

Research Article

Bebwa Isingoma and Christiane Meierkord*

Between exonormative traditions and local acceptance: A corpus-linguistic study of modals of obligation and spatial prepositions in spoken Ugandan English

<https://doi.org/10.1515/opli-2022-0185>

received June 28, 2021; accepted March 11, 2022

Abstract: Research into Ugandan English places it in the nativisation phase of the evolution of Englishes, amidst a nexus of local acceptance with ingredients of endonormativity and ingrained exonormative traditions. The current study shows how the use of modal verbs of obligation and spatial prepositions provides insights into how the nexus of the above phenomena has shaped Ugandan English. For example, although the preference of *have to* over *must* is a global trend, in Ugandan English, it is more prevalent in Bantu-speaking than in Nilotic-speaking areas because of substrate influence. Crucially, although the use of spatial prepositions is generally similar to how they are used in, for example, (standard) British English, the peculiar use of *from* to encode stative location in Ugandan English is, despite some regional variations, so widespread in the country that it tends towards endonormative stabilisation.

Keywords: Ugandan English, obligation, prepositions

1 Introduction

In Englishes spoken in post-colonial contexts, exonormativity, nativisation, and eventually endonormativity constitute part of the trajectory in their development as proposed by Schneider's (2003, 2007) Dynamic Model. During the nativisation stage, phonological innovations and structural distinctiveness emerge and heavy borrowing takes place because of linguistic forces such as substrate effects, language contact, second language (L2) acquisition processes, as well as sociocultural reasons (e.g. when English lacks expedient means to express local sociocultural realities; see Kachru and Smith 2009). The phase follows on from a phase of exonormative stabilisation (with which it slightly overlaps and in which the linguistic processes of nativisation kick off), during which English first language (L1) settlers, administrative officials, or social workers maintain the norms of, mostly, British English (BrE), whilst at the same time adopting a "British plus" identity, "seasoned with the additional flavor of the colonial experience" (Schneider 2007, 37). Nativisation is followed by an endonormative stabilisation phase, during which a positive attitude towards the features of the local variety develops, despite the fact that resistance to these features will also manifest itself among some sections of the population.

* **Corresponding author: Christiane Meierkord**, Department of English, Ruhr University Bochum, 44801 Bochum, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, e-mail: Christiane.Meierkord@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

Bebwa Isingoma: Department of Languages and Literature, Gulu University, 166 Gulu, Uganda, e-mail: isibebwa@yahoo.co.uk, b.isingoma@gu.ac.ug

Presenting evidence from a corpus-based analysis of modals of obligation and spatial prepositions in spoken Ugandan English (UgE), this article describes how nativisation in UgE continues to be affected by exonormative traditions whilst at the same time embracing localised forms.

2 Nativisation of English in Uganda: Coloured by both exonormative and endonormative orientation

Schneider's (2003, 2007) reasoning was developed in the context of studies into varieties spoken in former colonies. Uganda, however, was not a British colony but a protectorate, in which settlers and British personnel were scarce due to the fact that land purchases were not permitted. As a result, interactions between British settlers and the indigenous population were close to non-existent. Acquisition of English was restricted to a very limited group of individuals, mostly offspring of (see Meierkord 2016a) the local rulers, and took place in the form of formal education, initially in missionary schools and later in governmental institutions.

Thus, as Meierkord (2016a, 68) has observed, UgE might have skipped the exonormative stabilisation phase in the sense of Schneider (2003, 2007), as it was not a colony but rather a protectorate. Nevertheless, there has been a strong orientation towards BrE in Uganda, although even some former colonies such as Ghana are said to have their varieties more oriented towards BrE (Huber 2004). There are two factors that have favoured exonormative orientation in the country. First, unlike British colonies, Uganda as a protectorate did not have a (significant) settler population from Britain, which means, typically, Ugandans did not have the opportunity to acquire English in informal settings (Meierkord 2016a). Informal settings would not only have allowed Ugandans to get into contact with non-standard English spoken by a section of the settler British population, but also it would have enabled them to acquire English outside the school system, where exonormativity is emphasised (Isingoma and Meierkord 2019). Second, during the protectorate period and the early years of post-independence, teachers were either British or British-trained and these pursued the exonormative orientation agenda, although one cannot rule out incipient and latent nativisation during this period, especially in terms of the lexicon and pronunciation.

Like many Outer Circle Englishes, UgE is said to have reached the phase of nativisation (Fisher 2000, Isingoma 2013, 2014, Ssemuuma 2019, Meierkord et al. 2016, Nassenstein 2016, among others). Although more than 50 years have passed since independence, there is still to date a strong exonormative orientation, especially as regards grammar and some aspects of the lexicon, for example semantic extension. This attitude climaxed in a self-published book by Sabiiti (2014), in which he paints the picture of UgE as broken English and a corruption of what Ugandans should speak, namely BrE.

At the same time, local norms have started to be accepted: One aspect of UgE that Ugandans prototypically and unequivocally have no qualms about is pronunciation – a stance shared by other East Africans – as Schmied (2004, 924) observes that “accepting African forms is hardly openly admitted except in pronunciation, where “aping the British” is seen as highly unnatural.” And the Ugandan media is awash with statements castigating Ugandans who are perceived to use the British or American accent (see Nantale 2008, Eupal 2012, New Vision 2013). This means that as far as pronunciation is concerned, the idea of “our own standards” that Schneider (2003, 250) evokes is already present among Ugandans, despite the apparent persistent and conscious efforts to keep the grammatical (and to some extent lexical) uses portraying BrE standards. This resonates well with Takan's (2013) observation regarding a similar situation in Cameroon, where the British accent is not accepted among Cameroonians. In addition, there is endonormativity involving individual aspects of grammar, the lexicon, and pragmatics. Isingoma (2016, 218) reports on what he calls the “grammatical deinstitutionalisation” of the linearisation of some benefactive constructions in UgE, where a sentence like *I'll pour you some tea* is quintessentially regarded as incorrect (in preference for *I'll pour for you some tea*), yet this is a grammatical and very common construction in BrE and American English (AmE). Similarly, Isingoma (2013, 2014) states that using the standard BrE phrasal verb

break up “begin holidays” is seen as speaking broken English in Uganda, where *break off* is instead used. On the pragmatic plane, Meierkord (2016b, 245) shows that, contrary to British norms, directness in making requests is not seen as inappropriate or impolite in UgE. In fact, in Uganda, not using direct strategies when making requests is construed as though the requests are not urgent or even not serious, as a result of substrate influence (Meierkord 2016b). Although the above cases are most likely a result of the fact that Ugandans may not be aware of their existence in BrE, they nevertheless evince some aspect of incipient but strong endonormativity, because using the relevant BrE forms is stigmatised in Uganda. Thus, although UgE has reached the nativisation phase in the sense of Schneider (2003, 2007), some indicators of endonormativity are visible, despite the dictates of the historical exonormative orientation. It might be the case that there are intersectional elements that straddle Schneider’s (2003, 2007) model at the transitory level from nativisation to endonormative stabilisation, where aspects of the latter manifest themselves in the former, on a par with how aspects of nativisation begin manifesting themselves right in the phase of exonormative stabilisation, as Schneider (2003, 2007) himself points out (see also Ugorji 2015 for the context of Nigeria). Crucially, endonormativity involves situations where a new form that has emerged during the nativisation stage “has lost its former stigma and is positively evaluated” (Schneider 2007, 50), which is typically reflected in its growing and more widespread use.

The remainder of this article discusses two grammatical areas, modals of obligation and spatial prepositions, to identify potential nativisation processes that may have moved towards endonormative stabilisation versus uses that rather point towards an exonormative orientation, hypothesising that the three may coexist in the variety (namely in one area there is exonormative orientation but in another endonormative orientation as the nativisation process continues to take place). Modals of obligation and spatial prepositions in UgE provide grammatical instantiations that point to this coextensiveness.

3 Modals of obligation

3.1 Modals of obligation in Uganda’s L1s

Modals of obligation are expressed in two main ways in the majority of Uganda’s first languages (L1s), namely by means of grammaticalised verbs and by means of affixes (Bavin 1995, Kawalya et al. 2018, 2019). Evidently, there are other means of expressing obligation in these languages, that is, lexical means (e.g. using adverbs) and the imperative mood (Bavin 1995, Kawalya et al. 2018). In this study, we will pay attention to the use of grammaticalised verbs and affixes. Because the latter are prototypically appended to verbs, this limits our study to the use of verbs in expressing the obligation modality.

