

Linkers and Relators in Kinande

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This paper presents an encyclopedic overview of primary and secondary predication in the Bantu language of Kinande (ISO 639-3). Three areas of predication are addressed: (1) copular clauses; (2) small clauses & secondary predication; (3) double object and benefactive constructions. We observe that Kinande has a number of morphologically distinct copulas whose distribution is approximately, but not precisely, regulated by the semantic function of the copular clause. Predicational, specificational, and equative copular clauses are the main concern of this section. We note that secondary predication is obligatorily mediated by a non-agreeing functional morpheme that has some prepositional properties. Next, we examine double object and benefactive constructions. We follow a well-supported view in the literature that predication is involved in these constructions. We argue that predication in this domain is mediated by the pronominal-like morpheme called the *linker* in the literature. We conclude by documenting some facts related to the tonology of focus in copular contexts. We note that linker constructions and copular clauses have interesting parallels from the point of view of the phonology of tone.