

Typology of Kimbeere Relative Clauses in Kimbeere

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Abstract

In this paper we explore the typology of Kimbeere- a Kenya Bantu language. The paper demonstrates that like in other languages, Kimbere has different types of relative clauses namely restrictive, non-restrictive, direct, indirect, appositive, headless among other. Kimbere also has a type of relative clause called ingi relative. The paper is descriptive and contributes typological data which is crucial for drawing principles and parameters in natural language.

Key Words: Relative clause, direct, indirect, headless, restrictive, typology

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1. Introduction

In this paper we present the types of Kimbeere relative clauses. The paper has the following sections: In section 2 we examine the typology of Kimbeere language. In section 3 are types of Kimbeere relative clauses while section 4 and 5 contain findings and conclusion of this study respectively.

2. Brief Introduction to Kimbeere

It is necessary to point out that Kimbeere is a head first/verb-initial language. Consider the phrases in (1) below.

1).a) Twagūrire gĩtĩ kĩnene. (Noun phrase)

Tũ- a- gũr- ir- e- gĩtĩ kĩ-nene

1pl- PST- buy- PERF- FV 7.chair 7-big

'We bought a big chair'

b) Ina wega übewe kibeo. (Verb phrase)



In (1.a) the noun 'gītī' (chair) is modified by the adjective 'kīnene' (big). It is evident that 'gītī' (chair) which is the head of the noun phrase comes before the modifier, 'kīnene' (big). Similarly, the verb 'ina' (sing) and the adverb 'wega' (well) comes before the adverb 'wega' (well) and the adverb 'mūno' (very) in the verb phrase (1.b) and adverb phrase (1.c) respectively. Apparently this contrasts with English structures that have the modifier preceding or following the modified element. However Kiswahili happens to behave like Kimbeere in this aspect. Consider structures (2) and (3) for comparison.

According to Finegan (2008) verb-initial languages place relative clauses after head nouns. From examples (1a-c) and (3) it is evident that in Kimbeere and Kiswhili, heads appear before their modifiers, therefore they are head first languages.

3. Types of Kimbeere Relative Clauses

Kimbeere has different types of relative clauses as discussed below.

3.1 Restrictive Relative Clauses

Just like their English counterparts, Kimbeere restrictive relative clauses restrict the noun referred to. The relative clause is introduced by a relative marker '-rĩa' which is attached to the noun prefix that agrees in number and class with the head noun. Consider sentence (4).



Note that data in all analysis sections is presented in the order: Kimbeere sentence, single words, morphology, English translation.

(4) Iratũ irĩa Kagendo arabeere Njeri nĩ nene.

Kagendo Iratũ i-rĩa a-rabe-Njeri ere 8.Shoes 8-REL 1.Kagendo sm₁-PST-give-PERF- FV1 Njeri nĩ nene **FOC** big

'The shoes which Kagendo gave Njeri are big'

In this example, '*iratũ*' (shoes) is the head noun. Note how the '*i*-' (object prefix) in 'iratũ' agrees with the 'i-' attached to '-*rĩa*' in '*irĩa*', the relative marker. The clause '*irĩa Kagendo arabeere Njeri*' (which Kagendo gave Njeri) restricts the shoes (*iratũ*) to a particular category of shoes that is the ones Kagendo gave Njeri and not any other. More examples are listed in (5) to (8).

(5) Gĩkombe *kĩrĩa natũmĩre* nĩkĩaũrire.

Gĩkombe kĩ-rĩa natũmĩre nĩkĩ-aũr-7.Cup 7-REL 1sg-Appl- FV FOC 7-PST-loseuseire PERF FV

'The cup which I used got lost'

(6) Nduthi *îrîa mama aragūrire* nī ndaca mūno.

Nduthi ĩ-rĩa mama agũrire nĩ ra-9.Motorcycle 9-REL 1.unclesm₁-PSTbuy-Compl-FV **FOC** mũno daca nom₉ long very

'The motocycle which my uncle bought is very long'

(7) Kĩondo kĩrĩa cũcũ aratuma nĩ kĩgemie wega.

