

COMFORT AHENKORAH

PhD Candidate in Linguistics

Yale University

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Yale Linguistics Department

P.O.Box 208366

New Haven, CT 06520

Areas of Interest: *Morpho-syntax, Semantics, Morphology-Semantics interface, Syntax*

Major research languages: *Akan and English*

Education

2020-2026 **PhD, Linguistics**, Yale University
Advisors: Veneeta Dayal & Jim Wood

2015-2019 **BA, Linguistics**, University of Cape Coast
Thesis: *A Re-look at Akan Plural Morphology in Contextual Allomorphy*
Advisor: Sampson Korsah

Research Experiences:

2024-2026 **Dissertation title:** *The Morpho-Syntax and Semantics of Number marking in Akan*

Supervisors: Prof Veneeta Dayal (Co-Chair) and Prof Jim Wood (Co-Chair)

2023 **Qualifying Paper 2 title:** *The Structure and dynamic implementation of Aspectual verbs in Akan*

Supervisor: Prof Maria Pinango

2022 **Qualifying Paper 1 title:** *The Semantics of Akan Number Morphology*

Supervisor(s): Prof Veneeta Dayal (Chair) and Prof Jim Wood

2019 **Bachelor's thesis title:** *A Re-look at Akan Plural Morphology in Contextual Allomorphy*

Supervisor: Dr. Sampson Korsah

Presentations

Talks:

- 2025: Title: *Exclusive focus in Akan and type flexibility*.
TripleA12 workshop, Date: 10th-12th September, 2025 (University of Tokyo) [with Ka-Fai Yip]
- 2025: Title: *The semantics of Ewe number marking*
31st annual University of Edinburgh Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference,
4th June –Friday 6th June 2025 (Edinburgh, UK)
- 2025: Title: *The semantics of Ewe number marking*
56th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), 15th -17th May 2025
(University of Minnesota)
- 2024: Title: *Navigating number marking in Akan nominals and predicates*
Gaps and Imprecision in Natural Languages Semantics workshop, 8th-9th October, 2024 (ZAS-Berlin)
- 2024 Title: *The Split number analysis for Akan plural morphology*
55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), 2nd-4th May 2024
(Montreal-Canada)
- 2024 Title: *Two types of subject resumption in Akan*
55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), 2nd-4th May 2024
(Montreal-Canada) [with Ka-Fai Yip]
- 2023 Title: *The syntax-semantics analysis of Akan plural morphology*
45th Annual conference of the German Linguistic Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, DGfS) 7th-10th March 2023 (Cologne-Germany)
- 2022 Title: *Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial copy deletion*
University of Connecticut Linglunch, April 26, 2022 [with Ka-Fai Yip]
- 2022 Title: *We want to know, must you answer this question?*
The Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS) 2022 November 12, 2022 (Yale University) [with Yuyang Liu]
- 2022 Title: *On the particle(s) of anaa in Akan*
The African Linguistics School workshop 2022 , July 28-30, 2022 at Porto Novo, Benin
- 2021 Title: *Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial copy deletion*

SYNC 2021, CUNY Graduate Center (Virtual), December 4th 2021 [with Ka-Fai Yip]

2021 Title: *A reply to Kandybowicz or a new ye in Akan*

Structural Asymmetries in African languages(SAIAL) 2021 conference (Virtual) 15-16th April,2021 [with Sampson Korsah]

2020 Title: *Say tweaa(not apuutɔɔ): a linguist contribution to the COVID-19 fight*

Faculty of Arts Public Lecture, University of Cape Coast. 25th August, 2020 [with Sampson Korsah]

2020 Title: *A reply to Kandybowicz or a new ye in Akan*

Ghanaian Languages and Linguistics Departmental Seminar, University of Cape Coast . 2nd March 2020 [with Sampson Korsah]

Posters:

2024 Title: *Multiple plural(s) in Akan*

Workshop on Morphology at Princeton, March 23rd 2024

2023 Title: *Pluralization Strategies in Akan*

SALT satellite Yale , May 4th 2023

2023 Title: *Pluractional reduplication in Akan*

The 97th Annual Meeting 2023 LSA, January 5-8th 2023 (Denver, Colorado)

2022 Title: *Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial Copy Deletion.*

The 96th Annual Meeting 2022 LSA (Washington DC)[with Ka-Fai Yip]

2022 Title: *The four anaa particle(s)*

Language Diversity, Linguistic Theory and Cultural Identity in South Asia (Yale University)

Publications

2025 The descriptive and syntactic properties of the ànáá parti-cle(s). In Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Sampson Korsah, Sharon Rose & Abdul-Razak Sulemana (eds.), Cross-disciplinary approaches to Information Structure in Niger-Congo languages, 155-179. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.16875462

- 2023 On unexpected exceptions to prosodic vacuity and verbal resumption in Akan
Snippets, March, 2023 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7358/snip-2023-044-kooa> [with
Sampson Korsah and Augustina Owusu]
- 2022 Natural semantic metalanguage of Akan. Journal of West African Languages .
2022, Vol. 49 Issue 1, p46-66 [with Rachel Thompson and Wendy Amoako
Kwakye]
- 2022 Non-agreeing resumptive pronouns and partial Copy Deletion. UPenn Working
Papers in Linguistics 29.1, 206–215. [with Ka Fai Yip]
- In prep The Structure and dynamic implementation of Aspectual verbs in Akan

Teaching experiences:

- 2022-2024 Teaching Fellow, Yale University
- Courses:
- Language and Gender [Spring 2024]
 - Syntax 1 [Fall 2023]
 - Grammatical Diversity in US English [Spring 2023]
 - Introduction to Linguistics [Fall 2022]
- 2019-2020 Teaching Assistant, University of Cape Coast
- Courses:
- Introduction to Linguistics
 - Introduction to Morphology
 - Research Methods

Fellowships and Awards

- 2020-2026 University Fellowship, Yale University
- 2024 MacMillan Center International Conference Travel Grant,
Yale University
- 2023-2024 Nathan Hale Associates Fellowship Award, Yale University

2023	MacMillan Center International Conference Travel Grant, Yale University
2021-2022	Nathan Hale Associates Fellowship Award, Yale University
2019	Faculty of Arts Best Graduating Student, University of Cape Coast
2019	Ghanaian Languages and Linguistics Best Graduating Student, University of Cape Coast

Academic Services

Conference organizations:

2023	Organizing committee, The 33 rd meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) (May 12 th -14 th 2023, Yale University)
2022	Organizing committee, The Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS) (November 12 th 2022, Yale University)

Other services:

2018	Faculty of Arts Students Association Treasurer (University of Cape Coast)
2025	Community Engagement Fellow at Yale Center for Language Study

Other study experience

June- July 2024	the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Writing-in-Residence Dissertation Working Group (summer 2024)
June-July 2023	LSA Linguistics Institute, Linguistics Society of America, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, U.S.A
June-July 2022	African Linguistics School, Porto Novo, Benin
June-July 2019	African Linguistics School, Rhode University, Grahamstown, South Africa