

Word Order of Noun Phrase by Modification in Mambwe Language

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Abstract

Mambwe language is spoken in Mbala and Senga districts in Northern Province along the corridors of Zambia and Tanzania. Guthrie (1948) classifies Mambwe as M15. Nurse and Phillipson (1999) have characterized Mambwe as emanating from a language called Fipa in Southern Tanzania. Nurse and Phillipson (1999) add that most speakers of Mambwe language are found on the Zambian side. This article presents an analysis of the syntactic structure of the word of the noun phrase (NP) by modification in Mambwe language. The paper is underpinned by Lexical Morphology (LM) and Bantu Morpho-syntax theoretical frameworks. The study used qualitative approach, elicitation and document analysis methods for data collection and analysis. The paper identifies the modifiers which are prevalent in Mambwe and analyses how they combine with nouns to form the NP. It also outlines the prevailing word orders in the NP by modification in Mambwe language. The study shows that there are three common word orders in the NP by modification in Mambwe language, namely; Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem), Noun + Adjective (N+Adj) and Possessive Pre-prefix + Adjective (Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj) respectively.

Keywords: Bantu Morpho-syntax; Lexical Morphology; Mambwe; modification; noun phrase.

1. Introduction

Guthrie (1948) classifies Mambwe as M15. The language is spoken in the northern part of Zambia along the corridor of Tanzania (Nurse & Phillipson, 1999). Mambwe language is less documented and as such, very little is known about the syntactic structures and word order in the noun phrase. To the knowledge of the researcher, there is no study that has been conducted on the language to establish the word order of the noun phrase structure in general and noun phrase by modification in particular. This paper outlines and analyses the word order on the noun phrase (henceforth, NP) by modification. Modification of the NP is done using modifiers which include adjectives, demonstratives and adverbs (cf. Hornby, 2005). According to Mann (1999), there are very few adjectives in Bantu languages. Therefore, this paper is necessary because it will help to avoid the dearth and death of Mambwe language which comes about due to lack of documentation.

2. Literature Review

In terms of existing linguistic literature on Mambwe language, Bickmore (2004) says the two most accessible sources are a very extensive dictionary of Mambwe written by Halemba (1994) and a brief grammar written by the London Missionary Society (LMS, 1962). Halemba (2007) established a grammar supplement to the English-Mambwe dictionary. Halemba (1991) also documents that a New Testament of the Mambwe language. Halemba admits that the above mentioned books are not tone-marked and of full-length. Siame et al, (2023) documents a morphophonological analysis of the applicability of nasalisation principles in Lungu, Mambwe and Namwanga languages. This study attempts to enrich the scanty literature on the linguistics of Mambwe language.

The function of adjectives in English sentence constructions is performed by participles in Bantu languages and sometimes by nouns with a possessive pre-prefix such as 'u' as in: *uwamanyikwa* 'a famous person' in Mambwe language (cf. Siame, 2019). The above argument is in tandem with Piere (1973:39) who agrees with Mann by stating that, "modifiers are classes of grammatical categories and patterns of agreement, marked in Bantu languages by characteristic prefixes." The above quote shows that prefixes determine the grammatical functionality of a modifier in a NP.

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Riding on the scarcity of syntactic literature to review on Mambwe language, the paper borrows related literature on the NP of Bantu languages. Bantu languages use various syntactic features which constitute the word order at NP and basic sentence levels respectively. Guérois (2015) documents that the noun class system productively interacts with other constituents in the sentence, within the NP as well as on the predicate, whose agreement is controlled by the head constituent which is usually a noun where the modifiers usually follow the head noun. Alphonse and Lusekelo (2021) argue that adjectives agree with the nouns they modify in both gender and number features. This shows that singularity and plurality of modifiers is depended on the nouns which they modify.

Modifiers are words which are used to intensify the meaning of the noun in the NP (cf. Zemba, 2015). Maho (1999) indicates that modifiers are used to express classes of grammatical categories and patterns of agreement which are marked by characteristic prefixes (cf. Mann, 1999; Miti, 2006; Marten et al, 2007). Ranger (1928) postulates that a demonstrative is a word whose basic role is to locate a referent in relation to a speaker, an addressee or some other person. The above description shows that a particular form of demonstrative is chosen and used depending on the distance from the speaker or the person being referred to.

