

Manifestation of *kubanga* causal connectives in English-Luganda bilingual discourse

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Abstract

This article presents an overview of the Luganda causal marker *kubanga* (because) as it occurs in a bilingual Luganda-English spoken discourse. I explore the general structural and functional status of *kubanga* forms by describing their occurrence in bilingual utterances, explain their context-dependent causal roles and point out their domain specificity. The analysis of data is informed by Myers-Scotton's (1993, 1995, 2002) Matrix Language-Frame model (MLF), a model which explains the structural configurations of embedded elements within bilingual clauses and Sweetser's (1990) domain of use model to account for the domain specificity of these forms. Reference will also be made to recent developments in the works on causality (in which the domain model has been reanalysed in terms of Objectivity and Subjectivity). I also make reference to Blakemore's (2002) Relevance theory-based notion of conceptual-procedural encoding. The findings show that a *kubanga* form can occur as a single word inserted in an expression which is entirely in English, it can occur in mixed constituents and a *kubanga* clause can occur as an island. It is evident that *kubanga* forms operate in four domains (content, epistemic, speech act and metalinguistic) and that they are domain specific. *Kubanga* forms are positionally mobile and can occupy the initial, medial and final positions in their host clauses.

Keywords: Causality; Kubanga; Luganda; domain of use; Matrix Language frame model.

1. Introduction

This study examines the Luganda causal marker *kubanga* (because) as it occurs in a bilingual Luganda-English spoken discourse. *Kubanga* is one of the most common devices used to encode causal relations in Luganda, a Bantu language spoken in Central Uganda. In this language, *kubanga* occurs in 12 causally related forms: *kubanga* (because), *kuba* (because), *kulwokuba* (for the reason that), *kulwokubanga* (for the reason that), *lwakuba* (because), *lwakubanga* (because), *olwokubanga* (because of/since/for the fact that), *olwokuba* (because of/since/for the fact that), and the two infrequent pairs *okuba/okubanga*, and *bba/bbanga*, all translatable roughly as *because*. Note that each of these *kubanga* forms is a fully-fledged independent element and would resist semantic decomposition. In the bilingual study data, only seven forms manifest, namely, *kubanga*, *kuba*, *olwokuba*, *olwokubanga*, *kulwokuba*, *lwakuba*,

and *lwakubanga*. Out of the seven, only four forms are analysed: *kubanga* (because), *kuba* (because), *olwokubanga* (because of/since/for the fact that), and *olwokuba* (because of/since/for the fact that) because they are the only forms which occur in bilingual clauses. For simplicity of expression, I adopt the expression “*kubanga* form” in reference to any of the variations of *kubanga* in the analysis. The choice of the expression “*kubanga* form” is motivated by its high occurrence in the data, in comparison to other forms.

The prototypical *kubanga* form is contentious; consultants do not seem to agree on which form out of the twelve is the proto form. Whereas the majority of Luganda speakers consulted in this regard point to *kubanga* for the reason that it is underspecified and can occur in all domains of use, some consultants propose *kuba*. Considering the seemingly related forms of the *kubanga* pragmatic markers (PMs), it is tempting to assume that *kubanga*, *olwokuba*, *olwokubanga*, *lwakubanga*, *lwakuba*, and so on, are morphological derivations from the form *kuba*, as underlined. However, this assumption is yet to be empirically justified. In addition, given the frequency in the use of *kuba* it might have undergone phonological reduction, becoming a contracted form of *kubanga* (*kuba*) and *olwokubanga* (*olwokuba*). The way *kuba* operates is similar to the English informal contraction ‘*cause* or the Swahili *sababu* (from *kwa sababu*). However, whereas ‘*cause* and *sababu* are informally used, *kuba* is formal. A further discussion of *kuba* may be interesting but it is beyond the scope of this study. Note that *kuba* serves other grammatical roles which are not causally related. For example, *kuba* occurs as a polysemous intransitive verb or verbal phrase in, *kuba* (beat), *kuba* (draw), *kuba akalulu* (cast a vote), *kuba ekigwo* (wrestle), *kuba omulanga* (appeal), etc. *Kuba* can also serve auxiliary verbal functions such as, *lwa kuba muwanvu naye muto* (she is tall but young); it occurs in rhetoric and interjected constructions e.g. *lwa kuba maama!* (how I wish?). Such roles should not be confused with the procedural causal roles it plays.

The Luganda orthography is contentious, and such orthographic discrepancies are evident from the way *kubanga* forms are spelled, namely, as *olwokuba* or as *olw’okuba*, *lwakubanga* or *lw’akubanga*, and so on. These differences are evident in documents written in a Standard Luganda variety including the Luganda Bible and in Luganda novels written in early 1970s. However, the adopted spelling for a given form does not affect its semantic or pragmatic (causal) qualities. Besides, such variations are evident in written but not spoken language. By preference, all the forms analysed in this article are spelled without an apostrophe.

In this article, *kubanga* forms are analysed operating in four domains, namely, the content, epistemic, speech act and metalinguistic domains. At the content level, *kubanga* relates to the objective causality where it associates clauses in which the cause and effect between subordinated clauses is demonstrated. At the epistemic level, a *kubanga* form encodes causality by offering justification/reason for the existence of an event. At the speech-act level, a *kubanga* clause prefaces the speaker’s motivation for performing a speech act. And at the metalinguistic level, the relation encoded by a *kubanga* form is more conversational than correlational. In this analysis, *kubanga* forms are construed as PMs by virtue of their ability to facilitate interaction by providing clues to the hearer which constrain the inferential process of utterance interpretation. Following the Relevance theoretic framework (Sperber and Wilson 1995) in which it is argued that human cognition is relevance oriented, clauses without a *kubanga* connective would remain fully propositional if processed in the right context. However, the advantage of clauses conjoined with *kubanga* are easier to process because the connective encodes procedures which guide the hearer to the most relevant interpretation, and thereby

reduce the processing cost (Blakemore 2002: 79). Similarly, studies have reported that *because* clauses increase processing efficiency in utterances where they occur by providing “a simpler route, reducing the number of inferential steps and helping to determine semantic and pragmatic contents such as entailments, explicatures and implicatures” (Moeschler 2016: 122). They also “speed up the processing of the words immediately following the conjunction” (Cozijn, Noordman, and Vonk 2011: 475), “provide processing instructions” (Canestrelli, Mak and Sanders 2013), and “explicitly signals the reader to integrate the two clauses together” (Millis and Just 1994: 128).