Kawalya et al. (2019) analyse three Luganda modal verbs and one affix that encode obligation, namely, *-teekw-*, *-lina*, *-etaag-*, and *-andi-*, the latter being an affix. According to them, the modal *-teekw-*, which they gloss mainly as “must” (and sometimes as “have to”) involves participant-imposed necessity and mainly encodes directive obligation, as in the following example (p. 365, 368):

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| (1) | [...]a- <i>teekw-a</i> | <i>o-ku-awul-ibw-a</i> | <i>mu</i> | <i>kalantiini</i> |
| | 3SG-PRES.must-FV | IV-INF-separate-PASS-FV | in | quarantine |
| | “He must be put in quarantine.” | | | |

On the other hand, *-lina*, which they prototypically gloss as “have” (notably it comes from the Luganda equivalent of the lexical verb “have”), also involves participant-imposed necessity; however, unlike *-teekw-*, it not only encodes directive obligation, but also combines it with moral desirability as well, as shown in the example (2a) (p.372) below. Both *-teekw-* ‘must’ and *-lina* ‘have to’ thus encode strong obligation, albeit with important differences in their semantics. Furthermore, to realise participant-inherent necessity, Luganda uses the modal verb *-etaag-*, which Kawalya et al. (2019, 375) gloss as “need (to),” whereas the affix *-andi-*, which

Kawalya et al. (2018) gloss as “should,” is said to encode deontic necessity. The examples in (2) illustrate the above phenomena (Kawalya et al. 2019, 377, Kawalya et al. 2014: 96):

- (2) (a) [...] *o-lina* *okubutuukiriza*
 2SG-PRES.have to fulfil it.
 “You have to fulfil it.”
- (b) [...] *abantu* *a-be-etaag-a* *okulongoosa*¹
 people IV-2PL- to operate
need.PRES-FV
 “People who need to be operated on.”
- (c) [...] *era singa kisoboka na-bo b-andi-* *okwenenya*
yanguye
 and if possible and-them 3PL-should- to apologise
 hurry
 “And if it is possible, they should also apologise quickly.”

According to the authors, (2a) expresses the fact that although the necessity is imposed by the speaker, it is also morally desirable for the subject referent to follow societal norms, whereas (2b) encodes participant-internal dynamic necessity, namely the necessity is determined by internal circumstances to the subject referent, although the use of the modal verb *-etaag* ‘need’ can also trigger a participant-imposed reading if there are contextual factors outside the control of the subject referent. As for (2c), it is said to express deontic necessity, not in the sense of directivity, but in terms of “ethical norms.” as well as “personal opinions and principles” (Kawalya et al. 2018, 97)², which can be equated to what has been known as weak obligation (see, e.g., Wasserman and van Rooy 2014).

Taylor (1985, 164) indicates that the conditional marker *-kaa-* in Runyankole (another Bantu language) also expresses the obligation modality but he glosses it as ‘ought to,’ which he says is usually encoded by means of *-shemereire*, literally meaning ‘be-right’ as in the following example:

- (3) *O-shemereire* *kw-e-tega*
 You-be-right to-self-shave
 “You ought to shave.”

Our Runyankole consultants have provided *-shemereire* as the equivalent of ‘should.’ They have also shown that Runyankole has *-teekw-* and *-ina*, which they gloss as ‘must’ and ‘have (to)’, respectively. These two forms are the equivalents of Luganda *-teekw-* and *-lina*, respectively. Kawalya et al. (2019, 268–372) show that in contemporary Luganda, *-lina* occurs more frequently than *-teekw-*.

In Ugandan Nilotic languages, particularly, in the Luo language cluster, the picture is different from what we have observed above. Specifically, in Lango and Acholi, different shades of obligation semantics are usually encoded using the modal verb (*o*)*myero* (Odonga 2012, 328 spells it as *myerro*), which encodes both strong and weak obligation, whereas participant-inherent necessity is typically encoded by the verb *mito* “want” (Bavin 1995, 128). The Acholi example in (4a) is adapted from Odonga (2012, 328), whereas (4b) is from Bavin (1995, 113):

¹ An anonymous reviewer has pointed out that the word here should be *okulongoosebwa*. However, in Kawalya et al. (2019, 377), where the example was extracted, it is written as *okulongoosa*.

² Although the authors do not state that the three verbs cannot be used interchangeably, we did not try to find out whether that may be the case.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|----------------------------|
| (4) | (a) | <i>In myero ociti.</i>
You should go
“You should go.” | |
| | (b) | <i>Myero</i>
Must
“I must run.” | <i>a-ngweci</i>
1SG-run |

As can be seen from the idiomatic gloss, *myero* is rendered as “should” in (4a) and as “must” in (4b). What is clearly discerned from the above are the crucial differences between the Nilotic languages and Bantu languages. Although the Bantu languages have several modals they use to encode obligation in its various semantic forms, the Nilotic languages quintessentially have one modal verb (*myero*), although they can also use *mito* when encoding participant-inherent necessity.

3.2 Modals of obligation in L2 Englishes

Collins (2009) investigates the use of modals and quasi-modals in world Englishes. He mainly compares Inner Circle Englishes with Outer Circle Englishes. Among Inner Circles, he considers AmE, BrE, Australian English, and New Zealand English, whereas among Outer Circles, he uses Hong Kong English, Indian English, Kenyan English, Philippine English, and Singapore English. Collins (2009) observes that as far as the quasi-modal of obligation *have to* vs the modal verb *must* is concerned, the Outer Circle Englishes use *have to* more than *must*, with Hong Kong English taking the lead. But, overall, he observes that there is a sharp increase in the use of *have to* across all the varieties of English under consideration in his study. According to him, the exponential use of *have to* to the detriment of *must* is premised on the semantics of the two verbs. He states that although “the primary meaning of both *have to* and *must* in contemporary English is (strong) deontic necessity...,” a crucial difference between the two is that “the former is more commonly objective, the source of the obligation being external to the speaker,” whereas the latter is “more commonly subjective, the speaker typically being the source of the obligation” (p. 287). As a result, he states that deontic *have to* is more attractive than *must* to contemporary speakers of English because of its “greater objectivity and consequently less overtly authoritarian tone” (p. 287). At the same time, the preference for *have to* reflects a general trend of quasi-modals rising at the expense of modals in both BrE and AmE as discussed by Mair and Leech (2006). In this respect, Collins’ (2009, 286) data reveal that Kenyan and Indian English are the most conservative varieties in that they have retained uses of modals more than other varieties. We should also note that, in all varieties of English, there are syntactic contexts where *must* cannot be used, e.g. in past tense, where a form of *have to* has to be used instead (cf. Kotze and van Rooy 2020).

Collins (2009, 288) also reveals that *should* is as popular as *have to* in both Inner Circle and Outer Circle Englishes because of its “milder subjectivity and consequently less forceful tone.” However, of the two blocs of varieties of English, Outer Circle Englishes have considerably higher frequencies than Inner Circle Englishes. Among the Outer Circle Englishes, Kenyan English shows the least tokens of usage. On the other hand, *have got to* is generally dispreferred in Outer Circle Englishes with just 150 tokens per million words compared with 268 tokens in Inner Circle Englishes (p. 286). Hong Kong English stands out among the Outer Circle varieties in the usage of *have got to*.

In his study of Philippine English, Imperial (2014) looks at how speakers of this variety of English use the modal of obligation *must* and the quasi-modal of obligation *have to*. Just like Collins (2009), Imperial (2014) also found out that *have to* was more popular in Philippine English than *must*. He attributes the decline of *must* and the rise of *have to* to the modality system of Filipino. However, Collins et al. (2014) find that uses of *must* with deontic meaning nevertheless continue to dominate over those with epistemic meaning in Philippine English as well as in BrE and AmE. On the other hand, Seidel (2004) found out that *should* was more prevalent in Kenyan English than *must*. Contrary to the trend taken by the L2 varieties

of English listed in Collins (2009) and Imperial (2014), van Rooy and Wasserman (2014) have established a different direction taken by Black South African English (BSAfE), where *have to* has only shown very little increase in usage and this is not statistically significant. However, *should* has substantially increased in usage but again “below the criterion level for statistical significance” (p. 58), albeit just barely below that level. As in other varieties, *must* has declined in BSAfE as well, but again below the level of statistical significance. A noticeable and statistically highly significant increase was observed with *need to*.

