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Word order, information structure and agreement in Teke-Kukuya Li, Z.

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STELLINGEN

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Word Order, Information Structure and Agreement in Teke-Kukuya

Zhen Li

1. The Kukuya language makes use of a dedicated Immediate-Before-Verb focus position.
2. The Immediate-Before-Verb focus strategy in Kukuya has its origin in a cleft construction.
3. The pronouns *ndé/bó* double as class 1/2 pronouns without the [person] feature and as singular/plural third person pronouns that do contain the [person] feature.
4. The final vowel of a Kukuya verb should not be treated as a single suffix but has multiple homophonic counterparts that have originated from historically different suffixes.
5. The nonsubject relatives in Kukuya must have contained a postverbal anaphor historically coindexing a preverbal subject, which may also have existed in other West-Coastal Bantu languages.
6. Agreement can target the whole or a subpart of a DP in a given language, depending on the DP's structural position relative to the probe.
7. There is inherent tension between fieldwork data collection and syntactic investigation.
8. A good description on the syntax of a language should provide discourse context in all examples.
9. African native-speaker linguists are needed in studies on African languages.
10. The best way to be productive in writing is to work outside of one's home.