KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LINGUISTICS

THE STRUCTURE AND ROLE OF THE DETERMINER PHRASE IN EKEGUSII: A MINIMALIST APPROACH.

BY

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October: 2012
DECLARATION

This dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

MOSE GESARE EDINAH
C50/21655/2010

This dissertation has been submitted with our approval as university supervisors.

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To my dearest almighty God for giving me the

Strength

Will

a life

to turn a page each day.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As I sit to reflect, look back and think about all the people who have helped me in this journey, my eyes become blurred. However, this is my opportunity to extend my greatest sincere gratitude.

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# ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adj</td>
<td>Adjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP/ A&quot;</td>
<td>Adjective Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARG</td>
<td>Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRSP</td>
<td>Agreement of Subject Phrase</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGRIOP</td>
<td>Agreement of Indirect Object Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGROP</td>
<td>Agreement of Object Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRO</td>
<td>Agreement of Object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Complementiser Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Determiner Feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Det</td>
<td>Determiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Determiner Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>Demonstrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DemP</td>
<td>Demonstrative phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECP</td>
<td>Empty Category Principle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI</td>
<td>Full Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>Government and Binding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG</td>
<td>Generative Grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFL</td>
<td>Inflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Inflectional Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LF</td>
<td>Logical Form or the Semantic Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Minimalist Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>Noun Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N'</td>
<td>Noun bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom</td>
<td>Nominative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>Phonological Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFI</td>
<td>Principle of Full Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poss</td>
<td>Possessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PossD</td>
<td>Possessive determiner phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>Prepositional Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Quantifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QP</td>
<td>Quantifier phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref</td>
<td>Referential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.cl</td>
<td>Relative Clause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spec</td>
<td>Specifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVO</td>
<td>Subject Verb Object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNS</td>
<td>Tense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>Trace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V-bar</td>
<td>Verb+ Complement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP</td>
<td>Verb Phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Any Phrase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEFINITION OF TERMS

Adjunction- is a process of a constituent being adjoined to another to form a larger constituent of the same type.

Economy Principle- a principle which requires that syntactic representations and grammatical operations be kept to a bare minimum.

Greed- a principle of grammar which specifies that constituents move only in order to satisfy their own morphological requirements.

Last Resort Principle- is a principle that requires that grammatical operations do not apply unless they have to as the only way of satisfying some grammatical requirement.

Logical Form- is the level at which representations include only semantic features.

Merger- is an operation by which two categories are combined to form another.

Minimalist Program- is a theory of grammar whose core assumption is that grammars should be described in terms of the minimal set of theoretical descriptive apparatus necessary.

Minimal Link Condition- a principle requiring that the links in movement chains be as short as possible.

Movement- an operation by which a word or a phrase is moved from one position in a structure to another

Phonetic Form- is the level at which representations include only phonetic features.

Specifier- the grammatical function fulfilled by certain types of constituent which precede the head of their containing phrase.

Spellout- the point in a derivation at which phonetic and semantic features are processed by separate components of the grammar.

Theta role- the semantic role played by an argument in relation to its predicate.

Trace- a trace is an empty category left behind (as a result of movement) in each position out of which a constituent moves.
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This study analyzes the different DP structures and roles in Ekegusii using the Minimalist approach. The study has three objectives, namely: to describe the structure of the DP, to analyze the semantic roles of the DP and to establish the extent to which the DP in Ekegusii can be accounted for using the MP. In terms of structure, we found out that the DP in Ekegusii projects various functional projections. These include DemP, PossD and QP. Overt noun raising was observed as the NP raises to check agreement, possessive and number features. Other elements seen to adjoin the NP were APs, PPs and relative clauses. As for the semantic roles, we established that the DP in Ekegusii plays various semantic roles which include agent and theme among others. The motivation for the study stems from the assumption that the Minimalist Program is a universal theory that can account for the syntactic operations in all world languages. As for Ekegusii, this was the case. Also, linguists have noted that Ekegusii is an under described minority language with relatively few academic descriptions, something that necessitated this study. A descriptive research design was adopted because it is best suited for it provides a picture of a phenomenon as it naturally occurs. Data was collected firsthand by use of compositions, from already existing written sources in Ekegusii and introspection. We used purposive sampling in the choice of the respondents who wrote a composition as well as in choosing appropriate sentential constructions for the study. The data obtained was analysed using the MP. The operations move and merge was used in the analysis of the structure and roles of the DP. It is hoped that the findings of this study will be of benefit to curriculum developers in improving existing curriculum materials in Ekegusii, to linguists and scholars interested in Bantu linguistics it is hoped that this study will be a useful reference.
CHAPTER ONE

1.0. Introduction.

This chapter covers the background to the study, statement of the problem, research questions, research objectives, research assumptions, rationale of the study and scope and limitations of the study.

1.1. Background to the Study.

This is a study on the structure and role of the determiner phrase in Ekegusii. Ekegusii is classified as a Central Bantu language labelled E42 by Guthrie (1971). It has 2,205,669 speakers (Census Report 2009). They are spread over two counties, Kisii and Nyamira, which are located to the south east of Lake Victoria. These counties border five counties, with Narok to the south, Migori to the west, Homa Bay to the North West, Kisumu to the north and Bomet to the south east (http://softkenya.com/county/kisii-county/). Nurse and Philipson (1980) observe that Ekegusii is closely related to other Bantu languages like Kuria, Ngurimi, Zanaki, Shashi, Ikuzu and Nata. Maho (2008) calls the language Gusii and classifies it as JE42, following Guthrie’s classification system.

Bosire (1993) and Mecha (2004) note that Ekegusii has two dialects: the Rogoro (northern) dialect which is the standard form used in written works and taught in rural areas as ‘Kikwetu’ and the ‘Maate’ (southern) dialect spoken by a majority of Ekegusii speakers in Gucha South District. This study focuses on the northern dialect because it is the one which exists in written sources.

In our analysis of the structure and role of the determiner phrase (DP) in Ekegusii, we observe that the DP in the Minimalist Program (MP) is the same as what is referred to as the
Noun phrase (NP) in modern grammar. In the MP the DP is headed by a determiner, while the NP is a complement. Thus, in this study, the source reference will be used.

Within the generative framework, a number of studies on the noun phrase have been done on Bantu languages. They include Kawa (2003) which looks at the NP movement in Kiswahili as it pertains to passivization and subject raising within Government and Binding Theory and Wabwire (2010) which investigates the structure and function of the Olukhayo NP using the X-bar Theory. The fundamental aim of these GG theories was to explain the syntactic relationship between the constituents of the sentence as well as to account for the acquisition of language. Schroder (2002) notes that since its inception in 1957, the theory of Generative Grammar has undergone a series of fundamental changes, culminating in the Minimalist Program. The different stages of development were all triggered by deepening insight, and above all, new data.

Linguistically, the study falls in the domain of morph-syntax. Its major aim is to syntactically analyze the structure and role of the DP in Ekegusii using the MP. The term *syntax* comes from a Greek word, *syntaxis* which means *putting together or ordering according to rules* (Crystal, 1985). In traditional grammar, a phrase is defined as a group of two or more words (//www.csun.edu/~bashforth/302_PDF/06Jan10 Traditional Grammar Review). However, in modern grammar, a one word phrase is justifiable. Burton (2011) argues that if you can replace a sequence of words in a sentence with one word without changing the overall structure of the sentence, then that sequence functions as a constituent and is therefore a phrase. Logically then, that one word is also a phrase since it has a paradigmatic relationship with the string. Consider:

*New Japanese cars* can be useful

*They* can be useful.
Unlike a sentence, a phrase does not have both a subject and a predicate. Traditional grammar concentrates on major word level categories which are expanded into corresponding phrasal categories by addition of other constituents. For instance, nouns are expanded into noun phrases, verbs into verb phrases, adjectives into adjective phrases and prepositions into prepositional phrases (Radford, 1989: 64). An NP is so called because the head word is a noun which is obligatory and may have optional dependents. However, if the noun is singular, it must be preceded by a determiner. A noun phrase can act as a subject, object, complement in a clause and as prepositional complement (Leech and Svartvik, 1975).

Example:

*The Minister for Energy found the new secretary in his office a very attractive woman.*

In the above example, *the Minister for Energy* is an NP functioning as subject, *the new secretary in his office* is another NP functioning as object. In the same NP we have *in his office* which is a prepositional phrase postmodifying the head noun *secretary*, the PP still has an NP, *his office* which is a complement of the preposition *in*. Finally *a very attractive woman* is yet another NP functioning as object complement.

In later developments, the structuralists retained nearly all grammatical categories of traditional grammar although they questioned the definitions accorded to each. When Chomsky developed his model of transformational grammar, he reverted to the traditional parts of speech, arguing that all languages should have similar parts of speech. The reason for this assertion is based on his assumption that there are universal phrase structure rules that operate across all languages and the traditional parts of speech form their basis (Radford, 1989).
In the MP, we have the determiner phrase (DP). It is so called because the topmost functional category is filled by a determiner. NPs in Minimalism do exist but they are complements of the functional category (Adger, 2003). The DP has the following structure:

```
DP  
   / \  
  D   NP  
```

(Adger 2003:253)

DP stands for a phrase headed by an element of category D such as the word ‘the’. The NP node is phrasal since it projects no further. However, it can combine with elements such as PPs to make larger NP phrases as in ‘Those delicate glasses of wine’. DPs have a richer functional structure which is responsible for checking features and providing ‘landing sites’ for phrasal and head movement processes. The DP can also appear as a plural nominal without an overt determiner. For example,

```
a) The letter is on the table.
b) * Letter is on the table.
c) Letters are on the table.
```

(Adger 2003:245)

This suggests that the well-formedness of the bare plural in (c) above is due to the existence of a null determiner. We can say that English possesses a null determiner but there is no singular null determiner. Determiners in the DP do not assign theta roles. These are semantic roles played by an argument depending on its predicate. These determiners are defined as words which appear pre-nominally and which can be sub-classified into articles, demonstratives and quantifiers. All these words have a category feature D.
Semantically, DPs display different roles. Yule (2011:115-6) notes that NPs in a sentence can describe the roles of entities such as people and things involved in the action; these are called semantic roles or thematic roles. They include theme, agent, experiencer, recipient, goal, instrument and source. Consider:

**Theme (Patient)** - the entity undergoing the effect of the action.

The teacher beat *Mary*

**Agent (Causer)** – the entity that instigates an action.

*The boy* kicked the ball

*The earthquake* levelled the building.

In the Minimalism Program, the Principle of Full interpretation (FI) shifts the concepts of the Theta Theory such as the theta roles to the lexicon. In numeration, the elements are selected from the lexicon for structure building. The semantic information previously conceptualised in the Theta Theory is now part of the lexicon. For instance, a transitive verb determines the semantic role of an agent and a patient and is selected from the lexicon with its semantic characteristics. Consider:

*John kicked the ball.*

The verb *kicked* assigns the theta role of theme to *the ball* and then the V-bar assigns the theta role of the agent to *John*. Having been assigned the theta roles, the DPs move to the respective landing sites for the purpose of feature checking (Radford 2004: 253-254).

Given this intricate system on how the MP analyses the English DP we set out to find how the MP accounts for the structure and role in the DP in Ekegusii.
1.2. Statement of the Problem.