Kĩondo *kĩ-rĩa cũcũ a- ra-tuma* nĩ kĩ-gemi7.Basket 7-REL 1.grandmother sm₁- Pres-weave FOC 7-decoratee wega
-FV well

'The basket which grandmother is weaving is well decorated.'



(8) Îcembe rîrîa Karani arathondekire nî rîaunîka.

Ĩcembe rĩ-rĩa Karani arathondekire 5.Jembe 5-REL 1.Karani PST- fix-PERF- FV smınĩ unīk- a FOC break- FV om₅ pr-

In (5) to (8) the head nouns 'gīkombe', 'nduthi', 'kīondo' and 'īcembe' happen to be the objects of the verbs 'tūmīre', 'gūrire', 'tuma' and 'thondekire' respectively. The restrictive relatives' classification was instrumental in illustrating how Kimbeere language can restrict the identity of common nouns using relative clauses.

3.2 Appositive Relative Clauses

This type of relative clauses gives additional information about the head noun. An appositive is separated from the rest of the sentence using commas.

(9) Nyaga, *ũrĩa wendagia ĩria*, nĩ mũũku.

Nyaga, \tilde{u} - $r\tilde{\imath}a$ \tilde{u} endagiĩria, nĩ 1.Nyaga, 1-REL sm₁sell HAB- PROG-FV-5.milk FOC mũũku come- FV sm1-'Nyaga, who sells milk, is coming.'

Tyugu, who sens min, is coming.

The part that is outside the commas in (9) forms the main clause. The part in italics is the relative clause. There are more examples in (10) to (12).

(10) Muthoni, *ũrĩa Ngari arabikirie*, nĩ mũrũaru.

Mũthoni, \tilde{u} -rĩa Ngari a-ra- bik-ir- i- e, 1.Muthoni, 1-REL 1-Ngari-sm₁-PST-marry-PERF PART FV, nĩ mũ- rũaru FOC om₁- sick.

'Muthoni, who Ngari married, is sick'

(11) Wacuka, ũrĩa tũrabũũrĩre thimũ, nũthiĩre Thika.

Wacuka, ũ-rĩa tũ- ra- bũũr- ĩr- e thimũ, nĩ-

^{&#}x27;The jembe which Karani fixed has broken.'



(12) Mũthuri, ũrĩa ũrakethirie Wacira, nĩ mamawe.

Mũthuri,
$$\tilde{u}$$
- \tilde{r} a \tilde{u} - r a- $keth$ - ir - i - e

1.Man, 1 I - REL sm_I PST $greet$ - $PERF$ - $PART$ FV

Wacira, \tilde{n} $mama$ - we

1.Wacira, FOC 1.uncle- his

Evidently, the relative clauses in italics (10) to (12) only give additional information about the head nouns, Muthoni, Wacuka and Mũthuri, on their left.

For Swedish appositives, says Vries (2002), a definite marker is obligatory on the antecedent if it is preceded by a demonstrative contrary to the situation in restrictive relative constructions. The normal definite marker in Swedish is a suffix for example *hus-et* 'the house'. A 'free determiner' can be added if an adjective precedes the noun: *detroda huset* 'the red house-the', or if the interpretation is demonstrative: *de huset* 'that house-the'. However, such markers are not present in Kimbeere. Consider construction (13) for comparison with (10) to (12).

This classification of appositive relative clauses is relevant in that it demonstrates how relative clauses can be used to give more information on proper and common nouns in Kimbeere.

3.3 Direct Relative Clauses

A direct relative clause resembles a restrictive relative clause. If the clause is removed, meaning is altered. The difference between a direct and an indirect relative clause is that the

^{&#}x27;Wacuka, who we called on phone, went to Thika'

^{&#}x27;The man, who greeted Wachira, is his uncle'



head noun in the direct relative clause corresponds to the subject of the verb. The relative clause in (14) illustrates this.

(14) Ngũkũ *ĩrĩa yarekia ĩtumbĩ* nĩ yathiĩ.

Ngũkũ ĩ-rĩa ya- reki- a ĩtumbĩ nĩ i-a- thiĩ. 9.Hen 9-REL om₉- lay- FV egg FOC-om₉-AUX-go.