4 Spatial prepositions

4.1 Spatial prepositions in Uganda’s L1s

One property of many locatives (spatial prepositions) in Ugandan languages (both Bantu and non-Bantu) is their polysemous nature. For example Noonan (1992, 107) states that the Lango (a Nilotic language) locative *i* is used to express stative, allative, or ablative semantics, where English uses different prepositions, for example: *at/in* (stative), *to/into* (allative), *from* (ablative). Likewise, although Ssempuuma (2019, 127–8) shows that the Luganda (a Bantu language) locative *e* is used with both stative and allative semantics, Sternefeld and Sseguya (2017) state that it is also used with ablative semantics. Remarkably, a language such as Lango, for example, will use its polysemous locative *i* to express the prepositional relations expressed by the three English prepositions, as follows:

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (5) | (a) | <i>A-tye</i>
1SG-be
“I am in the garden.” | <i>i</i>
in | <i>poto</i>
garden | |
| | (b) | <i>A-tye</i>
1SG-be
“I am going to the garden.” | <i>a-wot</i>
PROG-go | <i>i</i>
to | <i>poto.</i>
garden |
| | (c) | <i>A-tye</i>
1SG-be
“I am returning from the garden.” | <i>a-dwogo</i>
PROG-return | <i>i</i>
from | <i>poto</i>
garden |

Rutooro would use the locative *ha* for all the above relations, whereas Luganda would use the locative *ku-*. Isingoma (2012, 115; 2021, 4) observes that such locatives are clearly underspecified in terms of directional properties, namely [\pm dir] properties, such that the feature [\pm dir] and the activation of [+dir] or [–dir] are induced by the predicate in the clause. Thus, because the verb *tye* ‘be’ is not locomotional, the locative *i* in (5a) is [–dir], but since *wot* ‘go’ and *dwogo* ‘return’ are locomotional, the locative *i* in (5b) and (5c) is [+dir]. In addition, the predicate (or the context) will determine whether the motion is allative or ablative (see also Noonan 1992). However, Acholi, which belongs to the same family as Lango, has a special expression it uses in addition to *i* to encode ablative motion, namely *ki*, which Blackings (2009, 56) renders as “from.” Thus, (5c) would be rendered in Acholi as in (6):

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| (6) | <i>A-tye</i>
1SG-be
“I am returning from the garden.” | <i>ka-dwogo</i>
PROG-return | <i>ki</i>
from | <i>i</i>
in | <i>poto</i>
garden |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|

Observably, *ki* ‘from’ cannot be used alone. Rather, it must be used coextensively with the locative *i*. Noonan (1992, 171) states that in Lango, a language very close to Acholi, having contiguous locatives or prepositions is the norm and such locative expressions must involve the locative *i*. However, Lango does not have the locative phrase *ki i* ‘from.’ Thus, unlike in Lango, in Acholi, as far as the ablative motion is

concerned, the predicate has no role in determining this relation, because even predicates that are not locomotional are used with the locative phrase *ki i* to encode ablative semantics, for example the equivalent of *I saw him from the window* in Acholi is realised with the locative *ki i* as the equivalent of “from.” What is more is that, in Acholi, this locative phrase is also used before noun phrases in clauses where ablative semantics seems to be absent, such as in (7).

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-------------------|----------------|--|
| (7) | (a) | <i>A-camo</i>
1SG-eat.PAST
Lit. “I ate from a restaurant.”
“I ate in a restaurant.” | <i>ki</i>
from | <i>i</i>
in | <i>restorant</i>
restaurant |
| | (b) | <i>A-kwano</i>
1SG-study.PAST
Lit. “I studied from Gulu University”
“I studied at Gulu University.” | <i>ki</i>
from | <i>i</i>
in | <i>Gulu Yunivasti</i>
Gulu University |

As can be seen in the English idiomatic translations, the sentences above do not have ablative semantics, and in Lango (a very close language to Acholi), they would be rendered with the locative *i* ‘at, in’ alone. However, some sections of Acholi speakers say that the renditions with *i* ‘at, in’ are also possible (albeit not common) in Acholi. Whether this could be a result of dialectal differences or influence from Lango or gradual language change is not clear to us, and we cannot pursue that in this study.

As mentioned earlier, another important property of Uganda’s indigenous languages is the fact that they also express spatial relations using morphologically complex predicates known as verb extensions or derivations. One such prominent verb extension mechanism is known as applicativisation. By way of definition, Isingoma (2020, 31–2) states, “A well-researched verbal extension in Bantu languages, applicativisation adds a participant to the argument structure of a verb (although in some cases it just realigns the arguments). In Rutooro, this is realised by affixing *-ir-* (or *-er-*, *-r-* as phonologically conditioned variants) to the root of the verb” (see also *locus classicus* works on applicatives, e.g. Baker 1988, Mchombo (ed.) 1993). Applicatives license a wide range of thematic roles such as benefactive, goal, instrumental, locative (with, e.g. stative, allative, ablative semantics), among others (see also Jerro 2017 for similar observations in relation to Kinyarwanda). For example, in Rutooro, the three spatial relations above are encoded by means of applicatives in (8):

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (8) | (a) | <i>A-ka-zaan-ir-a</i>
3SG-PAST-play-APPL-FV
“He played the ball in Kampala.” | <i>omupiira</i>
ball | <i>Kampala</i>
Kampala |
| | (b) | <i>A-ka-iruk-ir-a</i>
3SG-PAST-flee-APPL-FV
“He fled to Kampala.” | <i>Kampala</i>
Kampala | |
| | (c) | <i>A-ka-ki-twek-er-a</i>
3SG-PAST-3SG-send-APPL-FV
“He sent it from Kampala.” | <i>Kampala</i>
Kampala | |

In (8a), the applicative is obligatory so as to indicate the location where the playing took place. If it is omitted and the location is maintained, the sentence becomes ungrammatical. The interpretation is that the applicative encodes the meaning of what the English preposition “in” would encode. Likewise, in (8b), the applicative provides the meaning encoded by “to” (that is the allative or goal semantics), and in (8c), it is the ablative (source) semantics that is realised by the applicative. It should be noted that the choice of whether to use a locative expression or a locative applicative or both is contingent upon several semantic and syntactic factors, which we cannot pursue here.

What this section tells us is that spatial relations are encoded in Ugandan L1s differently from how they are encoded in English. In addition to the polysemous nature of locatives in Uganda’s indigenous

languages, the fact that there is also applicativisation, equally characterised by polysemy, as well as idiosyncratic uses of some locative phrases, for example *ki i* ‘from’ in Acholi, points to possible interlanguage and ultimately nativisation or even endonormativity. Already, Schmied (2004, 930) points out that “besides analogy, interference from African languages is possible, since their prepositional system is relatively simple and thus polysemous.”

4.2 Spatial prepositions in L2 Englishes

Research into how L2 Englishes use prepositions (e.g. Jibril 1991, Mwangi 2004, Ssempuuma 2019, among others) reveals notable divergences between L1 and L2 Englishes (even though there are substantial convergences as well). For example Jibril (1991) highlights the pervasive non-distinction between the spatial prepositions *on* and *in* among Hausa speakers of Nigerian English and attributes this to the fact that Hausa uses one particle, that is *-a*, to mean both *on* and *in*. This echoes Schmied’s (2004) observation, already mentioned above, as regards the polysemous nature of locatives/prepositions in African languages and the resultant interference from these languages in the Englishes spoken in Africa.

In fact, Schmied (2004, 934) also mentions the role of analogy in the departures observable among East Africans, where phrases such as *at Nairobi* are common, despite the fact that Nairobi is not “a point in a global perspective.”³ Similarly, Schmied (2004, 2017) notes the use of *in* instead of *into* is also because of analogy (e.g. as in [...] *many people are just coming in the country* [Schmied 2004, 935]). A similar observation is made by Mwangi (2004, 27–8) as regards Kenyan English, where a distinction between *in* and *to* as well as *on* and *onto* is sometimes not followed and Kenyans would use *in* instead of *to* and *on* instead of *onto*, thereby blurring the distinction between the locational and directional semantics encoded by locational *in* and *on* and directional *to* and *onto*.

In addition to analogy and substrate influence, Takan (2013) argues that there are other two routes that Cameroonians use in the adoption of idiosyncratic usage of spatial prepositions in English, which also involves similar departures to those observed in Kenyan English or East African English. Takan (2013) mentions “logicalisation” and linguistic nationalism. He defines “logicalisation” as “a strategy used by speakers of a language to unconsciously “rectify” features that could be considered irregular, odd or abnormal in terms of the general patterning of the language” (p. 27). Thus, Cameroonians would use *in a bus* instead of *on a bus* to “rectify” or simply regularise what they see as anomalousness in standardised BrE and AmE. But one could observe here that this “logicalisation” may not be detached from the different dimensions covered by analogy or regularisation in language development (see Ellis 1994 and Meierkord 2004 for discussions of regularisation). As for linguistic nationalism, Takan (2013, 28) explains that this manifests itself as a way of indirectly refusing linguistic “westernisation,” where local norms are promoted. He states that “even Cameroonians who have attained a high level of education are often observed to resist speaking or, at times, writing StE.” This, he says, borders on endonormative stabilisation as proposed by Schneider (2007). However, one could state that this resistance may not be a result of deliberate efforts; rather, it might be linked to regularisation, where local forms are seen as more “logical” than given “illogical” BrE/AmE forms.

Although there has been sporadic mention of the peculiar use of spatial prepositions in UgE (namely Isingoma 2014 and Nassenstein 2016), it is Ssempuuma (2019) who delineates this aspect of UgE. In the three studies above, there is a revelation about the peculiar use of *from* in UgE (9), a feature not reported in any other variety of English (to our knowledge):

³ However, an anonymous reviewer has pointed out that this is not very common in everyday English (save in the legal context), as it, for example, does not occur in the spoken component of ICE-K, where instead *in Kenya* occurs 74 times.