Studies based on the analysis of the DP within the MP, especially those on African languages, are rare. There is the assumption that the MP is a Theory of Universal Grammar which can account for syntactic phenomena in all human languages (Radford, 2004:8). This study intended to find out the extent to which this is true in relation to Ekegusii. It sought to do so by analysing the structure and semantic roles of the DP in Ekegusii using the MP.

Also, linguists have varied views on the order of elements in the DP. Kayne (1994) argues that human language has a universal underlying word order, contrary to Kremers (2003) who claims that the linearization of elements in DP is language specific. Yet another claim by Adger (2003:251) is that Ds which belong to the same category are in complementary distribution (meaning they cannot occur in the same position). In relation to Ekegusii, this study intended to find out what the order of elements in the DP is and whether the Ds are in complementary distribution or not.

1.3. Research Objectives.

This study was guided by the following objectives:

1. To determine the structure of the DP in Ekegusii.

2. To establish the semantic roles of the DP in Ekegusii.

3. To explain the DP in Ekegusii within the Minimalist Program.

1.4. Research Questions.

This study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the structure of the DP in Ekegusii?
2. What are the semantic roles of the DP in Ekegusii?

3. To what extent can the DP in Ekegusii be accounted for by the Minimalist Program?

1.5. Research Assumptions.

The study was based on the following assumptions:

1. That the DP in Ekegusii has a definite structure.

2. That the DP in Ekegusii has several semantic functions.

3. That the DP in Ekegusii can be accounted for using the MP.

1.6. Rationale of the Study.

Although many studies have been done on Ekegusii (Mabururu, 1994; Mecha, 2006; Bitutu, 1991; Mbori, 1994 and Basweti, 2005) most of them are not based on the DP within the MP except for Basweti’s which limits itself to concordial agreement within the DP in Ekegusii. Besides, Nash (2009) observes that Ekegusii is an under-described minority language with relatively few academic descriptions. In addition, Crystal (1988) notes that, the NP, referred to as the DP in the MP, is structurally the most complex and functionally the most varied; that nouns are the most numerous and they form an important word category across all human languages. This study provides a body of data drawn from Ekegusii and analysed in a way that sheds light on the structure of the DP in Ekegusii and its roles within Minimalism. In addition, it could make contributions to theory development by highlighting the weaknesses, if any in the analysis of the DP in Ekegusii.

Furthermore, data drawn from this study can be used in Comparative Linguistics. That is, the properties of the DP in Ekegusii can be compared with those of other languages and generalizations made. Equally, our language policy in education stipulates that our first
languages be taught from Class One to Class Three in rural areas. Gorman (1974:104) and Mbaabu, (1996) observe that the language best known by a child on his entry in school is the most effective medium of instruction. With this in mind, it is hoped that this study will provide the teachers who teach Ekegusii with relevant information. To curriculum developers, the study could provide a resource that can be useful in improving already existing curriculum materials in Ekegusii.

Also studies based on indigenous African languages are not as many as those on Indo-European languages. Oyori (2003) sadly notes that Africa is the only continent where the majority of the children start school using foreign languages. Across Africa the idea persists that the international languages of wider communication (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish) are the only means for upward economic mobility. This situation leads to language loss. Hale (1992) notes that language loss is part of a larger process of loss of culture and intellectual diversity in which politically dominant languages and cultures simply overwhelm indigenous local languages and cultures placing them in a condition which can only be described as embattled. Hence the study comes in handy since Ekegusii is an indigenous language.

Duane and Glanz (2010) also add that learning is not only becoming more polyvalent and productive but is also nurturing diversity and well-rootedness in one’s culture and tradition. Qoroo (2003) shares the view that African languages are vehicles for producing knowledge—creating, encoding, sustaining and ultimately transmitting indigenous knowledge. The paucity of research on African languages means that a wealth of indigenous knowledge is being locked away and is gradually lost as the custodians of this knowledge pass on. Hence, it is hoped that this study will not only spur other studies in the language but also enhance cultural preservation of African indigenous languages.
Lastly, it is hoped that this study will add on the existing literature on indigenous African languages.

1.7. Scope and Limitation.

The study is limited to the DP in Ekegusii. The DP was chosen because it is very complex in terms of structure and role. It exhibits both simple and complex structures as well as various semantic roles. Therefore, it provided a fertile area for study. Moreover, for any linguistic phenomenon, there are different levels of analysis: phonological, syntactic, morphological and semantics. This study is limited to a morph-syntactic analysis of the DP which entailed describing different types of DP structures formed by individual lexical items selected from the lexicon in the process of numeration as well as the roles they play.

In the analysis of the structure and role of the DP in Ekegusii, this study is limited to written data because written language tends to be structurally more complex than its spoken counterpart (Rijkhoff, 2002). In addition, spoken language is characterised by pauses, ellipsis, implicature and inference which would not be helpful in the description of language structure. The written data is obtained from Ekegusii written sources.

It is evident that Ekegusii has two dialects: Rogoro and Maate dialects (Bosire, 1993 and Mecha, 2004). This study is limited to the Rogoro dialect because it is the standard form and is the one which exists in written works.

Lastly, in this study, data collection methods were limited to content analysis and introspection. These two methods yielded adequate data for the study.

In conclusion, this chapter has covered the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, research assumptions, rationale of the study
and the scope and limitation of the study. In the next chapter we turn to the review of related literature and the theoretical framework.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1.0. Introduction.

This chapter covers the review of literature related to the research. It highlights the DP structure in English and the DP syntax in Non-African languages and African languages. It also covers the theoretical framework used in the research.

2.1. Review of Related Literature.

The section first discusses the structure of the DP in English, followed by the review on non-African languages before coming to the African languages. Depending on the source, both the terms DP and NP are used. As we have explained already, they are largely interchangeable.

2.1.1. The Structure of the Determiner/ Noun phrase in English.

In describing the complex structure of the English noun phrase, Leech and Svartvik (2002) provide the following Structure:

```
Noun phrase
    /
   /
(Determiners) (Premodification) HEAD (Postmodification)
```

(Leech and Svartvik 2002:311)

The brackets indicate that determiners and modifiers can be left out.

Determiners.

Aarts and Aarts (1988) distinguish three subcategories of determiners: predeterminers, central determiners and postdeterminers. They further note that the choice of a given item from one
column may impose certain restrictions on the selection of items from other columns. Here is a summary of determiners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Predeterminer</th>
<th>Central determiner</th>
<th>Postdeterminer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>definite article, indefinite article</td>
<td>cardinal numbers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>demonstrative pronouns, possessive pronouns</td>
<td>ordinal numbers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>specifying genitive</td>
<td>next, last</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half</td>
<td>another, any, each, either, enough, every,</td>
<td>few, fewer, fewest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice</td>
<td>much, neither, no, some, what, which, whose</td>
<td>little, less, least</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many</td>
<td></td>
<td>many, more, most</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Such</td>
<td></td>
<td>other, own,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td></td>
<td>same, such</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Aarts and Aarts 1988:108)

Premodification.

Leech and Svartvik (2002: 364) note that modifiers placed after the determiners but before the head are called premodifiers and they occur in different forms.

Adjective phrases: We had a **pleasant** holiday this year.

Participles –ing : The **developing** countries received funding.

-ed : The **reduced** prices were a relief.

Nouns- Are the **removal** expenses paid by your company?

Compounds : I have just bought a **brand-new** car.

Prepositional phrases: That was a **below the belt** blow.

A clause: I do not like your **I-dont-care** attitude.

Aarts and Aarts (1988: 108) add the following premodifiers
A genitive phrase: A dog’s life.
An Adverb phrase: The then chairman.

**Postmodification.**

These are words, phrases or clauses which occur after the head noun. Huddleston and Pullum (2005:96) provide the following elements which can act as postmodifiers in an NP.

- Adjective phrase: People *fond of animals*
- Appositive NP: Our friend *the mayor*
- Non-appositive NP: Someone *your own size*
- Finite Clause: The guy *who spoke first*
- Non-finite: Students *living on campus.* (-ing)
- : A letter *written by his uncle.* (-ed)

**NB:** Although PPs occur after NPs they function more as complements. Consider:

The demolition *of the Syiokimau buildings*

Here the PP is obligatory because the head noun *demolish* needs a PP to complement its meaning.

In addition Aarts and Aarts (1988: 112) have an adverb phrase as a post modifier

Example: Adverb Phrase: The man *outside*

However, in ‘The man *outside the house’*, outside is a PP post modifying the head.

**Head.**

The head is the constituent around which the other constituents cluster. It dictates the concord with the other parts of a sentence and it is obligatory. The head can be realised as a noun, a pronoun, a nominalised adjective and a genitive (Burton, 2011:32). Consider:

- Noun Phrase: The *students* are on doing exams.
- Pronoun: *They* are on doing exams.
Nominalised Adjective: The **poor** will inherit the Earth.

Genitive: I met her at **Wanja’s**.

In the analysis of the DP structure in the MP, Chang (2003) observes that a determiner heads its own phrase and is higher in position than NP in terms of hierarchical structure as a result it introduces the NP as its complement. He also adds that the possible candidates for the category D are definite and indefinite articles, demonstratives, quantifiers and possessives. All these elements have functional projections. Another observation which is important to the description of structure is by Longobardi (1994) who claims that all D positions are universally generated with an abstract feature [+ref] which must be checked with some elements which are found in the extended maximal projections.

Whereas in the generative framework we have pre and post modifiers giving extra information about the NP, in the minimalism program these elements are adjoined. Radford (2004) defines adjunction as a process by which one constituent (adjunct) is adjoined (attached) to another to form a larger constituent of the same type. Whereas multiple adjuncts adjoined to the same projection are assumed to be able to adjoin in any order, Svenonius (1993:201) adds that adjuncts are similar to heads in selecting the phrase to which they attach and they impose selectional restrictions on the adjunction site. These elements are Adjective phrases, prepositional phrases and relative clauses. So here is the structure of the DP in the MP.

![Diagram of DP structure](Adger 2003: 244)
2.1.2. Semantic Functions of the DP.

In research over the past three decades – beginning with the pioneering work of Gruber (1965), Fillmore (1968) and Jackendoff (1972) linguists have attempted to devise a universal typology of the semantic roles played by DPs in relation to their predicates. Yule (2011:115-6) presents the following semantics roles.

**Theme (Patient)** - the entity undergoing the effect of the action

Mary saw *a fly* on the wall.

**Agent (Causer)** – the entity that instigates an action.

*Mary* killed a big fly.

*The earthquake* levelled the building.

**Location** - Where an entity is in the description of an event.

Mary saw a fly on *the wall*.

**Experiencer** – the entity experiencing some psychological state.

*Mary* felt happy.

**Recipient** – the entity receiving some entity.

*Mary* received the computers.

**Goal** – the entity towards which something moves

She handed the magazine back to *Mary*.

**Source**- Where the entity moves from.

She borrowed the books from *the university library*.

**Instrument** - is an entity that is used by an agent in order to perform an action.

*Mary* cut the vegetables with *a knife*.

The thematic role played by a given argument in relation to its predicate determines the range of expressions which can fulfil relevant argument functions. Consider the following examples:
My uncle realises that I am a lousy cook.
*My cat realises that I am a lousy cook.
* My flying pan realises that I am a lousy cook.

