

Postpositions – *Ro* and – *Lan* as Clitics in Kanuri

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Abstract

This paper examines the syntactic and morphological functions of the postpositions –*ro* and –*lan* as clitics in Kanuri within the broad framework of descriptive linguistics. The study adopts the works of Zwicky and Pullum (1983) and Spencer and Luis (2012) as its analytic models. Primary sources of data collection are Kanuri written texts: *S?mon?m wuro sarus?g?ne* by Norbert Cyffer and *Nyariwa Kanuribe* by Shettima Bukar Abba and John Hutchison. These two texts are collection of stories written in the Yerwa dialect of Kanuri. All the various places where the postpositional particles –*ro* and –*lan* occurred are identified and extracted for presentation and analysis. The outcome of the study reveals that the postpositions –*ro* and –*lan* function as clitics and can be attached to both lexical and functional categories in Kanuri. Syntactically, the postpositions can be cliticised to nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, pronouns, relativizers 'd?', dependent possessive pronoun '-nz?' (his/her) and the genitive marker '-be' to express different semantic functions.

Keywords: Kanuri, Postpositions, -*Ro*, -*Lan*, Clitics, Affixes, Genitive Marker.