

MORPHOSYNTACTIC STUDY OF DHOLUO VERB PHRASE

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DECLARATION

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my dear daughters, Jillian and Tara.

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ABSTRACT

The study explores the morphosyntactic structure of Dholuo verb phrase. Dholuo is a Nilo-Saharan language spoken in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan. Tense and agreement in pro-drop in the Dholuo verb phrase has not been fully studied. The purpose of the study was to analyze the agreement in pro-drop in Dholuo verb phrase. The objectives of the study were to: identify the constituents of the Dholuo verb phrase; describe the morphological elements of the Dholuo verb phrase; and explain features of agreement in the Dholuo verb phrase. Principles and Parameters Theory (Chomsky, 1982) was used to guide this study. This study used a qualitative approach where descriptive research design was employed to study and account for the validity of Principles and Parameters to analyse Dholuo verb phrase. Data were generated by both the researcher, himself being a native speaker of Dholuo, and semi-structured interview from twenty adult Dholuo native speakers in Nyan'giela village, Rachuonyo South Sub-county in Homa Bay County. Non-probability sampling was used because the research was interested in the representativeness of the concept in their varying forms that maximized the scope or range of variation of study. Convenience and Purposive sampling techniques of non-probability sampling were interchangeably used to reduce bias of using one method. The data was thematically studied according to the number, tense, aspect, negation and person. Syntactic analysis was done in line with the tenets of Principles and Parameters Theory. After studying and analysing the data, it was revealed that Dholuo verb phrase has a linear arrangement with a lot of elements such as verb, preposition, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and nouns. Morphological elements of Dholuo verb phrase are pronouns, prefixes, suffixes, negators and adverbials. It has both free and bound morphemes. Dholuo is a tonal language that marks agreement with tone, prefixes and suffixes. A pronoun is the main agreement marker of Dholuo verb phrase. The study concluded that Dholuo is a pro-drop language that marks agreement by affixation. Dholuo marks all agreements except gender. Pro-drop and affixations are recommended for possible related future studies.

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OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Dialect: Version of a language that are mutually intelligible, but that differ in systematic ways from each other.

Morpheme: Smallest meaningful unit of a language

Morph-syntax: The joining together of morphemes to make words and the rules governing the joining of those words to form phrases and sentences

Morphosyntactic analysis: The study of grammatical affixes or linguistic units that have both morphological and syntactic properties.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

1pp:	First person plural
1PS:	First person singular
2PP:	Second person plural
2PS:	Second person singular
Adjp:	Adjectival phrase
AGR:	Agreement
AGRo:	Agreement object
AGRs:	Agreement Subject
AGRsP:	Agreement Subject Phrase (A feature containing bundles of agreement marking subject)
Ex:	Extension
F TNS:	Future tense
INFL:	Inflection
N:	Nouns
O:	Object
PL:	Plural
Pron:	Pronoun
PRSNT TNS:	Present tense
PST TNS:	Past tense
S:	Subject
SG:	Singular
TNS:	Tense
V:	Verb
VP:	Verb phrase

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Chapter Overview

This chapter discussed the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, scope and delimitation of the study, and significance of the study. It also contains the rationale of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

A morphosyntactic study reveals a lot on a language of a community. Some researches have been done in Dholuo at different times on either syntax or morphology but not on morphosyntax. For instance, Omondi (1982) studied Dholuo syntactic structures within the standard theory or transformation grammar, Okombo (1986) studied Dholuo constituent order, Creider (1989) studied syntax of Nilotic languages, and Ochieng (2001) carried out semantic analysis of Dholuo nouns. Okombo (1986) and Omondi (1982) studied constituent order of Dholuo. Typology of the Dholuo verb phrase was studied in 2004 to determine to what extent constituent order enables Dholuo to express its syntactic and semantic properties (Jowi, 2004:10). Out of these studies done in Dholuo, none of them has ever focused on agreement in the Dholuo verb phrase in general or agreement in the Dholuo pro-drop in particular.

Haegeman (1994:454-456) states that a pro-drop is a cross-linguistic variation parameter that is observed in languages which can allow a pronominal subject to be left unexpressed. Italian language has a rich verb inflection (INFL) and so it is a pro-drop language. Using Italian language, he found that rich INFL can identify an empty category in the subject position while a poor INFL fails to do so. Grammatical feature of the subject can be

recovered from those of INFL, especially from agreement (AGR) in languages with rich verb inflection. For example:

ProSembra che Gianni sia ammalato.

Seems that Gianni is (subj) ill (Haegeman 1994:452)

The subject position of the matrix clause is filled by *pro*, which is an non-overt expletive pronoun. Spanish also is a pro-drop language while in English only third person singular can be identified through the verb inflection. This study has used Principles and Parameters theory with a pro-drop as one of the tenets to analyse Dholuo, and proved it. This section discusses the history of Dholuo. It also introduced some key concepts on morphosyntax which was also a matter in this study. The verb phrase that this study is all about is also explained in this section.

1.1.1 Brief Description of Dholuo

Dholuo is a Nilo-Saharan language (Odawa, 2004 cited in Sulein, 2013). It is also spoken in other countries such as Uganda, Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo. The Acholi, Lang'oo of Uganda and Aluor in Democratic Republic of Congo are the most closely related to Kenyan Dholuo speakers. In Kenya, Dholuo is spoken by the Luo community who mainly live around Lake Victoria. Nilotic groups in Kenya have been grouped into the Eastern Nilotics that includes Bari, Lotuno, Teso, Maasai, Turkana, Karamajong and Toposa. There are Southern Nilotics consisting of Kalenjin (Kipsigis, Nandi, Tugen, Keiyo, Marakwet, Pokot, Sabaot, Okiek, Sengwer, Tatooga, Datooga and Omotik and Western Nilotics made up of Luo, Pari, Shilook, Lang'oo, Acholi, Dinka and Nuer (Chebett, 2006:2). Dholuo, therefore, shares some morphosyntactic features with the languages spoken by the above communities. Nilo-Saharan languages may have interrelated linguistic features.

1.1.2 Morphosyntactic Features of Dholuo

Morphology refers to the study of how words are formed out of smaller units (traditionally called morphemes). Syntax deals with the ways in which words can be combined to form sentences and so addresses questions like why is it correct in English to say; who did you see Mary with but not correct to say; who did you see Mary and? (Radford 1997:1). Morphology interfaces with syntax to create different word formations. Different languages use different morphological features to build structures which can be classified as words, clauses, phrases and even sentences.

Zwicky (1991) maintains that gender, number and person are indisputable agreement features. These features indicate that as morphology interfaces with syntax then agreement of these key features is important. It is the need for this agreement that calls for a proper study especially in African languages. Spencer and Zwicky (1998) state in their study of morphology and agreement that there has been several attempts to define between a semantic or formal property of morphology and agreement. For instance, Keenan (1978:167) and Lehmann (1982:203) state that the agreement is an intuitive notion which is nonetheless surprisingly difficult to delimit with precision. Steele (1978:610) maintains that systematic covariance between a semantic or formal property of one element and a formal property of another is important. The essential notion is between two separate elements, such as subject, noun phrase and verb.

Sulei (2001) studied the Dholuo word to which the last morpheme in a word is structurally added as indicated in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Dholuo last morpheme

Stem before affixation	After affixation	Gloss
<i>Got</i>	<i>Gode</i>	Hill
<i>Nam</i>	<i>Nembe</i>	Lake
<i>Rwath</i>	<i>Rwethi</i>	Ox

Source: Sulei, 2001

This is a way of marking agreement in communication. It has the number agreement that must be observed in speech.

Agreement is marked differently in different languages. Bresnan and Mchombo (1987) state that:

Pronouns in African languages may occur as independent word forms (so called strong pronouns) which usually have the same distribution as full Noun Phrases (henceforth NPs). Weak pronouns however, which are typically realized as clitics or affixes, are more common. In many languages, the weak pronouns can co-occur with co-referential full NPs. They are, therefore, often analysed as subject or object agreement markers and may indeed be functionally ambiguous in some African languages.

There is a need to have agreements between morphological and syntactic properties. For example:

- (i) The man chuckles.
- (ii) The men chuckle.
- (iii) *The man chuckle.
- (iv) *The men chuckles.

(Adger, 2003:23)

Morphological properties are such that the word can either end in an –s or not.

Morphological and syntactic properties differ per language. For example in Ekegusii;

A –ga-ke-buna. (Ekegusii)

3P tns obj V

He/she broke it. (gloss)

a - is subject singular

ga -is tense(past)

ke - is object singular

buna -is a verb

(Nyakundi, 2010)

Agreement is marked differently within the sentences. For example the Luganda of Bantu language spoken in Uganda shows object-verb agreement as shown below:

Tureebaomushomesa

We see the teacher.

Omushomesatumureba

We see the teacher.

(Katamba, 1993)

African languages share grammatical features. Greenberg (1963 p.156) in the study of languages of Africa concluded that there is “significant resemblances in fundamental vocabulary, there is also agreement in certain specific morphologic features which stand out in spite of relative scantiness of the material.” No language can stand out in isolation. Marking agreements and aspects in grammar may vary only along the parameters but will always share some principles.

Dholuo as one of the African languages has to mark both the agreement and aspects. The features of the agreement may be different as well as the order of constituents of the verb phrase but there must be a common grammatical feature shared with other languages. It is the common grammatical features addressed by the principles under the Principles and Parameters theory.

1.1.3 Verb Phrase

Horrocks (1987:33) states that the obligatory element in any phrase like the verb in the verb phrase or the noun in the noun phrase is known as the head of that phrase. This implies that the head is the obligatory element of a phrase. A phrase headed by a verb is called a verb phrase. Dholuo, as other languages, also has a verb phrase that maybe different in parameters to other languages. Parametrically, languages differ on whether being head first or head last. For example English and many other languages have heads preceding their complements. In languages such as the Korean, heads follow their complements. From this, it is said that languages such as English are head first languages while those like Korean are head last languages as shown below;

English

- | | | | |
|------|--------|-----|--------|
| (i) | Close | the | door |
| | V | dt | N |
| (ii) | Desire | for | change |
| | V | pp | N |

Korean

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------|-------|--------|
| (i) | Moonuldadala | | |
| | Door | close | |
| | N | V | |
| (ii) | Byunhwa-edaehankalmang | | |
| | Change | for | desire |
| | V | pp | N |

(Radford, 1999:19)

The position of head in a syntactic structure is a character of a language that depends on a particular language. Languages get parameterized when only the specific character is considered.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study sought to fill the gap in the tense and agreement in the Dholuo verb phrase and, specifically, the agreement in the Dholuo pro-drop. Dholuo verb phrase is complex because of agglutination. It is the verb phrase of Dholuo that carries a lot of features of agreement. A morphosyntactic analysis would clearly help in analyzing morphological and syntactic features used in tense and agreement hence filling the gap left in the study of the Dholuo verb phrase.

Since Okombo (1986) noted that Dholuo has enough constituent order problems worth investigating and Harder (1995) admits that it is the grammatical categories of the verb phrase that inspire and tantalize linguists and is a field for further research, this showed a gap in the Dholuo verb phrase. Jowi (2004) studied the constituent order typology of the Dholuo verb phrase and recommended that it could have been insightful to see what another theory would reveal on some of the complex aspects of the Dholuo verb phrase that are said to be the aspects of tense and agreement (Jowi, 2004:130).

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following objectives:

- i. To identify the constituents of the Dholuo verb phrase.
- ii. To describe morphological elements of the Dholuo verb phrase.
- iii. To explain features of agreement in the Dholuo verb phrase.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. Which are the constituents of the Dholuo verb phrase?
- ii. Which are the morphological elements of Dholuo verb phrase?
- iii. How are the tense and agreement features marked in Dholuo verb phrase?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study was confined mainly on the morphological features of agreement in Dholuo verb phrase. It is the verb phrase that is rich in the linguistic features. Most morphological features agglutinate in the predicate hence a verb phrase is the most suitable for studying tense and agreement of a language. Being a structural study, it only involved those aspects of grammatical structures which make Dholuo verb phrase complex. Dholuo is spoken by about four million people in Kenya. It has two major dialects; The Kisumu South Nyanza dialect (KSN) Spoken in Kisumu, Nyando, Rachuonyo, Homa Bay, Migori and some parts of Bondo districts. The Boro-Ukwala dialect spoken in the Boro and Ukwala Division, Ugenya Alego, Imbo, parts of Yala Division, all of Siaya district and parts of Bondo Districts (Stafford, 1967) cited in (Adhiambo, 1990). The study will only target the Kisumu South Nyanza (KSN) dialect because it is the standard dialect that is commonly used in orthography. The research was restricted to syntactic rules and agreements of constituents of Dholuo verb phrase. The study was carried out between 12th September, 2019 and 19th September, 2020.

1.6 Justification of the Study

Jowi (2004) had recommended for another theory to be used to study features of Dholuo verb phrase which was difficult to be analyzed under Government and Binding Theory. With the emergence of competence based curriculum that recognizes local languages, Dholuo as one of local languages need to be refined.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The study intended to provide adequate information to non Dholuo speakers who want to understand the complexity in the Dholuo verb phrase. The analysis of Dholuo verb phrase and adequate explanation also provide insight into the structure of Dholuo verb phrase and help in the preservation of data on Dholuo language. Principle and Parameters theory was used and so provided support on the Principles and Parameters theory as the best theory to be used in analyzing natural languages. The study of Dholuo pro-drop added new knowledge being that it was an area which had been overlooked by earlier scholars of Dholuo and a basis for other studies. The knowledge of tense and aspect of Dholuo from this study will be useful in teaching Dholuo language in schools.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

Principles and Parameters theory (Chomsky, 1982) was used to study Dholuo verb phrase. The parameter setting or binary choice was also a concern of the researcher to identify the head parameter in Dholuo verb phrase. Languages are considered to be universal in Principles and Parametrically different as stated by different scholars. For example; It is very clear that although there are universal principles which determine the broad outlines of the grammatical structure of words, phrase and sentences in every natural language, there are also language-particular aspects of grammatical structure which children have to learn as part of the task of acquiring their native language. Thus, language acquisition involves not only lexical learning but also some structural learning (Radford, 1997: 16-17). Principles and Parameters theory has various tenets of parameters but this study is interested only in the pro-drop, null, head, negation and tense agreement parameters.

Universal Grammar is a set of universal principles of language some of which are rigidly fixed, some of which are Parameterized (Hageman, 2008). Parameter concerns with the principles that vary in certain restricted ways from one language to another (Ellis, 1994).

Universal Grammar contains a set of absolute universal notions and principles which do not vary from one language to the next. There are language-specific properties which are not fully determined by Universal Grammar but which vary cross-linguistically. It would have been insightful to see what another theory would reveal on some of the complex aspects of the Dholuo verb phrase (Jowi, 2004). This shows that there is need to have a theory that is able to analyse those aspects of a language which are general and, as well, the language-specific ones.

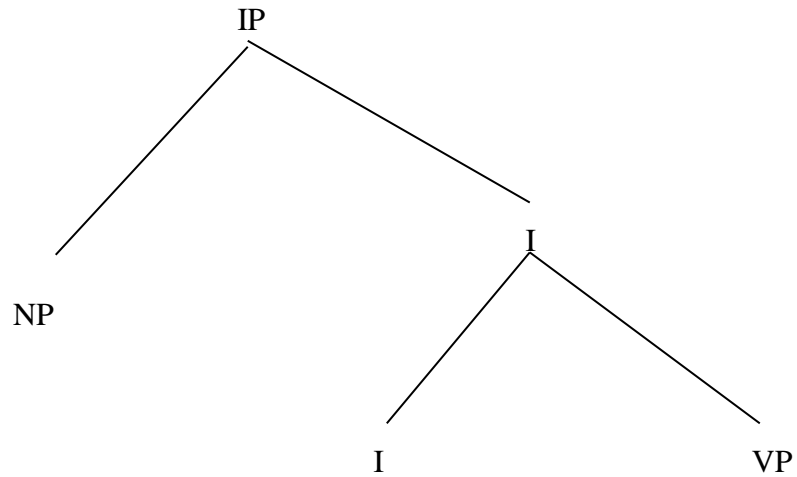
1.8.1 Background Information of Principles and Parameters Theory

Principles and Parameters is a framework within generative linguistics in which the syntax of a natural language is described (Haegeman, 2008). Principles and Parameters Theory was used because it is suitable for studying natural languages and also it is the modification of Government and Binding theory. Principles, being language general, enabled the study of morphosyntactic features of the Dholuo verb phrase which are language general and the parametric studies of Dholuo verb phrase will allowed the analysis of specific aspects of Dholuo verb phrase that make it different from other languages.

1.8.2 Subjects and Predicates in Principles and Parameters Theory

The subjects and predicates, which are elements of all languages, are analyzed differently by different theories. The analysis of subject gives rise to different concepts. The concepts of null-subject or pro-drop finds a basis in the Principles and Parameters Theory. The major segment of a sentence is the predicate and that is what this study majorly concentrated on. Predicate bares many features to sufficiently describe a grammar of a given language. The concept of a null subject, though not very recent, has remained to be a concern of the Principle and Parameters theory.

Robert (2004: 85) observes that it is assumed that in the Principles and Parameters, the finite and non-finite clauses are headed by a category I (or Infl or Inflection), which ‘links’ the subject and the predicate...the subject is the specifier of I, the predicate its complement, and the clause is an Inflection Phrase, as follows:



(Robert, 2004:85)

From the above study, clauses can be licensed by a category-neutral immediate dominance rule of the form:

$XP \longrightarrow YP, X'$ (Robert, 2004:85)

1.9 Conclusion

This section discussed the background information of Dholuo, objectives of the study and the theoretical framework which are very important for this study amongst other sections that have also been mentioned. It has clarified the researches which have been done in Dholuo verb phrase that gives this study a foundation. It explained the concept of morphosyntax that demonstrate that syntax and morphology are very important in studying structural arrangement of a sentence. The structure of the verb phrase has also been addressed to show the area that the study concentrated on.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter discussed literature review along the objectives of the study. Theories and other relevant concepts were well explained.

2.1 Word Order

The Syntax of every language determines the order of its constituents and so arrangement of words in a phrase can not be the same in all languages. Adger (2003) maintains that it is the Parameterization in languages that makes languages have different strength properties of features on the head being either strong or weak. This gives Scottish Gaelic verb-subject-object order as shown below:

Chunnaic Iain Mairi

See-[past] Iain Mairi

“Lain saw Mairi”

(Adger, 2003:236)

Shadrack (2017, p.76) studied pragmatics of word order in Nandi and maintains it is the word order that is greatly influenced by the context and it reflects the organization of the utterance according to the distribution of new or given information. It meant therefore that orders of elements in a sentence are not free but are matters of a style. The word order is therefore parametrical.

2.2 The Structure of Verbs in other Agglutinating Languages

The structure of verbs in the agglutinating languages is unique. Different languages show different structures. For instance, Bantu has single-word inflectional constructions which are capable of including both Tense and Aspect distinctions (Nurse, 2008:167-175).

However, in general, Bantu languages are agglutinating and much information can be stored on a single-word verb. If written with a linear template, the verbal word is formed from the slots presented below:

The possible slots on the Bantu Verb;

(Pre-SM) + (SM) + (NEG2) + (TA) + (OM) + root + (extension) + FV + (post-FV)

(Adapted from Nurse 2008: 40)

The main purpose here was to illustrate that the concept of the verbal “stem” in agglutinating languages is complicated. Any reference to a verbal stem must specify whether one is talking about the Derivational Stem (root and extensions), the Inflectional Stem (including the FV slot), or the Macro-Stem (with the addition of the OM slot). The most basic Bantu verb form is simply an Inflectional Stem without any extensions on the verb root; this indicates that all the other slots besides root and FV are essentially optional. Ochieng (2017, P.21) in the study of Dholuo verb system did not dig deep into the agreement and never accounted for the agglutination but commented that in Dholuo, the subject pronouns are attached to the verb as prefixes but in the event that a proper noun is used, the subject marking on the verb is lost and proper noun becomes the subject to the verb. This study has looked at the constituents of Dholuo verb phrase and explained the cause of the agglutination in the verb phrase.

Eshter (2016, p.130) studied Morphosyntactic structure of Lutachoni verb phrase using Principles and Parameters theory and concluded that “the affixation of morphemes on the verb root increases the verbal elements resulting to a complex verb.” This accounts for agglutination. He further maintains that:

The morphemes marking negation, subject pronominals, and object pronominals, reflexive, distant past, future tense are prefixed on the verb root. Recent past, aspect and valence adjusting morphemes are suffixed. Some morphological features are

universal, whereas others are unique and parametric traits to the language. The parametric features include verbal extensions whose affixation to the verbal head leads to the adjustment of the argument structure for a given VP.

(Esther 2016, p.131)

Horrocks (1987: 174) states that languages like Greek have order of the complements to lexical head relatively free and any order is possible provided the head comes first and any clausal complement comes last. Greek is a pro-drop language and its verb can take a noun phrase complement. For example:

VP→V NP PP [PFORM me] S

VP→VPP [PFORM me] NP S

Horrocks (1987: 174)

Zhang (2013) states that person, number or gender agreement can not be observed in Ersu verbal compound. Verbs could be either root reduplicated or prefix reduplicated. The common structure in the verbs is prefix + root with a tendency towards disyllabicity of a resulting stem. He explained that most of the Ersu verb roots are monosyllabic while disyllabic are quite few but polysyllabic are very rare. For example:

deshwa'

upward jump

jump upward

dezi

upward crawl

crawl upward

De ni “upward-ache: be sick”

t^hes`hwa^{ch}i ‘away-give:give’

(Zhang 2013:470)

Dholuo verb phrase has never been studied with a view to analyse its structural arrangement. Atoh (2001) carried out the semantic analysis of Dholuo nouns using Semantic Field approach to analyse nouns in Dholuo and their relationships to one another. He identified and described the type of Dholuo nouns and how they are formed through the word formation process which is inflection, derivation and compounding.

Oluoch (2004) used Minimalist Programme approach to do morphosyntactic analysis of mood in Dholuo. His work focused only on the morphosyntactic function of mood in Dholuo and therefore did not mention anything to do with the agreement nor pro-drop. He showed that Dholuo marks future time as follows:

Kiny n-o dhi.

Tomorrow FM-3P/Sg go- 1F

He will go tomorrow.

The Principles and Parameters model was developed by Noam Chomsky during the 1980s and 1990s in works ranging from his 1981 book lectures on *Government and Binding* to his 1995 book the Minimalist Programme (Radford, 1997). It is the Principles and Parameters theory that is able to satisfactorily explain the language generals and specific characteristics. With the concept of Universal Grammar and Parameters setting, language acquisition can be simply explained. Grammar is characterized with the study of principles which govern the formation and interpretation of words, phrases and sentences. Radford maintains that in terms of traditional division of grammar into morphology and syntax, we can say that morphology studies the formation and interpretation of words, whereas syntax is concerned with the formation and interpretation of phrases and sentences.

The concept of Universal Grammar explains much on the nature of human language and provides enough explanation on the way the human language is acquired. Radford (1997:2)

states that: “...any native speaker of a language can be said to know the grammar of his or her native language. After all, native speakers clearly know how to form and interpret words, phrases and sentences in their native language...”

This implies that a grammar of a native language is tacit (subconscious) but not explicit (conscious). The Principles and Parameters model of acquisition enables us to provide a principled explanation for why children manage to learn the relative ordering of heads and complements in such a rapid and error-free fashion. The answer provided by the model is that learning this aspect of word order involves the comparatively simple task of setting a binary parameter at its appropriate value (Radford, 1997:22).

Principles and Parameters theory explains the concept of language acquisition and accounts for the role of a child in language acquisition. Different characteristics observed among languages are clearly explained here by the help of a binary parameter setting.

2.3 Features of Agreement in Languages

Chesary (2013) investigated morphosyntactic levels of Nandi verb phrase using Minimalist Programme theory and found that the agreement can be projected in the functional nodes of the agreement subject while the agreement object can be projected in the functional nodes of the agreement object. Agreement comes before the root of the verb in present tenses and after the root in past and future tenses. The negative elements in verb change depending on the number and person. Chesary (2013) concluded that Nandi verbs have morphosyntactic features which can be projected in the functional nodes in verb phrase structure.

