THE SYNTAX OF THE PREDICATIVE

Copulatives are formed from this stem:
- Abaniu bangaki? (How many are the people?)
- Zingaki izinkomazi ezifile? (How many cows are dead?)

The Copulative

835.—In dealing with the copulative, it was observed that the agent after the passive verb is expressed by a copulative, e.g., Wa:kwenziswa yishawu sakhe (He did it because of his pity).

There are two passive verbs in Zulu, to which the correspondences in English are active, and it must be observed that the regular Zulu rule obtains in these cases also: the English direct object is in these cases expressed in Zulu by the copulative. The actives of these verbs are: kholha (escape the memory) and kholo (satisfy), and the passives kholiwa (forget; lit. be slipped the memory) and kholwa (believe; lit. be satisfied).

Examples:
- Ngikhokho b. ukuntshela (I forgot to tell him)
- Anginakukholiwa yibo (I won’t forget them)
- Ekhupheleni kwayo konke ayaye yakholiwa yilelsoni-fundo (Throughout all her life she never forgot that lesson)
- Angikhokwa ngamazwi akhe (I don’t believe his words)
- Ngeke bakholiwe uye  
- Ngeke bakholiwe uye  
- (They won’t believe him).

Axiomatic Statements

836.—The feature of axiomatic statements in Zulu, whether axiomatic negatives or axiomatic positives, is the elision of initial vowels, whether of nouns, qualificatives, adverbs or even copulatives. The result is always a compounding, sometimes of more words than two. An axiomatic statement deals with a generality and not with any particular individual: axiomatic negatives are the most commonly

\[1\] Kholwa followed by an object instead of the copulative also occurs.
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recognised forms. Certain instances have already been noticed (cf. §§733 et seq.). Here examples are given of this operation extended beyond the noun.

§837.—The Axiomatic Negative:

(i) With noun object:
   Plain negative: angimboni umuntu (I do not see the person)
   Axiomatic: angiboni-muntu (I see nobody).
   Plain negative: abafuni ukubona (They do not want to see)
   Axiomatic: abafuni-kubona (They want no seeing).

(ii) With noun subject:
   Plain negative: abakho abantu (The people are not present)
   Axiomatic: akukho-bantu (Nobody is present).

(iii) With qualifications:
   Adjective: angiboni-muntu-mkhulu (I see no big person)
   Relative: angiboni-muntu-qotho (I see no honest person)
   angiboni-nce-bonvu (I see nothing red)
   akukho-bantu-bahambayo (No travelling people are present)
   angiboni-muntu-shaya inja (I see nobody who hits a dog)
   angiboni-kati-lihambabo (I see no cat that is travelling).

   In the case of possessives, word-grouping results, even though there is no initial vowel to elide:
   angiboni-muntu-wami (I see no person of mine).

(iv) With adverbs:
   Plain negative: angimshayanga ngenduku (I did not hit him with a stick)

   Contrast plain negative: angimboni umuntu oshaya inja.

(v) With copulatives:
   Plain negative: akabonwa (ng)abantu (He is not seen by people)
   Axiomatic: akabonwa-bantu (He is seen by nobody)
   Plain negative: awuyikubulawa (ng)umuntu (You will not be killed by a person—but by something else)
   Axiomatic: awuyikubulawa-muntu (You will not be killed by anyone).

   Note: This elision of the initial vowel with copulatives points to the form without the initial consonant as being the more primitive, the consonant coming in as a hardening due to the low tone.

§838.—The Axiomatic Positive: The following examples will illustrate this:

Plain positive: wakwabona umuntu na? (Do you see the person?)
Verbs taking two objects

§839.—The following verbs, amongst others, may take two objects, one of which, in English, is indirect:

-ambula (strip off). *Ba:mambula izingudo* (They stripped the clothes off him).

-amuka (take away). *Ba:sumukile ukudla kwethu* (They took away our food from us).

faka (put in). *Ikudumazile inja ukudla kwethu; iku-fakele: i:xhala elitshabaza* (The dog has spoiled our food; it has put into it its cold nose).

khipha (take out). *Wazikhiphapha izinhlozi amehlo* (He put out the eyes of the spies).

nika (give). *Nginiikile inami* (or *Nginiikishedile inami*; Give me money); *Yinike khubani* (or *Yinikele ubani*; Give it to so-and-so); *Unginiikile: amathanga amathathu i:zolo* (He gave me three pumpkins yesterday).

-tha (give). *Wapha uNgoza incwadi* (He gave Ngoza a letter); *Wa:bapha isinkwanezinkobenhaya* (He gave them bread, cooked mealies and meat).

thela (pour on). *Wa:mtela i:xhambi e:nxebele* (He poured on him the medicine into the wound).

thuma (send). *Wa:ngihuma amashungu* (He sent me for snuff-boxes).

tshele (tell). *Ngishele indaba* (Tell me the affair).