- (9) (a) The Kenyans studying *from* the two universities are... (Isingoma 2014, 53)
 (b) Where will we watch the match *from*? (Nassenstein 2016, 409)
 (c) We used to pray *from* the chaplaincy of Mulago hospital. (Ssempuuma 2019, 193)

As can be seen, BrE and AmE would use *at* or zero preposition where UgE uses *from*, namely UgE uses *from* to encode stative location, as opposed to ablative location. Both Isingoma (2014) and Ssempuuma (2019) do not explicitly account for this special use of *from*, whereas Nassenstein (2016, 408–9) attributes it to the polysemous locative applicative in Bantu languages described in Section 4.1. However, because of the different realisations of the locative systems of Ugandan L1s (see Section 4.1), it appears that there is more than the applicative phenomenon behind this usage, or there appears to be something completely different from applicativisation as the crucial factor that influences this usage, as will be discussed in Section 7.

5 Data and methodology

5.1 Data collection and participants

The use of modals of obligation and of spatial prepositions in UgE has been investigated on the basis of authentic conversational data. The data set comprises a total of 120 transcripts of semi-structured discussions (resulting from a transcription of 20 min each of a total of 120 h of conversations, of which 40 were collected in each of the three locations below) totalling 40 h, which were subsequently analysed. All discussions involve at least three speakers of diverse L1s and were recorded with year six secondary school and university students as well as professionals (ranging from hair dressers and seamstresses to mobile money agents and sales representatives)⁴ in Gulu, Kampala, and Mbarara. These locations were chosen for the fact that the likelihood of an influence of the English of Luganda L1 speakers on the Englishes of speakers with other L1s differs across the three. In Kampala and Mbarara, the selected schools and universities have, because of their prestige, sizeable intakes of pupils/students with Nilotic (and Central Sudanic) as well as Bantu L1s. By contrast, Bantu-speaking students hardly ever enrol in boarding schools or universities in the Gulu area, because prestigious institutions exist closer to their home areas. Hence, direct influence from regular interaction with Bantu L1 speakers is unlikely here. Similarly, work migration tends to be into the more affluent (and for a long time less restive) Bantu-speaking, Central and Western regions of the country rather than into the Nilotic North (Gulu). The distribution of speakers across the various Ugandan L1s and the respective language families is summarised in Table 1.

One third of the speakers were secondary students attending year six, aged 18 and 19, the second third were university students, and the final third professionals. The data have a slight bias towards male speakers, who make up 101 versus only 82 female participants.

5.2 Data analysis

After the raw conversational data had been transcribed and annotated, following the International Corpus of English (ICE) procedures, it was investigated using WordSmith Tools. The data were subsequently searched for the individual modals of obligation (*have to*, *have got to*, *should*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *need to*,

⁴ The professionals had finished at least secondary education, whereas many had also ventured into or even completed tertiary education. The main difference between them and the secondary school and university students is that they are no longer under the constant influence of prescriptive attitudes of the formal education institutions.

Table 1: Informants' L1s by language families and per location

Language family	Language	Speakers (183)			
		Gulu	Kampala	Mbarara	
<i>Bantu</i>	Luganda	2	46	10	
	Lunyole	0	1	0	
	Lusaamia†	1	1	1	
	Lusoga	0	0	1	
	Rufumbira	0	0	1	
	Rukiga	0	0	8	
	Rukonzo	0	0	2	
	Runyakitara	0	1	0	
	Runyankole	0	6	23	
	Runyarwanda	0	1	0	
	Rutooro†	1	2	4	
	Rwamba	0	0	1	
	<i>Bantu per location</i>		4	58	51
	<i>total Bantu</i>		111		
<i>Nilotic</i>	Acholit	23	2	2	
	Alur	4	0	0	
	Ateso	2	3	3	
	Dhopadhola	0	1	0	
	Kumam	0	0	1	
	Lango	6	1	3	
	Luo	13	0	0	
	Ng'arimojong	1	0	0	
	<i>Nilotic per location</i>		49	7	8
<i>total Nilotic</i>		62			
<i>Central Sudanic</i>	Lugbara	5	0	0	
	Ma'di	2	0	0	
	<i>Central Sudanic per location</i>		7	0	0
	<i>total Central Sudanic</i>		7		
	English††	2	4	2	
No information available	1				

† The figures for this/these language(s) include our Ugandan colleagues who were present in various recordings: one Rutooro, one Lusaamia, and two Acholi speakers. As interviewers, they were participants in the recordings at all three locations. Hence, the “Bantu per location” and “Nilotic per location” differ from the total Bantu and Acholi.

†† Individual Ugandan families, particularly those where spouses speak mutually unintelligible L1s, for example Runyankole and Acholi, have shifted to using English as their home language and raise their children in English. This is particularly pronounced in the upper middle class.

ought to, shall, will, and would)⁵ and spatial prepositions (*at, by, from, in, into, on, onto, and to*) in declarative sentences. Hits were then manually assessed and verified as relating to expressions of obligation (epistemic uses were excluded) and spatial relations and then entered into an Excel sheet. In a next step, the individual entries in the Excel sheet were marked for location of recording, speakers' L1 and speakers' occupational status (high school students, university students, professionals). Furthermore, in the case of modals of obligation, findings were coded as regards person and number of the grammatical

⁵ Although *will, shall, and would* are primarily used in L1 English to encode various semantics, they are also used to encode obligation (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, Quirk et al. 1985). At the same time, Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008, 65) mention *may* as a polite form of expressing obligation in Indian English, whereas the eWAVE (Kortmann et al. 2020) mentions, generally, the non-standard use of modals for politeness reasons in L2 Englishes.

Table 2: Modals of obligation by location

	<i>have to</i>	<i>must</i>	<i>need to</i>	<i>shall</i>	<i>should</i>
Gulu	124 (46.4%)	19 (7.1%)	42 (15.7%)	0 (0%)	82 (30.7%)
Kampala	162 (58.7%)	18 (6.5%)	23 (8.3%)	4 (1.4%)	69 (25%)
Mbarara	156 (57.8%)	24 (8.9%)	37 (13.7%)	7 (2.6%)	46 (17%)

subject, animacy of the direct object, and declarative sentence type (positive versus negative). Prepositions were coded as regards scope (point, movement away, and movement towards an object), animacy of the agent, and potential non-standard uses with standardised BrE serving as the exonormative reference variety. Where assessments could not be clearly made, the entry was coded as “unclear.”

6 Results

This section reports on those results that yielded clear influence of one of the independent variables mentioned just above. In case no influence was visible from the results of our analyses, that is for the grammatical variable potentially affecting uses of modals of obligation and spatial prepositions, results are not discussed here.

6.1 Modals of obligation

In total, 813 tokens of modals of obligation were found in the data. These fell under the modals *have to* ($n = 442$; 54.4%), *should* ($n = 197$; 24.2%), *need to* ($n = 102$; 12.5%), *must* ($n = 61$; 7.5%), and *shall* ($n = 11$; 1.4%). The modals *have got to*, *may*, *might*, *ought to*, *will*, and *would* were not observed in the data with obligation semantics. Apparently, just like other L2 varieties of English, UgE speakers make use of a restricted set of those modals of obligation that English makes, generally, available. Examples (10) to (13) illustrate their uses in the data (note that in these examples, bold print has been added to highlight the individual modals and quasi-modals):

- (10) Because sometimes it’s the rainy season and you **have to** go to the garden and then you also have to be at school.
- (11) I **should** make sure I have a public address system.
- (12) But for them, when an elder is talking to you, you **need to** at least humble yourself and kneel down, you know.
- (13) But same, we **must** work hard so that we improve lifestyles of people (...) yes.

Across the three data collection locations, their use was distributed as captured in Table 2 and Figure 1:

Although the overall preference of *have to* to express obligation can be observed in all three locations of data collection, there is a considerably lower amount of this item in the Gulu data, where, at the same time, *should* and *need to* have higher frequencies than in the other two locations. As such, Uganda follows the trend of all other Englishes worldwide, in that the semi-modals are preferred over the modals. However, the differences between the three locations are not statistically significant ($p = 0.288$, $\chi^2 = 9.68$, $df = 8$).

