela wamazinyo)  
(dentist)

(13)  $a + i > e$

- a. isitolo sa + izincwadi > isitolo sezincwadi  
(bookshop)
- b. isivande sa + imifino > isivande semifino  
(vegetable garden)
- c. ummese sa + isinkwa > umgwaqo wetiyela  
(tar road)

(14)  $a + u > o$

- a. imizi ya + utshani  
imizi yotshani  
(grass houses)



- b.    ingubo ya + ukulala  
       ingubo yokulala  
       (blanket)
- c.    amasimu a + ummbila  
       amasimu ommbila  
       (mealie land)
- d.    uhlanga la + umhlabathi  
       uhlanga lomhlabathi  
       (reed of the sand)

The examples in (12), (13) and (14) indicate that the morpheme [a] has no possessive meaning. The [a] in the examples as in [14]d can be treated in the same way as the English of by inserting it transformationally .  
 (CHOMSKY [1981] ).

### 2.3.    DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN ZULU

It may be observed that all possible nominals may be found in descriptive possessive constructions. These nominal stems form an open class in isiZulu. The list of these constructions include NP complements which indicate groups, people numerals, animals , measurements to mention a few.

#### 2.3.1. DESCRIPTIVE NOUN + NOUN

The noun may appear as complement of descriptive nouns.

##### (15)a (i)    GROUPS OF PEOPLE

- a. iqulu labantu  
(group of people)
- b. iqembu labadlali  
(club of players)
- c. ihele labantu  
(procession of people)
- d. isixuku sabantu  
(group of people)

b. (ii) **OLD PEOPLE**

intothololo yekhehla  
umdodovu wekhehla  
umthothonga wesalukazi

(iii) **PEOPLE**

- a. isidlakela sendoda  
(strong man)
- b. isiyathanga sendoda  
(foolish man)
- c. ungqwazi lwensizwa  
(a tall young man)
- d. umtshatshavu kamakoti

(newly wedded woman)

- e. isingqazu sentombi  
(beautiful young woman)
- f. isimomondiya sentombi  
(beautiful young woman)

(iv) **THINGS**

- a. unyanyavu lwemoto  
(new car)
- b. isivivane samatshe  
(heap of stones)
- c. umqulu wencwadi  
(thick and big book)
- d. ingcwenga yomculu  
(melodious singing)
- e. isibhoma senduku  
(very big stick)
- f. isizemazema sekhanda  
(very big head)

(v) NUMERALS

- a. izinkulungwane zabantu  
(thousands of people)
- b. ishumi leminyaka  
(10 years)
- c. ikhulu leminyaka  
(100 years)
- d. amashumi amarandi  
(tens of rands)

(vi) ANIMALS

inkunzi yenkomo  
(bull)

inkomazi yenkomo  
(cow)

inkabi yenkomo  
(ox)

umgodoyi wenja  
(wild dog)

ikhonde lemfene  
(male baboon)

iphuphu lenyoni  
(young bird)

isithole senkomo  
(young female cow)

(11) **UNITS OF MEASURE AND MASS**

imitha yendwangu  
(metre of material)

ilitre likadilinki  
(litre of drink)  
ikilogram yenyama  
(kilogram of meat)

ihekhthari yomhlaba  
(hectar land)

ithani lomoba  
(ton of sugar cane)

i-ekha lommbila  
(acre mealies)

(viii) **PARTITIVES**

ucezu lwesinkwa  
(piece of bread)

ulofu wesinkwa  
(loaf of bread)

iqatha lenyama  
(piece of meat)

iqhuzo lika - ayisi  
(ice cube)

ukhobe lommbila  
(maize seed)

iqebelengwana lekhekhe  
(piece of cake)

isitini sensipho  
(bar of soap)

igaqanga likasawoti  
(ground of salt)

### **GROUP OF ANIMALS**

Umhlambi wezinkomo  
(herd of cattle)

iqulu lezinyosi  
(swarm of bees)

iviyo lezinyoni  
(flocks of birds)

umhlambi wezimvu  
(flock of sheep)

**(A) COLLECTIVE OF THINGS**

ithala lemikhonto  
(collection of assegais)

inyanda yezinkuni  
(collection of woods)

isithungu sotshani  
(collection of grass)

isivivane samatshe  
(collection of stones)