In general, *kubanga* PMs have not been studied far beyond reference to them in dictionaries and a few classic online resources, dating as far back as the 1920s. The classic works were mainly authored by European scholars during the colonial era, in collaboration with native Luganda speakers, most of whom were non-linguists. Whereas I acknowledge the contribution of such resources to the body of literature, these findings need to be supplemented by detailed authentic descriptions, and theoretical analyses of this kind. For lack of satisfactory literature on *kubanga* forms, their analysis in this study is partly based on the findings of cross-linguistic studies, in addition to the introspective views from language consultants and assumptions inferable from the behaviours of *kubanga* PMs in the data. However, comparing *kubanga* PMs with other causal markers in languages such as English, Modern Greek and French did not provide a linear comparison because languages differ in the number of entries used as causal PMs, and in their domain specificity. Besides, the methodologies used in the analysis of the causal markers in cross-linguistic studies and the size of data sets differ greatly.

In this article, I argue that an examination of *kubanga* causal markers is essential in contributing towards a general understanding of how causality is encoded in less studied languages such as Luganda. It will also contribute towards establishing the behaviour of causal PMs in contact situations. Although I do not attempt to analyse *kubanga* forms holistically, the findings in this study are part of the foundation on which recommendations for further studies can be laid. The article is divided into 8 sections. Section 1 features the introduction which provides the background of the study, Section 2 presents the methodological dimensions of data collection and analysis including the nature of data described, Section 3 discusses frameworks adopted in the analysis of *kubanga* PMs; Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 feature the discussion and analysis of data in light of the study objectives. Finally, Section 8 serves as the conclusion/recommendation.

2. Methods and nature of data

The *kubanga* forms analysed in this article are extracted from the Luganda-English bilingual spoken corpus which was collected in 2015. The 192 000 word corpus was obtained from verbatim transcriptions of 23 hours of audio recordings of code switched conversational interviews and discussions from forty-one adult male and female participants, all working or studying at Makerere University. They were assumed to have had adequate experience with English, and are able to comfortably engage in classic code switching by employing resources from both languages during bilingual communication. The interviews and discussions were semi-formal and, using a semi-structured interview guide, participants shared their experiences and views on casual topics, such as childhood experiences, sociolinguistic profiles, language attitudes and ideologies. Group discussions lasted for between 60-120 minutes, giving each participant an average of 19 minutes of interaction. The face-to-face interviews lasted between

30 and 70 minutes. The Luganda segments in the selected excerpts for analysis were translated and glossed using word-for-word, and morpheme-by-morpheme glossing notation, as need arose.

The corpus is highly code-switched, with *kubanga* PMs forming an interesting part of the embedded constituents. As mentioned, not all twelve forms of *kubanga* are exhibited in the data, only seven are. They include *kubanga*, *kuba*, *olwokubanga*, *olwokuba*, *lwakuba*, *lwakubanga* and *kulwokubanga*, as shown in Table 1. However, not all seven forms occur in bilingual clauses, only four do, and they include *kubanga* (because), *kuba* (because), *olwokubanga* (because of/since/for the fact that), and *olwokuba* (because of/since/for the fact that), as shown in Table 2. In summary, there are 684 tokens of *kubanga* forms in the data of 192 000 words and 81 of these tokens occur in bilingual clauses.

Study data (192,000 words)	<i>kubanga</i>	<i>kuba</i>	<i>olwokubanga</i>	<i>olwokuba</i>	<i>lwakuba</i>	<i>lwakubanga</i>	<i>kulwokuba</i>
	316 (46%)	277 (40%)	15 (3%)	36 (5%)	29 (4.2%)	10 (1.5%)	1 (0.2%)

Table 1: Distribution of *kubanga* PMs across data

X out of 81 (occurring in bilingual clauses)	<i>kubanga</i>	<i>kuba</i>	<i>olwokuba</i>	<i>olwokubanga</i>
	50	22	3	6

Table 2: Distribution of *kubanga* PMs in bilingual clauses

The differences in the distribution are briefly explained under the discussion on domain specificity of *kubanga* PMs in Section 7.

3. Theoretical framework

As mentioned, data in this article will be analysed within Myers-Scotton's (1993, 1995, 2002) Matrix Language-Frame model (MLF), Sweetser's domain of use model (1990), in addition to Blakemore's (2002) conceptual vs procedural encoding. These three are briefly described in the following sections.

3.1 The Matrix Language Frame

Myers-Scotton's (1993, 2002) Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model, including the supporting Four types of Morphemes Model (4-M model), is a frame-based model of grammatical constraints, aimed at explaining the structural configurations found in intra-sentential CS – CS in which morphemes from two or more language varieties occur in the same clause. Following certain principles and premises, the model predicts the possible occurrences of well-formed bilingual clauses, and in this paper, the model is aligned to account for the structural configurations of *kubanga* forms as exhibited in the Luganda-English bilingual utterances.