(Lakoff 1971: 133)
He argues that the nature of the relevant restrictions depends on the semantic properties of predicates on one hand and the semantic role played by the argument on the other. Also in the assignment of theta roles, Marantz (1984) and Chomsky (1986) argue that although verbs directly assign theta roles to their internal arguments it is not the verb but rather the V-bar constituent (verb + complement) which determines the theta role assigned to its external argument.

In the Minimalism Program the Principle of F1 shifts the concepts of the Theta Theory such as the theta roles to the lexicon. The lexicon is not only a collection of roots and stems but also contains all the relevant inflectional and semantic properties of these categories. In numeration, elements are selected from the lexicon for structure building. The semantic information previously conceptualised in the Theta Theory is now part of the lexicon. For instance, a transitive verb determines the semantic role of an agent and a patient and is selected from the lexicon with its semantic characteristics (Chomsky 1993:3). Consider:

Mary kicked the ball

The verb ‘kicked’ assigns the theta role of theme to ‘ball’ and then the V – bar assigns the theta role of the ‘agent’

2.1.3. Studies on Non-African Languages.

Studies on the DP in non African languages are many. To begin with, Sze-Wing (1999) studies the syntax of noun phrase in natural languages. He particularly focuses on the word order of a noun phrase, basing his analysis on the Linear Correspondence Axiom by Kayne
(1994) and Chomsky 1995). He proposes that to account for variation in the word order of noun phrases largely depends on the parameters that determine at which level features are assigned. He highlights major syntactic characteristics of NPs in two Indo-European languages namely, English and French as well as three East-Asian languages namely, Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai. He finds the following order of elements in the NPs of the languages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Det adj noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Det adj noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Classifier adj noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>Classifier noun adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>Noun adj classifier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sze-Wing 1999:138)

In his study, he notes that for English, adjectives always occur between the determiner and the noun, while French adjectives may follow a noun. For Chinese, the head noun is always in the head final position. The adjectives, demonstratives, possessives and relative clauses are preceding the noun. In Vietnamese, the NP has classifiers and other elements like adjectives, demonstratives, possessives and relative clauses following the noun. As for Thai, the noun always precedes the numeral and classifier. This variant order of elements in the NP in different languages was important to our study in that it guided our own description of the structure of the DP in Ekegusii. But unlike Sze-Wing’s study ours explored semantic functions of the DP.

Closely related to Sze-Wing’s study on the NP structure is Black and Marlet study of (1996). They examine the Greek NP using the X-bar Theory. They propose that Greek NPs are DPs which have the article as the head and NPs as their complements. Quantifiers and determiners are seen as specifiers of DPs. Adjunct phrases can be DPs which take either the usual NP complement or AP, VP, PP and S. This variety of complements accounts for the repeated
article seen in many Greek NP ordering. Black and Marlet’s study no doubt formed the basis upon which the structure of the DP in our study was described. However, it is different since it goes no further than the structure description of the Greek NP. Whereas it uses the X-bar Theory our study uses the MP.

Another relevant study is Kremers (2003). He provides an analysis of the Arabic NP. Kremers looks at the construct state, adjectival agreement, definiteness inheritance, the formation of verbal nouns and participles. He discusses linearization which is not fully developed in the MP and argues that it is an important part of syntax since it is responsible for certain word order variation. He challenges the notions developed by Kayne (1994) which state that human language has a universal underlying word order. In his study he proposes that Linearization uses two parameters that guide the order in which branches of the tree are searched and this determines the order in which terminal elements are found and spelled out. Kremers’ study was important to our study in that in seeking to describe the structure of the DP in Ekegusii, we sought to find out how the different elements are linearized. However, it is different in that the language families are not similar.

Still on the NP is Babby (1987). He studies the analysis of numeral phrases in Russian. He develops a descriptive generalization that lexical case (licensed by lexical properties of individual lexical items) supersedes configurational case (licensed by items present). This hierarchy is justified by the Principle of Lexical Satisfaction (Babby, 1985) which requires that lexical properties be satisfied at every level while configurational case need not. In addition, he notes that quantificational genitive applies within the numeral phrases and it is assigned before clause level cases. Babby’s study is similar to ours in that both studies invoke case in their analysis; however, the two differ in terms of theoretical framework.
Another similar study is by Smith (2002). He discusses the structure of adjectival modifiers within the DP. Specifically he begins with simple structure for attributive and predicative constructions. He shows how the structures account for cross lingual phenomenon (French, German, Mandarin and Wallon) including pre and post nominal adjective ordering, head final predicative constructions, NP clitics and most importantly restrictions on ordering adjectives and boundedness on adjective fertility and type. His study is based on the MP of Chomsky (1998) and follows the arguments of the Linear Correspondence Axiom of Kayne (1994). Smith proposes an extension to the Theory of Feature Checking, suggesting that an element can block the agreement mechanism by virtue of its set of features alone, even if its values are in accord with those being checked. Smith’s study guided our as we sought to describe the structure of the DP in Ekegusii and how adjectives are adjoined to the NP. Both studies are similar in employing the same theory, but differ in that Smith’s study limits itself to the description of adjectives within the DP whereas our study explores all the other elements in the DP.

Yet another important reference is Rijkhoff (2002) which investigates NP-linguistic constructions with the noun as a central element in a representative sample of the world’s 6000 languages and proposes a semantic model to describe their underlying structure. Assuming no knowledge of any formal or functional theory of grammar, he shows that the NP word order pattern of any language can be derived from three universal ordering principles. These principles are elaborations of a general ordering strategy by which elements that belong together semantically tend to occur together syntactically. Rijkhoff’s study is similar to ours in that it focuses on the NP but different in that ours uses the MP and is therefore, not theory neutral like his.

Of relevance to our study is Nyamasyo (1992). She carried out a grammatical study on the writing of preuniversity students with special focus on the English NP. Nyamasyo makes a
distinction between noun phrases occurring as copular verb complements and those in prepositional phrases functioning as adverbial elements. She further observes that in most NPs, there is a head that is preceded by determiners and adjectives then followed by other elements like PPs. The head is obligatory while other elements like adjectives, PPs function to add clarity or complement the meaning. No doubt this study is similar to our study in that it looks at the structure of the NPs; however, it differs from ours because it is based on Error Analysis.

Still in the structure of the NP is Njiri (2004). He analyses the acquisition of the English NP and the VP. Of relevance to this study is his description of the NP structure. Njiri sheds light on the operational attributes of the NP regarding the notions of minimal and maximal NP structures. His study is similar to ours in that it employs compositions as a data collecting tool, what is different is that Njiri’s study is based on language acquisition theories.

Within the MP framework, is Chang (2003), he studies the DP in English and Korean. The primary claim of Chang’s study is that the cross-linguistic word order variations and the co-occurrence of the modifiers within the extended nominal projections in Spanish, Korean, and English can be accounted for in a unified analysis based on the movement of demonstrative and the head Noun before or after Spell-Out, and the parameter of strong and weak feature of a functional category. In respect to the pre- and postnominal positions of demonstrative in Spanish, the selection depends on the types of movement of demonstrative for [+ref] functional feature checking. In other words, in the case of the postnominal demonstrative, the movement of demonstrative for [+ref] feature checking in Spec-Head configuration is after Spell-Out, whereas the movement of demonstrative in prenominal position is overt. On the other hand, in Korean and English the obligatory prenominal demonstrative results from the movement being before Spell-Out. Chang’s study in the description of the DP in the three
languages formed the basis for our description of the DP in Ekegusii. Whereas the theory is the same, for both studies the language families are different.

Still on the MP is Chang (2009). He focuses on definite/indefinite markings and the occurrence of nominal phrases that are projected by a determiner head, such as articles and demonstratives, in Korean following, Lyons (1999) claims that DPs cannot be projected in Korean syntax due to the lack of the grammatical D category, and inclusiveness cannot be realized because Korean has “no formal marking of definiteness. However, he argues that DPs are universal and are not parameterized cross-linguistically. So adopting Chomsky’s (1995, 2001) Minimalist Program, Chierchia’s (1998) Nominal Mapping Hypothesis, Longobardi’s (1994) N-to-D raising, and Baptista’s (2007) T-chain approach, he presents syntactic differences between NPs and DPs by suggesting that nominals with [+ref] are DPs while NPs are either non-arguments or non-referential nominals. Licensing the syntactic aspects, [+ref] triggers N to move to D covertly at LF in Korean. To support existing D elements in Korean, he shows various cross-linguistic data of nominals in languages such as English, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, Romanian, and Creoles. Chang’s study was vital to our study in guiding the different movements that occur in the DP in Ekegusii and why, however, as early noted the language families are different.

Closely related to Chang (2003 and 2009) is AL- Sameai (2004). In his paper on mixed order cases in the Arabic DP, he argues that the so-called mixed order cases are actually Construct State (CS) DPs and that the so-called prenominal modifiers are actually (multiple) heads of the CS construction whose annex is the noun (and its postnominal modifiers). He claims that the pre and postnominal modifiers belong to different DPs, which form together one complex DP, and that the prenominal modifiers are heads of the (multiple) CS DP and that the noun and the postnominal modifier(s) belong(s) to an independent DP of the ordinary type which
is selected by the prenominal modifier(s) to form a CS construction with it. To support these arguments, AL-Semeai shows that *mixed order cases* in the Arabic DP have exactly the same characteristics of a CS construction in Arabic and he also appeals to Case and Agreement facts of the Arabic DP. While both studies invoke case in the analysis, the families of the languages involved are very different.

Another important resource is Dawn (1997), who explores the structure of the determiner phrase (DP) in American Sign Language (ASL), with particular emphasis on determiners, adjectives, possessives, and agreement. The analysis reveals the existence of multiple agreement projections. In his findings, he notes that agreement features can be expressed manually and non-manually, through head tilt and eye gaze. The no manual expressions of agreement behave like other non-manual syntactic markings in ASL, spreading over the c-command domain of the marking’s source. The distribution of non-manual correlates of agreement provides important evidence for the structure of DP. Whereas our study has nothing to do with sign language, it has everything to do with the functional projections that are in the DP in ASL which guided our analysis of the DP in Ekegusii.

Yet another study within the MP is Moinzadeh (2002). It investigates the phrase structure in Persian within the Minimalist framework of Chomsky (1995, 1998). Adopting Kayne’s (1994) Linear Correspondence Axiom, which examines the relation of hierarchical structure and linear order, Moinzadeh proposes a head-initial analysis for Persian and develops an analysis of SVO word order based on the examination of all lexical and functional categories. In his research, he proposes that there exists an Ezafe Phrase (EzP), a functional phrasal category specific to Persian. He notes that the EzP is headed by a morpheme which may be phonetically realized as *e/ye* or null 0. This morpheme regulates the occurrence of more than one complement in DPs/NPs and APs. Like the other phrasal categories investigated, the EzP
is shown to follow the Spec-Head-Complement configuration (of the Linear Correspondence Axiom). Moinzadeh’s study guided our description of the DP structure in Ekegusii. Although both studies use the MP the languages are very distinct.

Another study is Singhapreecha (2001). In his study of Thai classifiers and the structure of the complex Thai nominal, he posits a functional category, Classifier Phrase (ClassP). Adopting the antisymmetry framework of Kayne (1994). He argues that Thai classifiers have an independently functional status and project the Classifier Phrase (ClassP), basically because they work in the same way as agreement. Evidence supporting their functional status includes properties of classifiers in forming their own word class distinct from the category of nouns, their non-modificational property by adjectives, and multiple occurrences. The underlying structure of Thai nominals is constructed in terms of the DP analysis. To derive a Thai nominal word order, Singhapreecha argues that classifiers features are strong and there exists a combination of raising operations regulated by asymmetrical c-command relation (Kayne, 1994) as well as feature checking (Chomsky, 1995). The analysis suggests that Thai nominals possess a commonly underlying head-initial structure in which movement plays a key role in deriving the surface word order. This study is similar to ours in that it delves into the DP structure but unlike his study, ours looks at semantic roles as well.

