

Differential object marking in “agreement” and “clitic doubling” constructions in Bantu

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In this paper I will discuss selectional and relative ordering restrictions on object marking in a number of Bantu languages with different morphosyntactic properties. Due to these properties some of these languages have been analysed as object agreement languages while others have been argued to have pronominal clitics. I will show that in spite of the morphosyntactic differences differential object marking works in the same way for both types of languages. I will present new data from my own fieldwork on Sambia which shows that differential object marking is affected by the syntactic configuration of the object. This is especially visible in coordination structures and questions.