**2.3.2. DESCRIPTIVE NOUN (DERIVED) + NOUN**

(1b) The descriptive noun may be a derivation :

ubunzima bomsebenzi  
(difficulty of the work)

ukudepha komfula  
(depth of the river)

iningi lezingane  
(most of the children)

ubukhulu bendoda  
(greatness of the man)

ubukhali bommese  
(sharp of the knife)

ubude bendlela  
(length of the journey)

### **2.3.3. INFINITIVE S + NOUN**

The descriptive NP may be an infinitive

Ukuphuma kwelanga  
(when the sun rises)

ukuvulwa kwesikole  
(when the school closes)

ukufika kosuku  
(when the day comes)

ukufika kwezivakashi  
(when the guests arrive)

ukuqalwa kwezivivinyo  
(when the examinations begins)



**2.3.4. NOUN + DESCRIPTIVE NOUN**

**(18) The Descriptive may Come After The Noun :**

**umculo wokholo**

**(gospel music)**

**umgodi wezibi**

**(rubbish pit)**

**Indandatho yesethembiso**

**(an engagement ring)**

**indlu yesitini**

**(a house of brick)**

**indlu yesikole**

**(school classroom)**

**umhloli wesiyingi**

**(circuit inspector)**

**unyaka wezikhukhula**

**(flood year)**

**imoto yezidumbu**

**(hearse)**

**ithunzi lokufa**

**(shadow of death)**

**inkomo yenyama**  
(meat cow)

**isaka lommbila**  
(mealie bag)

**ihhashi lensikazi**  
(female horse)

**isicabha sensimbi**  
(an iron door)

**upholishi wezicathulo**  
(shoe polish)

### **2.3.5. NOUN + DESCRIPTIVE NOUN (LOCATIVE)**

(19)

**iYunivesithi yase South Africa**  
(University of South Africa)

**izilwane zasendle**  
(wild animals)

**izilwane zasemanzini**  
(water animals)

**abantu basekhaya**  
(people of the home, i.e. our home folk)

izinhlanzi zasolwandle

(fish of the sea)

abantu base Maqadini

(people of Qadi Tribe)

### **2.3.6. NOUN + DESCRIPTIVE NOUN (LOCATIVE) :**

(20) Umfo wasemaBheleni (ibhele)

Umfo wasemaChunwini (ichunu)

Umfo wase Mangangeni (umNganga)

Umfo wase Maqadini (iQadi)

Umfo wase Mambatheni (uMbatha)

### **2.3.7. NOUN + DESCRIPTIVE NOUN (TIME)**

(21)

isinkwa semihla ngemihla

(daily bread)

isikhathi sasekuseni

(morning time)

isikole sasebusuku

(night school)

inkulumo yayizolo

(yesterday's speech)

izikhathi zakudala

(olden times)

usuku lwakusasa  
(tomorrow's day)

**2.3.8. NOUN + DESCRIPTIVE NOUN (DERIVED)**

(22)

izingubo zobukhosi  
(kingship dress)

ingane yesibili  
(second child)

umsebenzi wobuqotho  
(an honest job)

ingubo yobumnyama  
(black dress)

incwadi yobungane  
(friendship dress)

**2.3.9. NOUN + INFINITIVE S**

(23)

indlu yokulindela  
(waiting room)

indlu yokudlela  
(dining room)

izifundo zokuthunga  
(sewing lessons)

**isikhathi sokulala**

**(a time to sleep)**

**ucingo lokuneka**

**(washing line)**

**izicathulo zokugijima**

**(running shoes)**

**iduku lokufinya**

**(handkerchief)**

**umshini wokuthunga**

**(sewing machine)**

### **2.3.10. NOUN + UKUBA S**

**(24)**

**Wathenga ibhola lokuba badlale**

**(He bought a ball for them to play with)**

**Kwaxhiwe ibhuloho lokuba siwele**

**(The bridge for us to cross has been built)**

**Alikho lonke ithemba lokuba uya kubuya abonwe esaphila**

**(There is no hope that he will again be seen alive)**

**Zifikile izingubo zokuba adayise**

**(Clothes that he should sell arrived)**

## 2.4. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

The descriptive possessive constructions may be classified semantically. Consider the classification below.