The Nandi language and Dholuo are both Nilotic languages. Therefore, the study of agreement in Dholuo is also necessary. Unlike Chesary (2013) who used the Minimalism Programme, this study used Principles and Parameters theory and extended to the pro-drop.

Studying the Dholuo pro-drop made these studies different even though they are both Nilotic languages.

Ochieng (2013) studied Olusuba which is also related to Dholuo and found that Olusuba has agglutinating verbal morphology that can represent complex sentences mono-lexically. He showed that subject agreement marker is on the extreme left periphery followed by tense marker, object agreement then verb root itself. The verb is followed by a suffix which normally indicates the mood. He showed complexity of verbal glosses as follows:

N-sanyase-o-ku-laba

“Nice to meet you” (Ochieng, 2013:50)

‘N’ is the prefix for ‘I’, ‘sanyasi’ means to be happy, the ‘o’ is a prefix for ‘you’ in verb conjunction (used objectively), ‘ku’ forms the infinitive of ‘laba’ ‘to see you’ thus the word nsanyaseokulaba is one word containing five different features of these elements. Subject agreement, tense, and final vowel are the only ones which are obligatorily present with the root in every Olusuba utterance (Ochieng 2013). The features of agreement were studied in Dholuo to clarify clearly how elements of agreement are displayed.

Jerono (2012) studied Tugen word order using the Minimalist Perspective and revealed that Tugen verb has grammatical, inflectional and derivational features. The features are both prefixed and suffixed. For example;

Ki-rwa-e

Ipl-mn-imp

We are going.

(Jerono, 2012)

The Tugen verbs inflect for both person and number. The person prefixes are (a-) for first person singular and (ki-) for plural and (i-) for second person singular with (o-) in plural. The verbs thus have forms of singular and plural. The movement of verb is parametric as it

occurs only in some languages. It is also referred to as verb second. A verb second is the syntactic constraint that requires the verb to be in second position in main clauses as indicated below in Germany;

a) *Hans kaufte den ball* (s.v.o)

Hans bought the ball

b) *Den ball kaufte Hans gestern* (o-v-s ADV)

Yesterday Hans bought the ball

c) *Gesternkaufte Hans den ball* (ADV –v-s-o)

Yesterday Hans bought the ball (Robert 2009)

The Subject Verb examples in the above (a) is the typical order in simple main clauses while the Verb Subject order in (b) and (c) illustrate that non-subject constituent preceding the verb affects the relative order of the subject and verb (derived from (a)).

Some African languages vary the word order depending on the tense and aspect of the verb used. The Sudanic languages: Lendu, Moru, Mangbetu and the Gur languages: Natioero and Bagasse exhibit SVO order with the perfective verbs and SOV with imperfective verbs. Similarly, the Sudanic language, Anyuak/Anywa appears to switch from SVO in the present tense to SOV in the past and future (Robert 2009)

Ekegusii verb morphology was studied by Elwell (2004) and revealed that there is a zero morpheme for the present tense. That meant that present tense is morphologically unmarked, and instead of having a marker to indicate the time frame, its visible form is merely a replacement of the infinitival marker with a subject marker (Elwell, 2004). For example:

word Dance (present tense)

o-go-teeng-a ‘To dance’

Ekegusii

English (gloss)

<i>n-teeng-a</i> (singular) <i>to-teeng a-</i> (plural)	I dance (singular) we dance (plural)
<i>o-teeng-a</i> (singular) <i>mo-teeng-a</i> (plural)	You dance (singular) you dance (plural)
<i>a-teeng-a</i> (singular) <i>ba-teeng-a</i> (plural)	S/he dances(singular) they dance (plural)

(Elwell, 2004)

Morphosyntactic analysis of Luwanga verb phrase showed that there are some morphological elements of agreements as shown below:

(i) *Pita a-kwisi-ye i-siongo*

Peter pron/pres-fall-ASP Numb-pot

Peter has fallen the pot.

(ii) *Pita a-tsi-kwisiye tsi -sionga.*

Peter pron M-Agro-fall-ASP Numb pot.

Peter has fallen the pots

(Ralph, 2006)

The morphological differences in the verb groups of the two sentences (*a-kwisi-ye* and *a-tsi-kwisi-ye*) are due to syntactic differences in them. The syntactic differences are realized by morphological inflections on the verbal elements (Ralph, 2006).

Odero (2008) states that in Ekegusii, the verb agreement is mandatory except when reference is made to the second person singular as illustrated below:

Ikarans-a

Sit- fv

Sit

The verb “*ikaransa*” (sit) is in its root form but is understood to be addressing both the second person singular and plural (Odero, 2008:27).

Study of negation in Ekegusii revealed that negation in Ekegusii is morpho-syntactically marked by prefixation to the verb root. Even though the underlying negation morpheme is

‘ti-,’ it can also be realized in its allomorphs as ‘ta-.’ Or ‘to-,’ depending on number and person marked by the verb (Odero, 2008).

Odero, Sande, Ogone and Odondo (2017: P.11) maintain that Dholuo has reflexive and reciprocal extensions. The two extensions have syntactic characteristics of introducing their respective arguments to the matrix of their host verbs. This shows that Dholuo verb phrase has a lot of syntactic features affixed to the Dholuo verb matrix.

Hamlaou (2013) comments on his study of Dholuo (pseudo) passive and the parametrization of the EPP that Dholuo does not seem to have subject-verb or object-verb agreement but has two paradigms of pronouns that Okoth-Okombo (1997) labels as ‘emphatic’ versus non ‘emphatic pronouns’. Hamlaou stated that emphatic pronouns are free-standing ‘strong’ forms. Non-emphatic pronouns are weak, clitic-like pronouns that are either treated as pro-clitics or prefixes, said to correspond to subject, or enclitics/suffixes, corresponding to object. He further says that the realization of the non emphatic pronoun varies depending on the aspect of the verb. They carry a high tone in the imperfective aspect and a low tone in the perfective (Omondi, 1982). He also illustrated as shown below that whenever the sentence contains a nominal subject (i.e. a third person), the subject prefix is optional.

a) *Musa onyamo nia ’ng.*

Musa 3s-IMPERF-chew sugarcane

‘Musa has chewed sugar cane’ [Omondi’s ix (11a)]

b) *Musa .nyamoniang.*

Musa IMPERF-chew sugarcane

‘Musa is chewing sugarcane.’

[Omondi’s ix (8)] cited in (Hamlaou, 2013)

Chepkemoi (2021, p.33) used Principles and Parameters theory to study Keiyo morphology and syntax and found that Keiyo, one of the Nilotic languages, has a very intricate system of morphology and syntax. She says that:

This fascinating pattern is seen in the way various constituents interact with different affixes to express certain meanings like affixes, the order of constituents within a phrase and clause, among other unique features. Unlike languages like English whose constituent order can tell the grammatical function of a category, Keiyo relies on the speaker's tone to identify the grammatical function. Furthermore, the tone is critical as it is used in contrasting lexical items. The basic word order in Keiyo tensed clauses is verb-initial. The nominative subject follows the verb, and the accusative object follows the subject if the verb is transitive.

Chepkemoi (2021, p.33)

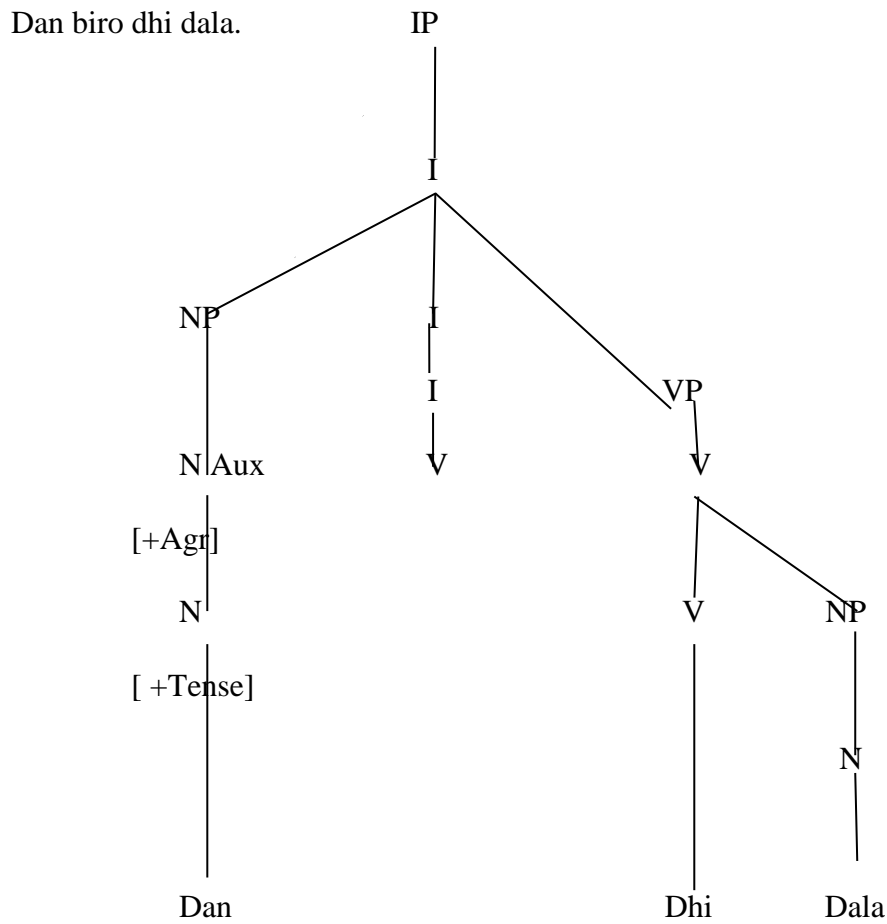
Nilotic languages depend on the tone to mark grammatical functions. This changes the constituent order and therefore, it becomes a matter of parameter. With numerous studies done on Nilotic languages at different times by different scholars, none has addressed the constituents of Dholuo verb phrase using Principles and Parameters theory.

Jowi (2004) studied a constituent order typology of the Dholuo verb phrase using Government and Binding approach with the objectives to provide an adequate description and account for the constituent order of Dholuo verb phrase, to explain how Dholuo verb phrase expresses its semantic constraints and modality in Dholuo sentence and to establish if Dholuo has instances of verb movement (if it is a v2 language) or not and provide explanation for the established state. He noted that Dholuo verb phrase has many features that make it complex such as modality, tense, aspects, voice, number, person and main verb and is not a v2 language as it does not allow for verb movement. He concluded that universal characteristics could be adequately explained within the Government and Binding

framework while the language specific ones presented difficulties for the theory. He recommended for modification of the Government and Binding theory in order to be used in analyzing Dholuo and said; “it could have been insightful to see what another theory would reveal on some of the complex aspects of the Dholuo.i.e Difficulties were faced to explain aspect of tense and agreement in Dholuo within this theory.” (Jowi, 2004:130). Jowi (2004) realised that it was difficult to draw structures of Dholuo verb phrase using Government and Binding framework.

These were some of the data he presented using IP projection:

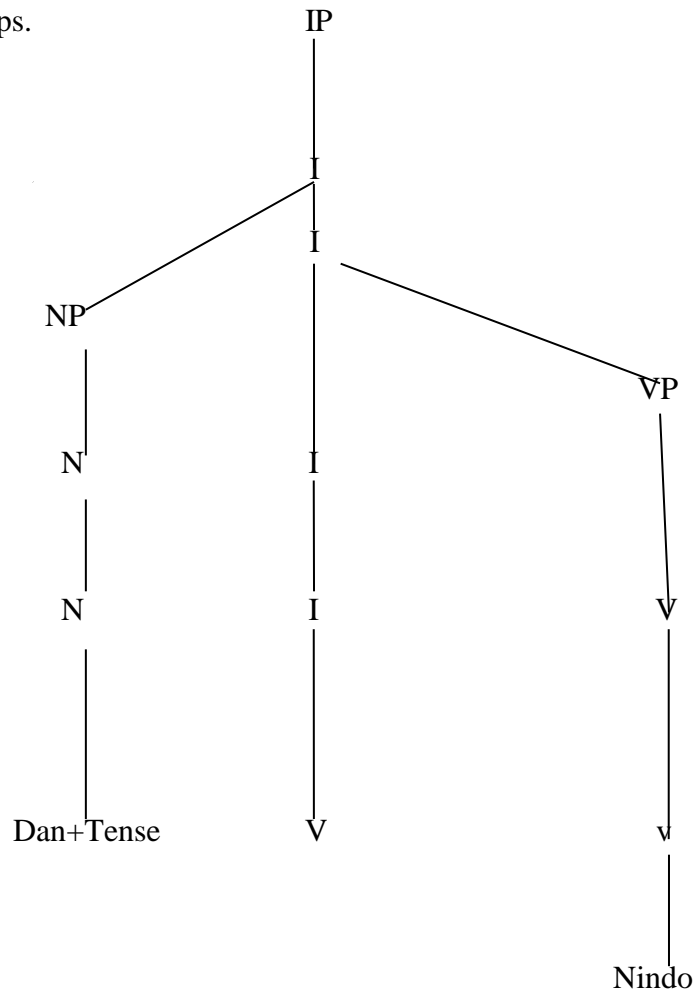
- (i) *Dan biro dhi dala.*
 NP Aux V NP
 Dan will go home



(Jowi, 2004:52)

(ii) *Dan nindo.*

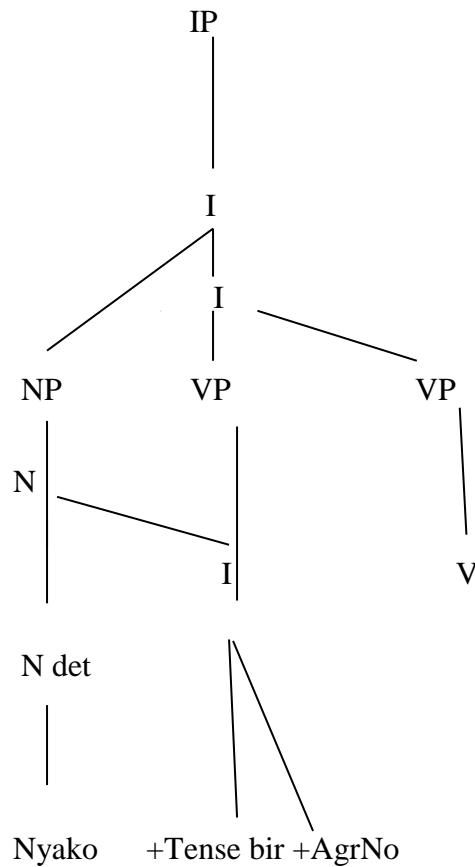
Dan sleeps.



(Jowi, 2004:52)

The problem was realized in some sentences as the one shown below that could not be clearly represented:

Nyakono biro biro.



(Jowi, 2004:59)

The Government and Binding theory could not analyse sentences as the one shown above. This made it even very difficult for word order, mood, agreement and tenses to be explained in sentences such as:

Jotugo biro chiemo godhiambo.

Players will eat in the evening. (Jowi, 2004:59)

This research will study morphological features which govern relationship of head and other lexical elements of Dholuo verb phrase in different tenses and aspects. Some major linguistic features of Dholuo verb phrase such as negation, voice, and number agreement will also be studied in details.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discussed the research design, area of study, research techniques, study population, description of sampling and sampling procedure, data collection procedure, data analysis procedure and ethical consideration. It explained the way the research was carried out in each stage. It ends in a conclusion to summarize the key discussions.

3.1 Research Design

The descriptive research design was used to describe facts or information already available and analyse them to make a critical evaluation of the material. This research design was appropriate because it is a theory suitable for qualitative research. It allows gathering, analyzing and presenting collected data with no difficulty. It allows the study of data in its original state and draw conclusions.

3.2 Area of Study

This study was carried out in Homa Bay County, Rachuonyo South Sub-County, Nyang'uela village which is the most convenient to the researcher because of it being dominated by native Dholuo speakers who speak the Kisumu Nyanza (KSN) dialect which was the target for this study. This was also the researcher's residential area and therefore it saved on data collection time and cash.

3.3 Research Techniques

The study employed semi-structured interviews to collect data from the research respondents. Borg (2006, P.218) states that the advantage of the semi-structured interview is that it develops a relation with the participants. Juan and Ongondo (2011) maintain that

semi-structured interview gives a reliable data. Semi-structured interviews were used to interview native Dholuo speakers in order to get the specific types of data relevant for the study. The researcher also generated some data in order to get a wide range of sentences. With data of different sentences, it was possible to identify the features required for the study.

3.4 Study Population

The information retrieved from the Kenya Bureau of Statistics web indicated that Rachuonyo South has a population of 130,814 of an area measuring 256.1 Killometres square with a population density of 510.8/km². Population census 2019 showed that:

Table 3.1: Population of Rachuonyo South Sub-County

<u>Age groups</u>	Population (2019)
0-14 years	56991
15-64 years	68009
65 years and above	5814

Source: Kenya Populaion and Housing Census, 2019

From Table 3.1, it can be noted that majority of the population fall under the age of fifteen to sixty four years. The study targeted twenty adult Dholuo speakers aged 18 years and above in Rachuonyo South, Nyan'giela village for interview. This study only targeted adult speakers regardless of their gender. This was so because the study was on the Dholuo verb phrase but not speakers. This age was reliable because it comprised speakers with fully developed language and with enough experience in using Dholuo language.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

It is not very easy for a researcher to reach all the members of a population because of limited resources such as time. Mugenda (2008) states that sampling enables a researcher to make generalizations about a total universal population after studying a representative target population. The sample size of twenty adult Dholuo speakers was used. Non-probability sampling was used because the researcher was interested in the representativeness of the concept in their varying forms. It maximized the scope or range of variation of study. Convenience sampling was used. Convenience sampling is the procedure of selecting cases or units of observation as they become available to the researcher (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The purposive sampling was used interchangeably with the convenience sampling to reduce limitations of using one method. Orodho (2009) says that purposive sampling entails a researcher using his or her discretionary judgment to select units that are representative or typical of the population. The researcher used his discretionary judgment in sampling Dholuo speakers.

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

Horrocks (1987) encourages the self generated data by maintaining that from a common sense point of view, it is simply absurd to wait for native speakers to produce utterances which would allow linguists to infer whether some languages have particular grammatical characteristics when it is perfectly possible for the linguist as a native speaker to ask all the important questions and answer them himself. The researcher therefore, being a native Dholuo speaker, constructed various Dholuo verb phrases. The researcher also conducted semi structured interviews by giving the purposively selected twenty informants consent forms to sign then with the help of interview guides generated in Dholuo, held interviews for fifteen minutes with each informant. The two sets of data were used to analyse Dholuo verb phrase.

3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

The data which were collected through interviews were fused with the self-generated. The sentences were grouped according to the number, tense, negation and person. A verb phrase was identified from the grouped sentences and organized into specific tenses and aspects. Different classification of tenses and aspects were studied and pro-drops isolated. Features of agreement were identified and presented well. Principles and Parameters theory was applied to analyze the phrases by identification of universal characteristics of Dholuo verb phrase guided by Principles and specific characteristics with guidance of Parameters. Tree diagrams were drawn from sentences and conclusions made.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The following conditions were considered for the entire period of research. The researcher remained non participant in terms of gender, race and social status. For instance, neither money nor any other material thing was issued to influence the outcome of the research in the form of bribery or favour. The researcher sought for research permit from NACOSTI and remained professionally open and honest about the purpose and content of research. Consent of every informant was sought and the identity of the respondents was not disclosed. The collected data was kept confidential throughout the study and the researcher also ensured it is formally revealed to the relevant authority.

3.9 Conclusion

This chapter has explained the research methodology used in this study. The research design and areas of the study have been discussed properly. The research techniques used in this study have been highlighted and the study population defined. This chapter has illustrated the sample size and sampling procedure before going to the methodology of collecting data, data analysis, presentation and ethical considerations.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents data that were self-generated and some collected by interview in Dholuo. The analysis was done in order of the objectives: To identify the constituents of the Dholuo verb phrase; to describe morphological elements of the Dholuo verb phrase; and explain features of agreement in the Dholuo verb phrase. Different data have been given in every objective to illustrate the findings of the study. Guided by Principles and Parameters Theory, focus is on what makes languages general but much attention has been given to what is specific in Dholuo. Discussions are presented in different subheadings along the order of the objectives of the study. In order to fully analyse a pro-drop and agreement in the Dholuo, different tenses and aspects have been considered as the basis of utterances for this study.

4.2 Constituents of Dholuo Verb Phrase

Verb movement Parameter is one of the parameters exposed by Principles and Parameters theory and provides that different languages show different positions of agreement and tense features in a verb complex. The verb phrase contains different constituents but this study established the order based on a Parameter of either agreement features to be found in a tense or a tense in a verb phrase complex. Dholuo has attracted many scholars who have been mentioning lightly some of the areas that this study has elaborated. Ochieng (2021) studied Dholuo cleft sentences using Asystematic Functional Grammar Approach and concluded that Dholuo cleft sentences include pseudo clefts, inverted clefts and each cleft has a definite structure but did not look at what constitute sentences at all. This study has looked at the constitution of the verb phrase which is obligatory in the sentences of any human language.

4.2.1 Dholuo Verb Phrase

A phrase is determined by the head in a grammatical construction and therefore it is named after the word that stands out as the head. Principles and Parameters theory provides that languages are analysed into whether are head first or head last. Dholuo phrases sound just like sentences because of an agglutination, unlike in English. Phrases do not express a complete thought but in Dholuo they sometimes do as shown below:

Dholuo	English gloss
1a.) <i>kawo telo</i>	
Kaw (take) –o (FV) telo (leadership)	taking leadership.
1b.) <i>dhiro gari.</i>	pushing a car.
1c.) <i>chako miel</i>	starting a dance.
Chak (start) –o (FV) miel (dance)	
1d.) <i>Puro matek.</i>	Dig hard
Pur (dig) -o (FV) ma (prefix)-tek (hard)	
1e.) <i>Yaro onget</i>	spreading a blanket
Yar (spreading) –o (FV) onget (blanket)	

Head first is a parameter of only some languages. Dholuo, from the phrases discussed, appears that it is a head first language. It is also important to note that Dholuo verb phrase displays verbs with strong final vowel. The presence of ‘o’ in every head verb is a way of maintaining the final vowel for emphasis. Dholuo verbs recover the content from the noun. This is what brings about the complexity in the Dholuo verb phrase. Verbs tend to dominate sentences and so a verb phrase carries more features. A verb phrase is even able to have more constituents. When one says;

Riembo gari manyien gokinyi e lam matek.