Although the three locations differ as regards the dominant L1 spoken in any of them (with the Nilotic language Acholi being the dominant one in Gulu and the Bantu languages Luganda and Runyankole dominating in Kampala and Mbarara, respectively), informants generally had mixed L1 background

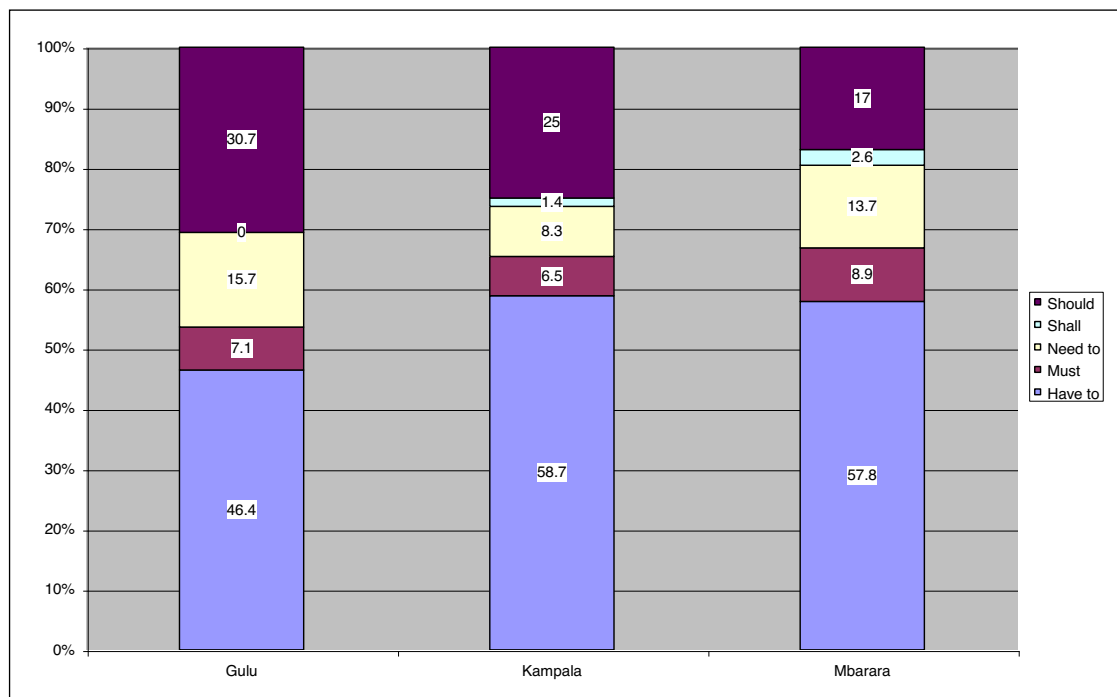


Figure 1: Modals of obligation by location.

because of migration. Furthermore, the few speakers of Central Sudanic L1s cannot be adequately catered for in a discussion of the localities. Table 3 and Figure 2, therefore, differentiate between the language groups captured in our data.

As Figure 2 reveals, there is a considerable and statistically significant ($p = 0.021$, $\chi^2 = 18.04$, $df = 8$) difference between the Nilotic, the Central Sudanic, and the Bantu speakers, with Nilotic speakers having a considerably smaller share of *have to* and larger shares of both *need to* and *must*. The amount of raw data on which Figure 2 relies differs from that used for the locations captured in Figure 1, because a number of speakers had not clearly stated their L1 or were not able to single out one such language because of their bilingualism. Also, individuals who had stated English as their L1 were not included in these calculations, for obvious reasons. However, the behaviour of speakers with Nilotic L1s captured by the numbers and percentages in Figure 2 closely matches the one of the location in which they are typically encountered, Gulu, as visualised in Figure 1. Similarly, the Bantu speakers' behaviour seen in Figure 2 is similar to that in both Kampala and Mbarara, where Bantu speakers are the dominant ethnic group.

In addition to location and L1 background, speakers' uses of the various modals also differ depending on their occupational status as either secondary or tertiary students or professionals. As is visible from Table 4 and Figure 3, there is no clear overall trend but two noticeably, seemingly unrelated, differences. On the one hand, university students have considerably higher shares of *must* and lower shares of *should*, in

Table 3: Modals of obligation by informants' language family

	<i>have to</i>	<i>must</i>	<i>need to</i>	<i>shall</i>	<i>should</i>
Bantu	247 (57.2%)	29 (6.7%)	53 (12.3%)	5 (1.2%)	98 (22.7%)
Central Sudanic	22 (64.7%)	2 (5.9%)	1 (2.9%)	0 (0%)	9 (26.5%)
Nilotic	112 (45%)	24 (9.6%)	46 (18.5%)	0 (0%)	67 (26.9%)

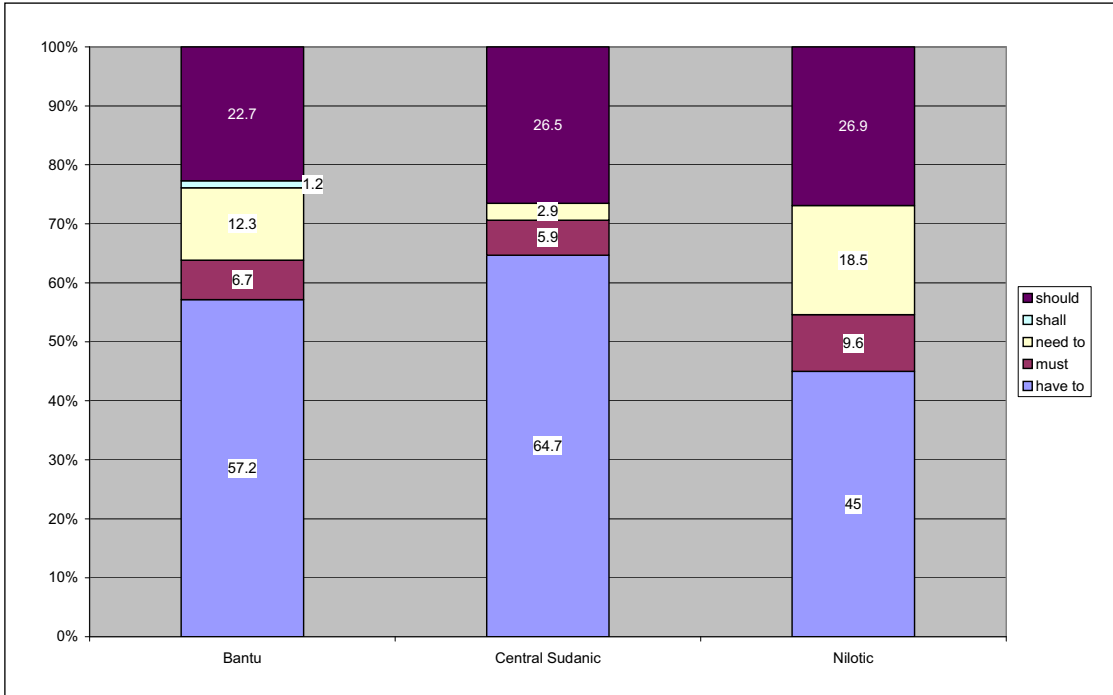


Figure 2: Modals of obligation by informants' language family.

comparison to both the secondary school students and the professionals. Together with the professionals, their uses of *need to* considerably exceed that of the secondary school students. These differences, however, are not statistically significant ($p = 0.099$, $\chi^2 = 13.39$, $df = 8$).

6.2 Spatial prepositions

The analyses of expressions of spatial relations focused on the prepositions *at*, *by*, *from*, *in*, *into*, *on*, *onto*, and *to*. In declining frequency, these were observed in the data as summarised in Table 5, mostly with a semantics that matches that of standardised BrE.

As Table 5 shows, the most frequent preposition is *in*, followed by *to*, *at*, and *from*, whereas *onto* was not observed in the data at all. Overall, the table documents that the speakers overwhelmingly used the individual prepositions with their standard BrE semantics. Although *to* and *in* are the prepositions with the highest (>95%) shares of standard uses, *at* and *into* have shares between 95 and 90%, and the most notable non-standard uses can be observed with *on* and *from*.

Table 4: Modals of obligation by informants' professional status

	<i>have to</i>	<i>must</i>	<i>need to</i>	<i>shall</i>	<i>should</i>
School	122 (54.2%)	17 (7.6%)	19 (8.4%)	3 (1.3%)	64 (28.4%)
University	146 (55.3%)	27 (10.2%)	35 (13.3%)	4 (1.5%)	52 (19.7%)
Professional	174 (53.7%)	17 (5.2%)	48 (14.8%)	4 (1.2%)	81 (25%)

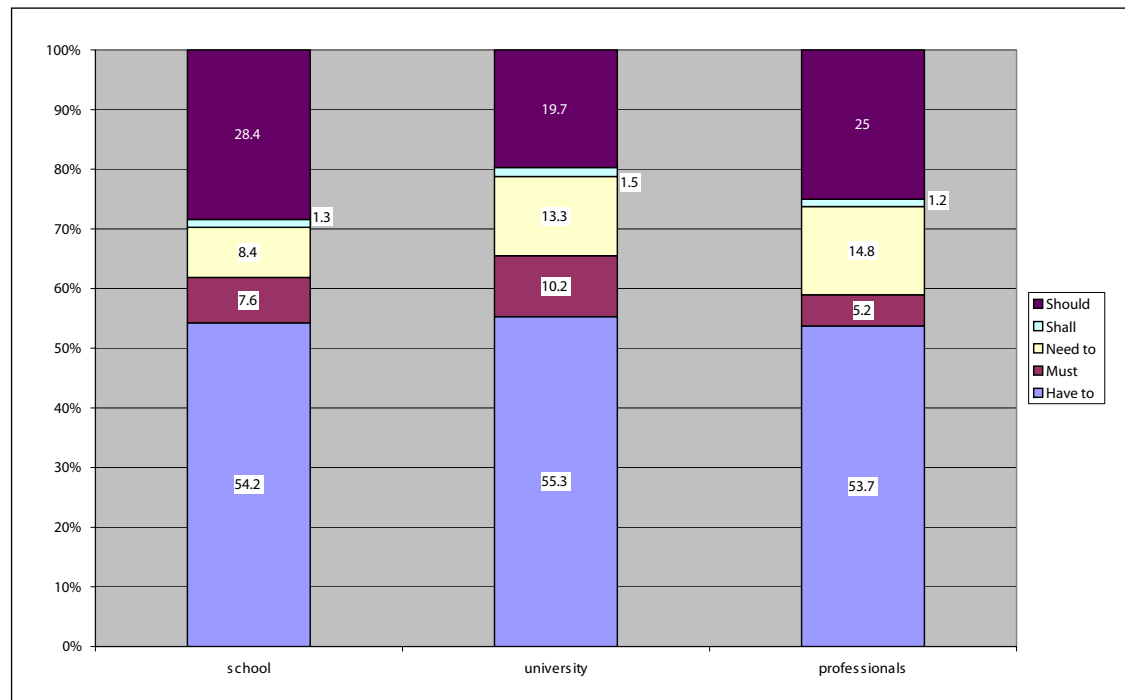


Figure 3: Modals of obligation by informants' professional status.