(25)

### SEMANTIC TYPE

### EXAMPLES

#### (i) GROUPS

- iqulu labantu  
(group of people)
- isixuku sabantu  
(group of people)
- umhlambi wezinkomo  
(herd of cattle)
- iviyo lezinyosi  
(flock of birds)
- iqulu lezinyosi  
(swarm of bees)
- iqembu labadlali  
(club of players)
- iqela labadlali  
(team of players)
- impi yamasosha  
(army of soldiers)

#### (ii) COLLECTIVES

- ithala lemikhonto  
(a collection of assegais)
- isivivane samatshe  
(collection of stones)

(iii) **SEX**

- isithungu sotshani  
(collection of grass tied together)
- inyanda yezinkuni  
(collection of woods tied together)
- umuntu wesilisa  
(male person)
- umfundisi wesifazane  
(female educator)
- ihhashi leduna  
(male horse)
- ibhubesi lesifazane  
(lioness)
- ingane yomfana  
(boy)
- ingane yentombazane  
(girl)

iv) **SIZE**

- umqulu encwadi  
(thick book)
- isibhoma senduku  
(big stick)
- uhuntshu lwebhasi  
(long bus)
- isizemazema sekhanda  
(big head)
- obhadawozi bezinyawo  
(big feet)

v) **PARTITIVES**

- ucezu lwesinkwa  
(slice of bread)
- ulofu wesinkwa  
(loaf of bread)
- iqatha lenyama  
(piece of meat)
- iconsi lamanzi  
(drop of water)
- iqebelengwana lekhekhe  
(piece of cake)

vi) **IDIOMS**

- umthunzi wezinkukhu  
(dagga)
- uhlanga lomhlabathi  
(king)
- indlu yangasese  
(toilet)
- isudi yesele  
(naked)

(vii) **USE (INSTRUMENT)**

- inalithi yokuthunga  
(sewing needle)
- ipeni lokubhala  
(writing pen)
- ummese wesinkwa  
(bread knife)
- ukhezo lokudla  
(spoon)
- iduku lokufnya  
(handkerchief)



**(viii) NUMBER**

- ishumi leminyaka  
(10 years)
- ikhulu lezimoto  
(100 cars)
- izinkulungwane zabantu  
(thousands of people)
- amakhukhulu eminyaka  
(hundreds and hundreds  
of years)

**(viii) CONTENT**

- igula lamasi  
(calabash of sourmilk)
- umgqomo wezibi  
(rubbish bin)
- isigubhu segesi  
(gas cylinder)
- ujeke wobisi  
(milk - jug)
- isaka lommbila  
(sack of mealies)
- isitsha sikashukela  
(sugar basin)
- idlelo / ishungu  
likagwayi  
(a small tin of snuff)
- ithange lamanzi  
(tank of water)

**(ix) TIME**

- isikhathi sokudla  
(eating time)

(x) **ORDER**

- isikhathi samanje  
(present day time)
- isikhathi sakudala  
(olden time)
- izindaba zamanje  
(current matters)
  
- isikhathi sokuqala  
(the first time)
- umuntu wesine  
(4th person)
- isifundo sesikhombisa  
(7th lesson)
- usuku lokuphela  
(the last day)
- isikhathi sokugcina  
(the last time)

(xi) **ACTION**

- igeja lokulima  
(hoe of hoeing)
- indlu yokudlela  
(a room for eating in)
- indoda yokusebenza  
ensimini  
(a man to work in the  
garden)

(xii) **LOCATIVE**

- umkhuba wakhona  
(a local custom)

- **umuntu wakwaZulu**  
(a Zulu, a person from Zululand)
- **isithombo sasemfuleni**  
(water plant)
- **izilwane zasendle**  
(wild animals)
- **umkhuba**  
**wasentshonalanga**  
(a western custom)
- **isilwane sasekhaya**  
(domestic animal)
- **ingane yalapha**  
(a child from here)

