

## DECLARATION

I, MusondaKanwa, declare that this dissertation:

- (a) Represents my own work;
- (b) Has not previously been submitted for a degree at this or any other University; and
- (c) Does not incorporate any published work or material from another dissertation.

Sign: .....

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## APPROVAL

This dissertation of MusondaKanwa is approved as fulfilling the partial requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Linguistic Science of the University of Zambia.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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## ABSTRACT

This study is on *Syntactic Tones of Nouns in Bemba*. This study is divided into four chapters where the first chapter discusses the introduction, the details on what has been studied and need to be studied under the literature review, the methodology, i.e. the techniques used in the analysis of the data collected, the second chapter presents the data as collected, the third chapter gives the findings of the investigation and the final chapter includes the summary and the recommendations of the study.

This study investigates tones of nouns in citation form and nouns when used in different grammatical contexts. Thus, a sample of 100 nouns were picked and used in different syntactic frames to show how the tonal patterns change in different grammatical environments.

This study is a descriptive study and was undertaken under a lot of difficulties. It is a study that was intended to be done on the nouns; but, other word classes were studied to give more conclusive findings. In addition, one may wish to say that this study was also primarily concerned with the phonological evidence. It apparently was relevant that the morphological and syntactic levels were to be taken into serious considerations to achieve conclusive findings.

This study was based on the Standard Bemba or Central Bemba, a language commonly spoken in Kasama and the near surrounding areas. Two informants were chosen to assist in the compiling of the data from Kasama Bible Translation Centre. These informants were carefully chosen as they speak 'Central Bemba' the language most familiar with the investigator. Characteristically, the data consisted of citation forms i.e. words uttered in isolation, and then later, simple phrases e.g. nouns and adjectives or nouns and demonstratives, etc. The items were then recorded on tape before transcribing them into phonetic notation.

Finally, this study was done under the objectives and research questions that were especially designed. And, other than using the informants to read the lists aloud and recording them, it was also important to the investigator to observe conversations as one speaks in the natural environment to capture the specified tonal patterns of the particular language.

## **DEDICATION**

I wish to dedicate this dissertation to my father, Mr. W. M.Kanwa and my mother, Mrs L.M. C.Kanwa who had a dream before mine to educate me also in the most basic things in life. This dissertation is dedicated to you for the love and support you have shown me all through my entire life.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are several people who tirelessly contributed to this study. Above all, I thank my God for seeing me through to this day. I say thank you to my family the Kanwas and most sincerely to Nkoleand her husband Kennedy Muchanga for the financial and moral support.

I am indebted to my supervisor Prof. V.M. Chanda for the guidance and the support given through out this program.

My special thank you goesto my respondents who worked selflessly dedicating their time to make this possible. Mr Bwalya, Mr Kalinda, Mrs Saili, Mr Chanda and Mr.Bwembya, I say thank you. I am grateful also to the Bwalyas for the enjoyable stay in Kasama during my research and to all who contributed in one way or the other to this cause.

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