

Comments and suggestions to improve the paper

The author could consider restructuring the paper by adopting the format below:

- The notion of focus and types
- Focus marking strategies
- In-situ focus in Sisali (subject, object and adjuncts)
- Ex-situ (NS) focus in Sisali (object and adjuncts)

It is better to use wh-questions and answers to determine the focused constituents. (Hartmann & Zimmermann, 2007, 2008; Rooth, 1985).

Use the same question-answer pair to test subject focus, e.g. *Who bought a car? What broke the pot? When did he arrive?* And find out the answers and discuss the answers and find out if all the particles still mark focus

In the data examples (9a) and (9b), I see that the Nominative and accusative pronouns in Sisali are symmetrical. Is there any justification for you to suggest that **ŋ** in this sentence is ‘me’ and not ‘I’ looking at the syntax?

Also, it is crucial to explain how the emphatic pronoun **Baa** in (6b) differs from the emphatic pronoun **baŋ**? Why is this one different from the 6a? What motivates the phonological change?

It will be helpful if the author marks focus in the glosses by either bolding the focused elements or writing them in Caps

The author could consult the literature below, especially those highlighted in Red

Suggested Literature author can consider reviewing

Abubakari, H. (2018). Focus Marking Strategies in Kusaal. *Information Structure: Form and Interpretation*.

Fiedler, I., Hartmann, K., Reineke, B., Schwarz, A., & Zimmermann, M. (2010). Subject focus in West African languages. In M. Zimmermann & C. Féry (Eds.), *Information structure: Theoretical, typological, and experimental perspectives* (pp. 233–257). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hartmann, K., & Zimmermann, M. (2007). Focus strategies in Chadic—the case of Tangale revisited. *Studia Linguistica*, 61(2), 95–129.

Hartmann, K., & Zimmermann, M. (2008). Exhaustivity marking in Hausa: A reanalysis of the particle nee/cee. In E. O. Aboh, K. Hartmann, & M. Zimmermann (Eds.), *Focus Strategies in African Languages*. (pp. 241–264). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Hartmann, K., & Zimmermann, M. (2009). Morphological Focus Marking in Gùrùntùm (West Chadic). *Lingua*, 119, 1340–1365.

Kiss, K. É. (1998). Identificational focus versus information focus. *Language*, 74(2), 245–273.

- Krifka, M. (2008). Basic notions of information structure. *Acta Linguistica Hungarica*, 55(3–4), 243–276.
- Rooth, M. (1985). *Association with Focus*. PhD Dissertation: University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Rooth, M. (1992). A theory of focus interpretation. *Natural Language Semantics*, 1(1), 75–116.
- Issah, S. A., & Smith, P. W. (2020). Subject and non-subject ex-situ focus in Dagbani. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*, 5(1).
- Zimmermann, M. (2008a). Contrastive focus and emphasis. *Acta Linguistica Hungarica*, 55(3–4), 347–360.
- Zimmermann, M. (2008b). Contrastive focus and emphasis. *Acta Linguistica Hungarica*, 55(3–4), 347–360.