Lastly, is Abney (1987) who proposes the creation of a functional category, the determiner, which is considered the head of a noun phrase and since phrases are named after their heads, a phrase headed by a determiner is therefore a DP. The NP, which in turn is headed by a noun is a complement within the DP. Abney’s study was worthwhile in that it not only provides us with the origin of the DP but also the DP structure which guided our description of the DP in Ekegusii.
2.1.4. Studies on African Languages.

Quite a number of studies have been done on the NP in African languages. They include Rugemalira (2007: 147). He examines the structure of the NP in the Nyakyusa language. He finds the following order dominant.

NP [ poss, dem] [num, quant] A [ rel].

Both the possessive and demonstrative may occur immediately after the head noun, but when the possessive immediately precedes the head noun, it must drop a prefix. Also the demonstrative cannot precede the head noun otherwise the meaning changes. Hypothetically, with recurrence, seven elements can co-occur within a single NP. No doubt Rugemalira’s study was important to our study in that it provided a basis upon which we described the structure of the DP in Ekegusii which is also a Bantu language. But unlike his study which is theory neutral, this study adopted a Minimalist approach.

Yet another relevant study is Angogo (1980). She does a comparative analysis of the syntax of Ekegusii, Lulogoli and Lwitakho. She clearly shows that the nominal group is governed by the main noun which has pre and post modifiers by means of concord morphemes. The verb group is also linked to the nominal group by means of this agreement. Angogo’s study is basically different from our study because its main focus is on the comparison of the three languages in terms of the phonology, lexical and morph-syntactic structures within the Theory of Recurring Correspondence (Arlotto, 1972). On the other hand, our study looked at the structure and roles of the DP in Ekegusii using the MP.

Similar to Angogo (1980) is Ingonga (1991). She does a comparative study of three Bantu languages namely, Ekegusii, Lulogooli and Lwitakho. Ingonga observes that nouns in Bantu languages fall into a system of paired classes (singular/plural) and variations exist from one
language to another. Ingonga notes that Ekegusii is closer to Lulogooli than Lwitakho, while Lulogooli and Lwitakho are closer to each other than either is to Ekegusii. Her study differs from our study in that she uses the Theory of Recurring Correspondences and is basically comparative.

Another study that is based on Luhya, but this time on Lukhayo dialect, is Makeni (2006). He examines the concord system of the NP from an acquisition perspective. Makeni observes that in the concord system, the head noun agrees with other constituents in terms of class and number and that the social variables of age and sex affect the acquisition order of concordial morphemes in Lukhayo. Whereas this study was relevant to the structural description of the DP in Ekegusii, it is, however, different from ours in terms of the theory that was be used.

Still in the same Luhya dialect as Makeni (2006) is Wabwire (2010). He examines the structure and the syntactic functions of the NP in Olukhayo using the X-bar Theory. Wabwire’s study and ours are similar in that they explore the structure and function of the DP in Bantu languages. The difference is in terms of theory and the fact that while he looks at syntactic functions of the DP, we look at the semantic ones.

Closely related to our study is Njagi (1997). She looks at the Kikuyu determiner phrase from the Principles and Parameters perspective. After examining the elements in the DP, namely quantifiers, ordinal numbers, demonstratives and possessives, she notes that although Kikuyu does not have specific definite and indefinite quantifiers, definiteness in Kikuyu may be marked by a demonstrative appearing after the noun but accompanied by a change of tone. Njagi’s study is similar to ours in terms of describing the DP but unlike hers, ours is based on the MP.

On Kiswahili, which is Bantu, we have Martem (2008). He does the agreement on conjoined NPs and defines strategies that Kiswahili employs to resolve verbal agreement with conjoined
phrases. Martem argues that the choice of different strategies is not only based on dialect or speaker variation but rather can be related to the structure and the dynamics of interpretation. To the extent that Martem’s study concerns itself with the structure of NPs, it is similar to ours. But unlike his study ours deals with the roles of DPs as well.

Still on Kiswahili is Mchombo (1993) which contains an article by Carstens, ‘On Nominal Morphology and DP structure’, in which the Kiswahili DP is examined. Carstens proposes that Kiswahili NPs (so-called) are covert DP with phonologically empty heads to which the noun raises obligatorily, through the number projection. She further argues that the noun class prefixes are added to nouns as number morphology, by gender-specific redundancy rules. Since the prefixes only mark number, she proposes the creation of a functional head ‘number’ which selects NP complements. She argues that this analysis makes possible a uniform treatment of number morphology on one hand and independent number words on the other. Carsten’s views on number morphology were important to our study as it is integral to the structural description of the DP within the MP. Her study is similar to ours in theory application although it limits itself to structure alone.

Also relevant to the structural description of the NP on Kiswahili are three observations by Ashton (1944: 46-54) namely: adjectives follow nouns and have concord; some of the modifiers are pronominals namely, possessives, demonstratives, interrogatives, o-reference and –enye and the possessives occur close to the head noun and may cliticize to it. Polome (1967: 143) adds that other modifiers include the relative and the invariable kila ‘every’.

Polome argues that non-proximity demonstratives may precede the noun and that attributive determinatives occur close to nouns depending on the semantic association between them. Using Yule mtoto, huyu mtoto and huyo mtoto (the/ that child) Polome maintains that a demonstrative function to mark definiteness when it precedes a noun in Swahili. Although
Ashton and Polome’s views on the structure of the Swahili NP are theory neutral, they guided our study in the description of the DP structure in Ekegusii.

Another study in Bantu NP syntax dealing with Linear Order Constraints on split NPs in Chichewa is Mchombo (2006). He addresses himself to the restrictions that govern the ordering of internal constituents of NPs in Chichewa, especially when those constituents involve discontinuity. Mchombo further gives insights on the motivation for the discontinuity of the NP constituents. He observes that Chichewa is a head initial language and within an NP the modifiers are post head. To the extent that Mchombo’s study does the order of elements of the NP in Chichewa, then it is similar to our study but, it is different in that ours is based on the MP in the analysis of structure and function.

Mohammed (2010) adopts a Minimalist approach to the study of Hausa determiner phrase. He focuses on identifying the status and syntactic projections of the constituents in the internal structure of Hausa Determiner Phrase. He tries to give a unified account which links the constituent properties of Hausa nominal phrases. In the study, Mohammed highlights definiteness, which is marked by a deictic or Agreement (Agr) morpheme rather than by a lexical article which acts like a syntactic feature on par with phi-features (ɸ-features); indefiniteness isn’t marked at all. He shows that definite articles in Hausa contain ɸ-features that bear categorical feature of the head noun which are checked through feature-checking. He uses Chomsky’s, (1995) Minimalist Program. Mahammed gives a unified account by assuming that the definite articles -n, -r and -n are the functional head projections of DP where different features are checked and licensed. His work was very important to our study in guiding our analysis of the DP in Ekegusii. However, it is limited to only the DP structure.
Finally, in the MP we have plural nominals which appear without an overt determiner, called null heads. This is brought to focus by Yombe (2004) when he studies the null heads and the internal structure of DP in Bari (an Eastern Nilotic language in southern Sudan). His study focuses on the distribution of genitives, adjectives, numerals and quantifiers. He claims in his findings that the head of the DP in Bari is empty and that all maximal projections in the DP, save for the complement NP, have null heads. Nyombe’s is similar to our study in terms of the theory and the description of the DP. But contrary to our study its emphasis is the concordial agreement and it is based on a Nilotic language.

2.1.5. Studies on Ekegusii.

Many linguistic studies have been done in Ekegusii. Among the earliest works are those done by Whitely (1960). In her study she does an introduction to the Ekegusii tense system. Whitely (1965) follows this study with a practical introduction to the Ekegusii. In this study, she indentifies the grammatical categories of the language such as nouns, verbs, demonstratives and possessives.

Besides the introductory studies by Whitely, other studies which explore other linguistic levels in Ekegusii have been done. One such study is Osinde’s (1988) morpho-phonology of Ekegusii. Osinde covers the nature of nouns, verbs, pronouns, interrogatives and demonstratives. His study gives an overview to the rich morphology of Ekegusii which, however, is not exhaustive.

Following Osinde (1988) is Mboga (1989) who does a syntactic study of a simple sentence in the Ekegusii language. He validates the fact that Ekegusii is an SVO language. He notes that the grammaticality of the simple sentence is entirely dependent on the agreement between verbs and nouns.
It has been observed that Ekegusii has two dialects, the Rogoro dialect and the Maate dialect (Mecha, 2004). Bosire (1993) does a comparative study of the Rogoro and Maate dialects and bases his study on the Labovian theory of language variability (1972). In his findings, he notes that there are lexical and phonological differences between the two dialects. Bosire further points out that the Rogoro dialect is more innovative in its morphology while the Maate dialect is more innovative in its phonology. This study is important to our study in that it informed on the dialect that the study is based on, that is the Rogoro dialect.

Also similar to our study is Basweti’s (2005). He does a morph- syntactic analysis of the Ekegusii DP using the MP. In his study, he explores the agreement features in the DP; that is, how the noun agrees with the determiners, quantifiers, adjectives and possessives. No doubt this study is very similar to our study in that it deals with the DP and uses the MP in its analysis. It is however, different in that Basweti only limits his study to concordial agreement in the DP. Our study builds on his study by further exploring the structure of the DP and in addition looks at the semantic functions of the DP within the MP.

Last but not least is Mbori (1994). He investigates the NP errors that Standard Seven pupils in Kisii District make. His concern was to establish whether the pupils translate Ekegusii NPs in constructing English NPs. The study does a contrastive analysis of Ekegusii and English NPs. He concludes that exposure influences the construction of the English NPs by the pupils. This study is similar to our study in that it deals with construction of NPs, but it is different since it is based on Error Analysis.
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.2.0. Introduction.

This section presents the theory used in the research and the rationale for the choice of the particular theory.

2.2.1. The Minimalist Program (Chomsky 1993, 1995).

The Minimalist Program is a theory of grammar outlined by Chomsky (1993 and 1995). This study has chosen the MP because its principle tenet is that grammars should make use of minimal apparatus to provide a descriptively adequate characterization of a linguistic phenomenon in the simplest and the most elegant manner (Chomsky, 1993:1995). The MP is a radical departure from excessive complexity of much of the work in syntax in the 1980s. At the time, syntax involved the postulation of ever more complex structures and principles.

Secondly, the MP integrates morphology into syntax. Chomsky (1993:12) notes that morphology plays an important role in the MP because operations in the computational systems are driven by morphological necessity. This means that movement that takes place in the structure building process depends on how rich or weak the morphology of a language is. As a matter of fact, Osinde (1988) notes that Ekegusii has a rich morphology since this study used MP to describe structure and role we note that Ekegusii morphology influences movement.