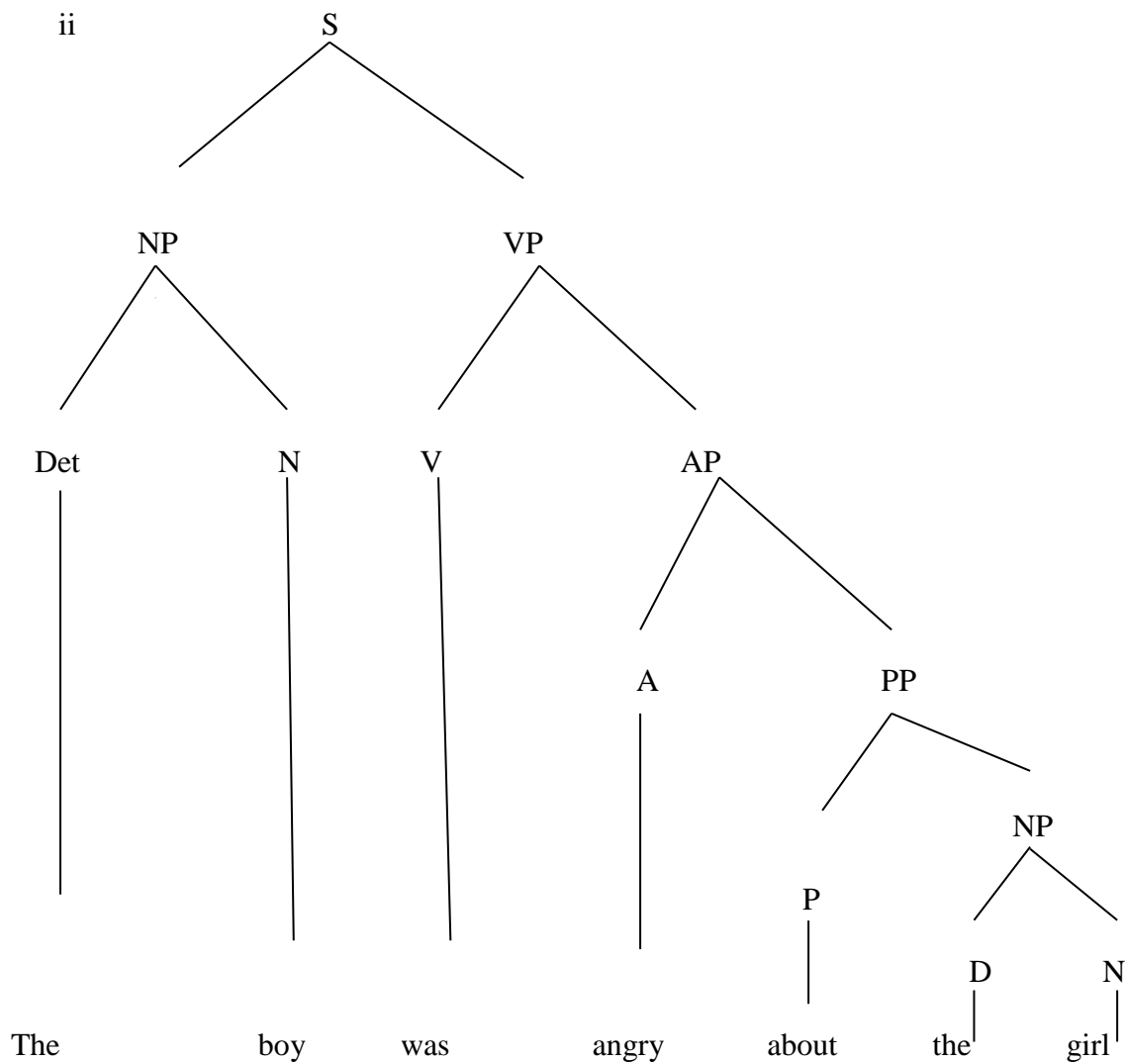
To drive a new vehicle in the morning on a tarmac road very fast.

It can be seen that the Dholuo verb phrase can carry in it a verb, adjective, a noun, a preposition and adverbs. The order may at times vary with those of English.

Robert (2004:20-21) states that there are two standard ways of representing a constituent structure i.e. using labeled bracketing or employing the use of diagram as shown below:

i. [S[NP[D The][N boy]][vp[v was][AP[A angry][pp[p about][NP[D the][N girl]]]]]]

or



(Robert 2004:21)

It can be said that the above diagram best explains the categories that various words belong to and statements about what words or sequences of words constitute phrases of various kinds (Robert, 2004:21).

From the research, the following sentences were studied and showed different orders as shown. Constituents of Dholuo verb phrase will always change their order depending on the type of the sentence used. According to Principles and Parameters Theory, languages differ on the order of their formation. Chomsky (1985) says that during the language acquisition, it is the language specific characteristic that is therefore parametrical.

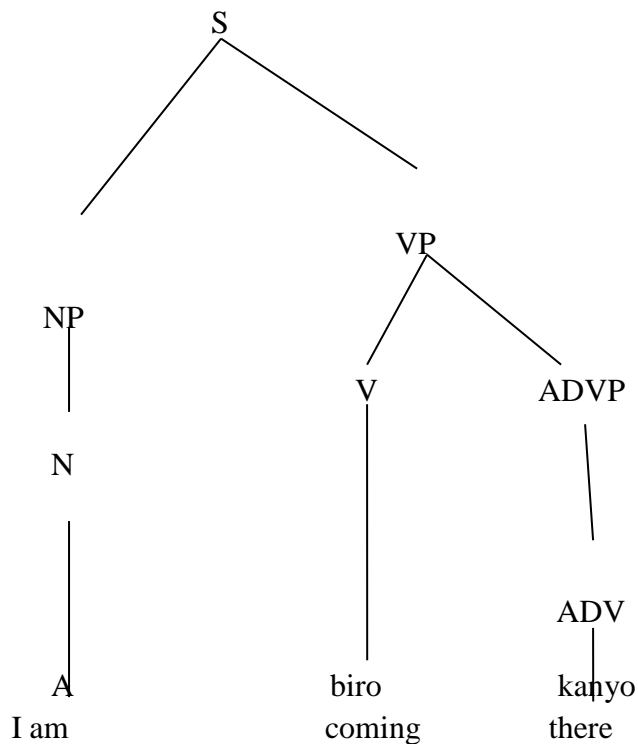
2a.) *A-biro kanyo.*

A- Biro kanyo.

1P/SG *biro* (coming) *kanyo* (there)

I am coming there.

noun verb adverb



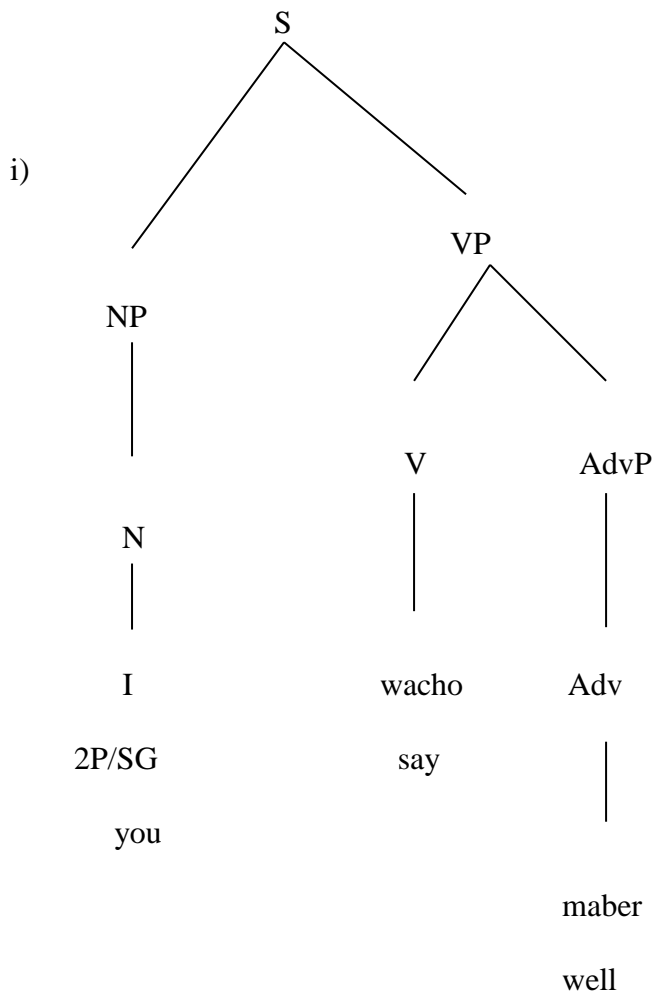
This gives the order of noun, verb and adverb. It is also noted that since Chomsky (1986) maintained that, it has been widely assumed that extended clauses are complementizer phrases (CP's) which are sometimes optional. Dholuo verb phrase accommodates optional complements in certain constructions.

2b.) *Iwacho maber.*

I – wach-o ma –ber

2P/SG say FV PRF good

You have said well.



From the diagram above, the only constituents observable are lexical. It gives the constituent order to be noun, verb, and adjective. There are also other constituents that only exist phonologically for example, one can say:

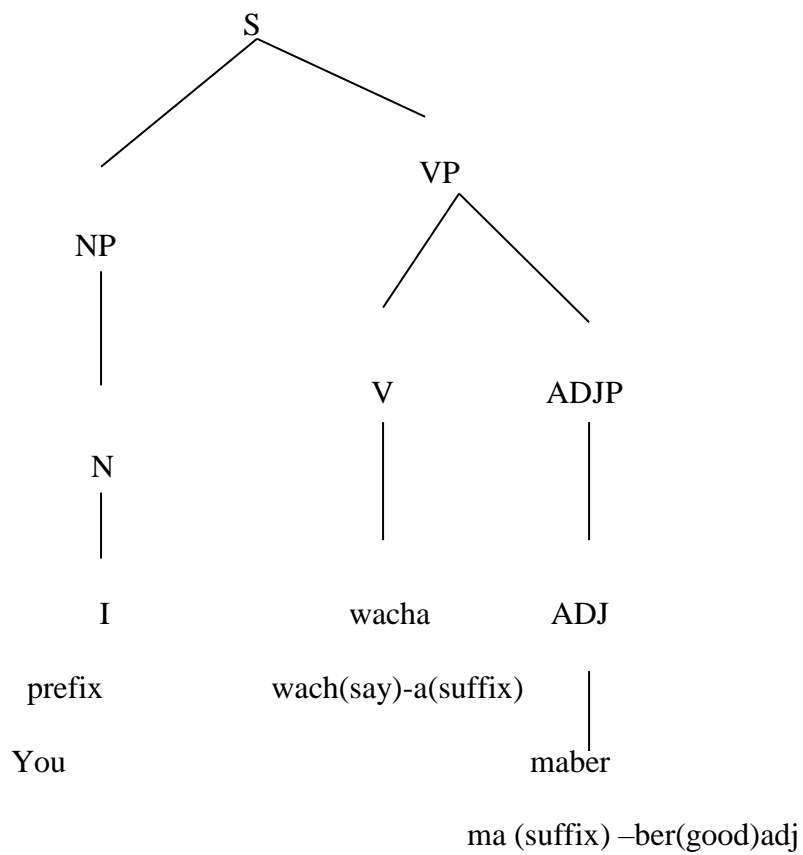
ii) *I-wach-a maber.*

2P/SG wach (word) –a(suffix) ma(PREFIX)-ber(well)

You talk well about me.

The noun, verb and adjective that appear as the only constituents are not enough because the verb in Dholuo carries a tense in the tone. The “o” that changes to “a” in the verb carries other constituents such as a pronoun. The verb phrase in this case bears even a person and number features, when ‘wacha’ becomes ‘wachou, wachowa or wachogi.’

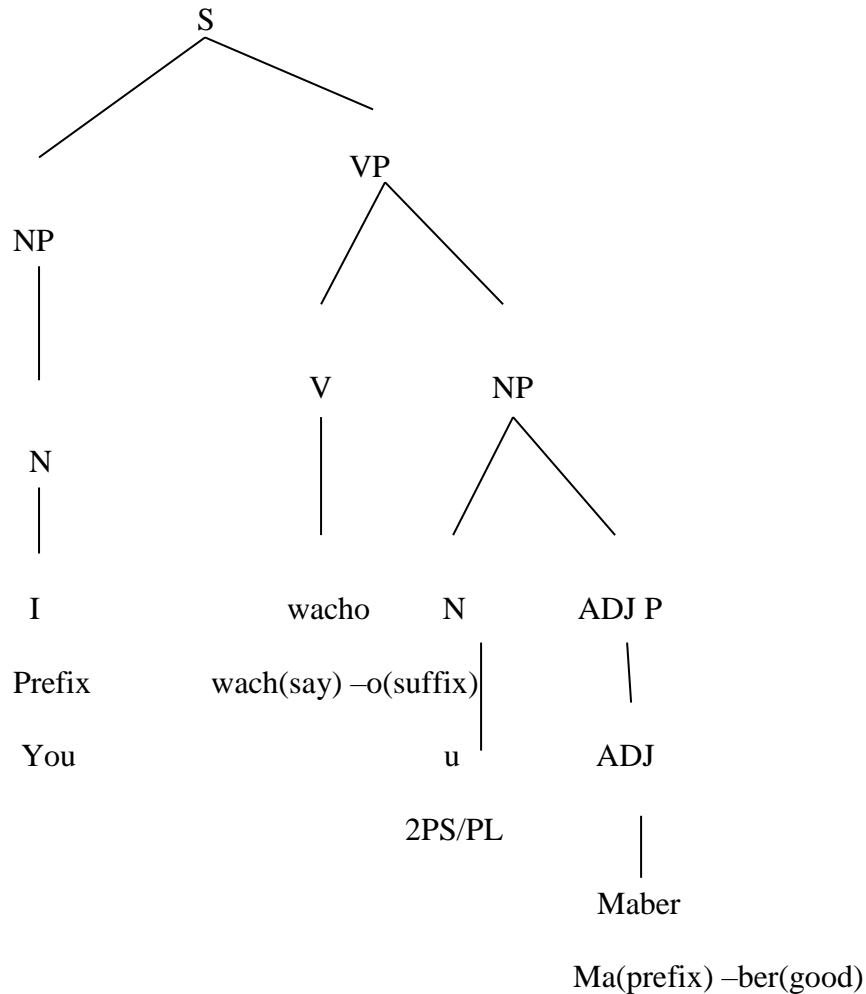
iii) *Iwacha maber.*



Dholuo verb phrase in the above diagram shows that it contains prefixes and suffixes which help in marking the agreement. “I” and “a” are inflected affixations meant to mark agreement. As can be observed, “I” is for second person singular agreement while *a* is for first person agreement marker. The marker of a tense is agglutinated in the verb. The *a*

suffix of first person singular also carries a present tense in it, showing that the activity is in progress.

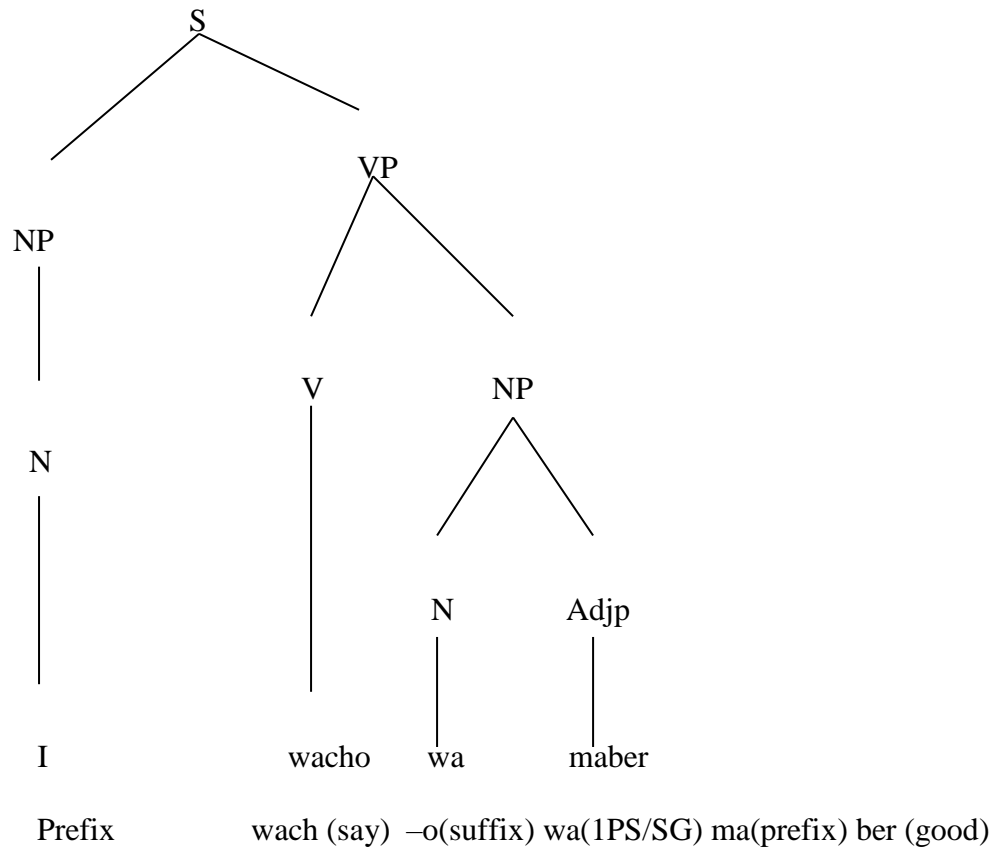
iv) *Iwachou maber.*



Dholuo verb phrase has both obligatory and non obligatory features which are present in different grammatical constructions. As (Odero, Sande, Ogone and Odondo,2017) stated that Dholuo has different types of affixes that increase the number of arguments, these affixes are attached to the root noun. This study demonstrated that Dholuo verb roots allow prefixation and suffixation that increase the number of constituents in the verb phrase. Chomsky (1982) in his lecture on government and binding stated that parameters are languages specific and therefore explain why there are language variations. Mode of

supplying affixation is innate and native speakers of a language naturally know the form and extent any root word can accept to be affixed.

v) *Iwachowa maber.*



In the diagrams ii, iii, and iv above, complexity of the Dholuo verb phrase is noted as the verb and the pronoun agglutinate. The suffixation used does not block the role of pronoun as it still stands out to replace a noun and that makes it fall in the position of the noun phrase (Np). The sentences above have different meanings simply because of what appears as an inflection;

Dholuo	English
<i>I-wach-a</i>	I am talked about.
3P/SG say 1P/SG	
<i>I-wach -o-u</i>	You are talked about.
3P/SG say FV 3P/PL	

I-wach-o-wa

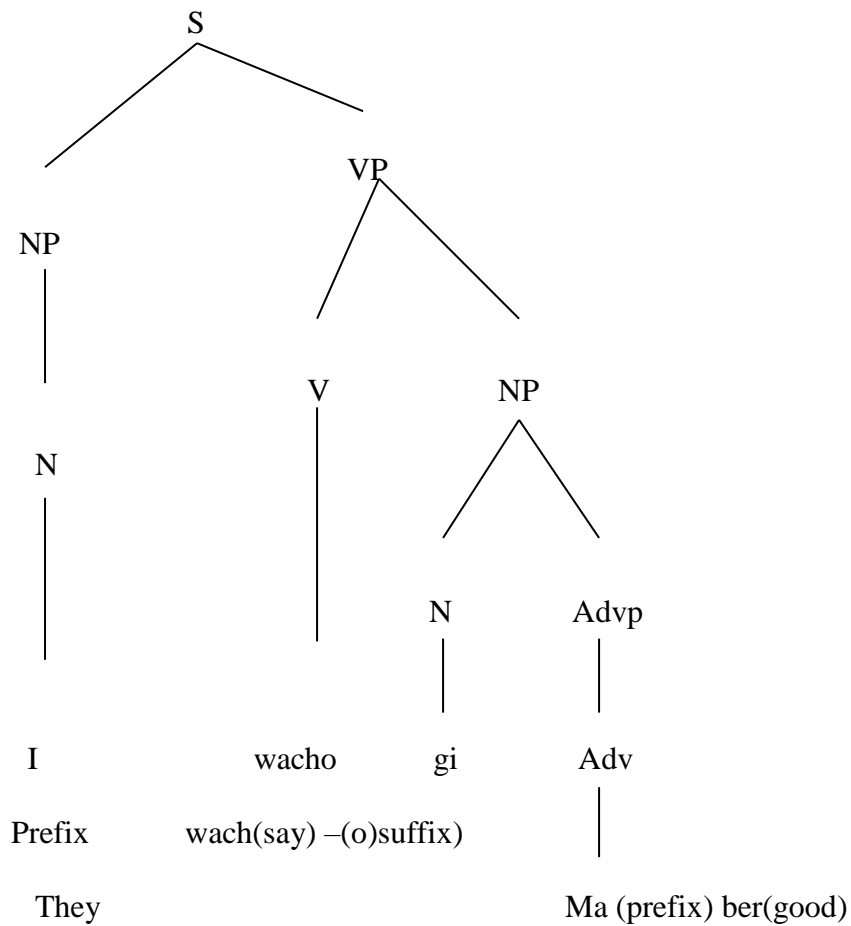
We are talked about.

3P/SG say FV 1P/PL

The final letters in the three cases; *a*, *u* and *wa* though, pronouns, play even an additional role of agreement and are equally serving as subject agreement markers in these constructions.

vi) *Iwachogi maber.*

They are being talked about well.



In the examples above, the agglutination is realized in (2b iii) where the verb carries the person marker, for if they are separated, then the meaning is distorted. The word ‘wach’ means a different thing and ‘wacha’ is equally a different thing. In ‘Wach-a’ the final vowel ‘a’ is a constituent marking a person.

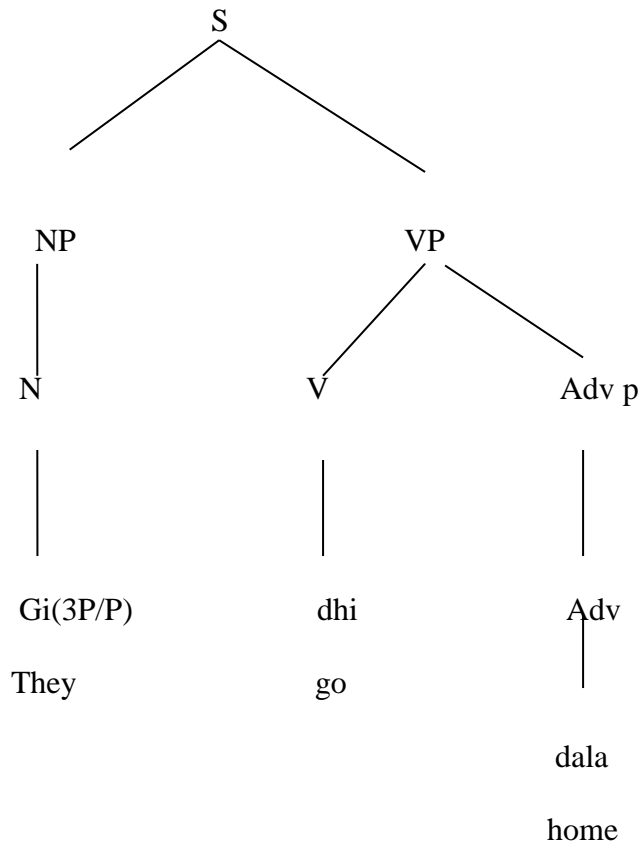
3a) *Gidhi dala.*

They are going home.

Gi-dhi-dala.

3P/P V Obj

Subject verb object

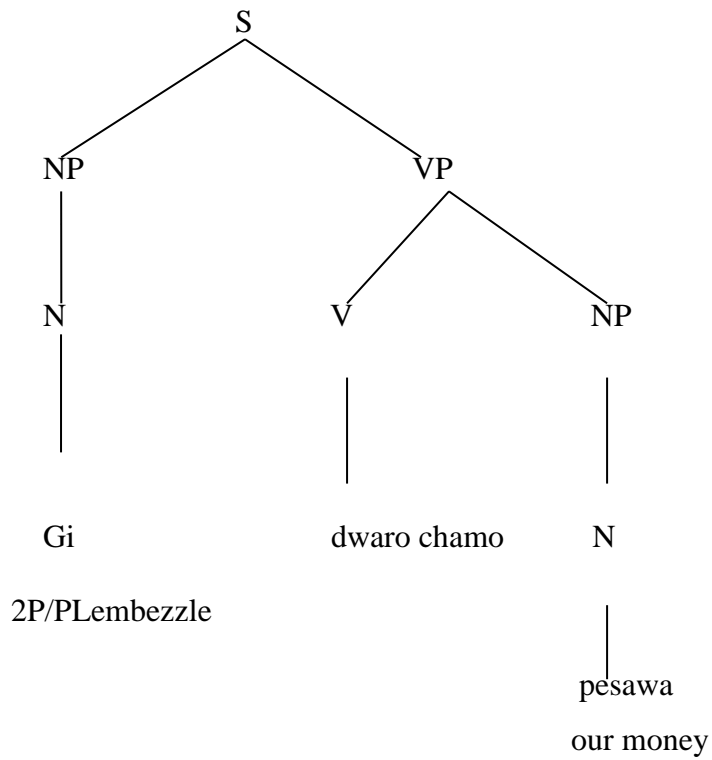


The above diagram shows a verb phrase with only three obligatory elements of a verb phrase namely pronoun (*gi*), verb (*dhi*) and adverb of place (*dala*). Within the phrase there are other non obligatory features such as person (*gi*) 3P/P, tense (*dhi*) present continuous tense and a person marked in the pronoun *gi*, third person plural. The three features are considered as undisputable features of agreement and are covertly present in the Dholuo verb phrase.