The claims of the MLF model are built on the principle of asymmetry: both structural and lexical. Structural asymmetry relates to the roles of the participating languages in the bilingual clause and lexical asymmetry relates to the grammatical constraints on what morpheme types

come from what language in the bilingual clause (Myers-Scotton 2002: 9). The first premise under structural asymmetry relates to the Matrix Language hypothesis which assumes that languages which constitute the bilingual constituent do not participate equally (Myers-Scotton 2006: 243). The dominant language, the Matrix Language (ML), has a more central role of providing the grammatical/morphosyntactic frame in the bilingual clause and the less dominant language, the Embedded Language (EL), contributes the switch. The assumption is that well-formed bilingual structures, the ML+EL constituent, and their configurations are ML- rule-governed. By proposing the Uniform Structure Principle (USP)¹, paraphrased as “no chaos allowed”, the principle defines what should and what should not occur in a well-formed constituent (Myers-Scotton 2002: 8). It assumes that languages are conditioned towards uniformity and they strive to achieve it. Thus, in classic CS the grammatical structure of the ML will always be preferred and the EL are allowed on the condition that they observe the well-formedness conditions of the ML (Myers-Scotton 2006: 243).

For instance, in bilingual utterances (1) and (2), both Luganda and English are participating in contributing morphemes to the bilingual clauses. However, their participation is not equal. To signal causal relations in utterance (1), AS inserts an EL switch, *kuba*, in a clause that is otherwise all in English. Similarly, in utterance (2), NS inserts an English *because* in a sentence that is otherwise all in Luganda. Thus, in utterance (1), the ML is English as it provides the grammatical frame of the sentence and Luganda is therefore the EL because it supplies the *kuba* switch. In sentence (2), the ML is Luganda and English is the EL which supplies the switch, *because*.

- (1) Er I think back in 2002 *kuba* I was in P.2, ... (AS2)
 (2) *a-bbye* *o-mu-ana* *ba-mu-kol-e*
 SUBJ.3SG-steal.PRF IV-1-child 2-OBJ.2SG-do-SUBJV
ki-e-ba-gala because *o-bwo* *bu-bbi* *bwe-nnyini*
 7-IV-2-like IV-DEM 14-theft 14-indeed
 “A person who has stolen a child should be punished as they (arresters) wish because that is criminal theft.” (NS85)

The ML is not determined arbitrarily but it is determined following two principles, the Morpheme Order Principle (MOP) and the System Morpheme Principle (SMP).

The MOP states that,

in Matrix Language + Embedded Language constituents consisting of singly occurring Embedded Language lexemes and any number of the Matrix Language morphemes, the surface morpheme order (reflecting surface syntactic relations) will be that of the Matrix Language (Myers-Scotton 2002: 59).

The SMP, on the other hand, states that,

in the Matrix Language – Embedded Language constituents, all system morphemes which have grammatical relations external to their head constituent (i.e. which participate in the sentence’s thematic role grid) will come from the Matrix Language (Myers-Scotton 2002: 59).

The two principles ensure that a language that satisfies the requirements contained in the MOP and SMP will be the ML.

¹ USP states that, “[a] given constituent type in any language has a uniform abstract structure and the requirements of well-formedness for this constituent type must be observed whenever the constituent appears” (Myers-Scotton and Jake 2009: 337).

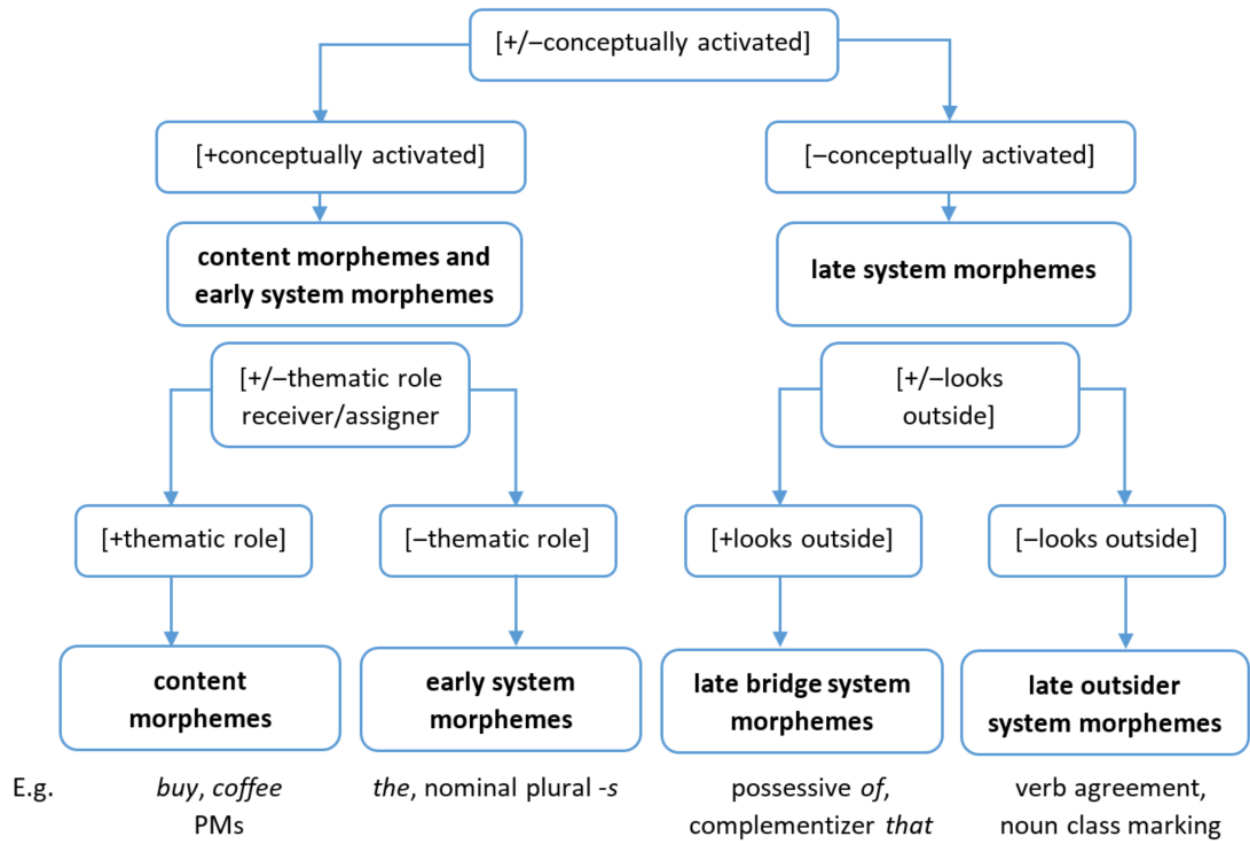


Figure 1: Feature-based classification of morphemes in the 4-M model (Myers-Scotton 2002: 73)

