# LOCATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN DANGME

**Regina Oforiwah CAESAR**
University of Education, Winneba
reginacaesar13@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

This paper explores locative constructions in Dangme, a language that belongs to the Kwa family of languages. The paper discusses the components of the basic locative construction in Dangme. It also examines the syntax and semantics of verbs of position and verbs of change of location that function in the basic locative constructions in Dangme. Data were drawn from mainly primary sources from 14 native speakers of Dangme. I demonstrate that postposition and locative nouns mainly express location in Dangme. There are a set of nouns that also function as indicators of location and direction to places. It is to be noted that in locative constructions, the postposition class and the adjunct of location indicate the location of entities in Dangme as in other languages. The postposition class can take the form of a word or a phrase. The phrase is made up of an NP and locative morphemes: *mi* 'inside', *se* 'back', *nɔ/hiɔwe* 'top', *kpɛti* 'middle', *he* 'side' *nya* 'edge of, *tue* 'edge' and *sisi* 'under'. The data also revealed that in Dangme, a locative morpheme or phrase can co-occur with a positional verb in a construction to express the position of an entity at a location.

**Keywords:** Dangme locative constructions; positional verbs; change of location verbs; postposition

## Introduction

Every language has a way of indicating a location for an entity. This could be expressed with a word, or a phrase in a clause or a construction. In some languages, existential, locative and possessive predications are handled by verbs, verbal auxiliaries or copulas with tailored existential, locative or possessive meanings such as "be (at)", "live", "have" or "exist". In other languages, some or all of these functions may be coded by verbs of posture or orientation such as "sit", "stand" and "lie", among others (Hellwig, 2003; Newman, 2002). According to Levinson and Meira (2003), a basic locative construction is the prototypical locative construction

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in a given language. The prototypical locative construction is understood as a construction used to locate an easily movable inanimate figure with respect to a ground to which it is attached in response to a "where" question (Levinson & Wilkins, 2006, p. 15). A locative construction is the construction that occurs in response to a given question of the kind, "where is the X" where X represents the entity the speaker has in mind (Fortis, 2010, p. 1). In Dangme as in other languages, it is common to find out that the locative predications are handled by verbs.

The literature have shown that verbs of position have alternative terms with similar or overlapping semantics in the semantic literature. These include "posture verbs" or "verbs of posture", "positionals" or "verbs of body position", and "verbs of spatial configuration" as posited by researchers (Ameka & Levinson, 2007, p. 847; Borneto, 1996, pp. 459-505; Levinson & Wilkins, 2006, pp.15-16; Grinevald, 2006, p. 37; Hellwig, 2003, p. 10; Lemmens & Perrez, 2010, pp. 315-325; Levin, 1993, p. 255; Levin & Hovav, 1995, p. 282; Newman, 2002; Rothmayr, 2009, pp. 147-156; Talmy, 1985, 2000a, p. 25; 2007, p. 118 cited in Atintono, 2013, p. 25). According to Atintono (2013, p. 24), the term "positional verbs" is used as a cover term that refers to a class of verbs that semantically code the static assumed body posture or position of animate entities (humans and animals). According to Keegan (2002), posture verbs define a language type in the MPI-based research on basic locative constructions. These verbs can occur in transitive and intransitive constructions.

Newman (2002) uses posture verbs because the contributors focused on human posture while Ameka and Levinson (2007) also use posture and positional verbs as two classes of locative verbs. My use of positional verbs in this paper represents both posture and positional verbs in Dangme. The positional verbs in Dangme as in other Ghanaian languages such as Akan, Ga, Gurene often combine with the postpositions to describe the location of an entity in relation to the ground in a spatial relation.

Dangme is a three-level tone language and it belongs to the Kwa group of Niger-Congo family of languages. It is spoken in two regions of Ghana – Eastern and Greater Accra mainly in South-Eastern Ghana. The people inhabit the coastal area of the Greater Accra Region, east of Accra, and part of the Eastern Region of Ghana. Its closest linguistic neighbours are Ga, Akan and Ewe. Dangme has seven dialects: Ada, Nugo, Kpone, Gbugblaa/Prampram, Osudoku, Sɛ, and Krobo (Yilo and Manya). There are several small communities east of the Volta Region that trace their origins to Dangmeland; most of these have shifted to Ewe as the language of daily life, but others have not (Dakubu, 1988; Sprigge, 1969 cited in Ameka and Dakubu, 2008, p. 215). Patches of speakers are also found in Togo- Nyetoe and Gatsi who have been mentioned in Christaller (1888), Rapp (1943), Westermann and Bryan (1952).

