

COMFORT AHENKORAH

PhD Candidate in Linguistics

Yale University

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Yale Linguistics Department

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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:

- 2025 Title: *Exclusive Focus in Akan type flexibility.*
- NELS 55 at NYU, October 17th -19th,2025 [with Ka Fai Yip]
- 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

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

2025 Graduate Student Assembly Conference Travel 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 55th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)(May 17th-18th 2024, Yale University)

2023 Organizing committee, The 33rd meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) (May 12th-14th 2023, Yale University)

2022 Organizing committee, The Southern New England Workshop in Semantics
(SNEWS) (November 12th 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