It should be noted that within the MLF model, PMs such as *kubanga* (discourse markers therein) are awarded the status of content morphemes for the reason that they are conceptually activated and assign thematic roles at the discourse level (Myers-Scotton 1995: 241; Myers-Scotton and Jake 1995: 984). Like ordinary content morphemes, such as verbs which assign theta roles such as Agent, Patient and so on, the discourse thematic roles assigned by PMs may include Topic, Focus or Consequence (Myers-Scotton 2002: 241). In utterance (4), *naye* (but) assigns contrastive discourse thematic roles just as *kuba* assigns the validation roles (see Myers-Scotton 2002: 241).

- (4) *hmm naye ki-a-n-pis-a bubi nnyo kuba*
 yes but 7-PST-SUBJ.1SG-treat-FV bad very because
 I used to cry every day
 “But it {studying in a boarding school} affected me so much because I used to
 cry every day.” (HK165)

The third premise relates to the activation of participating languages involved in CS. The MLF model assumes that when a speaker engages in CS, the participating languages are always “on”, although the ML is always more activated (Myers-Scotton 2006). However, Myers-Scotton (2006: 423) recognises that whereas the MLF model can empirically support the first two premises (regarding the ML – EL opposition and content – system morpheme opposition), it doesn’t provide heuristic support for the premise of ‘activation’. Nonetheless, she points out

that the patterns of CS can offer strong indirect support for the levels of ‘activation’ in the participating languages.

3.2 Domains of use theory (Sweetser 1990)

Sweetser's (1990) domain of use theory offers an explanation to the interpretive ambiguities between utterances encoded by identical causal connectives such as *because*. She proposes that the meaning of causal connectives should be interpreted “in context of an utterance’s polyfunctional status as a bearer of content, as logical entity, and as the instrument of a speech act” (Sweetser 1990: 76). Thus, her analysis demonstrates that *because* in (5.a-c) operates along three functional domains: content, epistemic and speech act domain respectively.

- (5) a. John came back *because* he loved her, [P because Q].
 b. John loved her, *because* he came back, [because Q, I conclude/infer P].
 c. What are you doing tonight, *because* there’s a good movie on², [I ask P, because Q].

In the content domain in (5.a), *because* encodes a real-world cause-consequence relation in which *John’s love for her* was the real cause of *his coming back*. In the epistemic domain in (5.b), *John’s return* is interpreted as a premise for the conclusion that *John loved her*. Epistemic uses may be correlational but realistically, *his coming back* is not the cause of *his love* for her. In the speech act domain in (5.c), the *because*-clause prefaces a directive and justifies the speaker’s motivation for performing a speech act (see Sweetser 1990: 77). Note that Sweetser, on the basis of cross-linguistic data, makes reference to the possibility of the existence of a fourth domain, namely the metalinguistic domain which I illustrate later in Section 6.4.

By extension, if the Luganda *kubanga* replaced the English *because* in utterances (5a–c), the Luganda-English bilingual utterances would receive similar interpretative value. What is evident from the three utterances is that in the content domain, PMs relate utterances at propositional level, and in the epistemic and speech act domain, they relate utterances by the speaker’s reasoning, explanation, and justification among others. For this reason, utterances which express direct causality in the content domain are processed faster than their counterparts (Noordman and de Blijzer, 2000: 38). In addition, while utterances in the content domain are compatible with comma and commaless intonation patterns, the epistemic or speech act domain uses always receive a comma intonation pattern (Sweetser 1990: 83).

Note that recent studies have revisited the Sweetser’s domain of use theory categories and a new categorisation of causal connectives has been proposed, namely, the objective and subjective distinction, and has been adopted in cross-linguistic studies (see Stukker and Sanders 2012; Sanders, Sanders, and Sweetser 2012; Sanders and Spooren 2015; Zufferey 2012). In this analysis, I make reference to this new categorisation.

²Sweetser (1990: 77) paraphrases utterance (5c) as, *I ask you P because I want to suggest Q*. This paraphrase, according to Lagerwerf (1998: 22) is misleading for it introduces another speech act ‘suggest’ which is not included in (5.c).

3.3 Conceptual-procedural distinction

According to Blakemore's (2000: 476; 2002: 79) Relevance-based distinction, linguistic constructions encode two basic types of information, namely conceptual information and procedural information. Conceptual information enters into inferential computations, and procedural information constrains these computations by increasing their saliency. Following Blakemore's conceptual-procedural encoding, *kubanga* PMs can be categorised broadly along two dimensions: those which encode conceptual meaning and those which signal procedural meaning. *Kubanga* forms at the conceptual level impose constraints on the explication, thereby contributing to the representational meaning of the utterance. At the procedural level, they impose constraints on conceptual computations thereby guiding the interlocutors in their search for the relevant interpretation (see Blakemore 2002). As mentioned, the cognitive effects associated with *kubanga* forms are those of presupposition strengthening (see Blakemore 2002). The *kubanga* form relates propositions in which the information provided by the subordinating clause supports the assumptions described in the main clause.

