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## The syntax-semantic analysis of Akan plural morphology

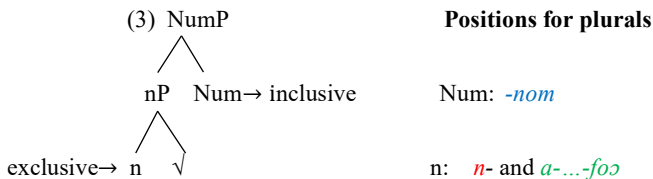
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In this study, I propose that the plural morphemes in Akan are not allomorphs from a semantics and syntactic perspective (contra to Ofori (2016), who considered the plural morphemes in Akan as allomorphs). Firstly, plural morphemes in Akan correspond to different semantic interpretations. For instance, whereas the prefix *n-* is a *strict plurality* whose denotation excludes atoms and thus has the exclusive reading in negative sentences (1), the plural morpheme *a-/n-...-nom* has a *number neutral denotation*. It hence is inclusive in a negative context (2). *a-...-foɔ*, on the other hand, is a *group denoting morpheme*, allowing for non-maximality reading.

- (1) Mary ε- n- ni **n-konwa** wɔ ne dan no mu hɔ  
 Mary 3SG-NEG-have PL-chair LOC POSS house DET inside there  
 ‘Mary does not have chairs in her room’ [chairs=1/0]
- (2) Mary a- n- hu **a-nua-nom** wɔ paaki no so  
 Mary PFV-NEG-see PL-sibling-PL LOC park DET LOC  
 ‘Mary did not see the siblings on the field.’ [siblings= 0]

Syntactically, following Kramer’s (2016) split number analysis and Mathieu’s (2014) distributed plural analysis, I assume two positions within the NP spine for plurals in Akan: *n* (nominalizing head) and *Num* (number head) and propose that *n-/a-* and *a-...-foɔ* (here I assume the circumfix morpheme as a discontinuous morpheme (c.f. Harbour 2008)) as heads of the nominalizing phrase (nP) and the suffix *-nom* as the heads of number phrase (NumP ) and attribute the exclusive reading to *n* and inclusive reading to *Num* as shown in (3).



**References:** • Harbour, D. (2008). On homophony and methodology in morphology. *Morphology*, 18(1), 75- 92. • Kramer, R. (2016). A split analysis of plurality: Number in Amharic. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 47(3), 527-559. • Mathieu, E. (2014). Many a plural. In A. Aguilar-Guevara, B .Le Bruyn & J. Zwarts (eds.), *Weak referentiality*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 157-182. • Ofori, E.A. (2016). • Distributed Morphology of Akan-Twi Plurals. *International Journal of Language and Linguistics*,4(2): 57-60.