The other related literature is by Di Garbo (2013) who argues that for the gender system of a language to be considered productive, the gender of a noun needs to be cross-referenced by those elements in the utterance which entertain some kind of morpho-syntactic relation with the noun itself, such as; adjectives, pronouns, demonstratives, determiners, verbs, and relative pronouns including positions and complementisers (cf. Greenberg, 1978). In addition, Möller (2011) postulates that the NP in Kwere consists of several different elements which agree with the head noun, such as; demonstratives, quantifiers and other determiners. Möller (2011) also shows that when the NP in Kwere language is made up of both the demonstrative and possessive, the order is; N + DEM + POSS.

The purpose of this article is to contribute to descriptive and documentary linguistics by establishing the word order of the noun phrase by modification in Mambwe language. The stated aim is achieved by accounting for the following objectives:

- i) To identify the modifiers which are commonly used in Mambwe language; and
- ii) To evaluate the word order of the noun phrase by modification in Mambwe language.

The article is underpinned by Lexical Morphology (LM), and the Bantu Morpho-syntax framings. The LM framing has been attested by the following scholars (Chomsky & Halle, 1968; Kiparsky, 1973; and Katamba, 1989). Chomsky and Halle (1968) show that LM deals with the morphological components of grammar. Lexical Morphology is a theory of rules and derivations. The roots of Lexical Morphology go back to Kiparsky (1973), Mascaró (1976), Halle (1978), and Rubach (1981). In particular, some derivations proceed in steps, called cycles, while others do not. Non-cyclic derivations are of two types, namely; word level derivations and post syntactic derivations.

The LM theory is suitable for this paper because it will guide the analysis of the interface between morphology and syntax during the formation of the noun phrase by modification in Mambwe language. Chomsky's (1970) lexicalist hypothesis shows that Lexical Morphology is an extreme embodiment of all word formation, including inflections which take place in the lexicon. The LM theory outlines that word formation rules (WFR) interact with a subset of phonological rules called cyclic rules. This interaction is possible, because cyclic rules, like WFRs, are placed in the lexicon, so they are called lexical rules. The model shows that other than the morpheme, it is the word that is regarded as the key unit of morphological analysis. It is also detrimental to indicate that the morphological structure is key for noun, clause and sentence analysis.

In the LM theory, the combination of morphemes to form words in Bantu languages should determine the rules which govern the combination of words into bigger structures, such as, the noun phrase of Mambwe language in the present study. Katamba (1989) notes that the morphological rules are found in the lexicon where they are organized in blocks called strata which are arranged hierarchically one below the other. It can be argued that the arrangement of the lexicon in the NP by modification in Mambwe language is also hierarchical and rule governed.

In this paper, the researcher adopts the Bantu Morpho-syntax framing to account for the word order of the NP by modification in Mambwe language as attested by the following (Bickmore, 2004, 2007; Mkochi, 2017; Mtenje-Mkochi & Mtenje, 2019). The theory deals with the interface between morphology and syntax which fits well in the analysis of the NP of Mambwe language. The interface of morphology and syntax shows that words interact with each other or one another to form a phrase or phrases which eventually lead to clauses and subsequently sentences. The Lexical Morphology framing should be seen as an extract from the Lexical Phonology and Morphology (LPM) theory which is attested by the following scholars (Chomsky & Halle, 1968; Kiparsky, 1973; and Katamba, 1989). Lexical

Morphology is chosen to back the descriptive theory because it is a theory of rules and word level derivations. The roots of Lexical Morphology go back to Kiparsky (1973), Mascaró (1976), Halle (1978), and Rubach (1981). Lexical Morphology is an extreme embodiment of Chomsky's (1970) lexicalist hypothesis because it claims that all word formation, including inflection, takes place in the lexicon. Furthermore, word formation rules (WFR) interact with a subset of phonological rules called cyclic rules. This interaction is possible, because cyclic rules, like WFRs, are placed in the lexicon, so they are called lexical rules. An important feature of this model is that other than the morpheme, it is the word that is regarded as the key unit of morphological analysis. The researcher argues that the combination of morphemes to form words in Bantu languages results into rules which govern the combination of words into bigger structures, such as, the phrase, clause and sentence which interact with tense in Mambwe language which is discussed in this article. As attested by Katamba (1989), the morphological rules are found in the lexicon where they are organised in blocks called strata which are arranged hierarchically one below the other. Therefore, this framing fits well in this paper and provides guidance on how verbs are formed and organised in Mambwe language.

