

## **Complementation strategies in Lâtâ**

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*Lâtâ is a Hill Guan (Kwa, Niger-Congo) dialect (Painter, 1967: 75) spoken in only one town: Larteh, located in the southeastern part of Ghana, West Africa. Lâtâ is tonal with a morphology which is largely agglutinating. It has SVO constituent order. Its constituent order determines grammatical relations. The paper explores the complementation phenomenon as it occurs in Lâtâ. Complementation is described as 'the syntactic situation that arises when a notional sentence or predication is an argument of a predicate' (Noonan, 2007:52). Complementation is a common feature of Lâtâ narratives where complement clauses mainly function as sentential objects of main clauses. Complement clauses are signaled by three complementizers: yî ,nã ,bãï. Complement-taking verbs are categorized into four semantic classes: modality verbs, utterance verbs, perception-cognitive verbs and manipulative verbs. The complementizers combine with complement-taking verbs to produce the types of complement clauses that operate in Lâtâ. There is some amount of co-occurrence restrictions between complementizers and complement-taking verbs; for instance, it has been found out that the complementizer yî occurs with utterance verbs only. What this means is that, when the complement-taking verb, occurring in the main clause is an utterance verb, the complementizer that initiates the complement clause must be yî. In Lâtâ complementation, verbs are usually marked independently and differently for tense and aspect. When a verb is marked for negation in a complementation construction, it affects one or the other of the two clauses.*