3b.) *Gidwaro chamo pesawa.*

They want to embezzle our money.

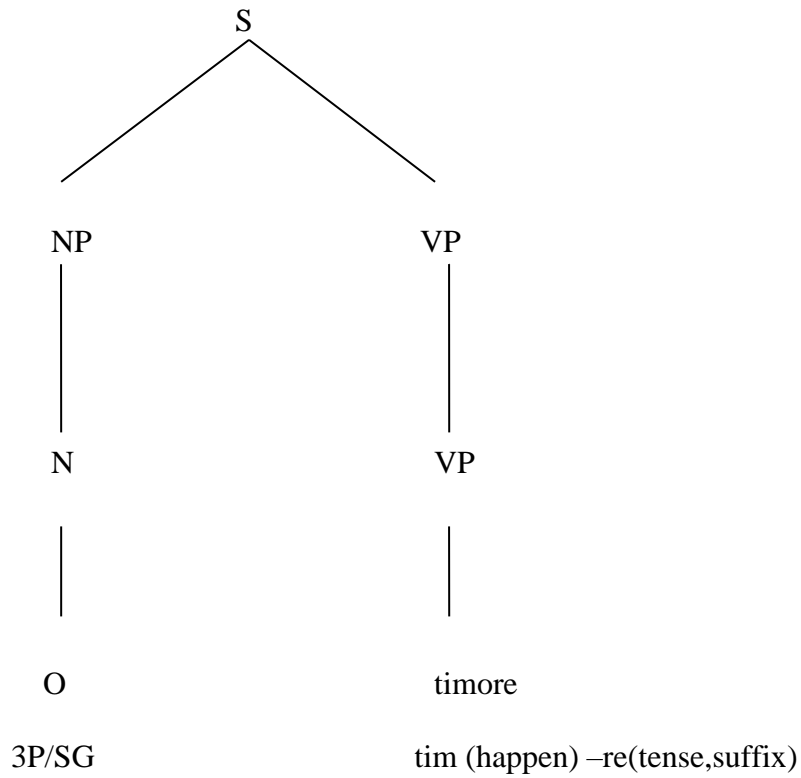
Gi- dwaro -chamo -pesawa



Ochieng (2017, p.74) studied phase structure of Dholuo verb system and found that Phase Theory could not in totality account for various variations in the Dholuo verb system. This implied that Principles and Parameters Theory could still be relevant in analyzing the variations based on the parameters that account for language specific features.

3c.) *O-timore.*

It has happened.



It

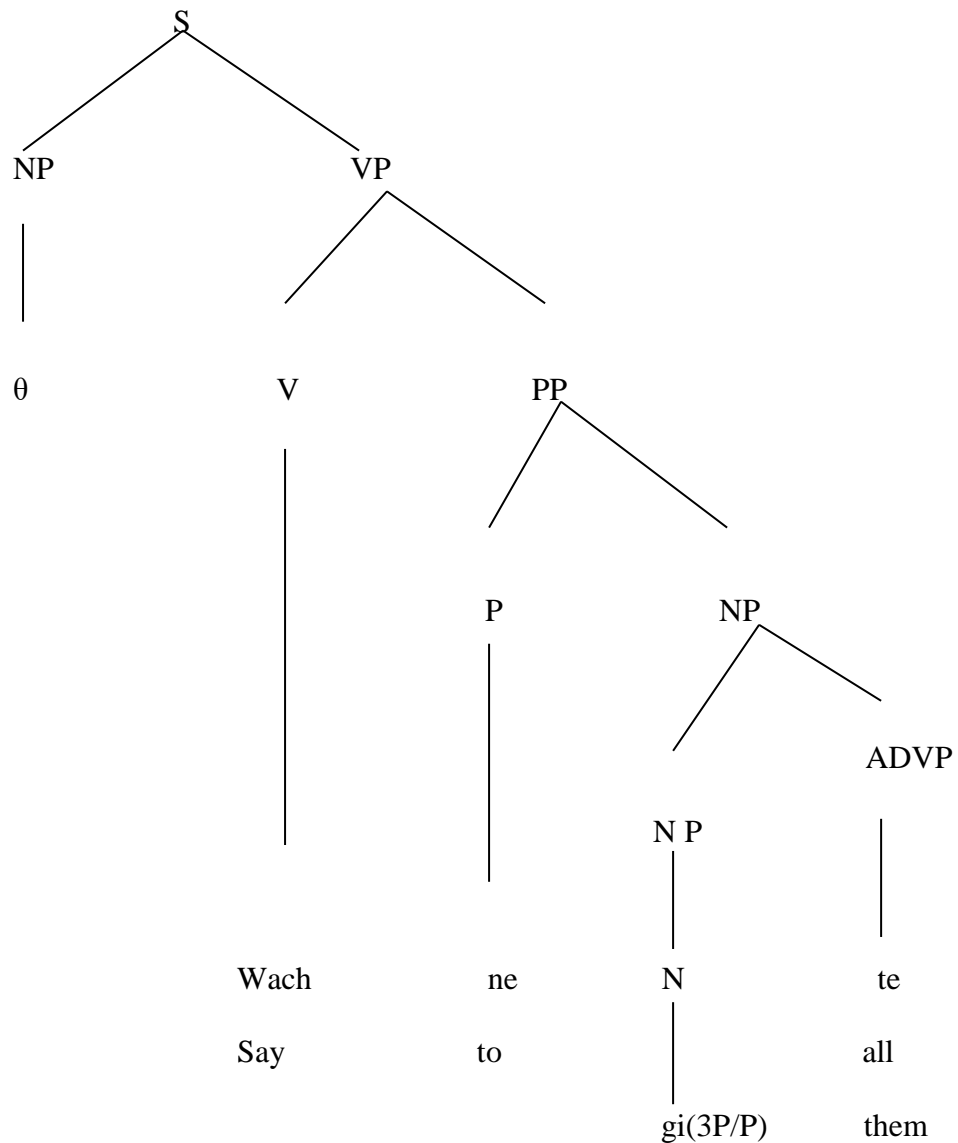
In the above tree diagram, it shows that Dholuo has even very simple structures of subject, verb and object. In these simple structures, the agreement features are still present as aspect and tenses are displayed. It can be summarized as;

Subject → verb+object

3d.) *Wach-neg-i te.*

Wach(Say)*neg*(root verb) *i*-(3/SG) *te*(all)

V 3P/SG vowel extAdv



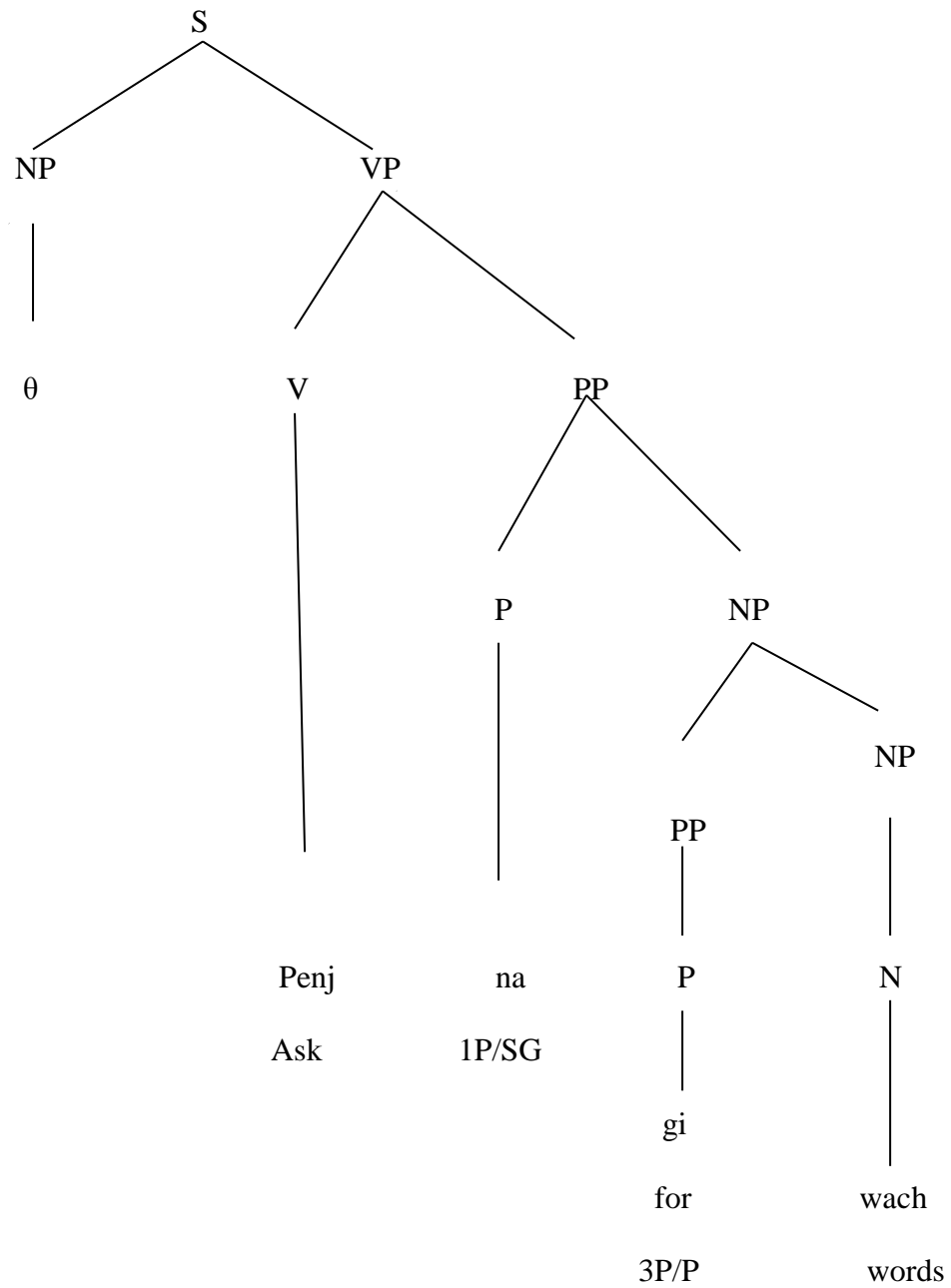
Dholuo verb phrase can carry many constituents. It can be seen that in the above structure there is a verb, preposition, pronoun and an adverb. There are also some hidden features such as subject marker and tense markers which are marked in a verb phrase. This shows that Dholuo verb phrase contains many constituents that contribute to its complexity that makes drawing of its tree diagrams quite challenging.

3e.) *Penj –nagi wach.*

Ask IP/SG 3PL(them) words

Ask them about it.

V 1P/SG 3PP N



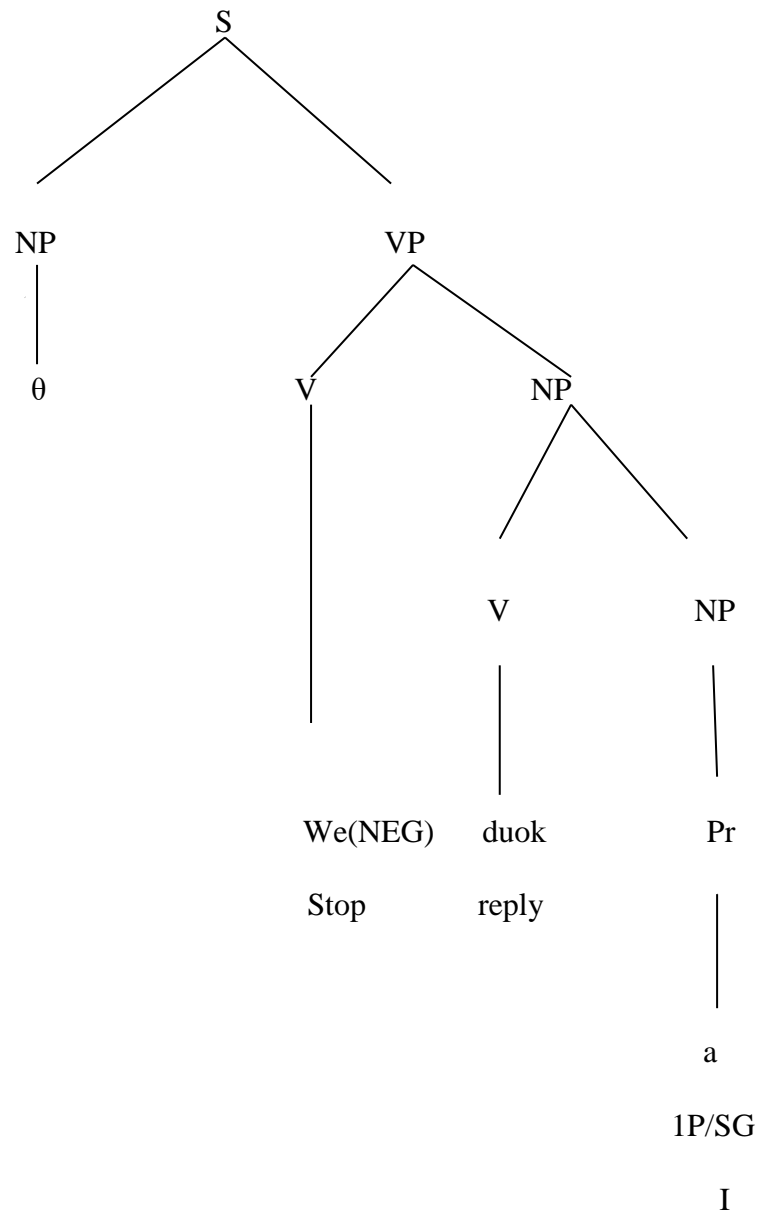
It can be noted that a verb, being the head, comes first but not in all cases. This structure can be summarized as;

S → Verb+ Pronoun +Verb

3f.) *We duok -a.*

2P/SG negator duok(reply) –a(1P/SG marker)

Stop reply me

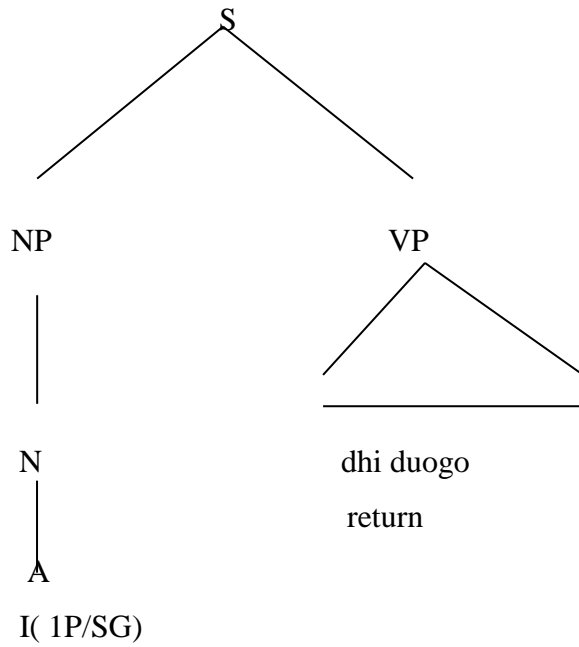


Here is another difficulty brought by the agglutinating nature of Dholuo. The vowel extension realized in this case marks the person. We see the first person singular brought out clearly but in a form that also serves as suffixation.

3g.) *A-dhi –duog-o*

I will return

1Psn v vtns marker



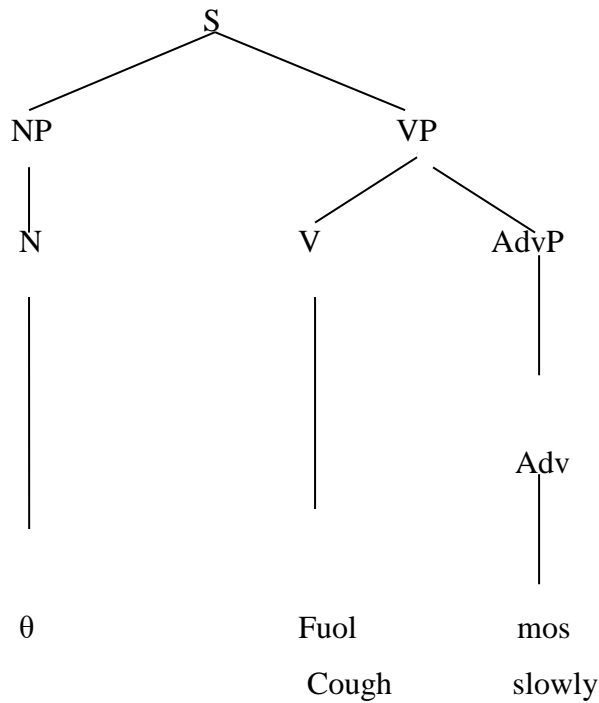
It is shown that because of the strong inflection in the Dholuo verb phrase that makes it a pro-drop language, drawing some tree diagrams are also complicated under the Principles and Parameters theory. In the above diagram, it can be said that it is;

$$S \longrightarrow V+v$$

3h.) *Fuol mos*

Cough

V Advp



From the few cases observed above, it is worth noting that there is a lot of flexibility in the order of formation of constituents of Verb Phrase in Dholuo such that it is difficult to say that Dholuo is head first or head last. The head in this case is the verb but it can be seen that it does not maintain one position.

The main constituents of Dholuo verb phrase are verbs, noun phrases, nouns, preposition phrases, prepositions, adverb phrases, adverbs, adjective phrases and adjectives. The verb is the obligatory element in Dholuo verb phrase. It has modifiers that are considered optional but form part of the constituents. The modifiers make the phrase long and vary according to the construction in place. Dholuo verb phrase is linearly arranged with agreement features coming after the root verb.

3j.)

i. *Bwombe rateng.*

It's wing is black

[s[npBwombe[adjp[adjrateng.]]]

ii. *Chakre chon.*

From a long time

[vp[vChakre][advp[adv[chon.]]]

iii. *Giwuoro.*

They have wondered.

[S[NPGi][VP[V wuoro]].

iv. *A weyo*

I have left.

[S[NP A][VP[V weyo]]]

v. Riembgi piyo

Chase them very fast.

[S[VP[V Riemb][NP gi][ADVP[ADVpiyo]]]]

4.3 Morphological Elements of Dholuo Verb Phrase

In order to study morphological elements of Dholuo verb phrase, it is useful to look at more grammatical constructions. There are many sentences in Dholuo but only a few of them will be discussed here because they are the ones deemed relevant to this study. Verb phrases are derived from sentences. Therefore, it is important for one to understand sentences first before looking at the morphological elements in the verb phrases.

4.3.1 Interrogative Sentence

These are sentences used to asked questions. They must always end in question marks.

4a.) *Idwa nango?*

How do you want?

4b.) *En in?*

Is it you?

4c.) *Saa adi?*

At what time?

4d.) *Itimo nade?*

What for?

4e.) *Iyie?*

Do you accept?

Some short form sentences are used as interrogative terms such as; *bende?*(do you?), *nade?*(how?), *donge?*(so?), *iyie?*(agree?), *koso?*(or) and *kama?*(like this?)

Interrogative sentences are used in greetings. This is at times done with some voice projections and stress. Dholuo interrogatives for greetings appear to be rhetorical because they tend not to demand an answer, for example, greeting one with the activity you see obvious;

Ia tich?

Are you from work?

Then, one answers; *Eeh*. The agreement morphemes are noted here that there is a way you can greet one person and how verbs inflect to bring agreement when dealing with more than one person. One who is addressing many people says that;

Ua tich?

Are you from work?

The change on morpheme from *I* to *u* is necessitated by the number agreement. Plural subject *u* is a second person plural while *I* is a second person singular pronoun. There must be a person agreement in Dholuo greetings.

4.3.2 Affirmative Sentences

These are sentences which emphasize state of events.

5a.) *Odhi*.

He/she goes.

5b.) *Bedi*.

Sit down.

5c.) *Wakawo*.

We have taken.

5d.) *Gikadho*.

They are passing.

Affirmatives are mainly used in conversations and are very short in structure. They are used for emphasis. They do not have a lot of morphological adjustments but still have to agree in number and tense. Dholuo does not mark gender agreement.

4.3.3 Declarative Sentences

Are sentences which clarify the state of events.

6a.) *Anyalo dhi.*

I can go.

6b.) *Asetimo.*

I have done.

6c.) *Mago magi.*

Those are yours.

6d.) *Waseyudogi.*

We have found them

6e.) *Wan ka.*

We are here.

Declaratives are used to declare state of events. It is normally the morpheme and tone that indicates this tense. Dholuo permits the use of this tense in all aspects of communication but mainly when meant to be ridiculous or mockery.

4.3.4 Dholuo Tenses

There are different manifestations of tenses in Dholuo. Saeed (1997:114) says "...tense allows a speaker to locate a situation relative to some reference point in time, most likely the time of speaking." The time of speaking gives a wide range of references and this is why a tense is also defined as "...the grammatical expression of the relation of the time of an event to some reference point in time; usually the moment the clause is uttered." (Saeed

1997:114). Odero (2008:81-82) states that since tense reflects the human categorization of the world, different languages divide the timeline differently, resulting in different tenses. Some languages will, therefore have two tenses; past and non past while others will have three tenses; past, present and future. This implies that a tense is parametrical as it varies per language.

Comrie (1985:2) shows a time line for tense in human languages as illustrated below:

(Now)

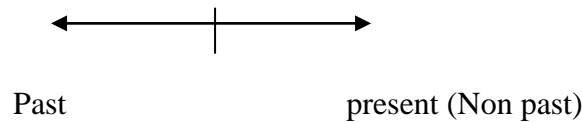


Figure 4.1: Representation of time

Adapted from Comrie (1985:2) cited in Odero (2008:90)

Portner (2005:138) maintains that a tense refers to the position of situation in time. Some languages do not have any tense at all, some languages distinguish past tense from non past (present or future) tense; and some languages have; past, present and future tenses. This further supports the observation that tense is a feature that is language specific.

Verbs play a major role in determining the tense of a language such that in Dholuo the following timelines can be explained:

4.3.4.1 Dholuo Present Tense

7a.) *Adhi school sani.*

I am going to school now.

This means that there is an activity going on at the moment. *Sani* has been used to mark time. The verb phrase from this construction is *dhi school sani*. Adverbs in Dholuo help in marking tense.

7b.) *Wakadho*.

We are passing.

7c.) *Onindo*.

He/she is sleeping.

7d.) *Gitugo*.

They are playing.

7e.) *Isomo*.

You are reading.

7f.) *Untie*.

Are you are present?

From the examples above, it can be deduced that apart from the adverbials such as ‘sani’, Dholuo uses intonation to mark the present tense. In the example in 7e, a speaker can apply intonation and end up with a question instead of a statement in the present tense. For example,

Isomo. As a statement it simply means; You read.

‘Isomo?’ When intonation is applied, it becomes a question. It means asking whether somebody did read or not. The ‘I’ in *Isomo* is a pro and recovered from the dropped subject which is always a noun. It is gender insensitive and cannot display any gender. However, there is a strong agreement of number that must be obeyed. This also has the person agreement;

a *wa*

I *u*

O *gi*

In 7d, '*Gitugo*' (they are playing) with a stress on the second syllable refers to the present tense while *Gitugo* (they played) with a stress on the first syllable means it is an activity that happened sometime in the past. Morphologically, to bring clarity, Dholuo uses adverbials of time to clarify the time of reference. Therefore, a speaker who means present tense will easily say;

Gitugo sani.

They are playing now.

4.3.4.2 Dholuo Past Tense

In dholuo, reporting a situation that occurred before the time of mentioning takes three forms. One of what happened just hours ago, recent past and distant past. They are expressed with the help of different morphologies as discussed below:

4.3.4.3 Past Tense of a Short While Ago.

This is the past tense reporting what happened within some hours in the past but less than a day. For example:

8a.) *Koka odonjo ka.*

He/she has just arrived.

