



# Afro-Linguistics and Zimbabwean African Language Structures: A Comparative Study

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## Abstract

Afro-Linguistics is an interdisciplinary field that explores languages spoken by people of African descent across the globe. Zimbabwe, as a significant country in southern Africa, has a rich linguistic heritage with multiple indigenous African languages. This study aims to contribute to our understanding of these language structures within this context. The methodology involves a comparative analysis of linguistic data from various Zimbabwean African languages, including but not limited to Shona, Ndebele, and Venda. Data collection will be through documentation of existing literature on the languages, interviews with linguists specializing in these languages, and cross-linguistic comparison. A specific finding is that the Shona language predominantly uses tonal patterns, which are a distinctive feature not commonly found in other Zimbabwean African languages. This tonal system plays a crucial role in conveying meaning within the language. The comparative study reveals significant structural and thematic variations among Zimbabwean African languages, highlighting their unique contributions to linguistic diversity in Africa. Future research should explore the impact of colonial history on these languages and their structures, as well as the role of digital tools in preserving and studying these languages. Afro-Linguistics, Zimbabwe, African Languages, Comparative Study, Linguistic Diversity

**Keywords:** *Africanist, Diaspora, Ethnography, Linguistic, Multilingual, Pan-African, Structural*

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