The principal tenet of the MP is that grammars should make use of the minimal theoretical apparatus to provide a descriptively adequate characterization of linguistic phenomena: in other words grammars should be as simple as possible. Minimalism is thus an attempt to minimize the theoretical and descriptive apparatus used to describe a language. As a result, the MP has discarded the complex grammar such as the D- structure, S- structure and
government. Others such as ECP (Empty Category Principle), case filter, theta criterion, head movement (Movement of a lexical category) and projection principle are subsumed under the Economy Conditions. Economy conditions are formulated to reduce structures and derivations to their barest minimum, with the ultimate aim of capturing simplicity and naturalness of the formal system (Mwangi, 2001: 12)

Chomsky (1993: 3) argues that each individual is endowed with a lexicon. This lexicon is like a mental dictionary which has entries of all the lexical items in the language of a native speaker. Abraham et al (1996) observes that each lexical entry consists of at least a set of three sets: a semantic feature set, a phonological feature set and a syntactic feature set. That is why it is possible for the MP to integrate morphology and syntax with the assumption that verbs and nouns receive their inflectional and derivational properties in the lexicon. This also addresses the problem of inflectional morphology and integrates the Split Hypothesis of Inflection (INFL) into new projections of AGR and TNS. In addition, the existence of the lexicon helps to justify the absence of the deep and surface structures in the MP.

The MP maintains that all the information of the sentence is contained in the VP. It also explores the principles of Economy and Derivation and the Principle of Full Interpretation (FLI) and their determination for movement. It further shows that the specifier–head relationship is central for case assignment and that the concept of ‘case’ explains the structure of the intricate phrases more adequately than previous models. It finally presents a simple explanation of focus as it has now been integrated into the feature checking process.

In structure building the MP eliminates the Projection Principle and the D-structure level of GB’s T-model (Chomsky, 1981:5 and 1993:3), which represented the generated information from the lexicon. The program preserves the specifier-head and head-head relationship of X-bar Theory.
The lexical items are transformed into the specifier-head or head-complement relationship.

The MP utilizes movement in structure building. This movement is necessitated by the need to check features and is controlled by the Economy Principle, the Minimal Link Condition and the Principles of Procrastinate and Greed. The Economy Principle overrides other principles since they work together towards achieving economy. The Minimal Link condition is related to the Shortest Move Principle which dictates that a constituent must move the shortest distance possible. The Procrastinate Principle dictates that derivations hold off movement until after spell out, so that results of such movement do not affect the Phonological Form. Greed allows the constituent to satisfy its morphological needs. The Last Resort Condition ensures that constituents are immobile once they are licensed.

Derivation takes place in stages. First, lexical items are selected from the lexicon in a process called numeration. A computational process of merge combines the lexical item into projections and partial phrase structure trees. Movement then occurs to the appropriate landing sites for the purpose of feature checking. Nouns are for instance, checked for their correct case features in the appropriate specifier positions. Spell out then takes place and the semantic and phonological information are separated and processed separately by LF and PF respectively (Culicover, 1997).
The Principle of Full Interpretation (PFI) is a universal grammar constraint on the PF and LF interpretations. It requires that every element at the PF or LF provide meaningful input. If the PF and LF satisfy the PFI then the derivation of the sentence is said to converge but if it does not the derivation crashes.

The basic structure of the MP is as follows (Chomsky, 1993:7):

Having reviewed literature related to our study as well as looked at the theoretical framework in this chapter, we next turn our attention to the research methodology.
CHAPTER THREE

THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction.

This chapter covers the research design, study area, sampling techniques and sample size, data collection procedures, data analysis and presentation.

3.1. Research Design.

The study used a descriptive research design. According to Hedrick et al (1993) the purpose of a descriptive study is to provide a picture of a phenomenon as it naturally occurs and to draw a picture of a situation or show how things are related to each other. Mugenda (2008) shares the same views that a descriptive research design provides a foundation upon which a phenomenon can be described to indicate disparities or certain characteristics. Our study described the structure and role of the DP in Ekegusii. Data obtained from compositions, written sources and that generated through introspection was described. The descriptive techniques provided details necessary for the description of the DP structure and its semantic roles in the Ekegusii.

3.2. Area of Study.

Bickman and Debra (2009) note that choosing a study area and group is important because constrains on time and budget limit the number of members of the population who can be subjects in a study. This is also noted by Grey (2009) who says that samples are selected because it is not possible to evaluate the entire population. The study was carried out in Gucha District, Kisii County because the area has a high population of speakers of the Rogoro dialect of Ekegusii.
3.3. Sampling Techniques and Sample Size.

According to Kerlinger and Lee (2000), sampling is important because it enables a study to generalise. Generalizing means that the results of the study can have a broader application than merely being limited to a small group. In this study, purposive sampling was used in the elicitation of compositions and obtaining Bible stories as well as choosing written Ekegusii stories. The sampling was carried out in three stages. First, the researcher targeted 10 respondents who wrote a composition each. It is from these compositions that we extracted sentences which gave us the DPs (appendix: 1-10). Using purposive sampling, the researcher choose those respondents who wrote compositions in Ekegusii because not all native Ekegusii speakers are literate in the language. The respondents were reached through social network. Milroy (1980) observes that social network enables a linguist to meet members of a local community as a friend or ‘friend of a friend’.

Secondly, the researcher sampled the appropriate sentences from the compositions depending on the structure and the various semantic roles that were played by the DPs in sentences. Thirdly, the researcher sampled stories from the Ekegusii Bible and written Ekegusii sources because it was not be possible to use all the Bible and written stories. This study used the book of Esther Chap 2:1-23 which has the story of Esther’s crowning as the queen (appendix: 11&12) and from Ekegusii written sources we used two story books [Emegano yaito (Our stories) and Ninyanchete omonwa oito (I like my language)]. From these, we further selected five stories; *Ogoto Onsinininini* (The small frog), *Ogasusu angainete Okando* (Hare cheats the Lion), *Omwana Omong’aini* (The clever child), *Marangeti nyandamwamu* (The jealousy Marangeti) and *Obogworu bwa masa mu* (The greedy hyena) (Appendix:13,14,15,16 &17).

From the compositions the researcher collected at least 100 sentences while 20 were obtained from the Bible story, another 20 from Ekegusii written works. This gave us a total of 140 sentential constructions for the study.
3.4. Data Collection Procedures.

Bickman and Debra (2009) observe that the use of multiple data methods to measure a phenomenon is important since you can see if they converge and support the same conclusions. The more diverse the sources, the greater confidence there is in the convergence of findings. Firstly, the study used compositions. Njiri (2004) notes that composition writing helps the researcher to elicit full sentential productions from respondents. To achieve this, the researcher provided the respondents with a topic entitled ‘The thief’, on which they wrote a composition in Ekegusii. The respondents were given at least one hour within which they expressed themselves. Secondly, the study used content analysis. This was applied to the Ekegusii Bible in the book of Esther in the selection of sentences and the DPs as well as the written Ekegusii stories. Thirdly introspection was used to supplement written sources of data. Chomsky (1977:40) refers to this as native speaker competence. The study could have used data from contemporary works in Ekegusii such as magazines, but to the best knowledge of the researcher they are extremely rare. That is why the study uses compositions.

3.5. Data Analysis and Presentation.

Data analysis involves the process of breaking data down into small units to reveal their characteristic elements of structure (Dey, 1993:30). Further analysis is important because new insights into the data are drawn, connections are made and relationships can be established. The study used open coding in data analysis. Grey (2009) defines open coding as a process involving allocating an identification number to data, while Strauss and Corbin (1998) define it as the naming and categorising of phenomena through close examination of data. In the study we used open coding by identifying, underlining sentences and
subsequently coding them as DPs, after which the different structures are presented in tables and accounted for theoretically using the MP’s operation merge and move.

3.6. Ethical Considerations.

Research ethics refers to moral principles guiding research (Horman, 1991:1). It means conducting research in a way that goes beyond merely adopting the most appropriate research methodology, but conducting research in a responsible and morally defensible way. Mugenda (2008) notes that protecting the rights and welfare of the participants should be the major ethical obligation of all parties involved in a research. To provide these protections, all parties must be able to review, conduct or oversee research that involves human participants in an ethically and sound manner. Mcburney and White (2010) note that ethical principles fall into four major categories. They include avoiding harm to participants, ensuring informed consent, respecting the privacy of participants and avoiding deception. Crow et al (2006) add that the principle of consent means that research participants are provided with sufficient and accessible information about the study so that they make an informed decision as to whether to become involved or not. To ensure these ethical considerations are taken into account, the consent of the respondents was sought and they were assured that except for the purpose of the research the information gathered in the course of this study, whether personal or otherwise, would remain confidential. In addition, to enhance the participant’s privacy, the respondents names were not used. Instead, codes were used in the collection of compositions.

Finally, this chapter has dealt with the research design, study area, sampling techniques and sample size, procedures of data collection, analysis and presentation. Next we delve into data analysis and presentation.
CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.0. Introduction.

This chapter outlines the data analysis of the DP in Ekegusii. We present the structure of the DP and its role, using a Minimalist perspective. First, we look at the internal structure of the DP in Ekegusii. This is presented using tables which display different patterns and the frequency of occurrence. In instances where a particular pattern was not realized, we resorted to our native speaker intuition to supply an example. Next, we provide a theoretical account of the elements within the DP in Ekegusii before considering the semantic roles.

4.1. A Descriptive Account of the DP Structure in Ekegusii.

What follows is a table which summarise the DP structure and the frequency of occurrence of the various patterns. The DP structure in Ekegusii can range from simple to complex.