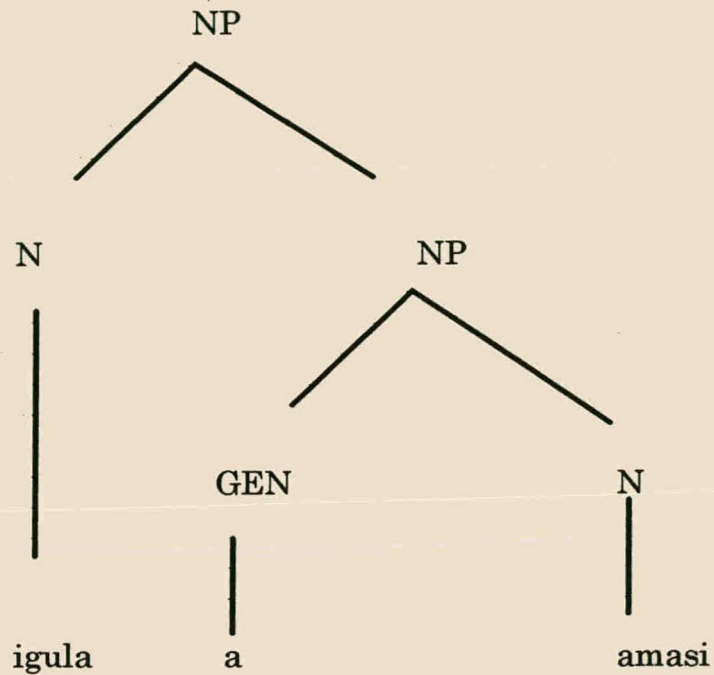
## **2.5. THE STRUCTURE OF THE DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTION**

It has been observed that in descriptive possessive constructions, noun phrases which are descriptive possessives appear as complements of nouns.

- (26) **igula [lamasi]**  
(calabash of sourmilk)

The construction in (26) can be structurally represented as follows :

(27)



The N *amasi* is assigned genitive case by the genitive [a]. Visser points out that NP is assigned genitive case if governed by the genitive [a] in possessive and descriptive possessive constructions.

## 2.6. DISTRIBUTION OF THE DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTION

### 2.6.1. AFTER ITS HEAD

The descriptive possessive normally comes after its head.

(28)

- a. umthombo [wamanzi]  
(a spring of water)
- b. indlu [yokudlela]

- (dining room)
- c. isikhathi [samanje]  
(present day time)
- d. isaka [lommbila]  
(sack of mealies)

The examples in (28) indicate that the basic descriptive possessive usually follows the noun which it qualifies. There is, however, another form of the possessive which differs morphologically and syntactically from this basic form.

### 2.6.2. BEFORE ITS HEAD

The descriptive possessive may appear before its head.

(29)

- a. [ [eyotshani] indlu ] ishile  
(The grass hut is burnt)
- b. [ [esensimbi] isihlalo ] siphukile  
(An iron chair is broken)
- c. [ [owezinkomo] umhlambi ] usedlelweni  
(A herd of cattle is in the veld)
- d. [ [awemvula] amanzi ] ahlanzekile  
(Rain water is clean)

When the descriptive possessive precedes the noun it qualifies, it differs morphologically from the basic form by having a vowel prefix. This form has an emphasis.

(30)

[e - zamabizo] izigaba

(noun)

The initial vowel prefix is derived from a morpheme a. This descriptive possessive is formed by prefixing the relative morpheme a - to it. This [a] is partially assimilated to the vowel in the agreement element of the original possessive. Consider the formation of this emphatic descriptive possessive below :

(31)

CLASS OF THING		BASIC CLASS PREFIX	EMPHATIC DESCRIPTIVE
<b>QUALIFIED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>		<b>POSSESSIVE</b>
1.	(umuntu)	mu -	a + wabantu > owabantu (man of people)
2.	(abantu)	ba -	a + besilisa > abesilisa (male persons)
3.	(umuthi)	mu -	a + wesisu > owesisu (stomache medicine)
4.	(imithi)	mi -	a + yesifuba > owesifuba (chestache medicines)
5.	(izwe)	li -	a + lakwaZulu > elakwaZulu (Zulu country)
6.	(amanzi)	a -	a + omthombo > awomthombo (spring water)
7.	(isihlahla)	si -	a + sensimbi > esensimbi (iron chair)
8.	(izivande)	zi -	a + zemifino > ezemifino (vegetable garden)
9.	(ingane)	n	a + yomfana > eyomfana (baby boy)

10.	(izingane)	n	a + zesikole > ezesikole (school children)
11.	(uthi)	lu -	a + lokuvungula > olokuvungula (toothpick)
14.	(ubuhle)	bu -	a + bendalo > obendalo (natural beauty)
15	(ukudla)	ku -	a + kwasemini > okwasemini (lunch)

**The examples in (31) illustrate that :**

if the possessive agreement is derived from a noun prefix whose vowel is [u]  
the definite morpheme [a] changes to [o].

