A grammar of Sheko
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Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift *A grammar of Sheko* van Anne-Christie Hellenthal

1. The fact that Sheko has medial verbs (also called converbs) does not prevent it from having serial verb constructions as well.

2. Unlike nouns, adjectives employ reduplication and not the suffix **-s** to express plurality.
   (*contra* the claim in: Aklilu Yilma (1988). The Phonology and Grammar of Sheko.
   MA thesis, Addis Ababa University, p. 66.)

3. In Sheko, focus on the polarity of the verb is expressed through enclitization of the subject clitic to the verb stem. These subject clitics may express different focus types but not subject focus.

4. In Sheko, a resumptive pronoun may occur before its antecedent in relative clauses.

5. The passive voice naturally and logically co-occurs with a switch-reference system, since the use of the passive to downplay the Agent role does not undermine the function of the switch-reference system to keep track of changes in the referent of a syntactic position.
   (*contra* the claim in: Van Valin, Robert D. and Randy J. LaPolla (1997). *Syntax. Structure, Meaning and Function.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p 290.)

6. Initial CCV sequences in the Nilo-Saharan Mao language (*t'wa May*, spoken in the Beni-Shangul region in West-Ethiopia) must be analysed as CV_1V_2 underlyingly.

7. Any cross-linguistic overview of question formation claiming to be complete or universal should include Omotic languages. Omotic languages show instances of 'subtractive morphology' (i.e. the interrogative lacks an element that is obligatory in the declarative counterpart), and they show instances of a falling intonation in interrogatives. Sheko has both.

8. In view of the obligatory presence of the dative marker on indirect objects and the fairly common absence of the accusative on direct objects in Sheko, the characterisation that Sheko is an accusative marking language does not do justice to the actual language use.

9. Making a sound orthography forces one to produce a proper analysis of the phonology. Doing this together with the mother tongue speakers as much as possible makes both tasks more rewarding.

10. The prohibition by Leiden University on mentioning the (co)promotors in the acknowledgements of one's thesis does not block the possibility to express one's thanks to these people.