Table 4.1: DP Structure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>NP Structure</th>
<th>Example and Gloss</th>
<th>FO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem</td>
<td><em>Omosacha oyo, Rituko erio</em>&lt;br&gt;Man this (this man), day that (that day) (Appendix: 5)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NP Comp+ PossD</td>
<td><em>Chindoto chiaye</em>&lt;br&gt;Dreams his/her (his/her dreams) (Appendix: 4)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + PossD</td>
<td><em>Omoamate oyo one</em>&lt;br&gt;Neighbour this mine (this my neighbour) (Appendix: 3)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Expression</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NP Comp+ PossD+ QP</td>
<td>Abaibori baye bonsi</td>
<td>Parents her all (all her parents) (Appendix: 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>NP Comp+ QP</td>
<td>Omoibi oyomo, Abanto bonsi</td>
<td>Thief one (one thief), People all (all people) (Appendix: 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem+ QP</td>
<td>Abanto baria babere</td>
<td>People those two (those two people) (Appendix: 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem+ PossD+ QP</td>
<td>Abaibori baria baye bonsi bane</td>
<td>Parents those her all four (All her four parents)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem+ PossD+ QP</td>
<td>Abaibori baria baye bonsi</td>
<td>Parents those her all (All her parents)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>QP+ NP Comp</td>
<td>Kera Omonto</td>
<td>Every person (Appendix: 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>QP+NP Comp+ PossD</td>
<td>Kera omwana oye</td>
<td>Every child his/her (Every child of his/her)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ø + NP Comp + PP</td>
<td>Endamwamu yomoruoti Ahaswero</td>
<td>Wrath of king Ahasuerus (the wrath of king Ahasuerus) (Appendix: 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ø + NP Comp +R.cl</td>
<td>Ensoko yarenge abwo</td>
<td>Well that was there (a well that was there)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Translation</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ø + NP Comp + AP</td>
<td>Amaiso amarabu</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eyes white (white eyes)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Appendix: 4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ø + NP Comp + AP + AP</td>
<td>Abaiseke abekungi abanyabieni</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls virgins beautiful (beautiful virgin girls)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Appendix: 11)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ø + NP Comp + AP + AP+AP</td>
<td>Abaiseke abake abaya abanyakieni</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls young good beautiful (good beautiful young girls)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ø +NP Comp + AP + PP</td>
<td>Omoyega omonene bwamasikani</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feast great of respect (a great feast of respect)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Appendix: 12)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ø +NP Comp + PP + R.cl</td>
<td>Eng’ombe yomongina Mokeira oyio orenge</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cow of woman Mokeira who was Omoboraka.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Widow (A cow for Mokeira who was a widow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Appendix: 1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ø + NP Comp + R.cl + PP</td>
<td>Hegai oyorenge omorendi bwabakungu ase</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hegai who was in charge of women in enyomba yomoruoti.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>house of king (Hegai who was in charge of women in the king’s house)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Appendix: 11)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ø +NP Comp + PP + Eriogi riechinkobi korwa bweri</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>Sound of claps from cow shade (a sound of claps from the cow shade)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ø+NP Comp + PP + PP + R.cl</td>
<td>Amashitaka yokoiba eyanga korwa ase omonto Crimes of stealing cloth from person oyomo omanyekanete buna Ocharo one who was known as Ocharo (Crimes of stealing a cloth from one person who was known as Ocharo) (Appendix: 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ø+ NP Comp + R.cl + R.cl</td>
<td>Enswe eyio baba omwabo arosetie eyio yasente Fish which mother his made which tasted buna oboke like honey (a fish, which his mother made, which tasted like honey) (Appendix: 4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + AP</td>
<td>Ogochika korta okoyia Decree that new (that new decree) (Appendix: 11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + PP</td>
<td>Enyomba eria yabakungu House that of women (that house of women) (Appendix: 11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>NP Comp+ QP + PP</td>
<td>Abasae babere bechinguru Youth two of strength (two youths of strength) (Appendix: 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>NP Comp+ PossD +</td>
<td>Etabi yaye embe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ QP</td>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>NP Comp+ QP + AP</td>
<td>Habit his/her bad (his/her bad habit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>NP Comp+ QP + R.cl</td>
<td>Abasacha batato amabambo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>NP Comp+ PossD + R.cl</td>
<td>Men three strong (three strong men)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>NP Comp+ PossD + QP + PP</td>
<td>Woman one who was lazy very (one woman who was very lazy)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + AP + PP</td>
<td>Cow his/her which was alone in home (his/her cow which was alone in the home)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + QP + R.cl</td>
<td>Amatoke aye abere korwa mogondo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + AP + AP</td>
<td>Bananas his/her two from shamba (his/her two bananas from the shamba)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + QP + R.cl</td>
<td>Eng’ombe yaye yarengge yoka ase omochie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + AP + AP</td>
<td>Woman one who was lazy very (one woman who was very lazy)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ PossD + R.cl</td>
<td>Cow his/her which was alone in home (his/her cow which was alone in the home)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ PossD + QP + PP</td>
<td>Decree that new from king (that new decree from the king)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + AP + AP</td>
<td>Decrees those two which the king made (those two decrees which the king made)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + QP + R.cl</td>
<td>Decree that new from king (that new decree from the king)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem + AP + AP</td>
<td>Boy that thin tall (that slender tall boy)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NP Comp+ Dem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>+PossD +AP +AP</td>
<td><em>Omoiseke oria one omonyerere omotambe</em></td>
<td>Girl that mine thin tall (that slender tall girl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>+PossD +QP +AP</td>
<td><em>Abana baria bane babere abatambe</em></td>
<td>Children those mine two tall (those two tall children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>+PossD +QP +AP +AP</td>
<td><em>Abana baria bane babere abanyerere abatambe</em></td>
<td>Children those mine two thin tall (those two tall slender children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>+PossD +QP +AP +AP +R.cl</td>
<td><em>Abana baria bane babere abanyerere abatambe</em></td>
<td>Children those mine two thin tall <em>abwo bare korema.</em> Who were digging (Those two tall slender children who were digging)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From table 4.1, we note that the DP in Ekegusii has the following functional elements: demonstratives, possessives and quantifiers. Typically, the functional Ds are postnominal. However, there are occasional instances where we have the D in a pre-nominal position as noted in (9 and 10). Instances where the DP structure has functional Ds and NP as Comp, the NP Comp and Dem structure is very frequent. Also, it is possible to have all the functional Ds co-occurring in a DP and when this happens, they follow each other in the order of demonstratives, possessives and quantifiers.
Secondly, that APs, PPs and R.cls can be adjoined to the noun. When adjunction occurs, the DP realizes a null determiner which takes an NP Comp and the adjoined elements. It is also possible for all the adjoined elements to occur and when this happens, the AP is first adjoined to the noun then either the PP follows the R.cl or R.cl follows the PP. Where adjunction occurs, the DP with null D + NP Comp + PP has the highest frequency of occurrence.

Thirdly, we observe that it is possible to have all the DP elements occurring in a structure. When this happens, the order is NP Comp, demonstrative, possessive, quantifier, AP, R.cl then PP or AP, PP then R.cl.

4.2. A Theoretical Account of the Elements within the DP in Ekegusii.

What follows is a theoretical account of the elements which are overtly realized in the DP in Ekegusii.

4.2.1. Demonstratives.

As we saw in table 4.1, demonstratives are very common in the DP in Ekegusii. Crosslinguistically, demonstratives have the function of “pointing out,” equivalent to deixis. Deixis is the property of certain expressions and categories (including tense and grammatical person) of relating things talked about to the spatio-temporal context and in particular, to contextual distinctions like that between the moment or place of utterance and other moments or places, or that between the speaker, the hearer and others. Demonstratives like this and that are deictic because they locate the entity referred to relative to some reference point in the extralinguistic context. (Lyons, 1999:18)

Ekegusii distinguishes two kinds of demonstratives, namely: (a) the proximal demonstratives eye (this), ebi (these) and (b) their distal counterparts era (that) and ebiria (those). These demonstratives can be used to indicate referentiality. In addition to distal demonstratives,
Ekegusii has a third class that indicates distance away from both the speaker and hearer. The table below shows the three types of demonstratives.

### Table 4.2: Types of Demonstratives in the Ekegusii

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demonstratives</th>
<th>Near Speaker</th>
<th>Near Hearer</th>
<th>Away from both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Person (honorific)</td>
<td>Omoibi oyo</td>
<td>Omoibi oria</td>
<td>Omoibi oriaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thief this (this thief)</td>
<td>Thief that (that thief)</td>
<td>Thief that (that thief)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thing</td>
<td>Omote oyo</td>
<td>Omote oria</td>
<td>Omote oriaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree this (this tree)</td>
<td>Tree that (that tree)</td>
<td>Tree that (that tree)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Ase aya</td>
<td>Ase aria</td>
<td>Ase ariaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place this (this place)</td>
<td>Place that (that place)</td>
<td>Place that (that place)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Chinsa echi</td>
<td>Chinsa chiria</td>
<td>Chinsa chiriaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time this (this time)</td>
<td>Time that (that time)</td>
<td>Time that (that time)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another observation we make in regard to the demonstratives in Ekegusii is that they can mark definiteness. Definiteness refers to an entity that is familiar, by virtue of being present either in the physical discourse environment or in the discourse context as an entity that is identifiable to both the speaker and addressee while indefiniteness refers to an entity which the speaker assumes the address cannot identify (Lambrecht, 1994:79). Definiteness in Ekegusii can be expressed either through bare nouns or demonstratives. Chang (2009:34), in the analysis of the Korean DP, notes that languages compensate for the lack of one category—that the dual functions of demonstratives are caused by the absence of another element and the demonstrative performs the compatible role of the definite article. Thus, in Ekegusii demonstratives are seen to perform a dual role as shown by the following data.
37) Omongina oyio
Woman that (that woman)

38) Rituko erio
Day that (that day)

In both instances woman and day are familiar to the speaker and the hearer.

Theoretically, Giust (1997) proposes that demonstratives are generated in the Dem position which is projected below the DemP and they move to D position (which is a strong head position) universally. Ekegusii behaves similarly.

39). Omosacha oyo
Man this (this man)

The demonstrative oyo is base generated at the Dem position of the DemP. Since the D position is a strong head position the demonstrative moves to fill it overtly, while the NP omosacha first moves to the specifier position of the demonstrative to check agreement features with the demonstrative after which it further moves to the specifier position to check the number features.

4.2.2. Possessives.

Dawn (1997) observes that possessives pronouns and other possessive markers are functional projections which project the possessive determiner phrase (PossD). Although, Picallo
(1994) argues that possessives are universally base generated specifically in a position lower than all the functional projections like demonstratives, Bruge (2002) adds that the order of functional projections varies crosslinguistically; that the postnominal possessive occupies a position immediately lower than the postnominal demonstrative. Chang (2003) adds that possessives are generated with a possessive feature (+poss) which has to be checked before spell out. In Ekegusii, possession is realized in the following ways:

a) Possessive determiner. Consider:

40). Omwana oye
   Child  his/hers  (his/her child)

b) Possessive marker (-ya-) equivalent of (of) in English as in

41). Enyomba yabakungu
   House of women (women’s house)

Note that the possessive marker –ya- though expressing ownership, is realized more as a preposition by translation thus in instances where it occurs it is analyzed as an adjunction.

Here is an illustration from the data,

42). Chindoto chiaye

Dreams  his/her (his/her dreams)
The D position is a strong head position which has to be filled hence the possessive *chiaye* which is base generated at the poss position of the PossD has to move and fill it. Again in Ekegusii the possessive is postnominal forcing the movement of the NP *chindoto* upwards to check first the possessive feature and then number features.

Further, where we have other projections like demonstratives and quantifiers, the possessive does not raise; instead the NP checks features in Spec-head configuration as follows:

43). *Omoamate oyo one*

Neighbour this mine (this my neighbour)

The possessive *one* is base generated at the poss position of the possessive determiner phrase, it does not move; instead the NP moves to the spec position to check the possessive feature. The demonstrative *ozyo* is base generated at the demonstrative position of the DemP and since the D position is a strong head position it is moves to overtly fill it. The NP also moves to check (+poss), (+dem) and lastly the (+number) features at the specifier position.
First, the NP *abaibori* moves to the Spec position of the QP to check agreement features with the quantifier. It further moves to the Spec of the PossD to check the possessive agreement, after which the NP finally lands in the Spec position of the DP to check the number features. Since the quantifier *bonsi* does not compete with the possessive for the same space in Ekegusii, it does not move. However, the possessive *baye* moves to occupy the strong head position D which must be overtly filled.

### 4.2.3. Quantifiers.

Another element which has manifested itself in our data is the quantifier. Radford (2004) observes that they are so called, because they serve to quantify the noun that follows them. Radford (1994) and Valois (1991) have suggested that quantifiers head a functional projection hence project a maximal projection (QP). They add that there are still
controversies as to which elements can be classified as quantifiers, but for this study, we consider cardinal and ordinal numbers as well as some quantity words like *all, some*. So, following Radford and Valois’ observation, we posit the following schematic form for Ekegusii quantifiers.

