

## **The syntax of coordinated pronouns in Dagbani**

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### **Abstract**

Coordination has offered many fascinating phenomena for study within the domain of syntax. This paper explores the syntax of pronouns and the manifestation of pronouns in the left peripheral clausal structure (ex-situ focus positions) in coordinated pronouns in Dagbani, a Mabia language spoken in Ghana's Northern Region. I demonstrate that pronoun case in coordination presents an intriguing pattern where only the first pronoun conjunct is required to manifest in the subject case whereas the second conjunct requires an object case. Based on this empirical material, I suggest that in Dagbani, case interacts not only with syntactic function of a pronoun, but also with the conjunct ordering. I further demonstrate that albeit weak pronouns are banned in the ex-situ positions, in coordination, both conjuncts appear in the weak forms, or the first pronoun conjunct is emphatic whereas the second is required in the weak form. I attempt to account for the syntactic constraints on coordinated-triggered variation in pronoun employing the NP-internally approach, which stipulates that a pronoun's case is constrained when it is embedded within a larger DP constituent. The data used are drawn from existing students' creative writings and some are crafted based on the native intuitions of the author.

**Key words:** Mabia, NP-internally, case, coordination, syntax, pronoun, Dagbani