

# Daniel Aremu



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## Education

- 2022 – 2025     **Ph.D. in Linguistics**  
Institute for Linguistics, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt  
Thesis title: *Focus Sensitivity in Mabia and Yoruboid*.  
Thesis supervisors: Katharina Hartmann & Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine  
Other committee: Esther Rinke, Frank Kügler & Johannes Mursell  
Grade: *Magna cum laude*
- 2019 – 2021     **M.A. Linguistics**  
Institute for Linguistics, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt  
Thesis title: *Focus realization in Ìkálẹ̀ and Àkúrẹ̀: A microvariation approach*.  
Thesis supervisors: Katharina Hartmann & Johannes Mursell  
Grade: 1.0, with Distinction
- 2013 – 2017     **B.A. Linguistics**  
University of Ilorin, Nigeria  
Thesis title: *Aspects of Eggon Morphosyntax*.  
Thesis supervisor: Charles Ikechukwu Nnaji  
Thesis Grade: A, with Distinction

## Research Interests

- Broad     Formal syntax, syntax-semantics interface, morphosyntax, information structure, cross-linguistic variation & language typology, West African languages.
- Narrow     Question formation, focus realization, association with focus (focus sensitivity), island-hood, resumption, locality and movement, ellipsis.

## Research Publications




### Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- 1 D. Aremu, "Topic and focus asymmetries in Yorùbá," *To the left, to the right, and much in between: A Festschrift for Katharina Hartmann*, A. Himmelreich, D. Hole, and J. Mursell, Eds., pp. 185–204, 2024.
- 2 D. Aremu and P. Weisser, "Prosodically determined coordinator placement in Yorùbá," *Glossa: A journal of general linguistic* 9(1), 2024.



### Conference Proceedings

- 1 D. Aremu, "Focus and the association with focus sensitive particle *yerane* in Kasem," in *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL54)*, V. Carstens, K. Russell, O. Akingbade, D. Morton, and M. Diercks, Eds., Berlin: Language Science Press, (to appear), pp. 531–556.
- 2 D. Aremu, "The syntax of focus in Ìkálẹ̀," in *Crossdisciplinary approaches to Information Structure in Niger-Congo languages*, A. Akinlabi, S. Korsah, S. Rose, and A.-R. Sulemana, Eds., Berlin: Language Science Press, (to appear), pp. 13–50.
- 3 D. Aremu, "Towards a propositional concord approach for exclusives in Kasem," in *Proceedings of 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL42)*, Cascadilla Proceedings Project, to appear.
- 4 D. Aremu and H. Enoka, "On the absence of Superiority and Crossover in Eton," in *Proceedings of the 27th Western Conference on Linguistics (WECOL27)*, California State University, Fresno, 2021.




## Research Experiences

- 2022 - 2025:  *Research Assistant* (Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter) at the Institute of Linguistics, Goethe University.
- 07/2020 - 09/2020 and 01-31/12/2020:  *Student Assistant* at the Research Training Group on Nominal Modification, Institute of Linguistics, Goethe University.
- 2017:  *Research Assistant*, SOAS University of London's Funded Research on Cifungwa language (Niger state, Nigeria). Principal Researcher: Samuel Akinbo (UBC), now at the University of Toronto.







## Awards and Achievements

- 06/2023 & 04/2024  2x Faculty of Newer Philologies, Goethe University grant for conference attendance.
- 2019-2022  **Goethe Goes Global Scholarship (GGG)**: Scholarship for Master Students at Goethe University, Frankfurt.

## Presentation (INVITED TALKS)

- 11/04/2025  "Locality and restricted A'-probing among the Mabilia languages". Invited talk at Yale Syntax Reading Group, Yale University
- 15/11/2024  "On the left periphery and (non-)subject positions in Mabilia languages". Invited talk at Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS) Berlin
- 18/06/2024  "Focus marking and interpretation in Mabilia languages". One day colloquium on *Syntactic Cartography and African Languages*, organized by Luigi Rizzi, Collège de France, Paris

## Conference Presentations (PEER-REVIEWED)

- 16/05/2025  "Polar interrogatives in Kuse: a main clause phenomenon with a lax question prosody and clause-finality". *The 56th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL56)*, University of Minnesota. (talk) [with Chinedu Anyanwu]
- 25/04/2025  "Quirks of progressive clauses in Kasem". *The 43rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 43)*, University of Washington, Seattle. (talk)
- 26/03/2025  "Backward association of exclusive particles and scope freezing". *47th Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW 47)*, Goethe University, Frankfurt. (talk) [with Ka-Fai Yip and Bode Adedeji]
- 03/03/2025  "An Operator-particle approach with a distributed syntax for exclusives in Yorùbá". *Workshop on the Syntax and Semantics of Scalarity (SYSSI)*, Universität Stuttgart, Germany. (talk)
- 30/01/2025  "Quirks of Bi-clausal structures in Kasem". *33rd Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE33)*, University of Göttingen. (talk) [with Emmanuel Apebuga]
- 13/04/2024  "Towards a propositional concord approach for exclusives in Kasem". *The 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 42)*, University of California, Berkeley. (talk)


