

## COMFORT AHENKORAH

### PhD Candidate in Linguistics

Yale University

Email: [comfort.ahenkorah@yale.edu](mailto:comfort.ahenkorah@yale.edu)

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: 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> June –Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (Edinburgh, UK)
- 2025: Title: *The semantics of Ewe number marking*  
56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (University of Minnesota)
- 2024: Title: *Navigating number marking in Akan nominals and predicates*  
Gaps and Imprecision in Natural Languages Semantics workshop, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October,2024 (ZAS-Berlin)
- 2024 Title: *The Split number analysis for Akan plural morphology*  
55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (Montreal-Canada)
- 2024 Title: *Two types of subject resumption in Akan*  
55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (Montreal-Canada) [with Ka-Fai Yip]
- 2023 Title: *The syntax-semantics analysis of Akan plural morphology*  
45<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the German Linguistic Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, DGfS) 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 25<sup>th</sup> 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 . 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 [with Sampson Korsah]

**Posters:**

- 2024 Title: *Multiple plural(s) in Akan*  
Workshop on Morphology at Princeton, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024
- 2023 Title: *Pluralization Strategies in Akan*  
SALT satellite Yale , May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023
- 2023 Title: *Pluractional reduplication in Akan*  
The 97th Annual Meeting 2023 LSA, January 5-8<sup>th</sup> 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-koaa> [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:
- Introduction to Linguistics [Fall 2025]
  - 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:

- 2024 Organizing committee, the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)(May 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2024, Yale University)
- 2023 Organizing committee, The 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) (May 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2023, Yale University)
- 2022 Organizing committee, The Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS) ( November 12<sup>th</sup> 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