'The hen which has laid an egg has left'

In (14), ' $Ng\tilde{u}k\tilde{u}$ ' is the subject. The direct relatives' classification was key in investigating whether in Kimbeere relative clauses, a head noun can correspond to the subject of the sentence.

3.4 Indirect Relative Clauses

In this type, the head noun corresponds to other things other than the subject. That means the head noun can be an object. In (15) & (16), the head nouns 'mũthuri' (the man) and 'mũrutwa' (student) are direct and indirect objects respectively.

(15) Müthuri ürîa Njoki akethirie nî injinia.

Mũthuri ũ-rĩa Njoki akethirie nĩ injinia. FOC 1.Obj 1-REL 1Subj SM1 greet 1.Subj. Compl. Man that Njoki greeted is an engineer.

'The man that Njoki greeted is an engineer'

(16) Mũrutwa ũrĩa mwarimũ arabeere kĩbeo nĩ mwĩrutĩri.

Mũrutwa ũ-rĩa mwarimũ beere kĩ-beo nĩ ra- $1.O_{i}$ 1-REL 1.Subj SM1- PST- O_d **FOC** App Learner who teacher gave present is mwîrutîri

1.Obj. Compl

committed

'The learner who the teacher gave a present is committed'

According to Zeller (2004), Tsonga relative clauses forming patterns resemble those of Sotho. While these South African Bantus give a distinction between direct and indirect relative clauses, Kimbeere does not have such distinctions. Both direct and indirect Kimbeere relatives behave in an almost similar manner. Only the position from which the head noun is



raised differs. Mostly this head noun is first raised to the SpecCP and finally to D°. Consider the Tsonga examples of direct and indirect constructions in (17) & (18) respectively.

(17) munhu loyi afambaka (Direct relative)
munhu [loyi a- famba-ka
person1 REL1 Sp- travel- Rs

'a person who travels'

(18) buku leyi munhu a yi hlayaka (Indirect relative)

buku [leyi munhu a yi hlaya- ka] book9 REL9 person1 Sp Oc9 read Rs

'the book that the person is reading'

Evidently, the verb in relative clauses in Tsonga is in the participial form and is modified with a relative suffix (-ka). The head noun is represented inside the relative clause through a pronominal clitic (or the subject prefix marked Sp) and through a relative marker. Note how the head noun and the relative marker agree in class and number in a similar manner observable in structure (17). This study found a contrast between direct and indirect relative clauses necessary because noun agreements for objects and subjects differ as is observable in examples (17) and (18). Note that the affix '-yi' is common in both examples. It can then be concluded that '-yi' is the relative marker while 'lo-' and 'le-' are the subject and object markers in (17) and (18) respectively. Apparently, the subject 'munhu' (person) agrees in class and number with 'loyi'. They are all marked 1 meaning they are in noun class 1 and singular in number. Similarly, the object 'buku' (book) agrees with 'leyi' as they are all in noun class 9 and in singular.

The head noun of a relative clause can also be an adjunct. An adjunct is a dispensable phrase in a clause or sentence that amplifies its meaning. Consider sentence (19).

(19) Kîroko kîrîa kwaurire mũno.

Kîroko kî-rîa kũ- a- ur- ir- e mũno 7.morning 7-REL sm₃- PST- rain- PERF- FV very 'in the morning when it rained heavily'



In (19), 'kĩroko' (in the morning) is an adjunct which functions as the head of the relative clause. This sub-classification helped in demonstrating how an adjunct can be a head noun in a Kimbeere relative clause.

3.5 Headless/Free Relative Clauses

Headless relative clauses resemble free relative clauses in all aspects. Morphologically the head noun is missing. Semantically and syntactically, this head noun is assumed to be within the relative pronoun. Consider (20) for clarification.

(20) Kîrîa gĩaku nĩ gĩaku.

Evidently, there is no noun before the relativizer 'kĩrĩa' (what). This relative pronoun therefore doubles as the head noun also. The clause is thus headless. More examples are in (21) & (22).

(21) (Wa) *Ûrĩa ũgaũka* nĩ mwamũkĩre.