8b.) *Wasekao gini.*

We have taken this thing.

8c.) *Ubiro dakikani.*

You are coming this minute.

8d.) *Usechako.*

You have started.

8e) *Odongo wacho ni osehopo sani.*

Odongo says that he has arrived.

Dholuo is morphosyntactically organized to solve the problem that is brought about by intonation. In 8a, “*koka*” is a time reference used to clarify the degree of past time activity. In 8b, *se* is only inserted in the verb to help in marking the time. Some adverbial particles are added just to help in distinguishing the meaning. Without the added free morphemes, it may be a little difficult to judge the past tense in Dholuo.

The concept of pro-drop comes out clearly here that instead of saying Odongo has arrived a pro is used. The pro also shows agreement because it must correspond to the number. In order to make it clear, Dholuo uses some morphemes such as *jo* for instance:

Onyango gi Akuba josebiro.

Onyango and Akuba have come.

It is ungrammatical for any Dholuo speaker to say ‘*Onyango josebiro*’ if only one person is expected. We will expect a speaker to say ‘*Onyango osebiro*’. From here, it is deduced that the morpheme marking the person comes before that of a tense in Dholuo and that they have a pro-drop that must always show some agreements of number. For example, in *odonjo* and *Wadonjo* morpheme *wa* is for plural and used only where subject dropped is in plura.

4.3.4.4 Recent Past Tense

This tense is used to refer to an occurrence which was realised so long from the reporting time. It can be a day or few days, but not less than a day:

9a.) *Nyocha omiel e yo.*

He danced on the way.

9b.) *Nobiro nyoro.*

He/she came yesterday.

9c.) *Tinde odak kode.*

Nowdays he/she stays with him/her.

It can be noted that some adverbials are used to mark agreement in these tenses. Words such as *nyocha*, *no* and *tinde* can be grouped as free morphemes of time used in the recent past tense to mean an activity that since it happened has not taken long.

4.3.4.5 Distance Past Tense

Odero (2010:88) states that "... a distant past tense describes an event that occurred in the past, within the time frame stretching from one month into infinite past..." In Dholuo grammatical tone and adverbials can be used to mark distance past tense as shown:

10a.) *Negibiro.*

They came.

The tone used in pronouncing the adverb 'ne' will give different meanings. If the first syllable is stressed, the tense becomes distance past but if not, it appears as recent past.

10b.) *Nomuke chon.*

It was destroyed long time ago.

10c.) *Gilala norumo.*

It finished long time ago.

10d.) *Nowachonegi.*

He told them.

10e.) *Nodhi school.*

He went to school.

10f.) *Nende odak ka.*

He lived here before.

Dholuo is a language that clarifies its ambiguity by the help of some morphemes such as *no*, *chon*, *gilala* and *nende*. There are special terms used to make references in Dholuo

distance past. Without the morphemes mentioned here, it is not possible for Dholuo speaker to mark tenses in the distance past. If terms such as *nende*, *gilala*, *chon* and other phrases which mark distance past are used, they are functioning as free morphemes which appear as prefixes and directly mark time. At times they can be mistaken to be adverbs of time but they are not because they are not used to modify any verb in this case instead they are only serving the role of prefixes to bring out the tense and mainly the sense of past in the sentences they are used.

4.3.5 Non Past Tense

This is noted by Odero (2008:91) that the non past tense denotes events that are either taking place now or are anticipated to occur in future. In Dholuo, it can appear in the present and in future as explained below:

4.3.5.1 Non Past in Present

11a.) *Obet piny.*

He/she sits down.

11b.) *Gikao.*

They have taken.

11c.) *Som*

Read.

11d.) *Ing'iewo.*

You have bought.

11e.) *Inyagri.*

You are struggling.

The marking of the non past in present tense is characterized by very short structures and very minimal morphological features even though intonation is still being used. They can

be confused with the present simple tense. In 11c, a word is seen which based on correct pronunciation is a full sentence in the meaning. Saying `Som meaning read but with correct intonation it is implied that there is a subject which has just been dropped. It could have been that *John som*. However, the subject has been dropped.

4.3.5.2 Non Past Tense in Future

This type of non past tense refers to what is anticipated. It is an event that is expected to happen in future but not yet happened by the time one is speaking.

12a.) *Biroyudo kotieko*.

Will find when he/she is through.

12b.) *Kosebiro to otedi*.

If he/she has come, he/she is to cook.

It is seen that the auxiliary ‘biro’ plays a major role in marking this tense such that the absence of it denotes a different tense. Non past tense in future depends on the prefixes such that without terms such as “*biro*” then the element of future not at all. These morphemes can be mistaken to be adverbs. We are not told the beginning of the activities but we see the possibility also of their ending. In this case we therefore focus on the activity and finishing time.

4.3.5.3 Non Past Tense in Immediate Future

It refers to events which will occur few minutes from now.

13a.) *Dhi lwok lepi*.

Go and wash your clothes.

13b.) *Wadhi epwodho sani*.

Let us go to the garden now.

13c. *Wadhi wuok sani.*

We are going to leave now.

It can be noted that the adverbials can be used to mark non past. It is not affected much by the tone. It also shows very minimal infection of the morphemes. This kind of tense requires good arrangement of morphemes to bring about the meaning of immediateness and future. Morphemes for such constructions are minimal but more sentences can be constructed with varied sentences. The vowel harmony is seen clearly with /i/ forming the ending of main verbs forming these sentences.

4.3.5.4 Non Past in the Distant Future

Dholuo can describe an activity that will take place at sometime in the future and continues even forever. For example:

14a. *Jogo biro chako wuoth gotieno.*

Those people will start walking at night.

14b *An'gnegiwuogi godhiambo.*

They will leave in the evening.

14c *Wabiro dhi orucha*

We will go the day after tomorrow.

This kind of tense must state the time frame by the help of some adverbials as shown and Dholuo uses specific modifications for this. In 14a, *biro* and *chako* have some morphology of tense aiming at bringing the agreement. The recovered 'o', when speaking, must be stressed to mark an agreement. In 14b, the meaning is implied. It shows that the journey will go on once it is started. In 14c *wa*, *biro* are prefixes used to help in bringing out the intended meaning. The use of *orucha* shows that it is in the future and the use of *biro* balances the tense so that it can be clear that the activity is not yet done but once started, it will still be going on.

4.3.6 Aspects

The nature of Dholuo verb phrase can be fully understood by studying of both tenses and aspect because they are very much closely related. Comrie (1976:3) cited in Odero (2008:39) maintains that an aspect refers to the different ways of viewing the internal temporal status of a situation. He further states that internal temporal status of a situation can be complete or incomplete and gives the following classifications:

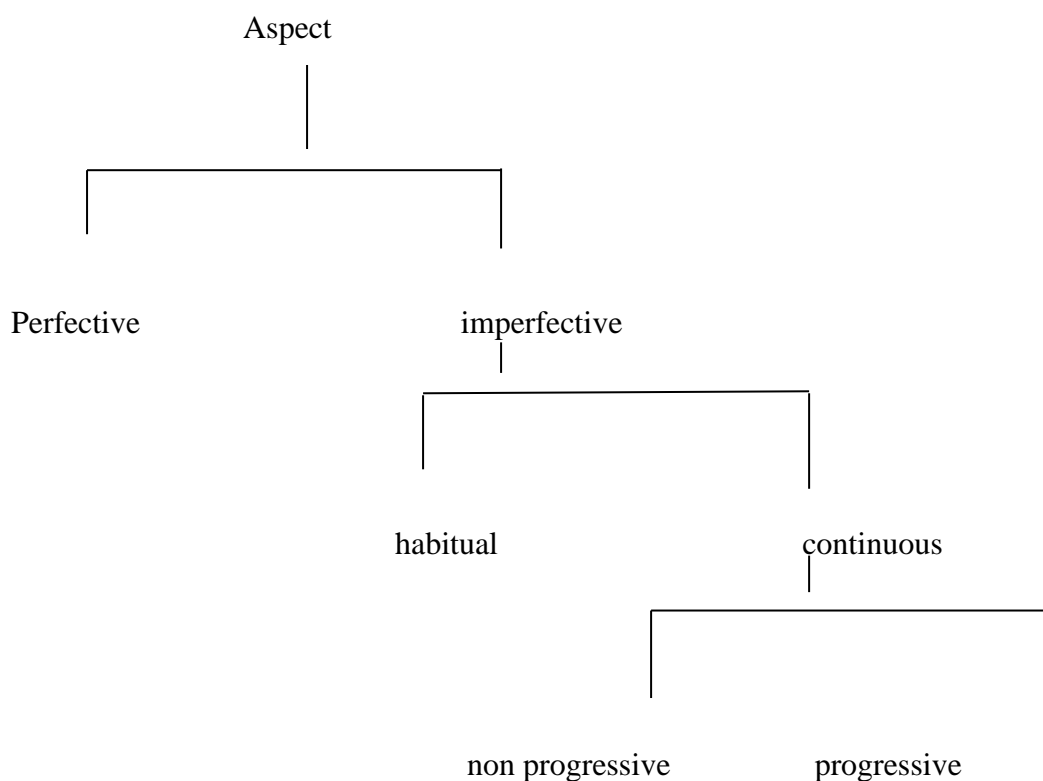


Figure 4.2: The classification of aspectual oppositions

Adapted from Comrie 1976:25) cited in (Odero, 2008)

The verb is pivotal in a grammar of any language. The everyday use of a language which must involve a tense or aspect is based on a verb. “It is a grammatical category that primarily refers to the way grammar marks the duration or a type of temporal activity denoted in the verb” (Odero 2008:40). Dholuo verbs denote different forms of aspect. The use of tone sometimes enables the distinction between a tense and aspect. The concept of aspect though tends to relate so much with a tense. Aspect is clearly explained to be

perfective or imperfective. Comrie (1976:25) states that "...Perfectivity (completive) and imperfectivity (incompletive) are the two major sub divisions of aspect in the languages of the world." This shows that aspect, whether completive or incompletive, is further subdivided to express an event at different durations of speaking.

4.3.6.1 The Perfective Aspect

This aspect means an event has been completed. The duration it takes once an event has happened can either be recent or distant from the reporting time. Dholuo can express all these aspects.

4.3.6.1.1 Perfective Aspect in the Present

15a.) *Jane osemiel.*

Jane has danced.

15b.) *Jane osemiel sani.*

Jane has danced now.

15c.) *Jane kokotieko miende.*

Jane has just finished dancing.

15d.) *Wan wasemiel.*

We have danced.

As seen above, the aspect is marked with a specific morphology 'o', and 'se'. They are prefixes mainly person and time respectively. The dropping of a noun does not change any meaning for in 15a 'Osemiel' is still grammatical and has no problem of agreement. 15d, shows that if you say that *wan* then the agreement morpheme becomes 'wa'. These are pro and they agree for the sentence to be clear. If one says 'anasemiel' then it is noted that there are morphemes which have been used to bring this agreement. 'An' agrees with 'a' while

'wan' agrees with 'wa'. 'Se' is also a prefix used before the verb to mark the perfective aspect.

4.3.6.1.2 Perfective Aspect in the Past

This aspect reports what was completed in the past. It is commonly used to make reference to the sequence of events which happened before the time of reporting.

16a.) *Jane nosedhi.*

Jane had gone.

16b.) *Nosepuro.*

He/she had dug.

16c.) *Jogo nosechopo.*

Those people had reached.

16d.) *Jonenogo nendeosewuoyo*

Those witnesses had spoken.

Dholuo can express the perfective aspect in the past with the help of an auxiliary verb 'nose' and 'ose'. They serve as morphemes of agreement in this case because without them there is nothing to mark the difference. In this aspect another construction can be realized that just deals with agglutination. One can simply say 'nosechopo' meaning he or she had reached. In such constructions there must be agreements because if the subject dropped is in plural then the pro must also be plural for example, 'anasechopo' becomes 'wanwasechopo' and after the agglutination, we remain with 'wasechopo'. This clearly shows the agreement in the agglutination and some good order of morphemes noted. *Wa* followed with *se* and that order can not be altered anywhere.

4.3.6.1.3 Perfective Aspect in the Future

There is projection of events to occur continuously and completely in the future before second events are realized.

17a.) *Wabiro wuok ka useling.*

We will go out once you have kept quiet.

17b.) *Abiro kendo ka aseyudo tich*

I will marry after getting a job.

17c) *Achola biro dhi e skul ka dwoko oduogo*

Achola will go to school once results are out.

In this case, two events must be brought out clearly. The first being, to express future activities. Auxiliary verb *biro* is very important here and for the perfection in the tense to be, morpheme *ka* must be included.

4.3.6.2 Imperfective Aspect

It is an aspect that shows the beginning but the end is left unspecified. Givon (1984:239) shows a contrast in perfective and imperfective and says that: "...the terminal boundary of events as well as its relationship to time axis."

He further gives three major sub-categories of the imperfective as durative/continuous, the repetitive and the future aspects (Odero 2008:53).

4.3.6.2.1 The Durative Aspect

It shows an action that is going on. It can express what was going on at the time of speaking in the past or in the present.

It is further divided into the following:

4.3.6.2.2 The Present Progressive Aspect

This marks the aspect of an action in progress at the time of speaking.

18a.) *Oywak.*

He/she is crying.

18b.) *Mama tedo.*

Mother is cooking.

18c.) *Jogi dhi.*

These people are going.

18d.) *Gichiemo sani.*

They are eating now.

18e.) *Aringo.*

I am running.

It is evident that the present progressive aspect and present tense are almost the same, except that adverbial of time does not play any major role in the present progressive aspect.

When you say *Mama tedo*, there is no need to stress the time. We can have just one word that can express the present progressive as in 17e; *Aringo*. I am running. The adverb of time is not very necessary here.

4.3.6.2.3 The Past Progressive Aspect

It shows an aspect of action that was in progress at the time of speaking.

19a.) *Nyithindogo ne nyiero.*

Those children were laughing.

19b.) *Noobedo.*

He/she was sitting.

19c.) *Nondiko.*

He/she was writing.

19d.) *Ruedhi ne dhao.*

Bulls were fighting.

19e.) *Nyithindo ne nyiero ka wakadho.*

Children were laughing when we are passing.

Benard, Florence and Sangai (2013:46-53) found that Dholuo is a tonal language manifested in both lexical and grammatical conditions but for the past progressive aspect to be realized, the morpheme ‘*ne*’ must be used. It serves to mark time. This aspect is clearly noted that even though it has two parts, one part is optional and depends on the kind of sentence constructed. Some elements of this aspect are also depending on the intonation. For example ‘*No`ndiko*’ to mean, he or she was writing. It is the intonation that will make it a past progressive or just a past tense. ‘*Nondiko*’ means ‘He or she wrote’ but with intonation it is derived that it is a second person who wrote. Gender is not marked by any morpheme in Dholuo.

4.3.6.2.4 Future Progressive Aspect

It refers to an action that will be taking place in the future and continues for a moment. For an example;

20a.) *Gibiro bedo ka gitiyo.*

They will be working.

20b.) *Abiro bedo ka matin.*

I will sit here for a while.

20c.) *Japuony pod biro dak ka.*

A teacher will still stay here.

20d.) *Dhok pod biro dong ka.*

The cattle will still remain here.

20e.) *Pod wanaling matin.*

We will still be silent for awhile.

Dholuo clearly marks aspect by the help of free morphemes that are at times used as auxiliary verbs. The auxiliary *biro* is a key marker of the future time and without it, the meaning is fully distorted. Without any modification, some prefixes are used as free morphemes and end up bringing the real meaning in such constructions. Taking note of *ana* and *wana*, it is seen that *ana* and *wana* are prefixes which are also used to mark agreements, *ana* is only used in singular cases while *wana* is used for plural cases.

4.3.6.3 The Habitual Aspect

Comrie (1976:27-28) in (Odero 2008:62) states that the habitual "... describe(s) a situation which is characteristic of an extended period of time, so extended in fact that the situation referred to is viewed not as an incidental property of the moment but, precisely, as a characteristic feature of a whole period." It is further classified as present, past and future habitual aspects. Dholuo marks these three habitual aspects as shown below:

4.3.6.3.1 Present Habitual Aspect

It denotes an action that occurs repeatedly although not taking place at the present time.

21a.) *Juma dhaoga.*

Juma always fights.

21b.) *Mama ringoga ka oa chiro.*

Mother always run if she is from the market.

21c.) *Gikualoga marach.*

They steal very much.

21d.) *Gihero wuondogaji.*

They like cheating people.

21e.) *Koth chuega pile tinde.*

It is raining every day nowadays.

21f.) *Gari tinde deko.*

Nowdays the vehicle comes late.

In this aspect, *ga* is a suffix that must come at the end of the verb reporting the activity. All the aspects of communication in the present habitual must have *ga*. When *ga* is used, it is shown that there are some aspects of repetition. From these examples, *ga* is the only one of the morphemes which is not a pronoun but bring the agreement of habitual. It shows that Dholuo does not only use pronouns as morphemes of agreement but there are other morphemes which help in bringing agreements. For the present aspect to be maintained, some adverbials such as *tinde*, *sani* and *pile* are used as seen in example 20b and 20c. It is the morphology that plays work in this analysis.

4.3.6.3.2 Past Habitual Aspect

This describes an event that has been repeatedly taking place in the past at regular intervals and is able to happen in future even if is not happening now.

22a) *Juma ne dhao.*

Juma always fought.

22b) *Mama ne ringoga koa chiro.*

Mother was always running from the market.

22c) *Nyathini nethekoga.*

This child was always disturbing.

22d) *Sitima nechendoga*

Electricity was disturbing always.

In all the aspects, it is *ne* that marks time while *ga* marks the habitual nature. There are aspects which one must consider. Aspeaker must inflect the verb to bring out the concept of habitual. To come up with the aspect of past, morphemes of the past must be used. The morpheme of tense is used as prefixes while the morphemes of habitual aspects are used as suffixes.

4.3.6.3.3 The Future Habitual Aspect

This aspect denotes events that will take place regularly in the future.

23a.) *Juma biro dhaoga.*

Juma will always be fighting.

23b.) *Mama biro ringo koa chiro.*

Mother will run from market.

23c.) *Nyakoni biro dak ka.*

This lady will stay here.

23d.) *Jotelo biro biro gi gari pile.*

Leaders will be coming in a vehicle everyday.

23e.) *Jomatiyo matek biro bedo ka yuto man'geny.*

Those who work hard will be getting more.

The future habitual is formed with *biro* and *ga*. It should be seen clearly that Dholuo can express the future habitual aspect with the help of two major morphemes. Much as *biro* is an auxiliary verb, it helps a lot in the future while *ga* is a morpheme mainly for a habitual aspect.

4.3.6.4 The Repetitive/Distributive Aspect

This is an activity done on and off. It takes the forms present repetitive, past repetitive and future repetitive in Dholuo. Each form is discussed below.

4.3.6.4.1 The Present Repetitive Aspect

This is the aspect that is repetitively taking place in the present. It involves duplication of the main verb.

24a.) *Iwuotho awuatha ka.*

You are just walking here?

24b.) *Itugoatuga ka.*

You just play here.

24c.) *Idwa chiemo achiema to ok iti.*

You just want to be eating without working.

This aspect of Dholuo communication is rarely used in ordinary communication because it has a lot of negative implication. Paying attention to the verbs in 24a to 24c, the first part of the verb ends in /o/ while the second verb ends in /a/ for example;

Wuotho awuatha

Tugo atuga

Chiemo achiema

Kwalo akwala

Nindo aninda

Somo asoma

Present repetitive aspect has a unique feature that is not common to most languages. The formation of this aspect is by inflection because the only morpheme that is affected is the last that by suffixation replaces 'o' by 'a' to bring the aspect.

4.3.6.4.2 The Past Repetitive Aspect

This refers to an action that was done on and off in the past.eg

25a.) *Juma nenyalo puro apura.*

Juma was digging.

25b.) *Jokuoge nenyalo kwala akwala chon.*

Thieves were just stealing in the past.

25c.) *Nende inyalohero nindo aninda pile.*

You just liked sleeping daily.

25d.) *Gin neginyalo chamo achama rabuon.*

They were just able to eat potatoes.

From the examples given above, it can be seen that past repetitive is formed by just changing the tense from the present to past tense by adding the morpheme of past ‘ne’ or ‘nende’. The verb seems just to maintain its structural organization and vowel ‘a’ is still used to carry the aspect of repetition but the ability to occur is marked by the word acting here as a morpheme called *nyalo*. The morpheme ‘ne’ is strictly used for tense and always mean past tense. In Dholuo, tense marker comes before the main verb.

4.3.6.4.3 The Future Repetitive Aspect

This is an activity that is expected to occur repetitively in the future.

26a.) *Juma biro puro apura.*

Juma will just dig.

26b.) *Odongo biro nindoga ka*

Odongo will be sleeping here.

26c.) *Nyithindo biro nindoga e sikul.*

Children will be spending in school.

From the examples given above, it is the tone and modification of some morphemes which determine the aspect in Dholuo. This means that in a performance Dholuo requires the use of articulatory perceptual (Chomsky, 1991) for effective communication. There are various morphemes meant for specific roles. For example, 'ne' is for tense, 'ga' for frequency and 'biro' serving as future marker. For the aspect of repetition to be achieved, the root verb must be repeated. It should also be noted that direct translation of Dholuo future repetitive aspect is very difficult and results into a change in the meaning.

4.3.6.5 The Persistent Aspect

Dholuo is able to express all aspects of communication. It can express even events which started in the past and are still going on at the point of reference. The persistent aspect is further classified as shown below;

4.3.6.5.1 Past Persistent Aspect

27a.) *Juma ne nindo ka dhok dhi epwodho.*

Juma was sleeping when the cattle were going to the garden.

27b.) *Gin ne gidon 'g ka wadhi.*

They remained while we were going.

27c.) *Nepod giwer kawa nindo.*

They were still singing while we slept.

Past persistent does not depend much on the tone but has a way it is expressed in Dholuo by the use of some morphemes which bring out the meaning accurately. The use of 'ka' is very important because it brings out the two sides of the activity which are going on at the time of speaking. *Ka* can be used as an adverb but here it has just been used to mark aspect and so serves as morpheme.

4.3.6.5.2 Present Persistent

This refers to an action started in the past and is still ongoing at the time of speaking.

28a.) *Juma pod puro.*

Juma is still digging.

28b.) *Pod wadak ka.*

We are still staying here.

28c.) *Bura pod iyalo e doho.*

The case is still being listened to in the court.

28d.) *Wachni osehandoji mangeny.*

This matter has disturbed people for long.

Dholuo expresses the present persistent with a word that can serve as a conjunction as well in ordinary constructions. When the word 'pod' is used, it means 'not yet' but as a conjunction, it implies 'still'. Other languages like English have their ways of expressing this aspect by the help of the auxiliary verbs and main verb in its past perfect tense.

4.3.6.5.3 The Future Persistent Aspect

This marks an event which is expected to be ongoing in the future when another intervening event will take place. eg

29a.) *Juma pod biro puro kata koth chue.*

Juma will still be digging even if it is raining.

29b.) *Jakwath pod biro dhi kwath kata otuo.*

The herdsman will still go grazing even if he is sick.

29c.) *Welo biro donjo ka kata tok yao ot manyien.*

Visitors will enter here even after opening a new house.

29d.) *Diendni pod biro ringo kata osegonye.*

This goat will still run even after untied.

Dholuo uses auxiliary and modified morphemes to mark certain aspects. There are some mandatory connectors in this aspect of grammar. Words such as *biro* and *kata* are very vital in this construction. Dholuo has some free morphemes which can be confused for mere words. ‘*Pod*’ in this construction is very significant and brings the concept of affirmation to the aspect that another activity will not stop even after the intervention of another. This aspect of communication is found mainly in a conversation. It can be noted that here a tone does not affect the understanding of the sentence at all. The morphemes used best clarify the aspect. The idea of persistency is marked by morphemes which are only meant show the there is continuity even after the intervention of the other activities.

