

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

- 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]
- Accepted Multiple Pluralization Strategies in Akan: A Split Number Approach. *Linguistics Inquiry*
- Submitted From morphosyntax of number to a compositional semantics: The case of Akan
- Submitted The split pluractionality analysis: The case of verbal reduplication in Akan.
- In prep Subject Resumption in Akan and vP phasehood [with Ka Fai Yip]
- In prep The Structure and dynamic implementation of Aspectual verbs in Akan

Teaching experiences:

- Upcoming: African Linguistics School 8 (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
Course:
Semantics [Summer 2026]
- 2022-2026 Teaching Fellow, Yale University
Courses:
- Language and Gender [Spring 2026]
- 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

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| 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:

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| 2024 | Organizing committee, the 55 th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)(May 17 th -18 th 2024, Yale University) |
| 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 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