

Doctoral position in project B02 (PLs: Hellwig/Mitchell)

Project B02 “Beyond split case marking: Participant coding strategies in East African languages” of the Collaborative Research Centre 1252 “Prominence in Language“ seeks to fill a doctoral position (part time, 65%, 25.89 hours/week) from April 01, 2025 until December 31, 2028. If the necessary prerequisites required by tariff regulations as well as the required personal qualifications are met, the salary will correspond to the pay grade 13 as specified in the States’ Tariff Agreement (TVL).

The Cologne-based Collaborative Research Centre 1252 “Prominence in Language” is a dynamic research environment with 20 projects in linguistics and related fields. Project B02 “Beyond split case marking: Participant coding strategies in East African languages” investigates participant coding strategies in two East African languages with split case marking: Tima (Niger-Congo, Sudan) and Datooga (Nilotic, Tanzania). The goal is to understand how interlocutors deploy certain morphosyntactic constructions for prominence management in discourse. The PhD project will focus on impersonal and antipassive constructions in the Datooga language, structures that pragmatically implicate a clausal participant which is not realized morphosyntactically. The investigation will be based on an existing corpus of conversation and narrative, with the option of conducting linguistic fieldwork to enrich the study.

Your tasks

- Investigate the form and function of the impersonal and antipassive constructions in Datooga
- Investigate how interlocutors choose between different constructions to manage prominence relations in discourse
- Design and conduct original fieldwork in Tanzania to further our understanding of the use of these constructions (optional but recommended)
- Present your results at international conferences and in academic journals
- Provide scientific and administrative support to the project team

Your profile

- You are familiar with descriptive and typological linguistics
- You have experience working with linguistic corpora
- You are interested in the discourse functions of grammatical resources
- You are highly proficient in German and English
- You are capable of working in a team as well as independently

Formal requirements

- University degree (Master) in linguistics or related fields

The University of Cologne promotes equal opportunities and diversity. Women will be considered preferentially in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Landesgleichstellungsgesetz – LGG NRW). We also expressly welcome applications from all suitable candidates regardless of their gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation and identity.

Please specify the position(s)/project(s) you are applying for and submit a cover letter describing your qualifications and motivation for applying for this position, CV and copies of the relevant university degree(s) including transcripts as well as your Master's thesis. In case your Master's thesis has not yet been completed, please provide two to three preliminary chapters of the Master's thesis if possible, as well as two representative samples of your writing, e.g. term papers.

Please apply online with proof of the required qualifications without photo under: <https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de>. The reference number is **Wiss2412-04**.

The application deadline is January 17, 2025.

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Christine Röhr (applicationsfb1252@uni-koeln.de).