4. *Kubanga* and its position in the utterance

Studies on PMs had earlier concluded that they are positioned at the periphery/beginning of a discourse unit (see Schiffrin 1987, Schourup 1999). This claim is partly based on Schiffrin's (1987) study where PMs feature on the left periphery of the utterance, appearing syntactically detachable from a sentence. However, later studies have revealed that PMs in general are subject to minimal syntactic restrictions and may occur before, after or between clauses (see Hlavac 2006: 1873; Fischer 2013: 274). However, Heine (2013: 1213) warns that positional flexibility in the placement abilities of PMs does not suggest that PMs can occur anywhere in the discourse. Although PMs may generally be described as free in movement, or positionally mobile, their movement, just like switches, is constrained syntactically and pragmatically (Brinton 2008: 8). Therefore, initiality/positional mobility describes a tendency but not a necessary condition for diagnosing PMs.

In the analysed bilingual data, *kubanga* forms are also positionally mobile, occupying the initial, medial and final positions as illustrated in utterances (6.a), (6.b) and (6.c), respectively. However, the canonical position of *kubanga* PMs is medial as illustrated in utterance (6.b).

- (6) a. But I think even when I was younger maybe I looked like a responsible child;
kubanga *ne* *a-ba-ntu* *ba-a-leeta-nga* *a-ba-ana*
because even IV-2-person 2-PST-bring-HAB IV-2-child
a-wa-ka
 IV-16-home mainly because I am there
 "But I think even when I was younger maybe I looked like a responsible child
 because even people used to bring their children at home mainly because I am
 there." (NJ93).

In this utterance, *kubanga* occurs initially in order to relate to the adjacent clause. The *kubanga* clause provides new information which strengthens the presupposition encoded in the previous clause. That is, the information that people used to bring their children to her home provides justification for NJ's thought that she looked like a responsible child. The use of *kubanga* in

this utterance is inherently epistemic and therefore subjective. JN is the responsible subject of consciousness (SoC) whose thought is justifiably represented.

- b. Not all of us can be engineers, or medics or language experts but there will always be a community of practice for-for every particular training *kubanga* it deals with a specific class of problems which problems can only be solved properly, at least, by professionals (KM124).

In this utterance, *kubanga* occupies a medial position. Like in (6a) above, the causal relations *kubanga* encodes guide the hearer towards an epistemic interpretation in which KM's opinion about employing professionals is justified by a *kubanga*-prefaced clause.

In utterance (6c) *kubanga* occupies a final position to encode implied meaning. This utterance is set in a context in which BG was discussing the challenges of alcoholism for families. The form *Eehum* is a Luganda interjection interpreted as signalling relief-like agreement (its spelling may be contentious).

- c. *Eehum.* *e-ki-o* *we-baze* *Mukama*
 Surely. IV-CL-that SUBJ.2SG-thank.PST Lord
kubanga
because
 “Surely. Thank the Lord for that because_” (BG21)
 {Context: BG was discussing about dangers of alcoholism to families. He asked his interlocutor whether her husband drinks a lot of alcohol, which the interlocutor denied}

This utterance operates in the speech act domain, in which the active speaker motivates the act he performs using an implicit *kubanga* ‘clause’. The implicit information is expected to be retrieved inferentially from the discourse context and enriched cognitively into a propositional form. Processed in the right context, the derived explicature should relate to the difficulty, challenges, violence and more that she would go through had it been the case that her husband drank. By leaving this information implicit, BG expects his audience to base their interpretation on the contextual information available and infer an explicature. Implicitness also prompts *kubanga* to be pronounced with a raising intonation pattern (marked with an underscore), a pattern characteristic of incomplete sentences.

In Nakijoba (2018), PMs occupying the final position are described as stand-alone markers. They operate in contexts where the speaker judges that the hearer has easy access to the relevant contextual knowledge from which the implicit meaning can be inferred. Speaker intuition indicates that *kubanga* forms can only occur finally to direct hearers in processing implicit meaning. By this observation, if the implied meaning encoded by such a *kubanga* is provided, *kubanga* can be analysed as occurring medially and the conjoined utterances will receive a comma intonation pattern.

5. Structural manifestation of *kubanga* in the data

In the Luganda-English bilingual data, *kubanga* forms manifest as core borrowings by motivation and switches by operation. According to Myers-Scotton (2002: 41, 2006: 212-217)

core borrowing expresses concepts which exist in the lexicon of the replica language/culture. Since they have native lexical equivalents in the replica language, they represent concepts that are not new or foreign. Thus, the speaker's choice to insert an embedded *kubanga* form in the English Matrix Language (ML) is motivated by factors external to the need to fill a lexical gap given that English (and Luganda) have fully established systems of encoding causality. Similarly, *kubanga* forms in the bilingual utterances are described as switches because their behaviour in the data conforms to the characteristics of switches, namely, they are not integrated phonologically or morphosyntactically in English, they are not nativised, they do not occur frequently, they lack predictive value, they do not have a dictionary status and thus lack predictive value, and so on (see Poplack and Sankoff (1984)). As switches, *kubanga* forms occur in the following configurations: i) as single Embedded Language (EL) insertions in the English ML frame, ii) as part of the morphemes forming the EL island, and iii) as elements in the mixed constituencies in classic code-switched clauses, as illustrated below.

5.1 *Kubanga* form as a single insertion into English ML

One of the conversational patterns which describe bilingual speech, according to Auer (2001: 445), is what he describes as Pattern II, metarepresented as, ...A1 [B1] A1... (The letters represent the interacting languages and the numbers represent the interactants). The pattern describes CS behaviour in which a bilingual speaker may introduce an embedded/guest element into the conversation as we see in utterance (7), in which *kuba* operates as a switch in the English ML.

(7) Er I think back in 2002 *kuba* I was in P.2, ... (AS2)

5.2 *Kubanga* clause as an island

Kubanga forms can occur as an island which can be an EL or ML island. In utterance (8), it manifests in an EL island and in (9) as an ML island.