- (32) a. [owesisu] umuthi  
(the stomach medicine)
- b. [olokuvungula] uthi  
(the tooth - pick)
- c. [obendalo] ubuhle  
(the natural beauty)
- d. [okwasemini] ukudla  
(the lunch)

if the vowel of the prefix is [i], the definite morpheme [a] changes to [e]

- (33) a. [eyesifuba] imithi  
(the chest medicine)

- b. [elakwaZulu] ilizwe  
(the zulu nation)
- c. [esensimbi] isihlalo  
(the iron chair)
- d. [ezemifino] izivande  
(the vegetable garden)

if the vowel of the prefix is [a] the definite morpheme [a] remains unchanged.

- (34) [abesilisa] abantu  
(the male persons)

In class 6, however, where the sequence is a + omthombo, a glide (w) is introduced to separate the vowels [a] and [o]

- (35) awomthombo amanzi  
(the spring water)

These possessive in (32) (33) (34) (35) with a definite morpheme usually indicate emphasis.

### 2.6.3. TWO OR MORE CO - ORDINATED DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVES

In co - ordinated descriptive possessives constructions any number of descriptive possessives may appear next to their head nouns.

- (36)
- a. Ubaba wakha [indlu [ yotshani yodaka]  
(Father builds a house of grass mud)



- b. Bafuna [abantu [besilisa noma besifazane] ]  
(They need male or female persons)

[Izindlu [zesitini futhi zikasemende]] zakhiwe entabeni  
(The brick and cement houses have been built on the mountain)

## 2.7. SYNTACTIC POSITION IN A CLAUSE

### 2.7.1 THE SUBJECT POSITION

The descriptive possessive construction may be used as a subject or object of a predicate. These possessives can occur in subject position before or after their heads. The descriptive possessives with a definite morpheme may occur without their head nouns.

(37) isihlalo sensimbi

- a. [isihlalo sensimbi] siyasinda  
(an iron chair is heavy)
- b. [esensimbi isihlalo] siyasinda  
(the iron chair is heavy)
- c. [esensimbi] siyasinda  
(that of the iron is heavy)

(38)

- a. [ujeke wobisi] ungcilile  
(a milk jug is dirty)
- b. [owobisi ujeke] ungcilile  
(the milk jug is dirty)

- c. [owobisi] ungcobile  
(that of the milk is dirty)

### 2.7.2. THE OBJECT POSITION

The descriptive possessive may be used as an object of a predicate. The descriptive possessive with a definite morpheme may appear without their head nouns :

(39)

- a. uThoko wavakashela [ udokotela [wamazinyo]  
(Thoko visited a dentist)
- b. uThoko wavakashela [owamazinyo] udokotela]  
(Thoko visited that of teeth (the doctor)
- c. uThoko wavakashela [owamazinyo]  
(Thoko visited that of teeth.

(40)

- a. Umfundi uthwele [[umqingo] [wezincwadi] ]  
(A learner carries a pile of books)
- b. Umfundi uthwele [[owezincwadi] umqingo]  
(A learner carries a pile of books)
- c. Umfundi uthwele [owezincwadi]  
(A learner carries that of books)

### 2.7.3. POSITION WITH THE LOCATIVE (NLOC.)

Descriptive possessive may appear with locative noun before or after such locatives. They may also appear without their heads.