(Wa)
$$\tilde{u}$$
-rīa \tilde{u} - ga- \tilde{u} ka nī m \tilde{u} - am \tilde{u} k- \tilde{u} r- e. (Any) 1.REL sm₁- FUT- come FOC sm₁- welcome- Appl- FV 'Whoever comes is welcome'

(22) (Wa) kĩrĩa tũkethĩrĩria nĩkĩo tũrarathimĩrĩtwe.

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(Wa) kĩ-rĩa tũ-ka-
                            ithĩr-
                                           i-
                                   ĩr-
                                                         nĩ-
                                                                kĩ-
                                                                        o
                                    Appl- PART-FV
                                                         FOC- om<sub>7-</sub>7.REL
(Any) 7-REL 1pl-FUT-
                            find-
tũ-
       ra-
              rathim-îr-
                            ĩĩt-
                                    w-
       PST- bless- Appl PERF- PASS FV
1pl-
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Through the classification of headless relatives this study was able to establish that Kimbeere and English headless relative clauses have a similar pattern as is evident in (20) to (22) above. In free relative clauses, the antecedent is fused with the relative marker so it is not visible. Look at (23) & (24).

(23) Nĩ niĩ mbĩcĩ kĩrĩa nonire.

Nĩ- niĩ- mb-ĩcĩ kĩ-rĩa na- on- ir- e. FOC-
$$1 \text{sg}$$
- sm_1 -know 7-REL 1sg - see - PERF- FV

^{&#}x27;Whatever we will find is what was destined for us'



'I only know what I saw'

(24) (Wa) *ũrĩa gũkathiĩ* gũtirĩ ũkarũmbũyia.

(Wa) ũ-rĩa gũ- ka- thiĩ gũ- tirĩ ũ- ka-

(Any) 14-REL 14- FUT- happen sm₁- NEG 1- FUT-

rũmbũyia

cares

'(Any) Whatever will happenno one cares'

In (23) for example 'kī' in 'kīrīa' could mean any noun that agrees in class and number with it (noun marker). Such nouns could be 'kīndū' (something), 'kīratū' (shoe); so that we would end up with structures like 'kīndū kīrīa' and 'kīratū kīrīa'. Similarly in (24), 'ū' in 'ūrīa' could refer to 'ūndū' (something) which would result to 'ūndūūrīa' (something which). From the classification of free relatives this study established that in certain Kimbeere relative clauses head nouns are fused in relative pronouns.

3.6 Tenseless Relative Clauses

Jang (2009) makes a distinction between tensed and tenseless relative clauses (infinitival relative clauses). He says that tenseless relative clauses behave almost in a different way as the tensed ones. According to him, infinitival clauses are not full-fledged clauses in the sense that they have no tense. On the other hand, tensed relative clauses have tense markers. Compare the bracketed structures in (25a) & (25b).

(25)a) I found [a book which you can read]. (Tensed)

(b) I found [a book for you to read]. (Tenseless)

(Jang, 2009)

We can contrast Kimbeere tensed and tenseless relative clauses as in examples (26) & (27). Note that the head noun and the relative clause are in square brackets.

(26) Nîngûretere [matumbî marîa ûgakunîkîrithia]. (Tensed)

Nĩ- ngũ- ret- ere matumbĩ ma-rĩa ũ- ga-kunĩkĩrithia

FOC- 1sg- bring- for 6.eggs 6-REL 2sg- FUT- incubate

I brought for you eggs which you will incubate

'I brought you the eggs which you will incubate'

(27) Nîngûretere [matumbî ma gûkunîkirithia]. (Tenseless)



Nĩ-	ngũ-	ret-	ere	matumbĩ	ma	gũ-	kunîkîrithia
FOC-	2sg-	bring-	for	6.eggs	om_6	to-	incubate
'I brou	'I brought for you eggs to incubate'						

Note that while (26) has a tense marker within the dependent (relative) clause, (27) does not have such a marker. Sentence (27) also does not have a relative marker. It occurs in form of a to-infinitive. 'To' in such structures appears either as ' $g\tilde{u}$ ' or ' $k\tilde{u}$ ' depending on the head noun for agreement's sake. It would be ungrammatical to write sentence (27) as (28) since a 'to-infinitive' cannot appear in the same construction with a relative marker, in this case ' $mar\tilde{\iota}a$ '. Compare the two.