- (8) my problem was school fees; ***kubanga*** *ze-n-a-li-nga*
because REL.9-SUBJ.1SG-PST-be-HAB
n-noony-a
SUBJ.ISG-search-FV
“My problem was school fees. Because that is what I always looked for actually not only then but up to when I finished my Bachelors.” (LM17)
- (9) I used before *o-ku-beera-nga* *mu* office ***kubanga***
IV-INF-be-HAB P **because**
“I used, before {before KM started farming}, to be in the office **because** there was always work to do, Monday to Saturday {but now KM does not go to office on Saturday, works from Monday to Friday}.” (KM143)

Utterances (8) and (9) comprise a number of clauses. However, my focus is on the *kubanga* clause operating as an EL island or ML island. In (8), the clause ***kubanga zennalinga nnoonya*** (because that is what I always looked for) is an EL island inserted within a larger clause whose ML is English. This means that the morphosyntactic frame of the EL island is defined by Luganda, and its constituents comprise entirely of Luganda morphemes. In (9), the clause “*kubanga* there was always work to do, Monday to Saturday” represents a constituent in which

the *kubanga* clause is an ML island. Within the MLF model, the type of CS in (8) and (9) shows that the participating languages are not in contact.

5.3 *Kubanga* in mixed constituents

Utterance (10) demonstrates classic CS in which the participating languages which contribute to the bilingual clause are in contact. The morphemes that make up the bilingual clause come from Luganda and English, forming mixed constituents. Forms such as *estressinga* (it stresses), *okwattendinga* (to attend) and *oritakinga* (you are retaking) by the MOP and the SMP tests, point towards Luganda as the ML. That is, Luganda late system morphemes³ are affixed to the English verb form and the derived form conforms to the morpheme order of Luganda as an agglutinative language.

- (10)
- | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Retake | | <i>e-stressing-a</i> | <i>o-lina</i> | <i>o-ku-attending-a</i> |
| | | IV-stress-FV | SUBJ.2SG-have | IV-INF- attend-FV |
| lectures | <i>kuba</i> | <i>a-ki-manyi</i> | | <i>o-ritaking-a</i> |
| | because | SUBJ.3SG-7-know | | SUBJ.2SG-retake-FV |
| <i>o-lin-a</i> | | <i>o-ku-beera-yo</i> | | |
| SUBJ.2SG-have-FV | | IV-INF-be-LOC | | |
- “Doing a retake paper can be stressful...you have to attend lectures because he/she {lecturer} knows that you are a retaking and that you must be there {in lectures}. Retaking in Makerere University is the act of resitting for a paper in which a student might have scored below the pass mark.” (BN268).

The spelling of the mixed form “*oritakinga*” (you are retaking) is interesting because it demonstrates that the constraints of CS are powerful enough to trigger structural innovations which may violate the phonotactics of a participating language. In Luganda the alveolar sounds [l] and [r] are allophones of the phoneme /l/. Although they are phonemically indistinguishable, their occurrence is rule governed: /r/ never occurs word initially and when it is used it is preceded by either /e/ or /i/; /l/ is used elsewhere. What we see in “*oritakinga*” is a justifiable violation of the spelling rules.

6. *Kubanga* PMs: Categories and functions

Kubanga and its forms have been analysed along four categories: the content, epistemic, speech act and metalinguistic domains.

6.1 *Kubanga* uses in the content domain [P is a result of Q]

As mentioned, *kubanga* forms at the conceptual level impose constraints on the explication, thereby guiding the hearer’s processing of representational meaning. They signal real-world causal relations between the subordinated clauses, and the relationship they signal will contribute to the truth-conditions of the utterance as we see in utterance (11).

³ Late system morphemes are defined as such because “the lemmas underlying them are not fully salient in language production until the level of the Formulator where larger constituents are assembled” (Myers-Scotton 2002: 76).

- (11) *Kati nga teacher a-n-jagala nnyo kubanga*
 And HAB SUBJ.ISG-like-FV very **because**
n-a-li n-performing-a bulungi
 SUBJ.ISG-PST-be SUBJ.ISG-perform-FV well
 “And the teacher loved me very much because I used to perform so well (in class)” (NC34)

This utterance is set in a context where NC was narrating her relationship with her Science teacher. The utterance operates in the content domain because causality is objectively construed without a responsible SoC. That is, it describes a state of affairs in which the speaker’s good performance causes her teacher to like her. What guides the reader to process the real-world causal relations between the two clauses is his encyclopaedic knowledge – the experiential knowledge that students who perform well are usually liked by their teachers. Thus *kubanga* instructs the hearer to establish a causal interpretation between the main clause “teacher *anjagala nnyo*” (the teacher liked me very much) and the subordinating clause “*nnali mperforminga bulungi*” (I used to perform well). The utterance is a mixed constituent comprising Luganda and English morphemes, with Luganda as the ML. If *kubanga* were to be replaced with an English equivalent such as *because*, the cognitive effects derived from the utterance would not be any different from the cognitive effects attained when *kubanga* is used.

6.2 *Kubanga* uses in the epistemic domain [because Q, P]

As mentioned, causality in the epistemic domain is indirect and it concerns the speaker’s reasons and justification for what is being described. In utterance (3) (repeated here as 12), what SJ represents is a student’s opinion in which it is assumed that the mistakes students make at university are directly attributed to lack of parental guidance. Processing the causal relations between the two utterances requires certain contextual assumptions, which are based on the reader’s encyclopaedic knowledge. For instance, the hearer’s real world knowledge of the importance of parental guidance as well as their awareness of the possible outcomes of a lack of parental guidance. Against this contextual background, the hearer will be expected to process the two clauses and derive an interpretation in which the claim that *students make mistakes* is a consequence of the subjective assumption that *they lack parental guidance*.