From the study done on the tenses, aspects and constituent structures above, there are some elements of morphology which have been observed. Words are made of different morphemes which help in building a verb phrase. Dholuo words accept agglutination thus can result into a phrase build up with so many features. The free and bound morphemes in Dholuo are very useful in the agreement of sentence and marking of different aspects in Dholuo.

It can be seen, from the data below, that Dholuo uses pronouns as morpheme markers and these pronouns can be prefixed or suffixed. The affixation is helping the Dholuo sentences to meet the agreement demands. Some of the agreement features are just pronouns positioned to bear features of number or tense agreement.

30.) *kowna*.

Bring me

Kow-na

3P 1P/SG

The root verb 'kow' and 'na' is the morpheme. The 'na' morpheme has gender marking but here it serves as a case marker. It is suffixed to mark the agreement. It is one of the Dholuo bound morpheme which brings the singular agreement marker.

31.) *Kelnegi kom.*

Bring for them a chair.

Kel-ne-gi kom.

V P/P Pr Object

The bound morphemes are the roots incapable of occurring in isolation (Katamba, 1993). Here the morphological elements are 'ne' and 'gi.' They serve as bound morphemes because they express their complete meaning only when they are attached to root words. *Kel* is the root word of the verb. *Ne* is marking the agreement. *Gi* is pronoun but can serve as an agreement feature to bring the sense of plural. In the sentence above *ne* is marking the sense of the passive voice. *Ne* is able to mark different tenses in Dholuo and how it is positioned will best define the role it plays in a sentence. It can mean the past time activity or the sense of an activity being done to someone else where the subject of the sentence has limited roles to play.

32.) *Wachnwa matek.*

Say it a loud.

Wach-nwamatek.

V Pp Adv

'Nwa' is the morphological element marking the person, first person plural. It is a suffix that marks the number agreement. It has come after the main verb that shows where most of the agreement markers are found in the Dholuo verb phrase.

33.) *Ornwa gigo.*

V 1P/P obj

Send for us those things.

34.) *O-choko-ne a gwata.*

A calabash has been collected for him.

The morphemes such as: ‘na’, ‘gi’, ‘nenwa’, ‘dwa’ and ‘go’ are quite parametrical such that only seen to be Dholuo specific. They work in line with persons. It is also displayed that affixes which are mainly pronouns function as morphological elements. The morphology of agreement commonly come after a verb. There are also some morphological elements which can help in marking the time though they are sounding like words. Dholuo uses pronouns to mark most of its agreements. There is a linear order that all these morphemes follow even if they are found in a sentence. For example:

35a) *Gikaoga tinde.*

They usually take now days.

‘Ga’ is simply a morpheme of time marking the frequency.

4.4 Features of Agreement in Dholuo Verb Phrase

It has been realized that most African languages use pronouns as agreement markers and such pronouns serve as morphology of agreement in both subject verb agreement marker and object verb agreement marker. Dholuo, as one of the African languages, exhibits morphemes of agreement as shown below:

35b.) *O –biro-kadh-okamano.*

He/she/it will pass like that.

O- biro kadh -o kamano.

3P/SG aux future V main Agr Adv Tns

The sentence above illustrates some morphemes used to mark agreement. *O* and *a* in this case are pronouns used as agreement markers of subject and object. Here they serve as subject object agreement markers. It is ungrammatical to write it as shown below if the meaning of the sentence is to be maintained:

O -biro kadha kamano.

He /she/it will pass me like that.

The post-verbal pronoun ‘o’ and ‘a’ mark the agreement and their alteration affects agreement hence a change in the meaning of the sentence. This is also found in Tugen which is also a Nilotic language as shown below:

The verb is inflected for person and number. The person prefixes are {á-} for first person singular and {kí-} for plural and {í-} for second person singular with {ó-} in the plural. The verbs thus have forms for singular and plural. For instance (14a) and (14c) are marked for singular while (14b) and (14d) are marked for plural. The third person is not marked by any prefix in the singular or plural. This can be seen in the following examples:

(14a) á- lábát-í 1SG-run-IMP.

I am running.

(14b) Kí- rwá-é 1PL-run-IMP.

We are running.

(14c) í- wéénd-í 2SG-go-IMP.

You are going.

(14d) ó-béénd-í 2PL-go-IMP.

You are going.

(14e) ø- kùùr-éí 3SG/PL-call-IMP

He/They are calling.

The referent for the third person is represented by the subject noun phrase or the personal pronouns in the sentence. When free standing pronouns are used, they are mainly for focus. That is, they specify and differentiate the person under consideration from the group (Jerono, 2012: 28).

(36) *Be i -se-bayo wach?*

Auxiliary P V N

Have you been rude?

(37) *Wa -dhi-u-ru kanyo.*

1stPP V 2P N

Let us go there.

A tense is a category that marks the time at which the action denoted by the verb took place while an agreement is a category that marks the syntactic relation between words and phrases which are compatible in a given construction. It may have features of person, number and gender. The interaction between these two inflectional elements has been seen to determine the surface order of syntactic constituents. Ouhalla (1991:13) states that any attempt to classify languages along typological lines should take into consideration the properties of functional categories rather than those of substantives (lexical categories). The order of inflectional categories of tense and aspect differs from one language to another along typological lines. Ouhalla (1991:14) found out that there is a correlation between the order of AGR/TNS and the surface position of the subject in the sense that in languages where AGR is inside TNS, that is, occurring in apposition after TNS in the verb template, the subject is placed after the verb while in languages where AGR is outside TNS, that is, AGR appears first in the morphological order of the verb, the subject appears before the verb in the sentence structure. This means that languages that have the agreement features preceding the tense features are verb medial while those languages where the tense precedes the agreement features are verb initial (Jerono, 2012:28-29). This

is a parameter that is unique to a particular language. In Dholuo, agreement marker can be after the main verb or before main verb as illustrated below.

(38) *Obirokadho kawuono.*

O-3P/SG biro(will) kadh(pass)v –o(3P/SG suffix) kawuono(today)adv time.

The agreement marker ‘o’ is agglutinated in the main verb but comes after the tense ‘biro’ which marks the future time.

(39) *Ne wakadho nyocha.*

Ne (PTNS) wa(1P/PL) kadh(pass) –o(suffix) nyocha(before yesterday)

We passed a day before yesterday.

It can be observed that both ‘ne’ tense marker and ‘wa’ agreement markers have come before the main verb ‘kadh-’.

(40) *A-birokadho kawuono.*

I will pass today.

A-biro kadh-o kawuono

IP/SG aux v main v tns today.

(41) *Akadho sani.*

I am passing now.

A –kadh -o sani.

1P/SG main Tns Adv

(42) *Akadh-i kiny.*

(43) *Akadho-u kiny.*

From sentences 38, 39, 40 and 41 above, Dholuo marks agreement and tenses with some vowels and consonants which can also be syntactically analysed as morphemes of agreement. In sentence 42 and 43, vowel extensions help in marking agreement and tense. This shows that dholuo is verb medial. It also appeared in the work of (Jerono, 2012) in the

analysis of the position of tense and agreement in the SVO languages and VSO languages as shown below using Kiswahili and Tugen to illustrate.

(29) M- toto a- li- u- imba w-imbo 3SG-childAGRS-PST-AGRO-sing SG-song The child sang a song in Kiswahili, a bantu language which is SVO, {a-} agrees in person, number and class with the subject and appears before {-li-} which is the tense marker carrying past tense features and followed by objective marker{-u-} and the verb root {-imba}. Unlike in Kiswahili, the order of tense and agreement is opposite in Tugen. This is seen below:

(30) *Kà- ø- tíèn-ø láákw-éétìèn-dó*

PST-3SG-sing-3OBchild-SG/DEF song-SG/DEF

The child sang a song.

In Tugen, which is a VSO/VOS language, {kà-} is the tense marker of the recent past tense which appears before the {-ø-} which is the agreement marker for third person singular and followed by the verb root{-tíèn} and the objective marker{-ø} (Jerono, 2012:29).

44.) *Be i -se-bayowach?*

Auxiliary 2ndpsnplr v n

The sentences above show that Dholuo is an SVO language that marks its agreements and tenses with the help of affixation.

(45) *Wadhiuru kanyo.*

1P/P v agr N

Let us go there.

The relevant literature reveals that the order of AGR and TNS in a derived verbal complex differs from one language to another (Kavit 2004). The feature of agreement is Parametric and the Principles and Parameter framework account for the unique use of affixation Dholuo to be a variation on remains particular to a specific language.

(46) *Wabirokadho kawuono.*

Psn-v future main v Adv time

(47) *Kawuono emaokadhe.*

Adv t aux main v

(48) *Jopuonjgi be ne thagi.*

Jo-3P/P

These

Puonj-verb

teach

Gi -3Pr

also

Be - Adv

Were

Ne -Pst marker

past

Thagi -v

Disturbing you

Agreement marker-*gi* as shown above moves to the verb *thago* to become *thagi*.

(49) *Ok wadwa koko ka*

Ok(negator) *wa*-(1P/SG prefix) *koko*(noise) *ka*(here)

Wa- 1P /SG marker

Dwa –verb

Koko –noise

Ka -adv of place

(50) *Be isebay owach?*

Have you ever been rude?

Be i -se-bayowach?

Auxiliary TNS V NIn Dholuo agreement appears as:

An adhi dala.

Me I go home.

I am going home.

An -1stpsn sngl

A -1stpsn agr marker

Dhi -go

Dala -home

In order to mark agreement the morphological feature ‘a’ becomes ‘wa’ as shown below:

Wan wa-dhi dala. (Dholuo)

Us we go home. (English gloss)

We are going home.

‘A’ has become ‘wa’ to mark the agreement in the sentence.

The word form is changed by adding something to the end or at the start (affixation) what is added at the start is called prefixes and those added at the end are called suffixes. There are cases of vowel change in different languages for example:

Foot feets

Mouse mice

In Dholuo there is:

	Singular	plural
<i>Dhiang</i>	<i>dhok</i>	
	<i>Nyathi</i>	<i>nyithindo</i>
	<i>Nyako</i>	<i>nyiri</i>

(51) *Wa-dh-i-uru kanyo.*

IP/SG agr n(obj)

Us go there.

With the illustration above, it should be noted that even though Dholuo is an agglutinating African language, it has a way of expressing its agreement in different aspects of time number but not person. Pronouns are commonly used as agreement markers and their inflection best bring about the agreement. For instance,

Wa-dh-i-urukanyo.

1stp-p agr n(obj)

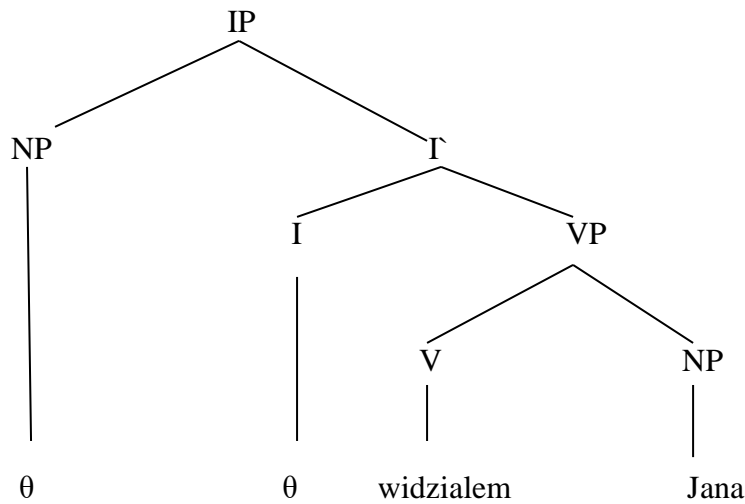
It is ungrammatical for one to simply say; *A-dhi-urukanyo*. ‘A’ and ‘u’ are pronouns which can be inflected to bring about real understanding of an agreement. ‘U’ fits in plural slot while ‘a’ in singular. Persons are specified and clearly agree depending on the nature of the sentence. The gender is not defined and so its agreement is unrealized. Dholuo uses affixation as one of its main feature of agreement.

4.5 Dholuo Pro- Drop

It is the concept of parameters that gives rise to a pro drop because it is language specific. A pro- drop is highly inflected verbal morphology. Verbal inflection indicates person and number of the subject therefore referential of nul subject can be inferred from the grammatical inflection on the verb. In Chomsky lectures on Government and Binding 1981, he states that a pro- drop is a predicate rather than a subject.

Robert (2004:85) states that:

Given the assumption that subjects are obligatory...for Principles and Parameters, it will have exactly the same kind of subject...it will have a phonetically empty pronoun as subject. Such pronoun is often referred to as *pro* represented as shown here for a German language:



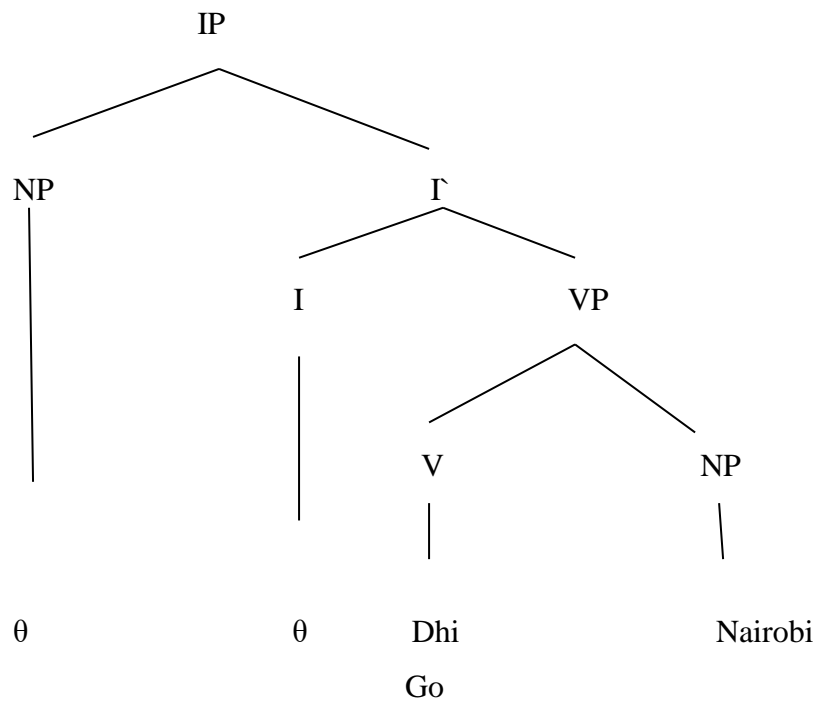
(Robert, 2004:85)

Languages which allow sentences like these are commonly known as null-subject or pro-drop languages. A word level head does not assign a theta role to its subject, that is, it has no external theta role.

Dholuo has a pro-drop that tends to show an agreement. It is the agreement in these sentences that has been studied in details to illustrate how Dholuo displays its pro-drop. It is noted that translating a language that allows a pro-drop to one that does not causes a lot of challenges. The pronoun in the pro-drop languages are omitted in cases where they are grammatically inferable and it is not for all pronouns of that language but only certain pronouns in specific constructions. Some languages have a complete pro-drop while others only permits partial pro-drop.

52.) *Dhi Nairobi.*

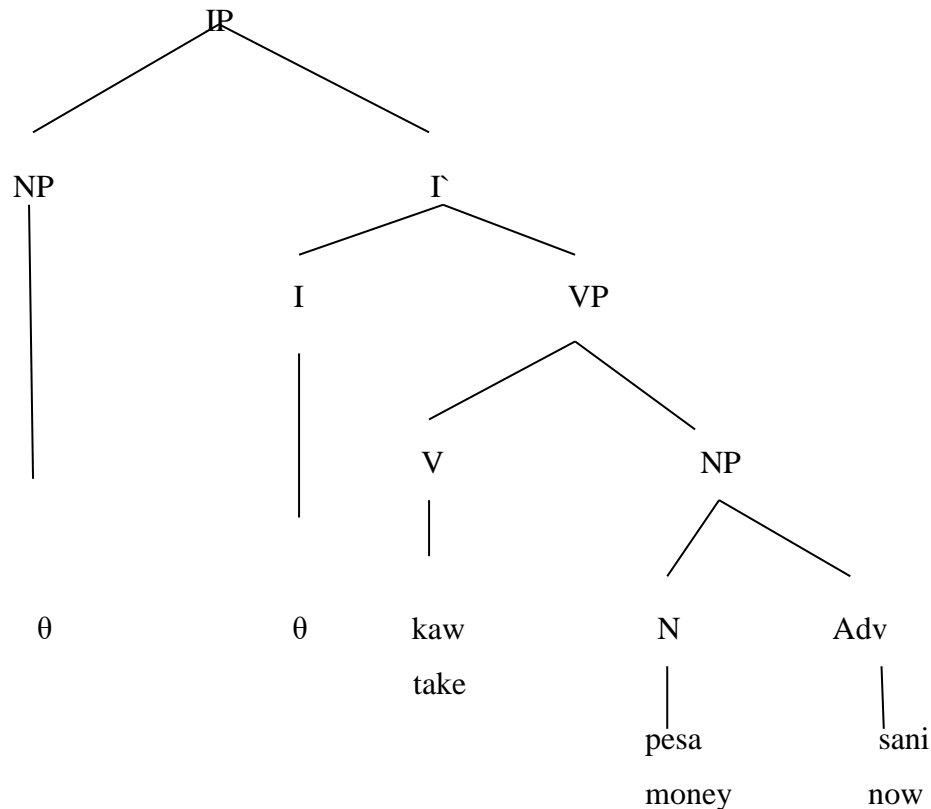
Go to Nairobi.



From the diagram above, it is shown that the noun has been dropped. In the areas marked (θ), nouns or pronouns could be but have been dropped without altering the meaning of the sentence. Not all languages can allow this except those with strong inflectional morphology.

53. *Kaw pesa sani.*

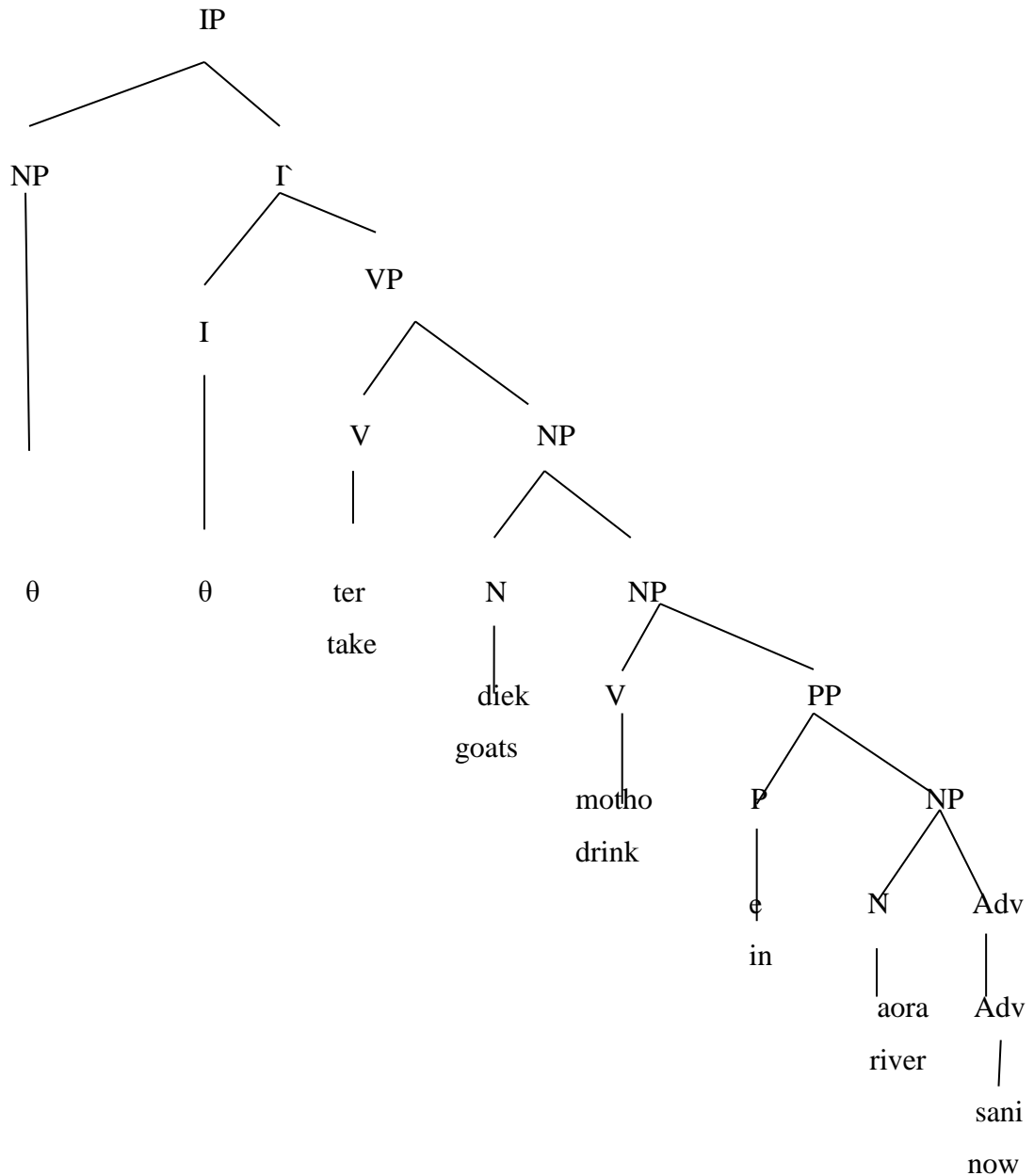
Take this money now.



From the diagram above, it can be seen that the pronoun has been dropped because the meaning can be inferred. There is no mentioning of who is to take money but the meaning of the sentence is maintained. It could have just been a sentence that: *Mary kaw pesa sani* (Mary takes money now) Or *Okaw pesa sani* (Let her/him takes the money now) But instead the pronoun has been dropped because meaning is inferable. This feature is parametrical and so can only be realized in specific languages. The listeners correctly understand the statement without any difficulty. The dropping of a pronoun does not interfere with the interpretation of the sentence and is restricted to only constructions where null subject can be inferred without any challenge. The data provided here will show that much as Dholuo allows dropping of the subject, it is only happening in specific constructions. It is not a very common construction in many communications.

54.) *Ter diek modho e aora sani.*

Take the goats to drink in the river now.



From the tree diagram above, it is shown that the slot of noun or pronoun is left vacant in specific areas but the meaning of the sentence is maintained. This is what is called a pro-drop because the pro or the pronoun has been dropped. It is not possible in all languages. The name of the person to take the goats to the river is inferred and the listener knows and so is not mentioned. In a critical analysis, one can note that this pro-drop feature is mainly evident in first person of Dholuo constructions but difficulty noted in the third person

constructions. If you say; *ter diek e aora mondo omodhi*. (Take goats to the river to drink). That is singular with a pro-drop but if you say; *Ter uru diek e aoramond omodhi* (Take goats to the river to drink). The pronoun can not be dropped in the plural form of construction. This will seriously call for the knowledge of the agreement. It means that there must be an agreement when a pronoun is dropped. Referring to the sentence above, the pronoun *uru* does not only play a role of the pronoun to replace the noun but also serve as an agreement marker to help bring out the fact that doers of the action here are many and can not just be inferred. Whenever a pronoun is dropped, it does not change meaning of the sentence. The meaning must be left unaltered because the dropping left an empty space but meaningfully inferred.

Kibort (2007) states that for a feature to be relevant to syntax, it must be involved in either syntactic agreement or government. The pronoun *uru* gains this relevancy by being involved in marking agreement. The agreement in the pro-drop is something that is best achieved by having the agreement before dropping the subject. There can not be plural subject that is left without the balancing done in the sentence. The morphemes of agreement are carried to their relevant slots but if there are any of the number agreement feature that marks the person in the subject then dropping becomes impossible. There are incidences where the noun can be dropped but the slot of subject still agglutinates in the verb. Such constructions do not fall under the empty category because the pro-drop requires total gap where the subject is only left to be inferred.