This differs from the rank list of prepositions that Mindt and Weber (1989, 233) established for the frequencies in the London-Oslo-Bergen (LOB) corpus. Although their list does not differentiate between spatial and temporal prepositions, *in* and *to* occupy the first and second position in both their and our analysis. Mindt and Weber's (1989) list also includes *of*, *for*, *with*, and *as*, which in their full list occupy ranks one, four, five, and ten, respectively. The rankings here refer to those that emerge when *of*, *for*, *with*, and *as* are deleted from their list to arrive at a ranking that only includes prepositions that can have a spatial semantics. Crucially, there is a clear difference as regards *at*, which is third in our data but fifth in their list for the LOB. At the same time, *on* is fifth in our data but third in the LOB. Furthermore, *from*, which occupies the fourth rank in our data, is ranked at six in the LOB frequencies. In sum, these latter differences point towards nativisation as regards the preferences for individual prepositions, namely *at*, *on*, and *from*, in UgE.

In a next step, the non-standard uses of the prepositions were assessed as regards precisely which standard BrE uses the speakers had replaced. The comparison was made with BrE as this is the historical and still current reference variety in Uganda. Although the low overall amounts on non-standard uses of

Table 5: Standard and non-standard uses of spatial prepositions

	in	to	at	from	on	into	by
Total uses	737	351	239	221	56	12	3
Standard uses	711	345	225	191	49	11	3
	96.5%	98.3%	94.1%	86.4%	87.5%	91.7%	100%
Non-Standard uses	26	6	14	30	7	1	0
	3.5%	1.7%	5.9%	13.6%	12.5%	8.3%	0%

into, *on*, and *to* did not lend these prepositions to a meaningful investigation in this respect, the following trends can be summarised for the other prepositions:⁶

at tends to replace zero prepositions (4), *in* (4) and *to* (3), for example:

- (14) but my wife when I reach at home, she's annoyed in some times (Mbarara, Runyankole)
- (15) and there the fruits they get at their villages. (Kampala, Luganda)
- (16) We always goes outside at the beach. (Gulu, Lango)
from tends to replace zero prepositions (21), and *at* (5)
- (17) But I also pray from home. (Gulu, Acholi)
- (18) You grew up from somewhere else. I grew up from the Central region. (Gulu, Lusamia)
in tends to replace *at* (12), *into* (5), *on* (4), and *to* (4)
- (19) And is she in Gulu University as well or somewhere else? (Gulu, Acholi)
- (20) even when you give birth to a child and bring the child in a certain environment, the child is likely to adopt. (Kampala, Lango)
- (21) But it was what was what matters in campus is now much intake they can actually handle. (Mbarara, Luganda)
- (22) It has it has eroded away culture especially for people who just come in Kampala. (Kampala, Luganda)

Consistent patterns can, thus, be observed for both *from* and *in*, bearing in mind that, still, most of their uses in the data are standard. A further investigation into *from* revealed that the non-standard uses were in the Gulu and Kampala data only, with none found in the Mbarara recordings. Also, the Gulu data have an extreme preference for uses of *from* where standard BrE would for example use the preposition *at* (as in Example 17), that is, 14 of the 18 non-standard uses, as Table 6 documents. Similarly, the majority of non-standard uses of *in*, that is 15, were observed in the Gulu data (for instance, Example 19), as opposed to six and five in Kampala and Mbarara.

Interestingly, the shares of non-standard uses at the three locations differ from preposition to preposition, as further summarised in Table 6.

Although Gulu has the highest share of non-standard as opposed to standard uses when it comes to the preposition *from*, Mbarara has standard uses only. On the other hand, Kampala informants have the highest share of non-standard uses of *on*, whereas for this preposition there are no non-standard uses in the Gulu data.

7 Discussion

Our results in Section 6 show that UgE exhibits not only aspects of nativisation, some of which tend towards endonormative stabilisation, but also exonormative orientation. Nativised forms may be homogeneous across the country or more pronounced in one region than another because of specific substrate influence. As we have seen, the preference of the semi-modal *have to* in UgE over the modal *must* to encode obligation may be said to be a global pattern, as it is also preferred in other Englishes, for example Philippine English (Imperial 2014), including L1 Englishes (Collins 2009), possibly because of its semantics, namely, encoding “less overtly authoritarian tone” (Collins 2009, 288). In addition, a similar pattern exists in some Uganda’s L1 languages, for example Luganda, where *-lina* ‘have to’ is more frequently used than *-teekw-* ‘must’ (Kawalya et al. 2019), a situation that is extrapolable to Runyankole.

⁶ The examples are presented verbatim; hence, we did not edit them.

Table 6: Amount of non-standard uses of prepositions per location

	at	From	in	on	to
Gulu	7.7% (6 of 78)	24.7% (18 of 73)	5.7% (15 of 264)	0% (0 of 0)	4.8% (6 of 126)
Kampala	5.8% (6 of 103)	13.0% (12 of 92)	2.9% (6 of 204)	23.8% (5 of 21) ⁷	3.1% (3 of 96)
Mbarara	3.4% (2 of 58)	0% (0 of 0)	1.9% (5 of 269)	9.1% (2 of 22)	2.3% (3 of 129)

Crucially, it is important to note that nativisation becomes more apparent in the use of modal verbs in UgE when we consider the results we obtained in the region where Nilotic languages are spoken as L1s. This speaker group had fewer instantiations of the use of *have to* than L1 speakers of Luganda or Runyankole (Table 3). This may be due to the fact that Nilotic languages such as Acholi and Lango use the same verb, (*o*) *myero*, to encode both weak and strong obligation (Bavin 1995), as shown in Section 4.1. Importantly, none of the available dictionaries of Acholi/Lango (e.g. the *Fountain Lango-English and English-Lango Dictionary* 2008, Odonga 2012 and Blackings 2009) states that *myero* means ‘have to,’ although Bavin (1995) very sporadically renders it as “have to” (e.g. p. 121). It is rather rendered as *must* or *should*. It is, thus, not surprising that L1 speakers of the Nilotic languages above do not use the form *have to* as frequently as speakers of Luganda or Runyankole, where specific lexical equivalents for *have to* exist, which are, moreover, also used more frequently than any other modal verb of obligation in these languages.

It might be right to posit that despite the fact that L1 speakers of Nilotic languages do not use the semi-modal verb *have to* at the same level as L1 speakers of Luganda and Runyankole, the observed occurrences of *have to* among them could be attributed to exonormativity observable in the process of acquiring English at school.

Remarkably, because *myero* means ‘must’ (see Bavin 1995, 112–3; *Fountain Lango-English and English-Lango Dictionary* 2008, 129), the high incidence of the occurrence of *must* among the Nilotic speakers compared with the Bantu speakers also speaks to nativisation, because Nilotic languages do not have a specific lexical item that expresses the semantics of *have to* and may end up using *have to* and *must* more or less interchangeably, whereas Bantu (for instance Luganda) speakers appear to distinguish the two based on the same distinction made in their L1(s) (see Kawalya et al. 2019).

Nativisation is also at work in UgE when one considers the absence of many L1 English modal verbs of obligation in our data (see Section 6.1). Verbs such as *have got to*, *ought to*, *will*, and *would* were not observed in our results and this could be because Uganda’s L1s have a very limited number of modal verbs of obligation, with Acholi and Lango having typically one verb (*myero*), although they also use *mito* ‘want’ to mean ‘need to,’ whereas Luganda and Runyankole have just four. This may mean that for Ugandans the different shades of meaning encoded by the above English modal verbs of obligation are usually subsumed under *have to*, *must*, *should*, and *need to*.