(28) *Nîngûretere [matumbî marîa ma gûkunîkîrithia]. (Tenseless)

Nî- ngû- ret- ere matumbî ma-rîa ma gû-kunîkîrithia

FOC- 2sg- bring- for 6.eggs 6-REL om₆ to-incubate

*'I brought for you eggs which to incubate'

The tenseless relative clauses classification was important to this study because it provided an avenue for comparing tenseless and tensed relative clauses. This study considers all the other types of Kimbeere relative clauses (restrictive, appositive, direct, indirect, free/headless and '- ingi') tensed since they have tense markers.

3.7 '-Îngĩ' Relative Clauses

This study has identified another type of relative clause called '-ingi' relative clauses. The clause is introduced by an indefinite pronoun '(i)ingi' translated in English as 'another'. Just like the '-ria' relatives (those that have '-ria' as the relative marker) '-ingi' relatives describe nouns or noun phrases. Compare (29) & (30).

- Gacaũ karĩa Njuki aracaragia nĩkoneka. (29)('-rĩa' Relative) Gacaũ ka-rĩa Njuki carag- iara-12.Calf 12-REL 1.Njuki **PST** look- HAB-Tra sm_1 nĩkaonek--a a FV-FOC- om_{12} find-StP-
 - 'The calf which Njuki was looking for has been found'
- (30) Gacaŭ *keengĩ* Njuki aracaragia nĩkoneka. ('-ĩngĩ' Relative)

 Gacaŭ ke-engĩ Njũkĩ a- ra- car-ag- i



12.Ca	lf	12-RE	L	1.Njul	ĸi	sm_{1} -	PST-	look-HAB-Tra-
-a	nĩ-	ka-	on-	ek-	a			
-FV	FOC-	om ₁₂ -	find-	StP-	FV			

'Another calf Njuki was looking for has been found'

In (29) & (30), it is evident that the relative clauses 'karĩa Njuki aracaragia' (which Njuki was looking for) and 'keengĩ Njuki aracaragia' (another Njuki was looking for) both modify/describe the head noun 'gacaũ' (calf). For both '-rĩa' and '-ĩngĩ' relatives,the head noun agrees in class and number with the noun agreement marker attached to the relative marker '-rĩa' or '-ĩngĩ'. For example in (30) the head noun 'gacaũ' and 'ke-' in 'keengĩ' (ka-ĩngĩ) are both in class 12 and also singular. Similarly in (29), 'gacaũ' and 'ka-' in 'karĩa' agree because they are all in class 12 and in singular. However, the two sentences differ in meaning. While 'gacaũ karĩa' (calf which) means a certain calf, 'gacaũ keengĩ' (calf another) refers to an additional calf being described by the relative clause.

For '-ĩngĩ' noun classes, class 1 & 2 noun agreement marker is 'wĩ-' and 'e-' as in 'mũndũ wữngĩ- andũ eengĩ' (person another-people others); class 3 & 4 is 'wĩ-' and 'ĩ-' as in 'mũtĩ wữngĩ- mữtĩ ữngĩ' (tree another- trees others); class 5 & 6 is 'rĩ-' and 'me-'as in 'ữngũ rữngĩ- marigũ meengĩ' (banana another-banana others); class 7 & 8 is 'kĩ-' and 'ci-' as in 'kũondo kữngĩ- ciondo ciữngĩ' (basket another- basket others); class 9 & 10 is 'ĩ-' and 'ci-' as in 'ngitĩ ữngĩ- ngitĩ ciữngĩ' (dog another-dogs others); class 11 is 'rũ-' as in 'rũrigi rũ-ũngĩ (rwữngĩ)' (string another); the plural for class 11 is class 10, that is 'ci-' thus 'ndigi ciữngĩ' (strings others); class 12 & 13 is 'ke-' (kae) and 'twĩ-' (tũĩ) as in 'kanya keengĩ- tũnya twữngĩ' (gourd another-gourds others); class 14 is 'wĩ-' as in 'ũcũrũ wữngĩ' (porridge another); the plural of class 14 is 'me-' as in 'macũrũ meengĩ' (porridges others); class 15 is 'kwĩ-' (kũĩ) as in 'kũgũrũ kwữngĩ (kũngĩ)' (leg another); class 16 is 'be-'(baĩ) as in 'baandũ beengĩ (baĩngĩ)' (place another). Table 1.1 summarizes Kimbeere noun classes and their '-ĩngĩ' forms.