- (12) *tu-yit-a mu bi-zibu bi-yitirivu we make mistakes*
 SUBJ.1PL-pass-FV P 8-problem 8-many
kuba te-tu-yin-a ba-tu- ba-tu-guiding-a
because NEG-SUBJ.1PL-have-FV SUBJ.3PL- OBJ.1PL-guide-FV
 “We face many challenges {as university students} we make mistakes **because**
 we don’t have anyone to guide us.” (SJ81).

It may be tempting to assume that this utterance operates in the content domain because its interpretation follows what is expected in the real-world causality. What gives it an epistemic interpretation is the fact that it is subjectively construed. Here, the students are speaker SoCs and are directly behind the evaluation and reasoning involved in the causal interpretation.

The utterance is a mixed constituent comprising Luganda and English morphemes, but where Luganda is the ML. First clause “*Tuyita mu bizibu bingi*” (We go through many challenges) provides preamble-like contextual information, preparing us for the main clause, “we make

However, when the hearer integrates the conjoined clauses, a direct causal interpretation may not be accessible. Thus, *kuba* is construed as a conversational marker signalling transition from one sequence of the narrative to the next. Like in subjective uses, metalinguistic domain also takes a comma intonation pattern.

7. Domain specificity of *kubanga* PMs

A survey of literature shows that languages use certain causal PMs in specific domains (see Maat and Sanders 2000; Sanders, Sanders and Sweetser 2012; Moeschler 2003; Degand and Fagard 2012; Zufferey 2012; Bardzokas 2014). This observation is substantiated by their resistance to interchangeability because they are domain specific. In English, for instance, causality is encoded by markers such as *because*, *since*, and *for* (*the reason that*), among others. While the different English causal markers can replace others without significant differences in the meaning encoded, as we see in utterance (15), there are contexts and positions in which certain markers are constrained to occur, as illustrated in (16) and (17).

- (15) We needed more time to talk *because/since/for the reason that/for* we hadn't seen each other in ages
- (16) *Because/since/for the reason that/*for* we had not seen each other in ages, we needed more time to talk
- (17) Joy is sad *because/?since/for the reason that/?for* she misses home

Because as a prototypical causal marker is permissible in all contexts for it is the underspecified PM for encoding the core conceptual and procedural relations. A similar analysis holds in French between the three connectives *car*, *parce que*, *puisque* which relate propositions with backward causal meaning. These too are often not interchangeable; *parce que* is a 'universal' or default PM, comparable with *because* and has the ability to operate in all domains. *Car* predominantly operates in the epistemic and speech act domain, and *puisque* operates predominantly in echoic usages – interpretations in which the information is known to both the hearer and the speaker (see de Rooij 2000; Moeschler 2003; Degand and Fagard 2012; Zufferey 2012). In addition, studies on Dutch causal connectives (see Maat and Sanders 2000; Sanders, Sanders, and Sweetser 2012) and Modern Greek (see Bardzokas 2014) come to similar conclusions. Interestingly, even within the category of interchangeable markers, there will always be differences in distribution where certain markers occur more frequently than others. These differences can be accounted for in terms of a speaker's linguistic abilities and preferences.

Bringing the *kubanga* PMs into perspective, I mentioned that *kuba/kubanga* and *olwokuba/olwokubanga* are semantically synonymous and can be used interchangeably at the conceptual level to signal representational meaning. However, their resistance to interchangeability when used subjectively points to their domain specificity. It means that there are certain contexts where a *kubanga* form may be constrained from occurring.

For instance, in signalling implicit meaning in the speech act domain, utterance (13) (repeated here as 18), permits the *kubanga* form; *kuba* is questionable; *olwokuba* and *olwokubanga* are resisted.

- (18) *munnage* life is not easy *tu-sab-e* *katonda*
 dear SUBJ.1PL-pray-SUBJtv God
a-tu-kwat-ire-ko *a-ba-fumbo* **kubanga** *ensi*
 3SG-1PL-help-APPL-PARTv IV-2-married **because** world
mbi
 bad
 “My dear, life is not easy. Let us pray to God to help us the married people because the world is bad (marriage institution is faced with many challenges).” (HK315, 316).

In interrogative utterances such as (19), *kubanga* and *olwokubanga* can be interchangeable, *olwokuba* is questionable and *kuba* is unacceptable. In the same way, the Luganda negator *si* in (20) can co-occur with only *kuba*, *kubanga* is questionable and *olwokuba* and *olwokubanga* are resisted.

- (19) *kubanga* *ki?*
 Because INTEROG
 “For what justification?”
 {Context: NS wanted to know why her friend was insisting on visiting her at her home and yet they had met during the study interview} (NS2456).
- (20) *ba-a-ki-tu-gamba-nga* *si* *kuba* *nti* *bo*
 SUBJ.3PL-PST-7-tell-HAB NEG **because** that them
bi-a-ba-anguy-ir-a
 8-PST-SUBJ.3PL-easy-APPL-FV
 “They used to tell us **not because** it was easy for them; {but to motivate us}.”
 {Context: Teachers used to counsel and warn students about university academic life} (ML152)

Other than these specialised contexts such as in interrogatives and negated utterances, *kuba* and *kubanga* just like *olwokuba/olwokubanga* are generally interchangeable. Interestingly, there are utterances such as (21), where both *kubanga* and *kuba* are employed, and the two markers can be swapped without causing significant differences in the cognitive effects attained.