3. Research Method

This article adopts the qualitative approach. Qualitative research approach refers to holistic, non-numerical, inductive, subjective and process-oriented methods which are used to understand, describe, interpret and develop theory on a phenomenon or a setting (Burns & Grove, 1997). Brink & Wood (1998) argue that qualitative research is a better means of understanding aspects which are difficult to quantify by means of assigning numerical values such as the NP of Mambwe language. Qualitative research focuses on understanding the whole and not the part, hence, its use in the present paper provides a holistic understanding of the noun phrase structure by modification. By using abstract thinking processes which qualitative research encourages, meaning and theoretical implications emerge, thereby satisfying the fact that qualitative research uses research designs which are flexible and unique and evolve throughout the research process (Burns & Grove, 1997). The research findings obtained using the qualitative technique are often reported descriptively using words and sentential expressions (cf. Mutch, 2005). In view of Mugenda & Mugenda (1999), data analysis went hand in hand with data collection. The analyses of the linguistic experiences were subjected to meaning based on the researcher's perception and research objectives (cf. Merriam, 1998).

The paper also adopted elicitation method to collect information from four key informants who were also verifiers of the collected data. Elicitation method is used for discovering or testing particular words and sentences, such as the word order in the NP by modification. The technique is especially used in exploring the following aspects of language phonology, syntax, language learning, vocabulary and lexical relations (www.01.sil.org/linguistics/glossary.com). In addition, elicitation procedure is any data collection technique in social sciences and other fields that are used to gather knowledge or information from people.

The study also adopted document analysis method. Chaleunvong (2009) states that document analysis is the process of identifying documents that contain useful data about studies that have already been conducted by other researchers though may not necessarily have been published, but act as reference materials. Chaleunvong (2009) adds that identifying and retrieving secondary sources of data required for the study is the systematic starting point of efficient data collection. In this regard, the researcher located and analysed studies on Mambwe language such as Halemba (1991, 1994, 1997 and 2007) and Siame (2019). In addition, the lead author is a speaker of Mambwe language whose knowledge, intuitions and introspections were critical during data collection and analysis of the word order of the NP by modification.

4. Results and Discussions

Modification should be understood as the process in which the NP is formed in the presence of modifiers. In this paper, the researcher presents the three major categories of modifiers which Mambwe language uses to form the NP. These are demonstratives, adjectives and possessive pre-prefixes.

4.1. Modifying the NP by Demonstratives in Mambwe Language

The findings of the study show that there are three demonstratives which are used to modify the noun in the NP in Mambwe language. These modifiers are; near or proximal, medium or medial and distance or distal demonstratives.

4.1.1. NP with Proximal Demonstratives in Mambwe Language

Ranger (1928) shows that proximal or near demonstratives are used to refer to things or nouns that are very close or near to the speaker. Mambwe language has single and plural proximal demonstratives which are used to modify the

NP. The singular proximal demonstratives belong to Cl.9 and are expressed by attaching the class particle [-i] to the syllable [yi/li-] as illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. Word order of NP with the single near demonstrative

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

Table 1 reveals that the demonstrative *yii* 'this' in Mambwe is affected by gliding where the high front vowel [i] is realised as a voiced palatal glide [y] (cf. Siame et al, 2023). The example shows that the word order of NP with a singular near demonstrative in Mambwe language is Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem) or (NDem). It can be argued that it is also possible to reshuffle the order of the NP by saying *yii ing'anda!* 'This house!' when expressing surprise or exclaiming in Mambwe language.