## Conference Presentations (PEER-REVIEWED) (continued)

- 16/03/2024 ■ "A tale of two 'onlys' in Kasem". *The 48th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC48)*, University of Pennsylvania. (talk)
- 19/01/2024 ■ "Exclusive (non-)scalar 'onlys' and agreement in Kasem". *32nd Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE32)*, Queen Mary University of London. (talk)
- "On the sluicing-COMP generalization in Mabia and Kwa". *32nd Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE32)*, Queen Mary University of London. (talk) [with Samuel Acheampong]
- 29-30/06/2023 ■ "Focus sensitivity and the (Anti)symmetry theory of syntax in Kusaal". *Syntax and Semantics of African Languages (SASAL 3): The syntax at the vP edge in African languages*, Goethe University Frankfurt. (talk)
- 12-14/06/2023 ■ "The syntax of focus sensitive particle only in Kasem". *The 54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL54)*, University of Connecticut. (talk)
- 12-13/11/2022 ■ "More is going on upstairs than downstairs: There is a Penthouse in Kuce". *Western Conference on Linguistics (WECOL28)*, California State University, Fresno. (talk) [with Chinedu Anyanwu]
- 20-21/10/2022 ■ "Aboutness and Contrastive Topics in Likpakpaanl". *18th Workshop on Syntax, Semantics and Phonology (WoSSP18)*, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain. (poster) [with Samuel Acheampong]
- 22-24/09/2022 ■ "Mono-clausal and Bi-clausal Topics in Likpakpaanl". *Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonJA 15)*, University of Udine, Italy. (poster) [with Samuel Acheampong]






## Conference Presentations (NON PEER-REVIEWED)

- 27/08/2024 ■ "The nature of FOFC and ex-situ focus in Ikale". *53rd Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (CALL 53)*, Leiden University. (talk)
- 15/08/2024 ■ "Form-meaning mismatches and focus sensitivity in Kusaal". Poster session at the DGfS Summer School 2024: Form-Meaning Mismatches in Spoken and Visual Communication, University of Göttingen. (poster)
- 01/03/2024 ■ "Focus marking in Ìkálè and the Final-over-Final Condition". *Constraining Linearization (ConLin) workshop as part of the Annual meeting of the German Linguistics Society (Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft-DGfS-AG8 2024)*, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum. (talk)
- 22/09/2023 ■ "Aboutness and Contrastive Topics in Likpakpaanl". *Topic, Focus and Subject (TFS) Conference*, University of Osnabrück. (talk) [with Samuel Acheampong]
- 20/09/2023 ■ "Topic and Focus asymmetry in Yoruba". *Topic, Focus and Subject (TFS) Conference*, University of Osnabrück. (talk)
- 16/07/2023 ■ "Focus sensitivity and the (Anti)symmetry theory of syntax in Mabia (Kusaal)". *Poster session at the 5th Crete Summer School of Linguistics*, University of Crete. (poster)
- 28-30/07/2022 ■ "Focus in Ikale and Akure". *Cross-disciplinary Workshop on Information Structure in African Languages, African Linguistic School (ALS6)*, Porto Novo, Benin. (talk)
- 23-25/02/2022 ■ "Subject and Non-subject wh-questions asymmetry in Akure". *Syntax and Semantics of African Languages (SASAL 1)* as part of the Annual meeting of the German Linguistics Society (Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft-DGfS 2022), Universität Tübingen. (talk)
- 13-14/11/2021 ■ "On the absence of Superiority and Crossover in Eton". *Western Conference on Linguistics (WECOL27)*, California State University, Fresno. (talk) [with Haniel Enoka]





## Conference Presentations (NON PEER-REVIEWED) (continued)

- 7-12/06/2021     “On the suspension of downstep: the case of Yoruba polar question intonation”. World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL10), Leiden University. (talk) [with Frank Kügler]





## Teaching Experiences

- Summer 2025     **Syntax III (Advanced syntax)**: M.A. Linguistics, Goethe University, Frankfurt.
- Winter 2024/25     **Topics in the syntax of Yorùbá**: M.A. Linguistics, Goethe University, Frankfurt.
- 28/07 - 18/08/2022:     **Introduction to Minimalist syntax**: M.A. Linguistics, University of Education Winneba, Ghana (with Anke Himmelreich, Katharina Hartmann & Johannes Mursell).
- 01/2019 - 11/2019     **English Lecturer**, Best Legacy College of Education, Ogbomosho, Nigeria.  
(Taught courses such as: Applied English Linguistics, English Phonetics and Phonology, Oral Literature).
- 11/2017 - 10/2018     **English Teacher** (National Youth Service Corps), Salamatu Hussain Girls Secondary School, Birnin-Kebbi, Nigeria.  
(Taught different topics in English language across several levels).



## Additional Education

- 12-23/08/2024     DGfS Summer School on “Form Meaning Mismatches in Spoken and Visual Communication” in Göttingen, Germany.
- 15-28/07/2023     The 5th Crete Summer School of Linguistics (CreteLing5), Crete, Greece.
- 18-30/07/2022     African Linguistics School 6 (ALS6), Porto Novo, Benin Republic.
- 26/07-06/08/2021     27th Central European Summer School in Generative Grammar (EGG27).

## Reviewing and Organization



- 2025:     Reviewer for the 56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS56).
-  Reviewer for Studies in African Linguistics (Journal article).
- 2024:     Reviewer for the 55th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS55).
- 2023:     Co-organizer of the workshop “The syntax at the vP edge in African languages” as the third installment of the series “The Syntax and Semantics of African Languages (SASAL III)”, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt.

## Membership

-  Member, Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW).
-  Member, Association of Contemporary African Linguistics (ACAL).

## Skills

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Languages     Yorùbá (native); Hausa (fluent); Kusaal and Kasem (fieldwork & research); German (basic)  
Soft         L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, PRAAT, Microsoft, python (beginner) ...

## References

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### **Prof. Dr. Katharina Hartmann**

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Frankfurt am Main, Germany.  
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### **Prof. Dr. Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine**

Institute of Linguistics, University of Helsinki and  
National University of Singapore.  
mitcho@nus.edu.sg

### **Prof. Dr. Esther Rinke**

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Goethe University  
Frankfurt am Main, Germany.  
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