- (21) *yee* *era* *a-a-li* *ta-ki-manyi* *kuba*
 yes and SUBJ.3SG-PST-be NEG.3SG-7-know **because**
a-a-li *a-kol-a* *mu* section *ndala* *era*
 SUBJ.3SG-PST-be Agr-work-FV P different and
ne *o-no* *n-a- mu- gamba* *taata*
 even IV-DEM SUBJ.1SG-PST-OBJ.1SG-tell father
ta-ki-manyi *kuba* *a-a-li* *ta-jja*
 NEG.3SG-7-know **because** SUBJ.3SG-PST-be NEG.3SG-will
ku-n-zikiriz-a
 INF-SUBJ.1SG- allow-FV
 “Yes, and he never knew **because** he used to work in a different section; **because** I also informed this one {his father’s workmate} that my father was not aware of it {KA’s employment} **because** he would not have allowed me {to work because KA was a juvenile}.” {Context: KA seeks employment in a department where his father was employed, but chooses to keep it a secret} (KA65).

Similarly, in utterances such as (22), *olwokubanga* can be interchanged with *olwokuba* without affecting the cognitive effects derived from the utterance.

- (22) It's Buganda *olwokubanga* it's the centre of so many other tribes...
for the reason that
{Context: BM explains why the Buganda tribe may not succeed in preserving its cultural values} (BM22).

Thus, we can say that the speaker's employment of one form over the other where there are no observable rewards in cognitive effects can be best explained in terms of speaker preference. The subject of domain specificity of *kubanga* forms is interesting but it has not been discussed in details here because this article aims to give a general overview of the manifestation and behaviour of *kubanga* forms. As I indicate in the following conclusion, the need to study *kubanga* PMs holistically, and in detail is recommendable.

8. Conclusion and recommendations

In this article, I have analysed the manifestation of *kubanga* PM forms, partly as conceptual connectives and primarily as procedural markers, and the roles they play in facilitating interaction in bilingual spoken discourse. I pointed out that the *kubanga* family of causal PMs appear in twelve different shapes: *kubanga*, *kuba*, *olwokuba*, *olwokubanga*, *lwakuba*, *lwakubanga*, *kulwokuba*, *kulwokubanga*, *okuba*, *okubanga*, *bba* and *bbanga*. Out of these, seven forms - *kubanga*, *kuba*, *olwokuba*, *olwokubanga*, *lwakuba*, *lwakubanga*, *kulwokuba* - are used in the data. I restricted my analysis to only four forms, *kubanga*, *kuba*, *olwokuba*, *olwokubanga*, which occurred as mixed constituents in the data. In the bilingual clauses where *kubanga* forms are hosted, they operate as switches, and can occupy the initial, medial and final positions. They may occur as single insertions in the English ML, they can occur as ML or EL islands, and they can manifest in mixed constituents. The analysed data shows that *kubanga* forms operate objectively and subjectively in the content, epistemic, speech act and metalinguistic domains.

The four analysed *kubanga* forms are semantically synonymous and can loosely be translated as *because* at a conceptual level. Although they may be semantically and procedurally related, this discussion has shown that they are not necessarily interchangeable, and their resistance to interchangeability in certain contexts presupposes their domain-specificity. Even in contexts where they may be replaceable, we saw differences in their distribution where speakers had idiosyncratic preferences for a given *kubanga* form. As mentioned, the notion of domain specificity is not unique to Luganda *kubanga* PMs as results from cross-linguistic studies, for example, French and Dutch, also attest to it. During the analysis, a number of methodological and theoretical concerns which require further scholarly attention have been raised and they need scholarly attention. The present study being corpus-based, one methodological limitation relates to the size of the corpus, which stands at 192 000 words, transcribed from 23 hours of recordings of bilingual conversations with speakers of Luganda and English. The corpus comprised only one mode (spoken text), and only one conversational context (semi-formal interviews and group discussions). Small corpora are less revealing than large corpora featuring multiple contexts and modes. I recommend that a comprehensive analysis based on a larger

corpus, representative of the different genres and modes of communication, be undertaken for more valid conclusions about Luganda-English PMs in contact. Second, the distribution of PMs in the data is influenced by factors such as the age and gender of participants, and the topic of conversation. However, a discussion of all these factors, interesting as they might be, have not been touched on. Thus, a study which explores the manifestation of these PMs and takes these variables into account would be revealing. Third, the data features many *kubanga* PMs occurring singly and in monolingual and bilingual combinations. These are not addressed in this article. For a comprehensive analysis of Luganda-English PMs in bilingual spoken discourse, future studies should aim to analyse a wider range of PMs, both synchronically and diachronically. In addition, the interest in studying PM co-occurrences is new and little has been done to explore both monolingual and bilingual PM combinability. Issues with regard to defining combined PMs, determining a concrete label in their reference, establishing what PMs can co-occur, how they co-occur, in what contexts they co-occur, whether the co-occurring PMs are functionally compositional or not, and what constraints bind their combinability, among others, need to be addressed for these are crucial to understanding PMs comprehensively.

Abbreviations

Agr – agreement; APPL – applied; CP – complementiser phrase; CS – code-switching; DEM – demonstrative; EL – embedded language; FV – final vowel; HAB – habitual; INTEROG – interrogative; IV – initial vowel; L1 – first language; L2 – second language; LOC – locative; ML – matrix language; MLF – matrix language frame; MOP – morpheme order principle; OBJ – object; P – preposition; PARTv – partitive; PRF – perfect; PM(s) – pragmatic marker(s); PST – past tense; SG – singular; SMP – system morpheme principle; SoC – subject of consciousness; SUBJ – subject; SUBJtv – Subjunctive; USP – uniform structure principle; 4-M (Model) – four types of morpheme (model).

Transcription symbols

Single underscore – incomplete utterances, Double underscore–long pause, Hyphen–truncation, Dash – lengthened vowel, Asterisk – ill-formedness, Question mark – reservations/queries, Ellipsis – incomplete utterance, Curly brackets – enclose contextual information, Capitalisation – emphatic intonation, Double quotes – enclose translations and special expressions, Underline – indicates saliency, Italics – represent Luganda or special expressions in sample excerpts, Bold faced – marks off PMs in the analysed utterances, Codes – refer to speech turns.

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