(41)

1. a. Hamba uye [endlini yotshani].  
(go to a grass hut)
- b. Hamba uye [kweyotshani indlu].  
(go to the grass hut)
- c. Hamba uye [kweyotshani].  
(go to that of grass)

(42)

- a. Ugulela [esibhedlela sofuba].  
(He is in bed in the chest hospital)
- b. Ugulela [kwesofuba isibhedlela].  
(He is in bed in that of the chest (hospital))
- c. Ugulela [kwesofuba].  
(He is in bed in that of the chest)

(43)

- a. Ugogo ka Thuli uhlala [ekhaya labadala]  
(Thuli's grandmother stays in the old - age home)
- b. Ugogo ka Thuli uhlala (kwelabadala ikhaya)  
(Thuli's grandmother stays in that of old - age (home))
- c. Ugogo kaThuli uhlala [kwelabadala]  
(Thulis grandmother stays in that of old age)

(44)

- a. Uthela ubisi [eguleni lamasi]
- b. Uthela ubisi [kwelamasi igula]
- c. Uthela [kwelamasi]

The possessive **kwa** is used with descriptive possessive when the descriptive possessive precedes the locative and when it is used without a head (NLOC)

Consider also the difference in meaning when a locative is used in the possessive construction :

(45)

- a. [Izingane zesikole] ziyacula  
(School children are singing)
- b. [Izingane zasesikoleni] ziyacula  
(Children of the school are singing)

(46)

- a. [Insimbi yesikole] iyakhala  
(school bell is ringing)
- b. [Insimbi yasesikoleni] iyakhala  
(The bell of the school is ringing)

(47)

- a. [Utshani bomfula] buluhlaza  
(River grass is green)
- b. [Utshani basemfuleni] buluhlaza  
(The grass of the river is green)

#### 2.7.4. QUALIFICATIVE

Descriptive possessive constructions may occur with qualificatives such as adjectives, nominal relative, etc.

(48)

- a. [Indlu enkulu yotshani] Iyasha  
(a big grass hut is burning)
- b. [Indlu yotshani enkulu] iyasha  
(a big grass hut is burning)
- c. [Enkulu yotshani] iyasha  
(a big of grass is burning)

(49)

- a. Umama udla [iqebelengwana elimnandi lekhekhe]  
(Mother eats a piece of nice cake)
- b. Umama udla [iqebelengwana lekhekhe elimnandi]  
(Mother eats a piece of nice cake)

(50)

- a. [Izibuko ezinhle zelanga] ziphukile  
(Beautiful sun - glasses are broken)
- b. [Izibuko zelanga ezinhle] ziphukile  
(Beautiful sun - glasses are broken)
- c. [Ezinhle zelanga] ziphukile  
(Beautiful of the sun are broken)

#### 2.7.5. POSSESSIVE

Descriptive possessive constructions may appear with the direct possessive :

(51)

- a. [Unyonyovu lwemoto kababa] luyabenyezela  
(My fathers new car is shining)
- b. [Unyonyovu lukababa lwemoto] luyabenyezela  
(My fathers new car is shining)

(52)

- a. [Indlu yotshani kamama] iyasha  
(My mothers grass hut is burning)
- b. [Indlu kamama yotshani] iyasha  
(My mothers grass hut is shining)

(53)

- a. [Igula lamasi likamalume] lisexhibeni  
(My uncle's milk calabash is in the kitchen)
- b. [Igula likamalume lamasi] lisexhibeni  
(My uncles milk - calabash is in the kitchen)

#### 2.7.6. DEMONSTRATIVE

Descriptive possessive constructions may appear with demonstrative with or without a head noun.

(54)

- a. [Umthombo lo wamanzi] ucwebile  
(This spring water is pure)
- b. [Umthombo wamanzi lo] ucwebile.  
(This spring of water is pure)

- c. [Lo mthombo wamanzi] ucwebile  
(This spring of water is pure)
- d. [Lo wamanzi] ucwebile  
(This of water is pure)

(55)

- a. [Izingane leziya zesikole] ziyacula  
(Those school children are singing)
- b. [Izingane zesikole leziya] ziyacula  
(Those school children are singing)
- c. [Leziya ngane zesikole] ziyacula  
(Those school children are singing)
- d. [Leziya zesikole] ziyacula  
(Those of school are singing)

### 3.0 COPULATIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE

Noun phrases may appear as complement of a copula.