The use of modals of obligation, as well as that of spatial prepositions in UgE, generally, depicts exonormative orientation, because most of the uses do not deviate from standard BrE, despite the fact that the L1s have far fewer modals and prepositions than Standard English (StE) and that these cover the semantics of various StE modal verbs and prepositions. This is understandable, because Ugandans typically acquire English at school, where standard BrE is the norm. Grammar books, for example Songa and Songa (2010), provide prescriptions on the use of modal verbs and prepositions following BrE norms.

However, despite the observed general exonormative orientation, the dictates of substrate influence (and other second language acquisition processes) make Ugandans deviate from standard uses in some cases. In the case of spatial prepositions, prominent among the deviant uses is the use of the preposition

⁷ In the Table, “0 of 0” indicates that the preposition does not occur at all.

from. In agreement with Isingoma (2014), Nassenstein (2016), and Ssempuuma (2017) (see Section 4.1), our findings (see Section 6) indicate that, in UgE, *from* is also used to encode stative location, a use that does not exist in L1 English or as far as we can tell in other L2 varieties of English. This is a clear case of nativisation given that its provenance seems to be associated with an indigenous language. Specifically, as shown in Section 4.1, Acholi (a Nilotic language) uses the locative phrase *ki i* ‘from’ with noun phrases where no ablative semantics is involved. The role of Acholi here becomes more apparent when we consider the fact that speakers in Gulu (where Acholi is spoken natively and as the dominant language) had more cases of *from* used to encode stative location than any other speaker group, as shown in Table 6 in Section 6.2.

The above state of affairs reinforces Meierkord’s (2016c) observation that in contradistinction to Fisher’s (2000) and Isingoma’s (2013) assertion, UgE is not influenced by Luganda only; rather, each Ugandan L1 influences UgE in a way. Adokorach and Isingoma (2020) have gone ahead to show that there are some phonological aspects of UgE used across the country that stem from substrate influence from Nilotic languages. This peculiar use of *from* seems to be the first grammatical aspect shared by different L1 speaker groups in Uganda to be shown as having stemmed from Acholi (a Nilotic language). The idea by Nassenstein (2016) that this use of *from* is a result of the polysemous nature of the Bantu applicative system is far-fetched, as such a feature should have been reported to exist in the hitherto widely studied African varieties of English where Bantu influence is prominent, for example BSAfE, Kenyan English, and others. Perhaps, the polysemous nature of the Bantu applicative system could have contributed indirectly by virtue of using the same form to encode different spatial semantics, thereby facilitating the adoption of the use of *from* to encode both stative and ablative semantics stemming from “Acholi English” influence. The apparent spread of aspects of “Acholi English” to the rest of the country could be attributed to their hegemonic role in the military during the protectorate times, as well as politics, the military, and civil service after independence in 1962 up to 1986 (see Amone 2015). As stated by Meierkord (2016a, 66), the 1970s saw locally trained teachers take charge of English teaching in the country, thereby “allowing for nativisation to proceed quickly in the country.” Although there are no official statistics, there is anecdotal evidence whereby in Bantu areas, there is a belief that the Northerners (where the Acholi are one of the dominant groups) are the best teachers of English. Gulu University (located in the north of Uganda) is frequently approached by headteachers from across the country to send them teachers of English who are Northerners. Hence, it may not be surprising to have a feature from this ethnolinguistic group spread to other parts of the country.

Although our data (see Section 6.2) show that the above usage was not observed in Mbarara, where Runyankole (a Bantu language) is the dominant language, there is some evidence of the use of this form by Ugandans hailing from this region. For example the President of Uganda, who hails from this region, said, in one of his messages, *Let us continue praying from our homes* (Museveni 2020). However, it is not clear whether this was uttered analogously with the idiomatic StE *work from home*, which implies ablative motion, as one working from home has to interact in some way with one’s routine workplace either via the phone or email. What is evident is that in acceptability tests that were conducted alongside the interviews (see Meierkord 2019, 8–9), there was overwhelming acceptance of this usage of *from* in Mbarara as well (i.e. on a Likert scale ranging from 1 for “fully acceptable” to 4 for “fully unacceptable,” the item involving the preposition *from* received a mean value of 1.5). Thus, the use of *from* to encode stative location could simply be said to be a feature that cuts across the country. It is so pervasive that we have seen it used in an idiomatic translation in a local bilingual dictionary, namely *He/she was operated upon from outside Uganda* (Rubongoya 2013, 360). Thus, the level of pervasiveness and overwhelming acceptance of *from* as a stative locative could be considered to depict endonormative stabilisation as is the case with other features mentioned in Section 2.

We should note that different from the predominant use of the modal of obligation *must* in the Northern part of Uganda, the pervasive use of what can be said to be originally Northern UgE *from* as a stative locative in the whole country might have more readily been embraced by the Bantu (from other regions of Uganda) due to the fact that, as mentioned earlier, Bantu languages use a polysemous device to encode the meaning of *in*, *at*, and *from*. Hence, although for obligation, Bantu languages have different lexical items to mean *must*, *should* and *have to* and can thus be said not to have been influenced by the Northern predominant use

of *must*, the polysemous device used in Bantu languages to mean *in*, *at*, and *from* could be said to have facilitated the adoption of *from* for stative semantics.

8 Conclusion

In sum, because of historical reasons (that is the fact that Uganda is a former protectorate and not a colony), UgE still presents substantial ingredients of exonormativity, but strong waves of nativisation have taken shape and patterns of endonormative orientation are visible at least with respect to some aspects of the features of the variety. Thus, UgE is a good example of cases where there are aspects of overlap in the different phases of development proposed by Schneider (2003, 2007) in such a way that features of three phases (exonormativity, nativisation, and endonormativity) manifest themselves coextensively, although at the moment the first two phases appear to dominate in Uganda, because so far only a few forms (e.g. the use of *from* with stative semantics) could be said to have been proved to be positively evaluated (cf. Schneider 2007, Meierkord 2019) by Ugandan speakers of English with concomitant widespread usage.

It might be interesting to find out from other African Englishes whether the features described in this article manifest themselves in a more or less similar way to how they do in UgE, i.e. in terms of the coextensiveness of exonormativity, nativisation, and endonormativity, bearing in mind the fact that Uganda is a former protectorate as opposed to countries such as Kenya and Zimbabwe, which are former colonies. As Meierkord (2016a) points out, Ugandans, as citizens of a protectorate, have had to rely mainly on formal loci for the acquisition of English, whereas citizens of colonies have had both formal and informal loci for their acquisition of English.

Abbreviations

1SG, 3SG	1st, 3rd person singular
APPL	applicative
IV	initial vowel
FV	final vowel
INF	infinitive
Lit.	literal translation
NEG	negation
PASS	passive
PRES	present
PROG	progressive
PFV	perfective
[...]	indicates omissions

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank the DFG for their support, particularly for making research with developing countries and for their researchers possible. We would also like to thank Dr. Allen Asiimwe for acting as an external advisor during the interpretation of our results from a Bantuist perspective.

Funding information: This article reports on results obtained from the authors' joint research project "Theorising (from) Ugandan English as one example of post-protectorate Englishes in contexts of globalisation," funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – 395350430. Furthermore, we acknowledge support by the Open Access Publication Funds of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum.

Author contributions: Both authors have accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and approved its submission. Both BI and CM collected and sorted the data, with the assistance of research assistants. BI wrote Sections 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, whereas CM wrote Sections 3, 5, 6. These were later exchanged for harmonisation.

Conflict of interest: Authors state no conflict of interest.

Data availability statement: The data sets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the co-author (Ruhr University – Bochum), as part of the ICE-Uganda (spoken, yet to be released), and can be obtained on request.