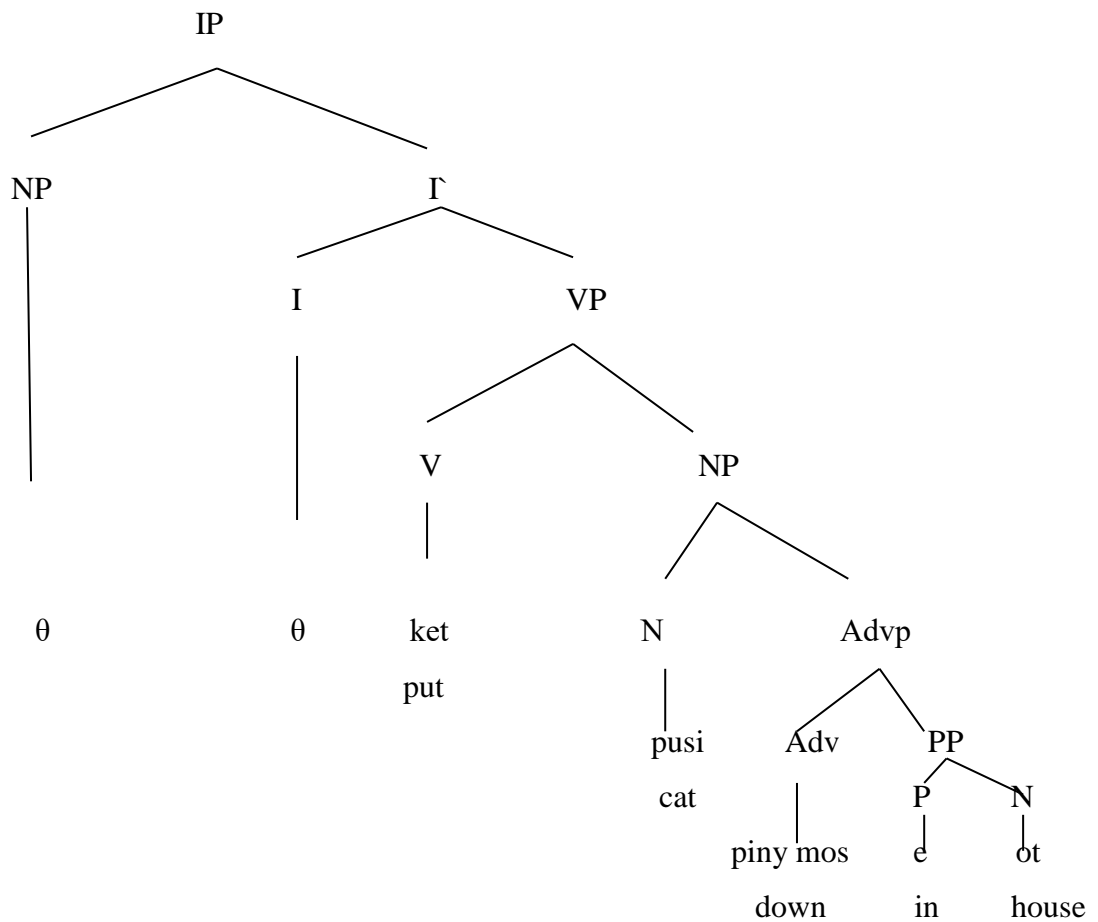
Languages with highly inflected verbal morphology express a pro-drop. The expression of the subject pronoun is considered unnecessary because the verbal inflection indicates the person and number of the subject and so the referent of the null subject can be inferred from the grammatical inflection on the verb. This is displayed in the Dholuo verb phrase that is highly inflected.

Bresnan (1982:384) states that a pro-drop is a widespread linguistic phenomenon in which under certain conditions a structural Noun Phrase may be unexpressed giving a rise to a pronominal interpretation. During representation in the tree diagram the null symbol (\emptyset) is used to represent the empty category in a tree diagram. The mind recognizes that category even if it is not expressed by words. This means that such languages do not need pronominal all the time to make meanings. It is also denoted that not all constructions in such languages will lack pronominal. It is only in specific constructions where the meaning can be deciphered even with empty pronominal.

For example,

55.) *Ket pusi piny mos e ot*

Place the cat down slowly in the house.

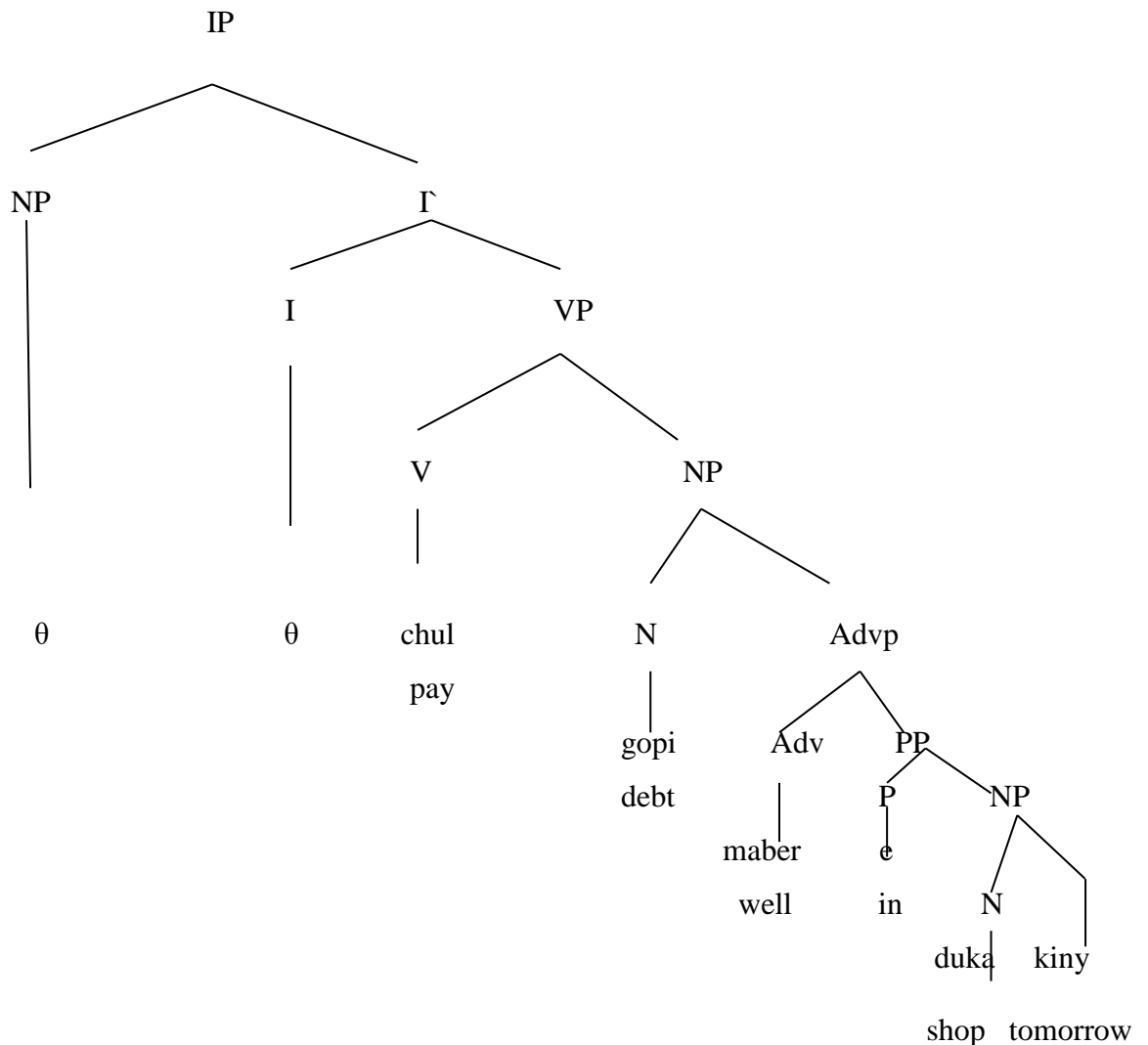


It can be seen from the diagram above that there is null NP. This cannot affect the original meaning of the sentence as was intended to be. The null position is inferred without any

challenge. There is no need to express the name of who carried out the activity but what remains important is that the activity is carried out and the doer can just be known in the mind even if not indicated physically. This is not possible in all languages. Some languages can only allow partial pro-drop but not a complete prod-drop.

56.) *Chul gopi maber e duka kiny.*

Pay your debt well in the shop tomorrow.

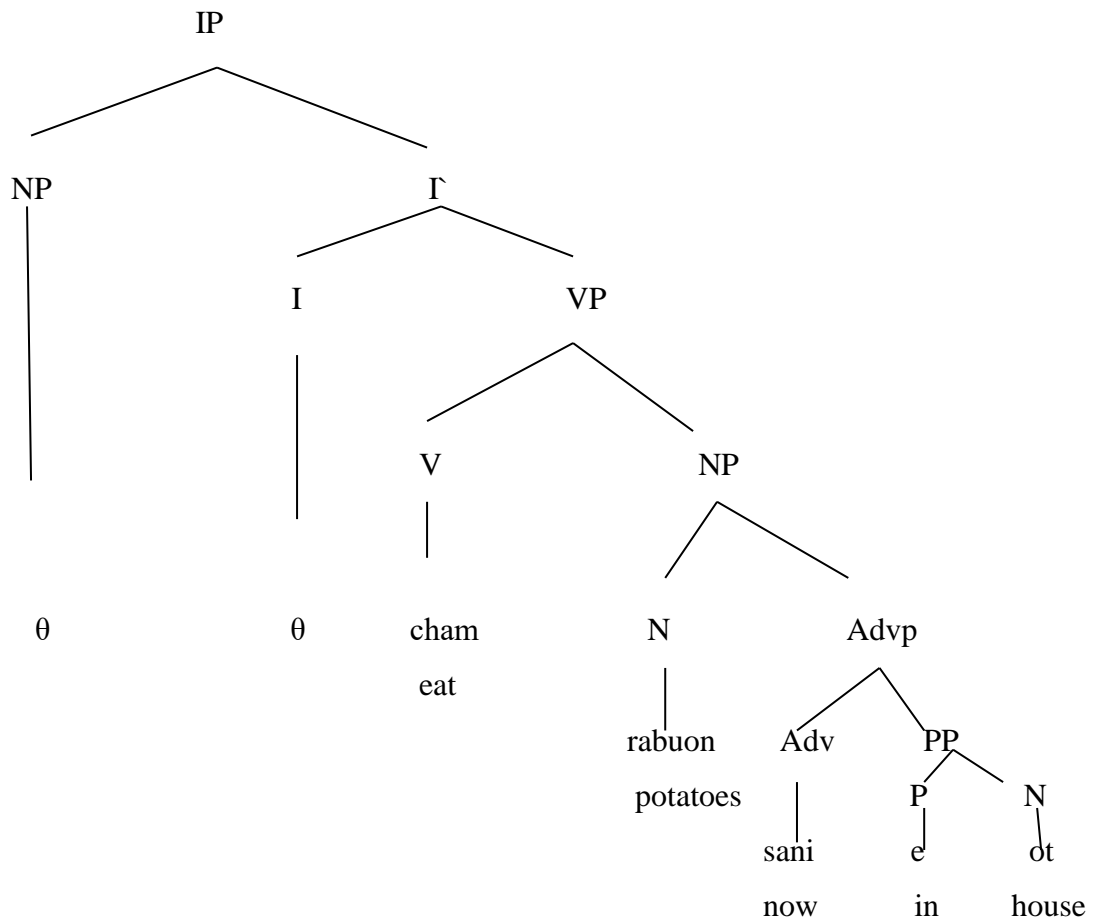


The tree diagram above has shown that the pro-drop in Dholuo is a concept that can be demonstrated clearly in different sentences where the subject is inferable. What need to benoted is that direct translation of languages that permit a pro-drop into non pro-drop languages is very difficult. Some words will have to be left out and the original meaning

can not be retained easily. What is worth checking is the agreement that has to be met after dropping the subject. The following examples demonstrate the fact that even after dropping the pro, agreements must still be considered.

57. *Cham rabuon sani e odi.*

Eat potatoes now in your house.

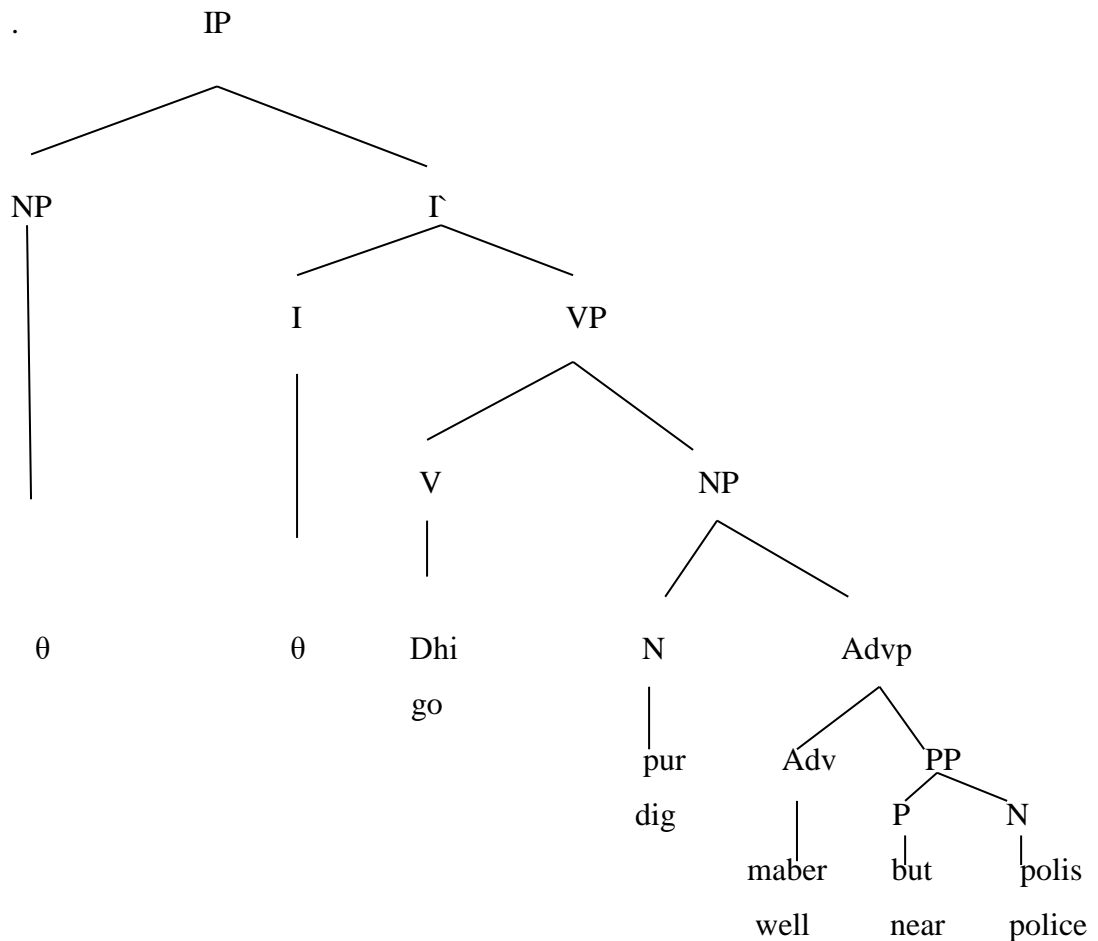


The original statement might have been that *Omondi, cham rabuon sani e odi* (Omondi, eat potatoes now in your house). In the dropping of the pronominal, the remaining statement must maintain the agreement in number and tense. If any speaker says *chamuru rabuon sani e odu* (eat potatoes now in your house). It shows that English can not permit a pro-drop in the second person and at the same time the verb phrase *cham uru* for one person

you should say *cham* (eat). *Uru* is an agreement marker for second person plural. It is a pronoun functioning as an agreement morpheme. The suffix *uru* does not have direct translation in English. This shows that Dholuo does not permit dropping of second person plural and all sentences with the second person plural will never demonstrate a pro-drop.

58.) *Dhipur maber but polis.*

Go and dig well near police.

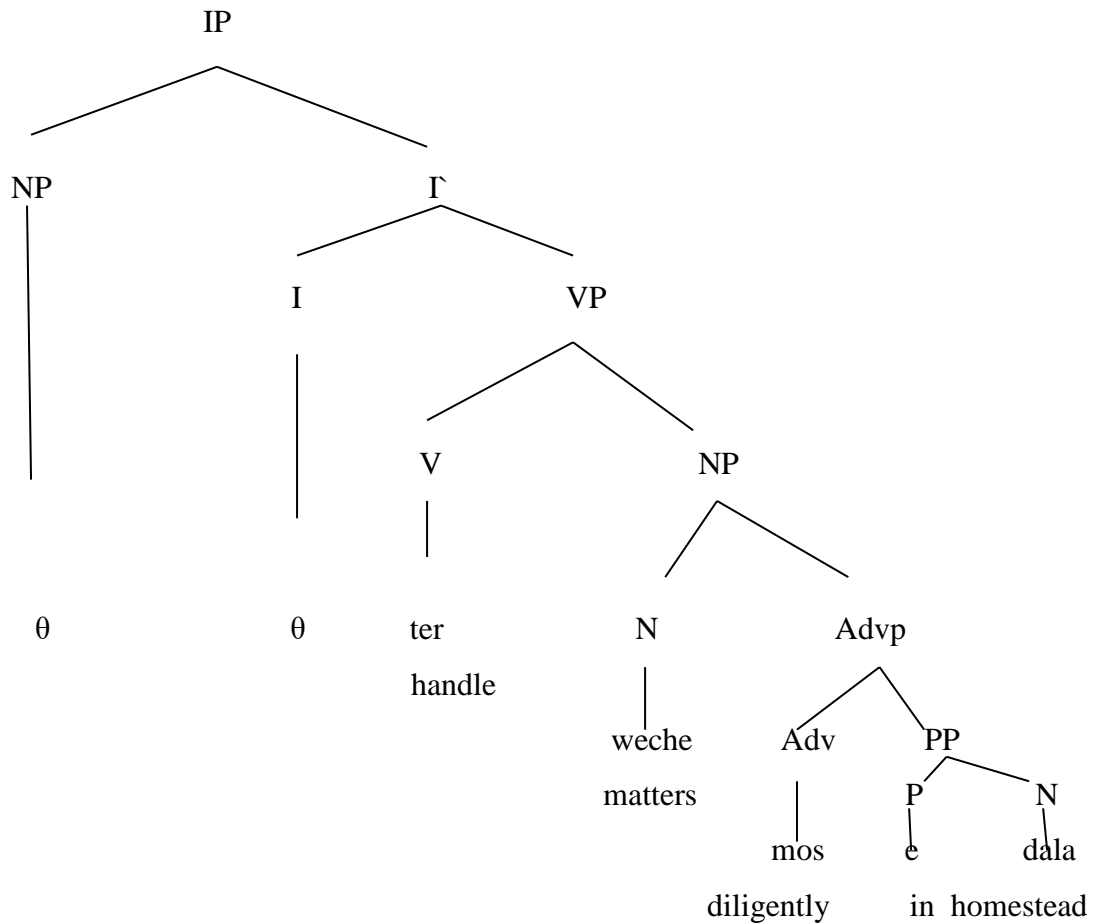


From the tree diagram above it, shows that the slot for NP is left vacant. This is because who is going to dig near the police can be inferred so even if it is left empty, it can not affect the meaning intended. What should be noted again is that when the pronominal is absent the next slot is that of VP and other branches. Discussing the pro-drop can be mistaken to be a VP case but it is not so because there are VPs with embedded pronominal. In the pro-drop there is no pronominal at all serving as a subject because the subject is

dropped. It is the tree diagram that can best prove this because there is empty category in theory. Much as there is a pro-drop in Dholuo, it is not a common phenomenon. It is a feature only experienced in the specific areas where the subject can be inferred.

59.) *Ter weche mos e dala.*

Handle matters diligently in the homestead.



The tree diagram shows that the NP is empty. Despite the empty NP, the meaning is not affected. There can be several constructions where the subject is not identified and as a result it is left empty in the tree diagram. One main reason for this is that it is obvious of who the subject is and in some cases it is so because leaving the subject out does not change the meaning of the original sentence such that leaving it out is still making it inferable. It is therefore said to have just been dropped. It is only when the pronominal can be dropped without alteration to the meaning of the original sentence does it said such a

language is a pro-drop language. Many languages in Africa find it impossible to drop a subject hence considered to be non pro-drop. Some languages like Dholuo only allow pro-drop in construction where it can be without changing the original sentence. To avoid the pro-drop construction, speaker can decide to address the subject by the name for example, *Jaduon'g, ter weche mos e dala* (Jaduon'g, let matters slowly in the homestead). This is a possible sentence taken from a conversation where there could be a group of people giving advisory statement to someone well known and the speaker is very much aware the listener can infer who the subject is without naming the person.

From a statement like this;

60.a) *Atieno, pa liare maler ka pod ong'ich.*

Atieno, pave the pavements when it is still wet.

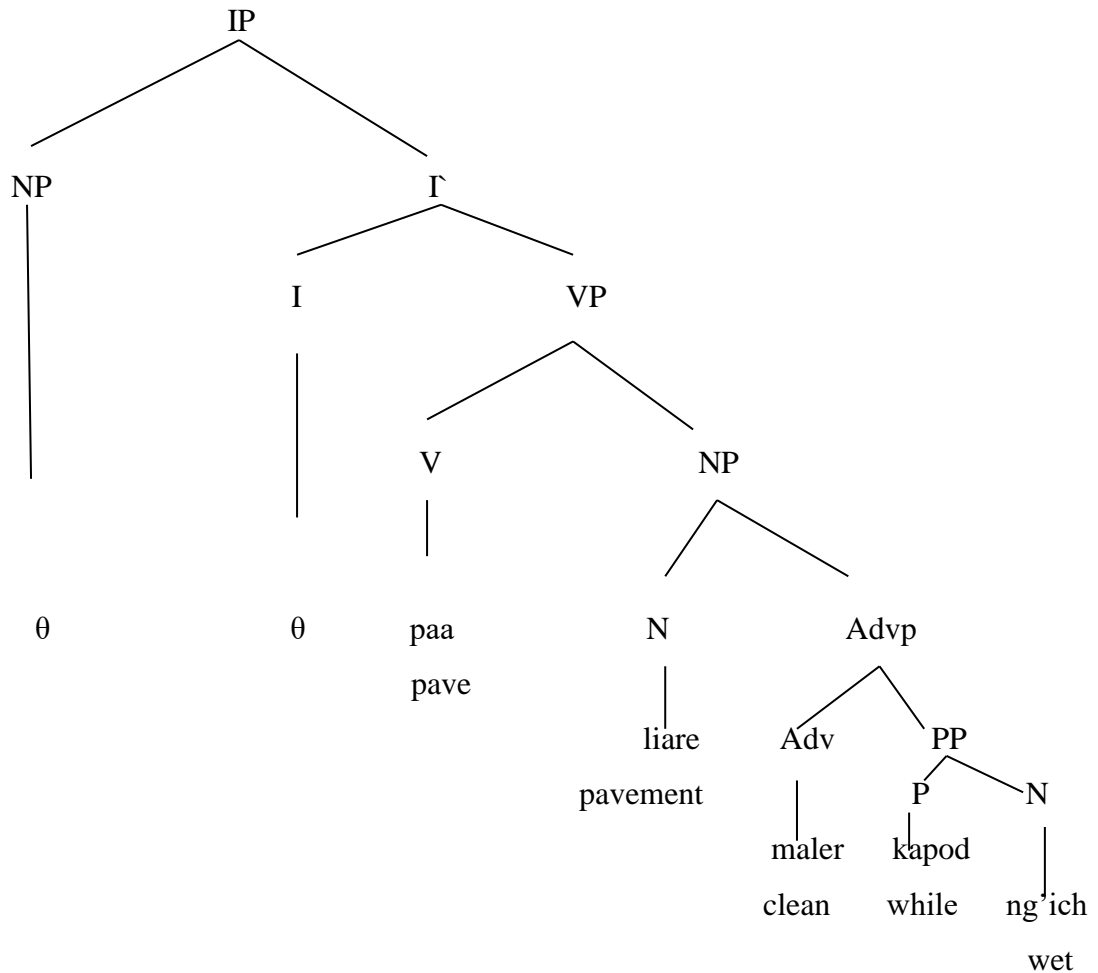
A speaker may not want to call the name especially if the person named is being addressed directly and instead of calling the name simply say; *Paa liare maler ka pod ong'ich.*

Clean the pavement while is wet.