Mambwe language also has the plural proximal demonstratives. The proximal demonstrative *yaa* 'these' is used to express plurality in the NP and uses the noun class prefix Cl.6. The plural proximal demonstratives in Mambwe language are formed by attaching the class particles to syllables which agree with the vowels in the syllable to create vowel length, such as [-a] to the syllable [ya-] as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Word order of NP with the plural near demonstrative

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

Table 2 shows that the plural demonstrative in Mambwe is equally affected by gliding where the high front vowel [i] is realised as [y]. The word order in the NP of Mambwe language involving the plural proximal demonstrative *yaa* 'these' is Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem) or (NDem). Similarly, it is also possible to say *yaa amang'anda!* 'These houses!' when expressing surprise or exclaiming using the plural proximal demonstrative.

4.1.2. NP with Medial [Medium] Demonstratives in Mambwe Language

Medial or medium demonstratives are used to denote something that is close to the hearer or far from the speaker or something that is near to the hearer, but far from the speaker (cf. Ranger, 1928). Mambwe language uses single and plural medial demonstratives to form the NP which is nearer to the hearer. The language expresses the single medial demonstratives using the prefix [kaa-] in Cl.12a which agrees with the diminutive prefix of the noun as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Word order of NP with the single a medial demonstrative

Noun phrase:		<i>Kaapwela kaaka</i>
Segments:	<i>kaa-pu-el-a</i> [kaapwela]	<i>kaa-k-a</i> [kaaka]
Class pattern:	Cl.12a small mouse (N)	Cl.12a agr. that (Dem)
Literal gloss:		'small mouse that '
Actual gloss:		' That small mouse'
Word order (NP):		N+Dem (NDem)

The word order of NP with single medial demonstratives in Table 3 is Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem). It can be argued that in rare occasions, the word order of the above examples can be rearranged when expressing surprise about the noun regarding past events, such as, *kaaka kaasimbwa* ‘that small dog!’

Mambwe language also has the word order of the NP with a plural medial demonstrative which describes nouns that are at a distance from both the speaker and the listener and agree with the plural diminutive. The NP is formed by attaching the plural diminutive prefix [tuu-] to the stem [-tu] of the plural medial demonstrative ‘those’ in Cl.12a which agrees with the prefix of the noun as shown in the illustration in Table 4.

Table 4. Word order of NP with the plural medial demonstrative

Noun phrase:		<i>Tuupwela tuutu</i>
Segments:	<i>tuu-pu-el-a</i> [tuupwela]	<i>tuu-t-u</i> [tuutu]
Class pattern:	Cl.12a small mice (N)	Cl.12a agr. those (Dem)
Literal gloss:		‘small mice those ’
Actual gloss:		‘ Those small mice’
Word order of the NP:		N+Dem (NDEM)

Table 4 shows that there is prefix agreement between the noun and the plural medial demonstrative. The analysis of the example reveals that the word order of the NP involving a medial demonstrative describing a plural noun in Mambwe language is: Noun + Demonstrative (N+Dem) or (NDEM).

4.1.3. Forming NP with Distant or Distal Demonstratives in Mambwe Language

Ranger (1928) shows that distant or distal demonstratives are words which are used to describe nouns that are far from both the speaker and the hearer. Mambwe language attests both single and plural distal demonstratives. The language expresses single distal demonstratives by prefixing the class particle [wi-] to the final syllable [-ya] to form *wiya* ‘that’ as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Word order of NP with single distal demonstratives

Noun phrase:		<i>Umuntu wiya</i>
Segments:	<i>u-mu-nt-u</i> [umuntu]	<i>u-i-i-a</i> [wiya]
Class pattern:	Cl.1 person (N)	Cl.1 agr. that (Dem)
Literal gloss:		‘person that ’
Actual gloss:		‘ That person’
Word order of the NP:		N+Dem (NDEM)

The above example illustrates that the word order of the NP in the presence of a singular distal demonstrative in Mambwe language is: Noun + Demonstrative (N+ Dem or NDEM). The researcher argues that the singular distal demonstrative in Mambwe language is affected by gliding were the high back vowel (u) is realised as (w).