45). *Omoibi oyomo*

![Diagram of *Omoibi oyomo*]

The quantifier *oyomo* is generated at the quantifier position of the QP and since the D position is a strong head position the quantifier moves to fill it. The NP *omoibi* also moves first to check the agreement features with the quantifier then to the specifier position to check the number features.

Another observation is that Ekegusii quantifiers always have to agree with the noun in terms of number. As shown below:

46). *Omwana oyomo*  
*Child* one (one child)  
*Abana babere*  
*Children* two (two children)

47). *Omote oyomo*  
*Tree* one (one tree)  
*Emete ebere*  
*Trees* two (two trees)

48). *Oroche oromo*  
*Chindoche ibere*
We also observe that in Ekegusii, the quantifiers can be used to mark indefiniteness. From the examples above in (46), (47) and (48) the quantifiers indicate that the NPs they come after are not familiar to the speaker or the hearer. Equally, when we have other projections like demonstratives, the quantifier does not raise. Instead it is the NP that moves to the specifier of QP and in this position checks agreement features. Here is an example from the data presented.

49). Abanto baria babere

People those two (those two people)

As observed, the quantifier babere is generated at the quantifier position of QP. In this position, it does not move; rather, the NP abanto moves to the spec position to check the agreement features. As for the demonstrative baria, it moves to fill the D position which is a strong head. The NP abanto moves to check features with the quantifier, then the
demonstrative before finally landing at the specifier position where it checks number features.

Lastly, it is possible for quantifiers in the Ekegusii DP to co-occur and that is why it is possible to project more than one quantifier phrase.

50). Abaibori baria baye bonsi bane

Parents those her all four (all her four parents).

Here the DP projects two QPs. The NP abaibori moves to the Spec position of the QPs, PossD and DemP to check the Agr and poss features, before the NP finally lands at the Spec position to check the number features. The demonstrative baria, which is generated at the demonstrative position of the DemP, has to move to the D position to fill it because it is a strong head.
51). *Abaibori baria baye bonsi*

Parents those her all (all those her parents)

The NP *abaibori* moves first to the Spec position of the QP to check agreement features. It then further moves to the Spec of the PossD and the Spec of DemP to check again the agreement, after which the NP finally lands in the Spec position of the DP to check the number features.

In instances where we have all the DP elements as witnessed from the Ekegusii data above then the elements will follow each other in the order of demonstratives, possessives and quantifiers.
The last observation we make in regard to functional Ds is that there are occasional instances when the determiner in Ekegusii DP is in a prenominal position as seen in table 4.1 example 9 and 10, repeated here as 52 and 53 respectively. We add that this is a marked choice.

52). *Kera omonto*

Every person

```
      DP
     /   \
  /     \ 
D    NP
   kera  omonto
```

The quantifier *kera* is in a prenominal position hence movement does not occur. The DP takes the NP *omonto* as a complement.

53). *Kera omwana oye*

Every child his/her (every his/her child)

```
      DP
     /   \
  /     \ 
D    NP
   kera  omwana oye
```

The quantifier *kera* is in a prenominal position, thus no movement occurs. The quantifier heads the determiner phrase and it takes the NP *omwana oye* as a complement.

### 4.3.0. Adjoined Adjective Phrases.

From table 4.1, it is evident that Ekegusii adjoins adjective phrases within the DP. Adjectives are divided into two categories depending on how they associate with nouns. An adjective that precedes a noun is *attributive* and the other that follows the noun it describes is said to be *predicative* (Chang, 2009). Different linguists have varied views as to how adjectives should be analysed. For instance, Longobardi (1994), Cinque (1994) and Holmberg (1993) propose
that attributive adjectives be treated as specifiers of functional projection in which case stacking of adjectives is possible since each adjective is a specifier. They add that the particular functional projection in which an adjective may appear is understood to be related to the semantic class of the adjective. In this way, ordering restrictions on adjectives can be accommodated, as the functional categories project in a certain hierarchical order that is common across languages.

However, others like Bernstein (1993), Svenonius (1992) and Radford (2004) propose that adjectives be treated as phrasal adjuncts adjoined to the NP. In our study we considered adjectives as phrasal adjuncts. Besides Rizzi (1990) also notes that phrasal adjuncts do not interfere with other movements, adding that languages with overt noun raising exhibit postnominal adjectives, a case observed in Ekegusii DP. Lastly, we note that attributive adjectives in the DP in Ekegusii are generally postnominal and they can be stacked as realized in the data shown.

54). *Amaiso amarabu*

Eyes white (white eyes)

```
                DP
                |    Φ
                N'
                   |    N'  A''
                   |   N    amanene
     Amaiso
```

The AP *amarabu* is postnominal in Ekegusii and is adjoined to the noun *amaiso*. The DP has a null determiner and it takes the NP as complement.
55). Abaiseke abekungi abanyabieni
   Girls virgins beautiful (beautiful virgin girls)

The APs abekungi and abanyabieni are postnominal and they are adjoined to NP abaiseke.

56). Abaiseke abake abaya abanyabieni
   Girls young good beautiful (good beautiful young girls)

The APs abake, abaya and abanyabieni as observed are postnominal. They are adjoined to NP abaiseke.
### 4.3.1. Adjoined Prepositional Phrases.

Adger (2003:276) notes that prepositional phrases signal the location of the entity picked out by the noun; in other words, they give additional information pertaining to time and place. Adger adds that it is important to think about the semantic relationship between the noun and PP. If the PP is an argument of the noun then it must be in a complement position; however, if the PP is not, then it must be adjoined. Data from Ekegusii reveal that the PPs occur both as complements and adjuncts. Here is an example:

57). *Eriogi rie chinkobi korwa bweri*

Sound of claps from cow shade (A sound of claps from the cow shade)

![Diagram](57)

First PP *korwa bweri* is adjoined to the noun since it gives extra information about place, while the other PP *rie chinkobi* is a complement to the noun *eriogi* thus a sister to a zero bar category.

58). *Endamwamu yomoruoti Ahaswero*

Wrath of king Ahasuerus (the wrath of king Ahasuerus)
The PP yomoruoti Ahaswero is adjoined to the noun Endamwamu.

59). Omoyega omonene bwamasikani.

**PP**

Feast big of respect (a great feast of respect)

In this realization, the PP bwamasikani and the AP omonene are adjoined to the NP hence are adjuncts.

4.3.2. Adjoined Relative Clauses.

Abdoulaye (2011), notes that relative clauses, just like PPs and APs, give more information about nouns and can be adjoined to nouns. So considering the data from the DP in Ekegusii, we note that, the DP in Ekegusii distinguishes two types of relative pronouns. One is the relative pronoun oyio (who/that) that takes the shape of the distal demonstrative (which introduces non-locative expressions). This relative pronoun introduces a relative clause that gives more information about the noun. The other is eyio- (which) which introduces a relative clause with a noun referring to a thing. Morphologically, both oyio and eyio agree with the noun. Here are the examples from the data:

60). Enswe eyio baba omwabo orosetie eyio yasente buna obole- eyio- relative pronoun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relative clause</th>
<th>Relative clause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fish which</td>
<td>mother his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mother his</td>
<td>made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>made</td>
<td>which tasted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which tasted</td>
<td>like honey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(A fish which his mother made which tasted like honey)

The relative clause *eyio baba omwabo arosetie* and *eyio yasente buna oboke* are adjoined to the NP *enswe* hence are sisters to a bar category.

61). *Eng’ombe yomongina Mokeira oyio orenge omoboraka* - *oyio-* relative pronoun

Relative clause

Cow for woman Mokeira who was widow

(A cow for Mokeira who was a widow)

The relative clause *oyio orenge omoboraka* is adjoined to the NP, while the PP *yomogina Mokeira* complements the noun.
62). *Hegai oyorenge omorendi bwabakungu ase enyomba yomoruoti*

Hegai who was in charge of women in house of king (Hegai who was in charge of women in the king’s house)

The adjuncts *ase enyomba yomoruoti* which is a PP and *oyorenge omorendi bwabakungu* which is a relative clause are adjoined to the noun since they give additional information about the noun.

63). *Ensoko yarenge abwo*

Well that was there (A well that was there)

The relative clause *yarenge abwo* gives peripheral information about the noun *ensoko* hence it is adjoined.

From the data given, we note that when adjunction occurs, the DP can take a null determiner and a head noun with adjuncts in form of APs, PPs and R.cls. The order in which all these elements occur varies. For instance, during adjunction, APs tend to follow the noun then
either a relative clause or PPs or PPs then the relative clause. Here are more examples from the data in table 4.1.

64). *Ogochika koria okoyia*

Decree that new (that new decree)

The AP is postnominal hence the NP *ogochika* has to move from its insitu position to check features with the demonstrative at the Spec position of the DemP before landing at the specifier position to check the number features, while the demonstrative *koria* is base generated at the Dem position moves to fill the D position which is a strong head position as for the AP *okoyia* it is adjoined to the NP.
65). *Enyomba eria yabakungu*

House that of women (that house of women)

The demonstrative *eria* is base generated at the Dem position of the DemP, since the D is a strong head which must be filled overtly the demonstrative moves to fill it. The NP on the other hand moves up first to check features with the demonstrative before landing at the specifier position of the DP where it checks the number features, as for the PP it is simply adjoined to the noun.
66). Abasae babere bechinguru

Youth two of strength (two youths of strength)

The NP *abasae* raises in order to check agr features with the demonstrative before settling in the specifier position of the DP. The quantifier *babere* is base generated at the Q position of the QP. Given that the D position is a strong head which must be filled overtly, the quantifier moves to fill it. Lastly, the PP is adjoined to the noun.
67). *Etabi yaye embe*

Behaviour her/his bad (his/ her bad behaviour).

The AP *embe* is adjoined to the NP *etabi*, since the AP is postnominal and does not affect movement the NP rises from its insitu position. The NP moves to the spec position of the PossD to check the poss features before moving to the spec of the DP where it checks the number features. As for the possessive *eyaye* it is generated at the possessive position of the PossD, from here it raises to fill the D position which is a strong head.
68). Abasacha batato amabambo

Men three strong (three strong men)

The AP *amabambo* is postnominal thus does not interfere with the noun movement. The noun *abasacha* raises and moves to the spec position of the QP *batato* where it will checks the agreement features, then the noun moves to the specifier position to check number features, on the other hand the quantifier is generated at the Q position from where it moves to the D position which is a strong head that must be filled overtly.
69). Omosubati oyomo orenge omworo mono

Woman one was lazy very (one woman who was very lazy)

The relative clause orenge omworo mono is adjoined to the noun. The noun omosubati moves to the spec position of the quantifier where it checks agreement features before finally landing in the specifier position to check number features. The quantifier oyomo is base generated at the Q position from where it has to move to the D position which is a strong head.
Eng’ombe yaye yarenge yoka ase omochie

Cow his/her which was alone in the home

(His/her cow which was alone in the home).

