

# Relative Agreement in Town Nyanja

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## (1) *Amene* structure

- a. mw-ààná w-ámènè à-nà-àgw-à  
C1.SM-child C1.SM-REL 3sg-PST-fall-FV  
'The child who fell'
- b. bà-múnà bà-nkòtè b-ámènè bà-yiimb-à  
C2-man C2-old C2-REL C2-sing-FV  
'The old man who is singing'
- c. nsíkùù y-ámènè nì nà-dy-à  
day C5-REL 1sg PST-eat-FV  
'The day when I ate'
- d. Ví-ntu v-ámènè nì-nà-òòn-à v-í-náà-gw-à  
C8-thing 8-REL 1sg-PST-see-FV C8-past-fall-FV  
'The things I saw fell'
- e. pà-nyúumbà p-ámènè nì nà-dy-à  
C16-house C16-REL I PST-eat-FV  
'The house where I ate.'

## (2) Topic comment *Amene* structure

- a. wá-mènè à-nà-àgw-à mw-ààná  
C1.SM-REL 3sg-PST-fall-FV C1-child  
'The child that **fell**'
- b. bá-mènè bà-nà-àgw-à b-ámúùnà  
C2-REL C2-PST-fall-FV C2-men  
'The men that **fell**'

## (3) Relative 'e'

- a. mw-ààná w-è à-nà-àgw-à  
C1.SM-child C1-REL 3sg-PST-fall-FV  
'The child who fell'
- b. v-ì-mì-téèngò v-è v-ì-nà-àgw-à  
C8-C4-trees C8-REL C8-PST-fall-FV  
'The trees that fell'

#### (4) Nominalizing /o-/ (Adjectival Use)

- a. kù-zìlzîil-à  
C15-cold-FV  
'To be cold'
- b. kà-lúlù k-ò-zìzîil-à  
C12-rabbit C12-NOM-cold-FV  
'A rabbit that is cold' or 'a cold rabbit'
- c. múù-ntù w-ò-zìzîil-à  
C1-person C1-NOM-cold-FV  
'A person who is cold' or 'A cold person'

#### (5) Nominalizer with no agreement

- a. kù-yîimb-à            ò-yîimb-à  
C15-sing-FV            NOM-sing-FV  
'To sing'                'one who sings' (singer)
- b. kù-lîim-à              ò-lîim-à  
C15-till-FV              Nom-till-FV  
'To till'                 'one who tills' (tiller)

#### (6) Humans Allowed to Skip Agreement (Dearness Rule)

- a. múù-ntù ò-zìzîil-à  
C1-person NOM-cold-FV  
'A person who is cold'
- b. \* kà-lúlù ò-zìzîil-à                      kà-lúlù ò-zìzîil-à  
C12-rabbit NOM-cold-FV                      C12-rabbit NOM-cold-FV  
'A rabbit that is cold'                      'A rabbit that is cold' --In a fable

#### (7) Eenze (Perfect/imperfect modal) as a relative marker

- a. múù-ntù èènzè à-nààn-à  
C1-person REL 3sg-wet-FV  
'A person who is wet'

- b. múù-ntù èènzè kù-yúùm-à                      múù-ntù w-ámènè èènzè kù-yúùm-à  
 C1-person REL C15-dry-FV                      C1-person C1-REL C15-dry-FV  
 'A person who is dry'                              'A person who is dry'

**(8) Showing eenze+o relationship**

- a. mù-ntù            èènzè-ò-à-náàn-à  
 C2-children C2-PRF-NOM-3sg-to be wet-FV  
 'The man who was wet'
- b. bá-àná            b-èènz-ò-tàmáàng-à  
 C2-children C2-PRF-NOM-run-FV  
 'The children who were running' or 'The children who had been running'
- c. kòndòlò            y-èènzè-ò-kùù-gw-à  
 sweet potato C5-REL-NOM-C15-fall-FV  
 'The sweet potato that had fallen'

**(9) Prep agreement**

- a. pà-nyúumbà pà-mènè nì nàà-dy-à  
 C16-house C16-REL I PST-eat-FV  
 'The house where I ate'
- b. pà-nyúumbà p-è nì nàà-dy-à  
 C16-house C16-REL I PST-eat-FV  
 'The house where I ate'

**(10) Agreement + li**

- a. chò-vàlà            chì-li ch-ò-kùù-gw-à  
 C7-garment C7-cop C7-NOM-C17-fall-FV  
 'The falling garment'
- b. pùsì ì-nà chòkà pá-chì wú-ùmbà chì-li pá-fúùpì mà-nyúumbà  
 cat C5-PST from C16-wall C1-wall C7-cop C16-close.to C6-house  
 'The cat came off the wall which is close to the house.'

**(11) Recursive property of relative clauses**

wá-mènè à-nà-pwáàny-à            tébòl yá-mènè bà-táàtè bá-nà-páàng-à  
 C1-REL 3sg.-PST-break-FV table C5-REL C2-Father C2-PST-build-FV  
 'The woman who spoke to the man who broke the table that my father built.'