Table 1.1

<u>Kimbeere '-Ĩngĩ' Noun Classes</u>

Class	Noun	'-ĩngĩ' Form	Translation
1	mũ ndũ	wîingi	person another
2	a ndũ	eengĩ	people others
3	mũ tĩ	wī ingi	tree another
4	mĩ tĩ	ĩ ĩngĩ	trees others
5	ĩ rigũ	rî îngî	banana another
6	marigũ	meengĩ	bananas others
7	kĩondo	kĩ ĩngĩ	basket another
8	ci ondo	ci ĩngĩ	basket others
9	ngitĩ	ĩ ĩngĩ	dog another
10	ngitĩ	ci ĩngĩ	dogs others
11	rũ rigi	rwī ingī	string another
10	ndigi	ci ĩngĩ	strings others
12	ka nya	keengĩ	gourd another
13	tũ nya	twī ingi	gourds others
14	ũcũrũ	wĩ ĩngĩ	porridge another
6	macũrũ	meengĩ	porridges others
15	kũ gũrũ	kwĩ ĩngĩ	leg another
6	magũrũ	me engĩ	legs others
15A	Kũ rĩa	kwīīngī (Infinitive used as noun)	eating another
16	ba ndũ	beengi (Locative)	place another
15B	kũ ndũ	kwīingi (Locative)	places others

The '-Ĩngĩ' relative clause resembles Kiswahili structures. In Kiswahili, '-ingine' is an adjective that is used to mean 'some', 'different from', 'extra' or 'in place of' (Mvati, Maina & Kanuri, 2014). Structures (31) to (33) are Kiswahili examples conveying the meanings of '-ingine' highlighted.

AUX fall

sm₆-

4.price

(31) Mafuta ya kampuni *nyingine* yameshuka bei.(zaidi ya, baadhi ya, tofauti na)
Oil of company another has fallen price. (extra,some, different from)
Mafuta ya kampuni ny-ingine ya- me shuka bei

4-REL

'Another company's oil's price has fallen'

4.company

6.oil

of

(32)Wanafunzi wengine wameondoka. (zaidi ya, baadhi ya) others have left. Students (extra, some) Wanafunzi we-ngine ondoka wame-2.students 2-REL AUX- leave sm₂-'Other students have left'



(33) Duka hilo *lingine* linauza unga kwa bei ghali. (badala ya)

Shop that another is selling flour at price high. (in place of)

Duka hilo li-ngine li-na- uza unga kwa bei ghali

5.shop that 5-REL sm₅AUX-sell 3.flour at 4.price high

'That other shop is selling flour at a high price'

(Ipara, Burudi & Wakio, 2010)

The Kimbeere '-*îngî*' relative clause differs from other Kimbeere relative clause types in that it takes a different form. While othertypes take '-*rīa*' as the relative marker, '-*īngī*' relative clause takes the marker '-*īngī*' as its name suggests. Variations arise only as a result of change in noun class. Examples of varying structures include 'meengī' as in 'marigū meengī' (bananas others), 'eengī' as in 'andū eengī' (people others), and 'iīngī' as in 'ndigi ciīngī' (strings others). This classification was important in that it provides variation in relativization of head nouns in Kimbeere relative clauses.

4. Summary of Research Findings

This study has established that:

- Kimbeere has seven types of relative clauses. These are: restrictive, appositive, direct, indirect, headless/free, tenseless and '-ingi' relative clauses.
- The head noun of a relative clause can be a subject, object (direct or indirect) or an adjunct.
- In Kimbeere, the relative markers are '-rīa' and '-īngī' which are usually attached to
 the head noun marker. These relative markers and head noun markers agree with each
 other in class and number.

5. Conclusion

This paper has shown that Kimbeere has seven types of relative clauses namely restrictive, appositive, direct, indirect, headless/Free, tenseless and '-ĩngĩ' relative clauses.

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