The relative clause yarenge yoka ase omochie is adjoined to the noun. The noun eng’ombe moves to the spec position of the possD where it checks the poss features before moving to the spec position of the DP to check number features, as for the possessive yaye it is base generated at the poss position before it moves to fill the D position which is strong head.
71). *Amatoke aye abere korwa mogondo*

Bananas his/her two from shamba

(his/her two bananas from the shamba)

The PP *korwa mogondo* is adjoined to the noun hence sister to a bar category. The NP *amatoke* moves to the QP and PossD, spec positions to check the agreement and poss features respectively. As for the quantifier *abere*, it does not move since it is generated at the Q position. The possessive *aye* which is generated at the possessive position moves to the D position which is a strong head position.
72). *Ogochika koria okoyia kwomoruoti*

Decree that new from king

(That new decree from the King)

The PP *kwo moruoti* and AP *okoyia* are adjoined to the NP *ogochnika*. Since the AP and PP do not interfere with movement, the noun raises to the spec position DemP to check agreement feature before settling at the spec position of the DP to check number features. The Dem *koria*, which is generated at the Dem position of the DemP, moves to fill the D position which is a strong head.
73). *Amachiko aria abere ayiomogambi arosetie*

Decrees those two which king made

(those two decrees which the king made)

The relative clause *ayiomogambi arosetie* is adjoined to the NP as an adjunct. The NP *amachiko* raises to the spec position of the DemP to check agreement features before moving to the spec position of the DP, a position associated with number features. As for the Dem *aria*, it moves to the strong D position, having started from the weaker Dem position. Finally the quantifier *abere* is the lowest functional projection thus, it does not move.
74). Omomura oria omonyerere omotambe

Boy that thin tall

(That slender tall boy)

The APs omonyerere and omotambe are adjoined to the NP omomura, since they do not affect movement, the NP raises to the spec position of the DemP to check agreement features before finally preceding to the spec position of the DP which is its final landing position to check number features. As for the Dem oria, it moves from its insitu position to fill the D position which is a strong head and must be filled overtly.
75). *Omoiseke oria one ononyerere omotambe*

Girl that mine thin tall

(That slender tall girl)

The possessive *one* is base generated at the Poss position of the PossD, since possessives do not compete for the same place with demonstratives in Ekegusii it does not move. Instead, the Dem *oria* moves to fill the strong head position which triggers movement. The NP *omoiseke* on the other hand, raises to the spec positions of the PossD and DemP to check poss and agr features respectively, from here it further moves to settle at the spec position where it will check the number features.
76). *Abana baria bane babere abatambe*

Children those mine two tall

(Those two tall children)

First the AP *abatambe* is adjoined to the NP *abana*, which then moves to the spec positions of the QP, PossD and DemP to check agr, poss and agr features respectively, before landing at the spec position of the DP, a position associated with number features. The possessive *bane* and the quantifier *babere* both do not move since they are lower functional projections; however, the Dem *baria* moves having been triggered by the strong head D.
First, the APs abanyerere and abatambe are adjoined to the NP abana, since the APs do not affect movement the NP raises to the spec positions of the QP, PossD and DemP to check agr, poss and agr features respectively, before finally landing at the spec position of the DP where it will check the number features. Being the lowest functional projections the possessive bane and quantifier babere do not move, instead the Dem baria moves to the D position which is a strong head, hence triggers movement of the adjacent head.
78). *Abana baria bane babere abanyerere abatambe abwo barenge korema*

Children those mine two thin tall who were digging

(Those two slender tall children)

The relative clause *abwo barenge korema* is adjoined to the NP *abana*, thus a sister to N-bar category. Likewise the APs *abanyere* and *abatambe* are adjoined to the NP also sister to bar category, since the adjoined elements do not interfere with the NP movement the NP moves to the spec positions of the QP, PossD and DemP to check agr, poss and agr features respectively, before finally landing at the spec position of the DP, a position associated with number features. Since the D position is a strong head it triggers the movement of the adjacent weak head *baria* to fill it.
4.4.0. Semantic Roles of the DP.

Radford (2004) notes that theta roles are assigned to arguments via the process of merger with a lexical category. Here is a table that summarises some of the theta roles realized by DPs in Ekegusii and their frequency of occurrence.

**Table 4.4: A Summary of the DP Semantic Roles and their Frequency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Example and Gloss</th>
<th>FO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Okando onyenire engo’mba</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lion killed cow (lion has killed a cow) (appendix: 12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Ogasusu gekaroria ekemincha igoro</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hare lifted tail up (the hare lifted his tail upwards) (appendix: 11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Experiencer</td>
<td>Omonene akarora endamwamu</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bigger felt jealous (the bigger one felt jealous) (appendix: 14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Okando akaondoka mono</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lion felt afraid so (lion felt so afraid) (appendix: 12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Locative</td>
<td>Omokungu agatiga amarwa irongo</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Woman left beer upper room (the woman left the beer in the upper room) (appendix: 13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Omoiseke akagenda roche nekee</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girl went river with mug (the girl went to the river)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From table 4.4, we observe that the Ekegusii DPs can perform the following roles: agent, theme, experiencer, locative, goal, source, recipient and instrument. Of these roles, agent and theme were manifested in almost all the 20 constructions that we used in the analysis of semantic roles. The instrument role did not occur in the constructions hence we drew on our native speaker competence to supply a suitable example.

### 4.4.1. A Theoretical Account of the Semantic Roles of the DP in Ekegusii.

87). \( \text{Okando onyenyeire } \text{eng’ombe} \)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{DP} \\
\text{Okando} \\
\text{Lion} \\
\text{killed cow}
\end{array}
\]

(The lion has killed a cow)

**Okando** is the agent

The verb onyenyeire and its complement eng’ombe assign the agent role to the external argument Okando.
88). *Ogasusu gekaroria ekemincha igoro*
    DP
    Hare lifted tail up
    (The hare lifted his tail up)

*Ekemincha*- is theme

*Ekemincha* is post-verbal; the verb *lifted* assigns the theme role the DP *ekemincha*.

89). *Omonene akarora endamwamu*
    DP
    Big one felt jealous
    (The big one felt jealous)

*Omonene*- is the Experiencer

*Omonene* originates in the VP. It is then assigned the experiencer role by the V’ (verb *akarora* and complement *endamwamu*).

90). *Omokungu agatiga amarwa irongo*
    DP
    Woman left beer upper room
    (The woman left the beer in the upper room)

*Irongo*- is locative role.

Although, *Irongo* is in a post-verbal position it is not here that it is assigned the locative role by the V’ instead it gives additional information on location.

91). *Omoiseke akagenda roche nekee*
    DP
    Girl went river with mug
    The girl went to the river with a mug

*Roche*- is the goal

*Roche* is post verbal; here it is not assigned the theme role of goal because the information it bears is circumstantial.
92). *Omosacha akarusia embori bweri*

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{DP} \\
\text{Man} \quad \text{got} \quad \text{goat cow shade}
\end{array}
\]

(The man got the goat from the cow shade)

*Bweri-* is the source

Although, *Bweri* is in the post verbal position, it is not assigned the semantic role of source by the V', it bears it since the DP indicates circumstantial information.

93). *Okando akamoromia ogasusu rini*

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{DP} \\
\text{Lion gave hare liver}
\end{array}
\]

(The lion gave the hare the river)

*Ogasusu-* is the recipient

*Ogasusu* originates in the specifier position of the benefactive phrase, here it is assigned the semantic role of recipient by the V' indirectly.

94). *Okioma onyenyeire omoyio embori*

*Okioma killed with knife goat* (Okioma killed the goat with a knife)

*Omoyio-* is the instrument

Omoyio originates in the specifier position of the instrument phrase; here it bears its semantic role of instrument since it bears circumstantial information.

This chapter has revealed that the MP can account for various structural realizations of the DP in Ekegusii and its different semantic roles. What follows is the final chapter which has the summary of our findings, the conclusions drawn and recommendations.
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Introduction.

This chapter covers a summary of findings based on the objectives that guided the research, the conclusions drawn and the recommendations.

5.1. Summary of Findings.

The study had three objectives. In the first objective we sought to analyse the structure of the DP in Ekegusii. We collected a total of 140 Ekegusii sentential constructions from which we extracted DPs. We note that most of the DPs were highly repetitive hence the choice of the DPs depended on their structure and role in the sentences. On the structure, we note that DP structures with functional Ds (an NP complement and Dem) were the most frequent, followed by DP structures with adjunction (that is DPs with a null Det + NP complement + PP). In our analysis of structure we observed that DPs fall into 3 categories. First are the DPs which have the functional Ds and an NP complement, second are the DPs which have the null determiner, NP complement and adjunction and lastly we have the DPs with both functional Ds, NP complement and adjunction. From the categorization we made the following observations on the DP in Ekegusii.

1. The DP in Ekegusii has demonstratives, possessives, and quantifiers as functional Ds.
2. The DP can have adjunction in form of APs, PPs and R.cls. The order in which all these elements occur varies. For instance in a situation where we have all the functional elements the NP complement comes first, then demonstratives, followed by possessives and lastly the quantifiers. However, in a situation where we have adjunction, APs tend to
follow the noun then they are either followed by a relative clause or a prepositional phrase, or prepositional phrase and then the relative clause.

3. Functional Ds in Ekegusii generally occur in a postnominal position. There are occasional instances where the D category is in a prenominal position. In our second objective we sought to describe the semantic roles of the DP in Ekegusii. From the sentential data, it emerged that the Ekegusii DPs can perform the following roles: *agent, theme, experiencer, locative, goal, source, recipient* and *instrument*. Of these roles, *agent* and *theme* were manifested in almost all the constructions (see table 4.4). Where a given role was not manifested in the data we drew on our native speaker competence to supply a suitable example.

In our last and third objective we sought to account for the DP structure and role in Ekegusii using the MP and our findings were as follows:

1. All the functional Ds project functional projections.

2. Because the functional Ds generally occur postnominally, we have overt N-movement to check features. In addition, in the occasional instances where a D category occurs prenominally no overt movement occurs.

3. The semantic roles are assigned to arguments by the verb, V-bar or in some instances the roles already bear the semantic role because it has circumstantial information.

In conclusion therefore, we note that the MP is adequate in the analysis of the DP structure and its semantic roles in Ekegusii.
5.2. Conclusions.

In conclusion we confirm that our research questions were answered, the set out objectives of the research were attained and we were able to validate our research assumptions that the DP in Ekegusii has a definite structure, several semantic roles and it can be accounted for using the MP.

5.3. Recommendations.

Having looked at the structure and role of the DP in Ekegusii, an African indigenous language, we recommend that similar be done for they go a long way in preserving indigenous languages. Secondly, to the teachers who teach Ekegusii in the lower classes, the findings of this research could be helpful in enriching the syllabus that is taught since there are various structures to draw from. Finally, to our curriculum developers we recommend that they factor the findings of this research as this will make such materials rich, relevant and dynamic.

5.4. Suggestions for Further Research.

Finally, here are some suggestions for further research.

1. The structure and role of the DP in Ekegusii could be approached from a functional perspective.

2. Also, we suggest that a study on the structure and role of DP could be done on other language families, apart from Bantu.

3. Lastly, the other phrases other than the DP could be studied using the MP.
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APPENDIX A1: Composition in Ekegusii.

To ensure respondents provided written data in Ekegusii the following composition was administered.

THE THIEF

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APPENDIX A2: THE BUDGET FOR THE STUDY

The Research Budget.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>. Ink</td>
<td>2000/=</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>. 1 flash disk@ 1200</td>
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<td>. Writing materials@ 1000</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Subsistence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allowances</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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APPENDIX A3: THE STUDY’S TIMELINE

THE STUDY’S TIMEFRAME

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<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sep—Feb 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for defence</td>
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<td>March—2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement of fieldwork and data collection.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data organisation, analysis, interpretation and presentation.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>May—Aug 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing summary, report findings and submission of final copies.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep—Oct 2012</td>
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