Dholuo allows full communication even without mentioning the subject. This is common in the direct address. The person being addressed and the hearers are able to infer who the subject is. The dropping of the subject does not require any modification in the original sentence. It simply means dropping. It is left without anything but the meaning remains unchanged. This means that there must be an agreement with what is dropped and what is retained in order of the original meaning to be retained. Any attempt to change the position of the verb or alter the tense or number of the subject matter will result into a different sentence that cannot allow the occurrence of a pro-drop. This can confirm that there is an agreement that must be met in a pro-drop construction. The subject dropped and the remaining sentence must agree in number. In cases where there are subjects in plural, dropping is impossible in Dholuo. It is realized that only second person singular subject can be easily dropped in Dholuo. A pro-drop can not be observed in all sentences.

60.b) *Paa liare maler ka pod ng'ich.*

Pave the pavement clean while still wet.



If this statement changes to another tense, then the dropped subject will be recovered to agglutinate with the verb such that dropping of the subject becomes impossible. For example, changing the above sentence into a past tense naturally makes it not possible to form a pro-drop at all.

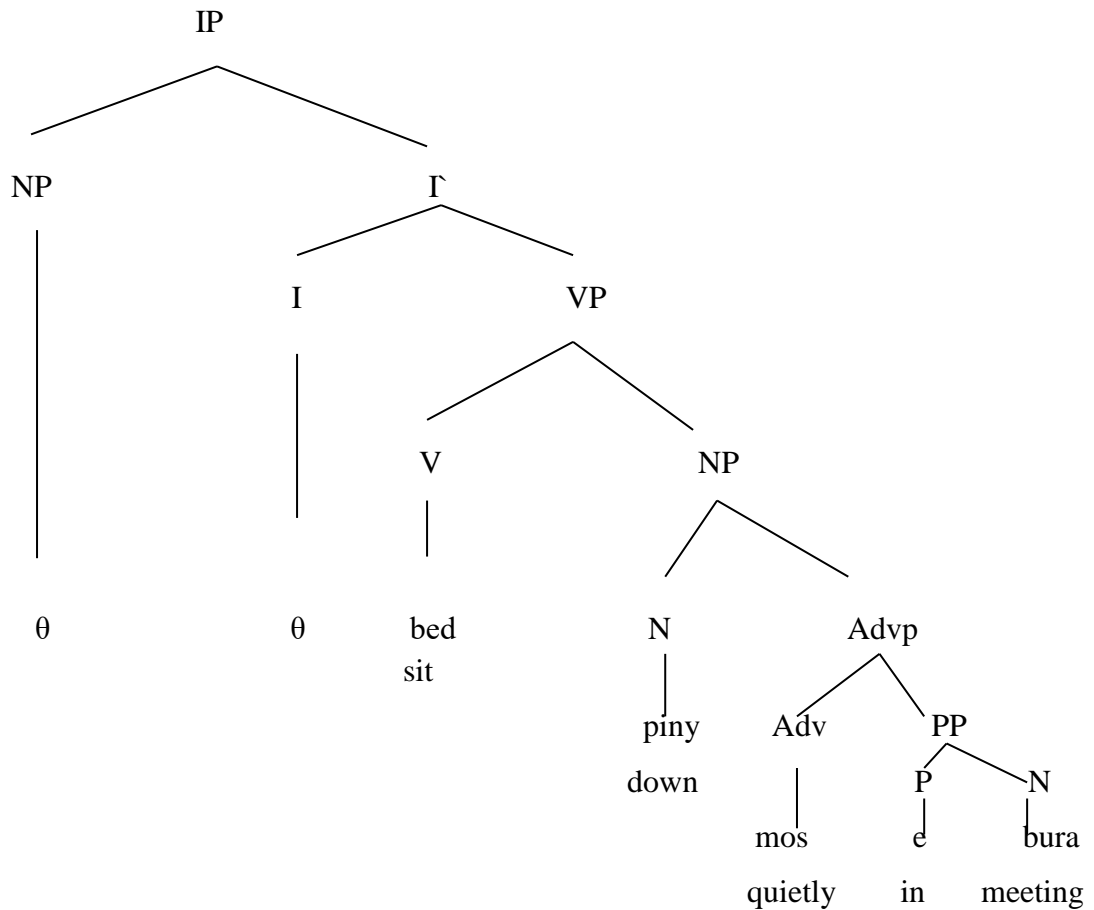
- i.) *Paa liare maler ka pod ngi'ich.* (Pave the pavement clean while wet.)
- ii.) *Nopaa liare maler ka pod ngi'ch.* (He/she paved the pavement while wet.)
- iii.) *Obiro paa liare maler kapod ng'ich.* (He/she will pave the pavement clean while wet.)

From these sentences, ii and iii proves that a pro-drop is not a matter of Dholuo in all tenses. In ii being a past tense has a pronoun 'no' hence the subject is not empty. Without

the prefix ‘no’ marking of the past tense will be difficult. In iii, the tense marker shows it is the future time by the use of *biro*. The pronoun ‘o’ retained in the subject means that there is no pro-drop in the future time.

61.) *Bed piny mos e bura.*

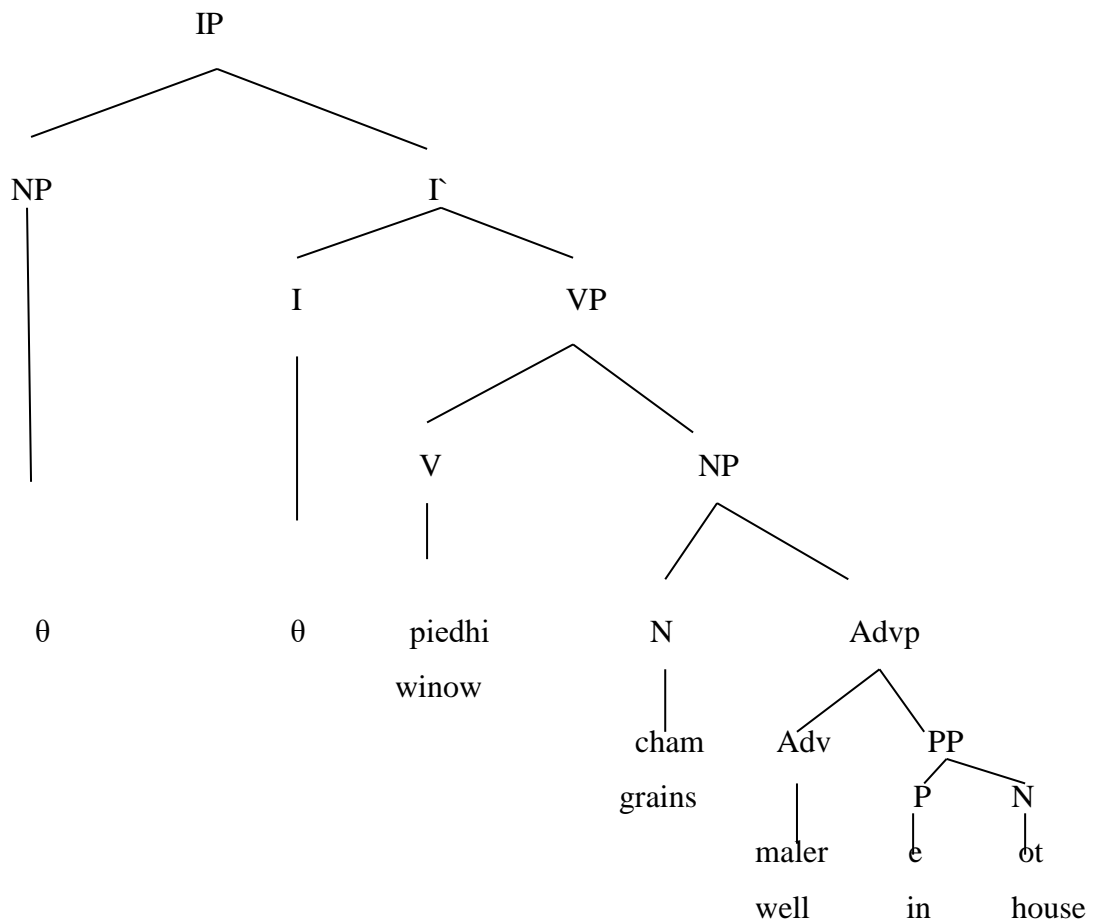
Sit down quietly in the meeting.



There are certain features of Dholuo pro-drop which must be retained. The tense of the original sentence before dropping the subject must be considered. It has been confirmed that the number agreement is essential here and must not be changed because any change in the tense may call for the recovery of the dropped pro. From the sentence above everybody in the meeting can infer who is being referred to therefore there is no need to refer to the subject. This clarifies that pro-drop is allowed only in cases where the subject can be inferred even if it is not stated in the sentence because it is obvious.

62). *Piedh cham maber e ot.*

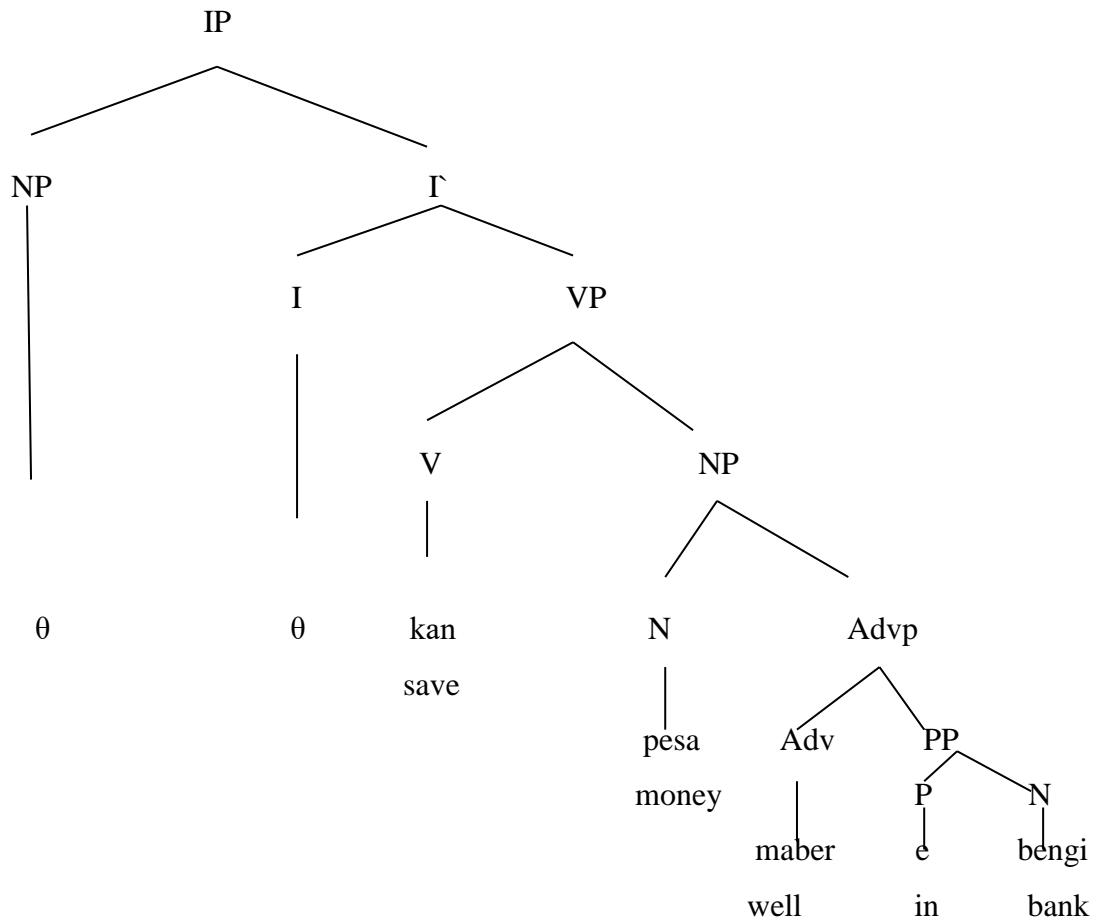
Winow grains well in the house.



The sentence above shows that the subject has been dropped. The slot of the pronominal has been left empty. This can only happen in the case where who is asked to winnow the grains and without calling the name the hearers are sure of who the reference is made to. As been mentioned in other parts of this work, dropping of the subject is only for specific construction in Dholuo. The Dholuo pro-drop is not very obvious but only can be identified in special conditions where the dropped subject can be inferred.

63). *Kan pesa maber e bengi.*

Save money well in the bank.



The sentence above has further confirmed that it is only in special cases can the subject be dropped without any change in the meaning. If one says *kan pesa maber e bengi* (Save money well in the bank). The person informed must be aware and the hearers are able to easily infer the subject in this communication. Dropping is only permissible where proper inference can be made. This sentence is similar to the one where subject has been named except that because the person going to save money in the bank is inferable the speaker decides to drop the name but instead passes the message.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Summary of Findings

This study sought to investigate the Dholuo verb phrase with an aim of identifying the constituents of Dholuo verb phrase, to describe the morphological elements of Dholuo verb phrase and to explain features of agreements in the Dholuo verb phrase. The agreement in the pro-drop was also studied and analysed. Dholuo verb phrase is tonal and any interference to the tone affects the meaning of the phrase directly. Dholuo verb phrase has a linear arrangement that carries a lot of elements. It has the verb, preposition, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and nouns. Dholuo verb phrase has person and tense markers. The arrangements of the constituents in Dholuo verb phrase change depending on the type of the sentence and the aspects of the sentence are marked by different morphemes. The verb in the Dholuo verb phrase cannot be preceded by the noun in a construction where a noun exists.

It was found that Dholuo has morphological features which are pronouns, prefixes, suffixes, negators and adverbials. It has both free and bound morphemes. Most of the morphological features are pronouns. Morphological features are of agreement marker, the tense marker and person marker and number marker but no gender marker. It has a negator. The morphology of negation comes before a main verb. Dholuo uses tone to mark a tense but there are specific tenses which cannot be expressed using a tone alone. For example, a past of a short while and a recent past can only be well stated by use of morphologies of time such as *kok*, *ase*, *wase* and *sani* for a past in a short while. Recent past are expressed using other morphologies as *nyocha*, *se*, *no* and *nyoro*. Distant past, as already stated, expresses activities in the past up to an indefinite time. This tense is well defined in Dholuo

and does not depend on tone but uses morphology and adverbials of time such as: *ne*, *nende*, *gilala*, and *no*.

Dholuo is a tonal language that marks agreements mainly with the tone. Dholuo has prefixes and suffixes which play roles in the agreement marking. The main agreement marker is a pronoun. Dholuo has a person marker, a number marker and a tense marker but has no gender marker.

Dholuo is a pro-drop language that marks agreements by affixation. The tree diagrams have shown that the pro-drop is a real feature but can be observed only in constructions where the subject is inferable. The sentence used to show the pro-drop has indicated that this is a possible Phenomenon but not very common.

5.2 Conclusion

The Dholuo verb phrase has many obligatory constituents that occur according to the grammatical construction. These constituents include verbs, nouns pronouns adverbs adjectives and nouns. They are linearly arranged with pronouns forming affixes. It was also noted that the available morphemes which are mainly pronouns do reoccur to play different roles and so tend to be free morphemes most of the time in the verb phrase. There are some morphemes playing roles in agreement marking and are always found mainly either before or after the main verb. Dholuo marks all agreement except that of gender. The morpheme for agreement markers appear before the main verb only. Principles and Parameters theory was found relevant for studying natural languages. It was able to analyse language specific features such as head first or head last, tense and agreement markers and pro-drop with no difficulty.

5.3 Recommendations

From this study, it is noted that there are some areas in Dholuo which have either been mentioned by some scholars but no serious studies have been done on them. Also, there are some areas which have been ignored by earlier scholars. The Pro-drop and affixation of Dholuo are the areas recommended for future studies

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: INFORMED CONSENT

TITLE OF THE STUDY

Morphosyntactic study of Dholuo verb phrase

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Name: Otieno George Onyango

Institution: Rongo University

Department: Linguistics, Languages and Literature

Contact: 0727123171

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Before you decide to participate in this study, it is important you that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involved. Please read the following information carefully. Please ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you need more information.

The purpose of this study is to collect data on Dholuo verb phrase that will be studied and analyzed and presented to Rongo University to lead the attainment of Masters Degree in Linguistics.

STUDY PROCEDURES

The study will involve an open interview. The researcher will ask questions on Dholuo and a participant is expected to take fifteen minutes answering as the researcher takes notes.

RISKS

There is no reasonably foreseeable risk in this procedure used in the study. You may decline to answer any or all questions and you may terminate your involvement at any time if you choose.

BENEFITS

There will be no direct benefit to you for your participation in this study. However, we hope that the information obtained from this study may contribute to the body of knowledge.

CONFIDENTIALITY

For the purpose of this research study, your comments will not be anonymous. Every effort will be made by the researcher to preserve your confidentiality including keeping notes, interview transcriptions and any other identifying participant information in a locked file cabinet in a personal possession of the researcher.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this study is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign a consent form. After you sign the consent form, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Withdrawing from this study will not affect the relationship you have, if any, with the researcher. If you withdraw from the study before data collection is completed, your data will be returned to you or destroyed.

CONSENT

I have read and I understand the provided information and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost. I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form. I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

Participant's signature

Date

Investigator's signature

Date

APPENDIX 2: STUDY GUIDE FOR INFORMANTS FROM NYANG'IELA VILLAGE

1. Ere kaka inyalo wacho gima timore e sano?

How can you report what is happening at the moment?

2. Wacha ane gima ne otimore nyoro.

May you say what happened yesterday.

3. Gik matimore pile to iwacho nang'o?

How do you say what happen everyday?

4. Chiw ane weche abich manyiso gik matimore pile.

Give five statements of what happen every day.

5. Ere kak inyalo penjo gimoro gi Dholuo?

How can you ask questions in Dholuo?

6. To be gig mabiro timore inyalo wacho? Wach ane moko adek?

Can you say what will happen? Can you say three of them?

7. Be inyalo wacho gima biro timore tok moro? Chiw adek machal kamano?

Are you able to tell what will happen after another in future? Give three examples of such?

8. Ere kak ekwero gima itamori?

How do you deny what you refuse?

APPENDIX 3: SAMPLES OF DHOLUO DATA

1. *Odhi.*
2. *Bedi.*
3. *Wakawo.*
4. *Gikadho.*
5. *Anyalo dhi.*
6. *Asetimo.*
7. *Mago magi.*
8. *Waseyudogi.*
9. *Wan ka.*
10. *We are here.*
11. *Adhi school sani.*
12. *Wakadho.*
13. *Onindo.*
14. *Gitugo.*
15. *Isomo.*
16. *Untie.*
17. *Ing'iewo.*
18. *Inyagri.*
19. *Biro yudo kotieko.*
20. *Kosebiro to otedi.*
21. *Dhi lwok lepi.*
22. *Wadhi epwodho sani.*
23. *Pod wanaling matin.*
24. *Juma dhaoga.*
25. *Mama ringoga ka oa chiro.*

26. *Gikualoga marach*
27. *Gihero wuondogaji*
28. *Koth chuega pile tinde*
29. *Gari tinde deko.*
30. *Juma ne dhao.*
31. *Mama ne ringoga koa chiro.*
32. *Nyathini nethekoga.*
33. *Sitima nechendoga*
34. *Juma biro dhaoga.*
35. *Mama biro ringo koa chiro.*
36. *Nyakoni biro dak ka.*
37. *Jotelo biro biro gi gari pile.*
38. *Jomatiyo matek biro bedo ka yuto man 'geny.*
39. *Iwuotho awuatha ka.*
40. *Itugoatuga ka.*
41. *Idwa chiemo achiema to ok iti.*
42. *Wuotho awuatha*
43. *Nende inyalohero nindo aninda pile.*
44. *Gin neginyalo chamo achama rabuon.*
45. *Juma biro puro apura.*
46. *Odongo biro nindoga ka*
47. *Nyithindo biro nindoga e sikul.*
48. *Juma ne nindo ka dhok dhi e pwodho.*
49. *Gin ne gidon 'g ka wadhi.*
50. *P-Nepod giwer kawa nindo.*

APPENDIX 4: RONGO UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PERMIT



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Tel. 0771349741

P.O. Box 103 - 40404
RONGO

Our Ref: **AS/MLIN/1000/2013**

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019

The Chief Executive Officer,
National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation,
off Waiyaki Way, Upper Kabete,
P.O Box 30623-00100,
Nairobi-KENYA.

Dear Sir,

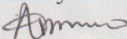
**RE: RESEARCH PERMIT FOR MR. OTIENO GEORGE ONYANGO-
AS/MLIN/1000/2013**

We wish to inform you that the above person is a bona fide graduate student of Rongo University in the School of Arts & Social Sciences pursuing a Masters degree in Linguistics. He has been authorized by the University to undertake research titled; "***Morphosyntactic Study of Dholuo Verb Phrase.***"

This is, therefore, to request the commission to issue him with a research permit to enable him proceed for field work.

Your assistance to him shall be highly appreciated.

Thank you.


Dr. Edward Anino

DEAN, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Copy to: Vice Chancellor
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs).
Dean, SASS
HoD, Languages, Linguistics & Literature



APPENDIX 5: NACOSTI RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR EARLY LEARNING & BASIC EDUCATION

Telegrams: "SCHOOLING" Homa Bay
Telephone +
When replying please quote
cdehomabay@gmail.com

COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
HOMA BAY COUNTY
P.O BOX 710
HOMA BAY
DATE: 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

REF: MOEST/CDE/HBC/ADM/11/VOL. II/17

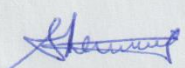
GEORGE ONYANGO
RONGO UNIVERSITY

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION.

Following your application for authority to carry out research on
"MORHOSYNTACTIC STUDY OF DHOLUO VERB PHRASE" I am pleased to
inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in Homa Bay
County for the period ending 19th August, 2020.

Kindly note that, as an applicant who has been licensed under the Science,
Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 to conduct research in Kenya, you shall
deposit a copy of the final research report to the County Director of Education
Office after completion both the soft copy and hard copy.

Thank you in advance.


MR. SHEM M. OMBONYO
FOR: COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION


COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
HOMA BAY COUNTY
P O BOX 710-40300, HOMA BAY
Email: cdehomabay@gmail.com


Cc.

1. County Commissioner
Homa Bay County



APPENDIX 6: NACOSTI RESEARCH PERMIT



REPUBLIC OF KENYA


NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No: 179656

Date of Issue: 19/August/2019

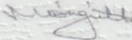
RESEARCH LICENSE




This is to Certify that Mr.. GEORGE ONYANGO of Rongo University, has been licensed to conduct research in Homabay on the topic: MORHOSYNTACTIC STUDY OF DHOLUO VERB PHRASE for the period ending : 19/August/2020.

License No: NACOSTI/P/19/964

179656
Applicant Identification Number


Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION

Verification QR Code




NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document,
Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.

APPENDIX 7: NYANG'IELA VILLAGE MAP


5/17/23, 9:15 AM . NYANG'IELA VILLAGE - Google Maps

Google Maps NYANG'IELA VILLAGE




Map data ©2023 200 m


NYANG'IELA SHOP
No reviews
· C18



Nyang'IELA Secondary School
No reviews
High school · FP43+JHP



Nyang'IELA Dispensary
No reviews
Pharmacy · FP64+5V9



<https://www.google.com/maps/search/NYANG'IELA+VILLAGE/@-0.5414791,34.7030208,16z/data=!4m2!2m1!6e1> 1/2