#### 3.1. FIRST NOUN PHRASE IS DESCRIPTIVE

Descriptive noun phrases that precedes the noun may appear as complement of a copula :

(56)

[isingqazu]  
(beautiful)

**WITH [A]:**

isingqazu sentombi

(beautiful young woman)

**WITH COPULA:**

Le ntombi yisingqazu

(This young woman is beautiful)

Le ntombi iyisingqazu

(This young woman is beautiful)

(57)

[iqulu]

(group)

**WITH [A]**

iqulu labantu

(group of people)

**WITH COPULA**

La bantu yiqulu

(These people are a group)

La bantu bayiqulu

(These people are a group)

(58)

[isizemazema]

(very big)



**WITH [A]**

isizemazema sekhandanda

(very big head)

**WITH COPULA**

Leli khanda isizemazema

(This head is very big)

Leli khanda lyisiyathanga

(This head is very big)

(59)

[isiyathanga]

(foolish)

**WITH [A]**

isiyathanga sendoda

(foolish man)

**WITH COPULA**

Le ndoda yisiyathanga

(this man is foolish)

Le ndoda iyisiyathanga

(this man is foolish)

(60)

[utshatshavu]

(newly wedded woman)

**WITH [A]**

[utshatshavu lukamakoti]

(newly wedded bride)

Lo makoti uwutshatshavu

(This bride is newly wedded)

Lo makoti wutshatshavu

(This bride is newly wedded)

**3.2. THE DESCRIPTIVE NP IS A COMPLEMENT OF NA OR A COPULA**The descriptive NP may appear as a complement of na or a copula

(61)

[isicefe]

(monotony)

**WITH A COPULA**

Lezi zinto ziyisicefe

(This things are monotonous)

**WITH NA :**

Nginesicefe

(I am monotonous)

(62)

[izizindlo]

(meditations)

**WITH A COPULA**

Le micabango iyizizindlo

(These thoughts are meditations)

**WITH NA :**

Nginezizindlo

(I have meditations)

**WITH NA :**

Nginesizungu

(I am lonely)

(63) isizungu

(loneliness)

**WITH A COPULA**

Lo muzi uyisizungco

(This house is lonely)

**WITH NA**

Nginesizungu (I am lonely)

**3.3. THE DESCRIPTIVE NP IS A COMPLEMENT OF THE COPULA OR POSSESSIVE [A] OR IT MAY APPEAR AS A NOMINAL RELATIVE STEM :**

The descriptive NP may appear as a complement of the copula or possessive [a] or may also appear as a nominal relative stem.

(64)

[unyonyovu]

(brand new)

**WITH A COPULA**

Le moto iwunyonyovu

**WITH A POSSESSIVE [A]**

Unyonyovu lwemoto

**3.4. DESCRIPTIVE POSSESSIVE WITH THE COPULATIVE VERB BA**

The descriptive NP may appear with a copulative verb BA in different tenses.

Consider the examples in :

(65)

isiyathanga sendoda

(foolish man)

<b>PRESENT</b>	:	<b>Le ndoda iyisiyathanga</b> <b>(This man is a fool)</b>
<b>FUTURE</b>	:	<b>Le ndoda iya kuba yisiyathanga</b> <b>(This man will be a fool)</b>
<b>PAST</b>	:	<b>Le ndoda yaba yisiyathanga</b> <b>(This man was a fool)</b>
<b>SUBJUNCTIVE</b>	:	<b>Le ndoda ukuze ibe yisiyathanga</b> <b>(This man in order that he may become a fool)</b>
<b>PARTICIPIAL MOOD</b>	:	<b>Nxa esiyathanga</b> <b>(When they, being a herd)</b>

(66)

umhlambi wezinkomo

(herd of cattle)

PRESENT	:	Lezi nkomo zingumhlambi (These cattle are a herd)
FUTURE	:	Lezi nkomo ziya kuba umhlambi (These cattle will be a herd)
PAST	:	Lezo nkomo zaba umhlambi (Those cattle were a herd)
SUBJUNCTIVE	:	Lezi nkomo ukuze zibe umhlambi (These cattle in order that they may become a herd)
PARTICIPIAL MOOD	:	Nxa zingumhlambi (When they, being a herd)

### 3.5. THE NEGATIVE OF THE DESCRIPTIVE NP AS A COMPLEMENT OF A COPULA

The negative of copulatives may reflect negative morphemes [a] and [si]

(67) POSSESSIVE [A]

Umhlambi wezinkomo

(herd of cattle)

#### WITH A COPULA

Lezi nkomo ziwumhlambi

**NEGATIVE**

Lezi nkomo asi mhlambi

With subjectival agreement to realize an emphatic negative in isiZulu

Lezi nkomo a [zi] siwo umhlambi

(68) **POSSESSIVE [a]**

isitetemu sengane

(spoilt child)

**WITH A COPULA**

Le ngane iyisitetemu

**NEGATIVE**

Le ngane asi tetemu

With subjectival agreement to realize an emphatic negative.