Mambwe language also forms the word order of the NP in the presence of the plural distal demonstrative. The language forms the NP using the plural distal demonstrative *yaya* ‘those’ in Cl.2 whose prefix [ya-] agrees with the prefix of the noun to exclaim or express shock as demonstrated below:

Table 6. Word order of NP by the plural distal demonstrative

Noun phrase:		<i>Antu yaya!</i>
Segments:	<i>a-nt-u</i> [antu]	<i>i-a-i-a</i> [yaya]!
Class pattern:	Cl.2 people (N)	Cl.2 agr. those (Dem)
Literal gloss:		‘people those! ’
Actual gloss:		‘ Those people!’
Word order of the NP:		N+Dem (NDEM)

The plural distal demonstrative in the above example is affected by gliding. The analysis shows that the word order of the NP in the presence of plural distal demonstratives in Mambwe language is: Noun + Demonstrative (N + Dem) or (NDEM).

4.2. Modification of the NP by Adjectives in Mambwe Language

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

4.2.1. Modification of the NP by *-suma* ‘good’ Adjective

The adjective *-suma* ‘good’ is used to modify nouns and behave like nouns (cf. Mann, 1999). Mambwe expresses this type of adjective by attaching the prefix [mu-] to the stem which agrees with the Cl.1 noun prefix in singular form as shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Word order of NP by adjective *-suma* ‘good’ (Sg)

Noun phrase:		<i>Umuci umusuma</i>
Segments:	<i>u-mu-c-i</i> [umuci]	<i>u-mu-sum-a</i> [umusuma]
Class pattern:	Cl.1 wife (N)	Cl.1 agr. good (Adj.)
Literal gloss:		‘wife good ’
Actual gloss:		‘A good wife’
Word order of the NP:		N+Adj

The above example shows that there is agreement between the prefix of the noun and the singular adjective which functions as a modifier. Table 5 reveals that the word order of NP with the adjective *-suma* ‘good’ (sg) in Mambwe language is: Noun + Adjective (N+Adj) or (NAdj).

Mambwe language also forms the NP by modification using the adjective *-suma* ‘good’ to express the plural by attaching the prefix [a-] to the stem which agrees with the Cl.2 noun prefix as illustrated in Table 8.

Table 8. Word order of NP with adjective *-suma* ‘good’ (PL)

Noun phrase:		<i>Aci asuma</i>
Segments:	<i>a-c-i</i> [aci]	<i>a-sum-a</i> [asuma]
Class pattern:	Cl.2 wives (N)	Cl.2 agr. good (Adj.)
Literal gloss:		‘wives good ’
Actual gloss:		‘ Good wives’
Word order of the NP:		N+Adj

The analysis of the example shows that there is agreement in the prefix of the noun and the adjective. Therefore, the word order of the NP with the plural adjective *-suma* ‘good’ in Mambwe language is: Noun + Adjective (N+Adj) or (NAdj).

4.2.2. NP by Modification Using *Muuze* ‘Another’ Adjective in Mambwe Language

The adjective *muuze* ‘another’ has a special stable form more like that of nouns which they modify in the NP. In Mambwe language, the stem [-uze] ‘another’ combines with the prefix [mu-] in the adjective which is used to modify the noun in singular form as exemplified in Table 9.

Table 9. Word order of NP with *muuze* ‘another’ adjective

Noun phrase:		<i>Umwana muuze</i>
Segments:	<i>u-mu-an-a</i> [umwana]	<i>mu-uz-e</i> [muuze]
Class pattern:	Cl.1 child (N)	Cl.3 another (Adj.)
Literal gloss:		‘child another ’
Actual gloss:		‘ Another child’
Word order of the NP:		N+Adj (NAdj)

The example above shows that the word order of the NP with the adjective *muuze* ‘another’ in Mambwe language is: Noun + Adjective (N+Adj or NAdj).