References

- Adokorach, M. and B. Isingoma. 2020. “Homogeneity and heterogeneity in the pronunciation of English among Ugandans: A preliminary study.” *English Today* 38(1), 15–26.
- Amoné, C. 2015. “Constructivism, instrumentalism and the rise of Acholi ethnic identity in northern Uganda.” *African Identities* 13(2), 129–43.
- Baker, C. M. 1988. *Incorporation: A theory of grammatical function changing*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Blackings, J. M. 2009. *Acholi English – English acholi dictionary* [Languages of the World/Dictionaries 48]. Muenchen: Lincom Europa.
- Bavin, L. E. 1995. “The obligation modality in Western Nilotic languages.” In: *Modality in grammar and discourse* edited by J. L. Bybee and S. Fleischman, p. 107–33. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Collins, P. 2009. “Modals and quasi-modals in world Englishes.” *World Englishes* 28(3), 281–92.
- Collins, P., A. M. Borlongan and X. Yaho. 2014. “Modality in Philippine English: A diachronic study.” *Journal of English Linguistics* 42(1), 68–88.
- Ellis, R. 1994. *The study of second language acquisition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Eupal, F. 2012. “Kyle and Jannette party fans.” *The Observer* 14/08/2012. <https://www.observer.ug/lifestyle/entertainment/20356-kyle-and-jannette-party-with-fans>. Accessed on 02/05/2020.
- Fisher, E. C. A. 2000. “Assessing the state of Ugandan English.” *English Today* 16(1), 57–61.
- Fountain Lango-English – English-Lango Dictionary*. 2008. Kampala: Fountain Publishers.
- Huber, M. 2004. “Ghanaian English: Phonology.” In: *A handbook of varieties of English 1: phonology* edited by E. W. Schneider, K. Burridge, B. Kortmann, R. Mesthrie and C. Upton, p. 842–65. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Huddleston, R and G. K. Pullum. 2002. *The Cambridge grammar of the English language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Imperial, R. 2014. “Lexical variation in Philippine English: The case of deontic *must* and *have to*.” *Philippine Journal of Linguistics* 45, 1–18.
- Isingoma, B. 2012. “Argument structure: A comparative study of triadic constructions in Rutooro and English.” PhD thesis. University of Agder, Norway.
- Isingoma, B. 2013. “Innovative pragmatic codes in Ugandan English: A relevance-theoretic account.” *Argumentum* 9, 19–31.
- Isingoma, B. 2014. “Lexical and grammatical features of Ugandan English.” *English Today* 30, 51–6.
- Isingoma, B. 2016. “The use of ditransitive constructions in Ugandan English.” In: *Ugandan English: Its sociolinguistics, structure and uses in a globalizing post-protectorate* [Varieties of English Around the World 59], edited by C. Meierkord, B. Isingoma and S. Namyalo, p. 202–26. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Isingoma, B. and C. Meierkord. 2019. “Capturing the Lexicon of Ugandan English: ICE-Uganda and its effective complements.” In: *Corpus linguistics and African Englishes*, edited by A. U. Esimaje, U. Gut and B. E. Antia, p. 294–328. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Isingoma, B. 2020. “Implicit arguments in English and Rutooro: A contrastive study.” *Linguistik Online* 101(1), 19–47.
- Isingoma, B. 2021. “Structural properties of Rutooro ditransitive constructions: A lexical-functional approach.” *Linguistica Atlantica* 39(1), 1–21.
- Jerro, K. 2017. “The locative applicative and the semantics of verb class in Kinyarwanda.” In: *Selected Papers from the 46th Annual Conference on African Linguistics* edited by D. L. Payne, S. Pacciorotti and M. Bosire, p. 189–309. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Jibril, M. 1991. “The sociolinguistics of prepositional usage in Nigerian English.” In: *English around the world: Sociolinguistic perspectives*, edited by J. Cheshire, p. 519–37. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Kawalya, D., K. Bostoen and G. M. de Schryver. 2014. "Diachronic semantics of the modal verb -sóból- in Luganda: A corpus-driven approach." *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics* 19(1), 60–93.
- Kawalya, D., G. M. de Schryver and K. Bostoen. 2018. "From conditionality to modality in Luganda (Bantu, JE 15): A synchronic and diachronic corpus analysis of the verbal prefix -andi-." *Journal of Pragmatic* 127, 84–106.
- Kawalya, D., G. M. de Schryver and K. Bostoen. 2019. "A corpus-driven study of the expression of necessity in Luganda (JE 15)." *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*, 37(49), 361–81.
- Kachru, Y. and L. E. Smith. 2009. "The karmic cycle of World Englishes: Some futuristic constructs." *World Englishes* 28(1), 1–14.
- Kortmann, B., K. Lunkenheimer and K. Ehret. 2020. *The Electronic world atlas of varieties of English*. Zenodo. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.3712132. <http://ewave-atlas.org>. Accessed on 08/03/2022.
- Kotze, H. and B. van Rooy. 2020. Democratization in South Africa parliamentary Hansard? A study of change of auxiliaries. *Language Sciences (Oxford, England)* 79, 101271.
- Mair, C. and G. Leech. 2006. "Current changes in English syntax." In: *The handbook of english linguistics*, edited by B. Aarts and A. MacMahon, p. 318–42. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Mchombo, A. S., ed. 1993. *Theoretical aspects of Bantu grammar*. Stanford: CSLI Publications.
- Meierkord, C. 2004. "Syntactic variation in interactions across international Englishes." *English World-Wide* 25(1), 109–32.
- Meierkord, C. 2016a. "A social history of English(es) in Uganda." In: *Ugandan English: Its sociolinguistics, structure and uses in a globalizing post-protectorate* [Varieties of English Around the World 59], edited by C. Meierkord, B. Isingoma and S. Namyalo, p. 51–71. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Meierkord, C. 2016b. "Speech acts in Ugandan English social letters: Investigating the influence of sociocultural context." In: *Ugandan English: Its sociolinguistics, structure and uses in a globalizing post-protectorate* [Varieties of English Around the World 59], edited by C. Meierkord, B. Isingoma and S. Namyalo, p. 227–48. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Meierkord, C. 2016c. Diphthongs in Ugandan Englishes: Evidence for and against variety status and Interactions across Englishes. In: *Ugandan English: Its Sociolinguistics, Structure and Uses in a Globalizing Post-protectorate* [Varieties of English Around the World 59], edited by C. Meierkord, B. Isingoma and S. Namyalo, p. 121–47. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Meierkord, C. 2019. "Attitudes towards exogenous and endogenous uses of English: Ugandan's judgements of English structures in varieties of English." *International Journal of English Linguistics* 10(1), 1–13.
- Meierkord, C., B. Isingoma and S. Namyalo eds. 2016. *Ugandan English: Its sociolinguistics, structure and uses in a globalizing post-protectorate* [Varieties of English Around the World 59]. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Mesthrie, R. and R. M. Bhatt. 2008. *World Englishes: The study of new linguistic varieties* Cambridge University Press.
- Mindt, D. and C. Weber. 1989. "Prepositions in American and British English." *World Englishes* 8(2), 229–38.
- Museveni, Y. K. 2020, June 3. "God can hear our prayer from anywhere [...]." [Tweet]. <https://twitter.com/KagutaMuseveni/status/1268114909772099584>.
- Mwangi, S. 2004. "Prepositions vanishing in Kenya." *English Today* 20(1), 27–32.
- Nantale, J. 2008. "How to become a Ugandan celeb." *The Observer* 17/07/2008. <https://www.observer.ug/lifestyle/sizzling-faith/1067-juliana-nantale>. Accessed on 02/05/2020.
- Nassenstein, N. 2016. "A preliminary description of Ugandan English." *World Englishes* 35(3), 396–420.
- New Vision. 2013. "Kasuja's organic accent." *The New Vision* 28/05/2013. https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1321174/kasujja-organic-accent. Accessed 02/05/2020.
- Noonan, M. 1992. *A grammar of Lango*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Odonga, A. 2012. *Lwoo-English dictionary*. Kampala: Fountain Publishers.
- Quirk, R., S. Greenbaum, G. Leech and J. Svartvik. 1985. *A comprehensive grammar of the English language*. London: Longman.
- Rubongoya, T. L. 2013. *Runyoro-Rutooro – English and English – Runyoro-Rutooro Dictionary*. Fort-Portal, Kampala: MODRUG Association Ltd.
- Sabiiti, B. 2014. *A dictionary of Ugandan English*. Self-published. <http://ugandanenglish.wordpress.com/> (accessed 02/12/2020).
- Schmied, J. 2004. "East African English (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania): Morphology and syntax." In: *A handbook of varieties of English, Volume II: Morphology and Syntax*, edited by B. Kortmann and E. W. Schneider, p. 929–47. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Schmied, J. 2017. "East African English." In: *The Oxford handbook of world Englishes*, edited by M. Filppula, J. Klemola and D. Sharma, p. 472–90. Oxford: OUP.
- Schneider, W. E. 2003. "The dynamics of new Englishes: From identity construction to dialect birth." *Language* 75(2), 233–81.
- Schneider, W. Edgar. 2007. *Postcolonial English: Varieties around the World*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Seidel, K. 2004. "Modals in Kenyan English: A contrastive corpus analysis of modals in the ICE-K and ICE-GB." Master's thesis. Technische Universität Chemnitz, Germany.
- Songa, W. P. and I. C. Songa. 2010. *MK secondary English*. Kampala: MK Publishers.
- Ssemuuma, J. 2019. *Morphological and syntactic feature analysis of Ugandan English: influence from Luganda, Runyankole-Rukiga and Acholi-Lango*. Bern: Peter Lang.
- Sternefeld, L. and F. N. Sseguya. 2017. *A Luganda grammar*. https://learnluganda.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/luganda_grammar_2017.pdf. Accessed 02/05/2020.

- Takan, A. 2013. "Explicating some prepositional usages in Cameroon English." *English Today* 29(4), 23–9.
- Taylor, C. 1985. *Nkore-Kiga*. London: Croom Helm.
- Ugorji, C. C. Ugo. 2015. "Nigerian English in Schneider's Dynamic Model." *Journal of English Linguistics* 10(1), 18–47.
- van Rooy, B. and R. Wasserman. 2014. "Do the modals of Black and White South African English Converge?" *Journal of English Linguistics* 42(1), 51–67.
- Wasserman, R. and B. van Rooy. 2014. "The development of modals of obligation and necessity in White South African English through contact with Afrikaans." *Journal of English Linguistics* 42(1), 31–50.