Le ngane ayisilo itetemu

The negative morpheme **ku** - may occur with the descriptive NP

(69)

**POSSESSIVE a**

umdodovu wekhehla

(old man)

**WITH A COPULA**

Leli khehla liwumdodovu

**NEGATIVE**

Leli khehla aku mdodovu

With subjectival agreement as well as the absolute pronoun of the descriptive NP.

Leli khehla aliwona umdodovu

Le ngane ayisilona itetemu  
(This child is not a spoilt child)

**(70) WITH POSSESSIVE [a]**

isizemazema sekhandu  
(very big head)

**WITH A COPULA**

Leli khanda liyisizemazema

**NEGATIVE**

Leli khanda aku sizemazema

Leli khanda aliyiso isizemazema

Leli khanda alisiso isizemazema

(This head is not very big)

Consider the three negative forms. The negative of the absolute pronoun may appear before the descriptive :

(71)

**WITH POSSESSIVE [a]**

isiphihli somsebenzi.

(very big party)

### **WITH A COPULA**

Lo msebenzi uyisiphihli.

(This party is very big)

### **NEGATIVE**

Lo msebenzi aku siphihli.

Lo msebenzi awuyiso isiphihli.

Lo msebenzi awusona isiphihli.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

In this chapter it has been found that there are two types of possessives : the direct possessive and the descriptive possessive. Noun phrases appear as complements of nouns in descriptive possessives. This indicates that nouns modifies other nouns. Both the possessive and the descriptive possessive have a morpheme [a]. Unlike in the possessive, the morpheme [a] in the descriptive possessive has no possessive meaning instead it has a descriptive meaning. The [a] can be treated in the same way as the English of. Like other possible adjective categories, the descriptive possessive construction can be classified semantically and morphosyntactically. This category can appear attributively as a noun modifier and predicatively as a complement of a copula verb. When used attributively in prenominal position. (before the NP), the definite morpheme is compulsory.



## CHAPTER 6

### 6. CONCLUSION

From the study of the adjective it has been found that there are possible adjectival categories which may be used to give a descriptive meaning. These possible adjectival categories are the nominal relative, copulative preposition *na*, copulative NP, stative verbs and descriptive possessive.

It has been seen that the semantic types - dimension, age and value are included in the class of adjectives even though they are few. Nominal relatives include the semantic feature - colour e.g. *mnyama* (black) *mhlophe* (white) It has been seen that the semantic types - dimension, age and value are included in the class of adjectives even though they are few. Nominal relatives include the semantic feature - colour e.g. *mnyama* (black) *mhlphe* (white)

It has been found that an adjectival stem takes prefixes such as the definite morpheme [a] and the agreement morpheme as well as the nominal suffixes such as - ana (demunitive) - kazi (feminine) and kazi (augmentative). The adjectival stem does not take the locative suffix - ini. New lexical categories such as Verb, noun and adverb can be derived from adjectival stems.

Adjectives may also appear in comparatives and they can form bases of exclamations.

It has been seen that nominal relatives can be distinguished from adjectives in that always have INFL (inflection). The nominal relative, unlike the adjective does not have a prescribed number of basic stems from which it can be formed but it can be formed by the use of stems from other lexical categories such as nouns (N).

From this study it has been found also that noun phrases may appear as complements of nouns in descriptive possessives. The possessive [a] in descriptive possessive has no possessive meaning instead it has a descriptive meaning. It was also found that this [a] can be treated in the same way as the English of.

This study has shown that the adjectival categories can appear attributively as modifiers of a noun and predicatively as complements of copular verbs.

From this study it can be deduced that the categories, nominal relative copulative with na, copulative NP, stative verbs and descriptive possessive have a descriptive meaning. That is, like an adjective (isiphawulo) they have a modifying function.

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