Conversely, the stem of the adjective [-uze] ‘other’ combines with the prefix [ya-] in Cl.2 to modify the nouns in Mambwe language in the plural form as shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Word order of NP with *yauze* ‘other’ adjective

Noun phrase:		<i>Ana yauze</i>
Segments:	<i>a-n-a</i> [ana]	<i>i-a-uz-e</i> [yauze]
Class pattern:	Cl.2 children (N)	Cl.2 agr. other (Adj.)
Literal gloss:		‘children other ’
Actual gloss:		‘ Other children’
Word order of the NP:		N+Adj (NAdj)

From the forgoing example, it can be observed that the word order of the NP with the adjective *yauze* ‘other’ in Mambwe language is: Noun + Adjective (N+Adj) or (NAdj).

4.2.3. Modification of the NP by General Adjectives in Mambwe Language

Mambwe language attests adjectives which are used in the NP to describe nouns in general terms. The general adjectives in the language are expressed using singular modifying stems such as [-wensi] ‘every’ and [-wenga] ‘alone, oneself’ as exemplified in Table 11.

Table 11. Word order of NP with the singular adjective *wensi* ‘every’

Noun phrase:		<i>Umwana wensi</i>
Segments:	<i>u-mu-an-a</i> [umwana]	<i>u-e-ns-i</i> [wensi]
Class pattern:	Cl.1 child (N)	every (Adj)
Literal gloss:		‘child every ’
Actual loss:		‘ Every child’
Word order of the NP:		N+Adj

The analysis of the example in Table 9 shows that the word order of the NP which is modified by the adjective [-wensi] ‘every’ (sg) in Mambwe language is: Noun + Adjective (N+Adj) or (NAdj).

Mambwe language also forms plurals of general adjectives using modifying stems in the NP such as [-yoonsi] ‘all’ as illustrated in Table 12.

Table 12. Word order of NP with the plural adjective *yoonsi* ‘all’

Noun phrase:		<i>A(ya)na yoonsi</i>
Segments:	<i>a-(i-a)-n-a</i> [a(ya)na]	<i>i-o-ons-i</i> [yoonsi]
Class pattern:	Cl.2 children (N)	all (Adj)
Literal gloss:		‘children all ’
Actual gloss:		‘ All children’
Word order of the NP:		N+Adj

The above example shows that the word order of the NP with the plural adjective *yoonsi* ‘all’ in Mambwe language is: Noun + Adjective (N+Adj) or (NAdj).

4.3. Modification of the NP by the Possessive Pre-prefix in Mambwe Language

Zemba (2015) shows that some adjectives are used to describe or modify a noun by specifying its quality or state and other adjectives are meant to agree with nouns or pronouns which are used to qualify the nouns according to class and number using the class particle. Adjectives comprise the adjectival root mark in the form of a prefix which is in tandem with the noun to be modified (Zemba, 2015). The function of adjectives in English is performed by participles in Mambwe and also by nouns with a possessive pre-prefix such as ‘u-’ to express singular nouns as shown in the example (Table 13).

Table 13 illustrates that the word order of the NP in Mambwe is: Possessive Pre-prefix + Adjective (Poss. Pre-prefix + Adj). The researcher notes that particles or possessive pre-prefixes in Mambwe language such as (*u-*) take the initial position in the NP and express the singular form.

Table 13. Word order of NP with adjective and possessive pre-prefix

Noun phrase:		<i>Uwantazi</i>
Segments:	<i>u-</i>	<i>u-a-ntaz-i</i> [wantazi]
Class pattern:	[person] (Poss. Pre-prefix)	Cl.1 agr. troublesome (Adj)
Literal gloss:		‘person troublesome’
Actual gloss:		‘A troublesome person’
Word order of the NP:		Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj

5. Conclusion

In this paper, the researcher has presented analysed the syntactic features of word order of the noun phrase by modification in Mambwe language. The findings show that the word order in the noun phrase in Mambwe is as attested by other Bantu languages where a noun takes the initial position in the NP. The language uses three major types of modifiers, namely; demonstratives, adjectives and particles or possessive prefixes to form the NP. Therefore, the word orders of NP by modification in Mambwe language are as follows; Noun + Demonstrative (N + Dem) or (N+Dem), Noun + Adjective (N+Adj) or (NAdj) and Possessive Pre-prefix or Particle + Adjective (Poss. Pre-prefix +Adj).

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