The purpose of this paper is to discuss locative constructions in four main categories in Dangme; postpositional class, nouns that function to indicate location and direction to places, positional verbs and verbs of change of location that function in the basic locative constructions in Dangme.

**Purpose of study**

The aim of this paper is to discuss the formation of locative constructions in Dangme in the following ways:
1) to discuss the simple locative constructions in Dangme**;**
2) to examine the syntax and the semantics of positional verbs that co-occur with locative elements in Dangme; and
3) to discuss verbs of change of location in basic locative constructions in Dangme.

The findings of the study will add to the relatively limited literature on the grammar of Dangme and also serve as a basis for further research into other areas of the syntax and semantics of Dangme. It is also hoped that the findings of this study will add to the literature on locative constructions universally.

**Methodology**

The data were collected from 14 native speakers of Dangme. Two from each dialect group in 2019. The primary data were collected through unstructured interviews, overheard spontaneous speech, picture and positional posture discussions, and from texts. Photographs showing various locations of items (Appendix A and B) were also presented for native speakers to describe. The responses of informants were recorded on audio tape and later transcribed. As a native speaker of Dangme, I also provided some of the data for this study. The data elicited and those which were provided by me were however, cross-checked by other native speakers of Dangme.

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Locative expressions refer to statements that speakers provide as natural responses to questions demanding the location or whereabouts of people and objects or spontaneous statements that speakers make to draw the attention of the addressee to the location of entities in a discourse context with or without a question posed (Atintono, 2013; Fortis, 2010). Levinson and Wilkins (2006, pp. 1-2) have indicated that basic locative constructions are the expressions that are commonly used in response to a where-question in delivering the basic locative function. Thus, these expressions are the answers one gives to a questioner when a question is posed about the location of an object. In the field of linguistics, a lot of work (Ameka, Witte, & Wilkins, 1999; Bobuafor, 2013; Dorvlo, 2008; Levinson & Wilkins, 2006) has been done in this area.

The simple locative construction in Dangme consists of adpositions. According to Van Valin Jr. & LaPola (1997, p. 52), adpositions consist of prepositions and postpositions (see also Ameka, 1995; Boadi, 1992; Dovlo, 2008, p. 117; Tallerman, 2014, p. 45). Ameka (1995, p. 145) asserts that some African languages such as Hausa and Maa have both verb-like and noun-like prepositions. In Kwa languages such as Akan, Ewe and Ga, however, the verbal adpositional elements tend to be prepositions and the nominal adpositions tend to be postpositions. The

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prepositional phrase in English consists of a preposition which is followed by a prepositional complement normally a noun phrase or a *wh*-clause or a *V*-ing clause (Quirk & Greenbaum, 1973). Quirk and Greenbaum (1973, p. 143) posit further that "a preposition expresses the relationship between two entities, one being that it is represented by the prepositional complement". According to Dakubu (1987, p. 83), there is often a relationship between the NP and the VP required in a postposition in Dangme. That is a word is included in the NP that serves in some sense to "locate" the NP in question. Consider the examples of adpositional phrases in italics in (1a-c).

1. (a) The boy is *in the classroom.*
   (b) The stick is *on the table.*
   (c) The dress is *under the bed.*

From the English examples in (1a-c), we observe that the preposition *in, on, under* occur at the initial position of the prepositional phrases. Thus, this makes English a prepositional language. By contrast, Dangme is a postpositional language because the adposition occurs usually after the noun phrase or the content question which is referred to as *Wh*-clause in English, it follows. The locative construction in Dangme is made up of a verb, *ngɛ* "is", a postpositional phrase which consists of a noun phrase and a postposition. The postposition occurs after the NP (the object), to which the speaker draws the addressee's attention to. The NP is what Aarts (2001, p. 44) refers to as prepositional object or complement in English. Consider samples of locative constructions in (2a-c) that attest to the claim that Dangme is one of the postpositional languages. Postpositions form a closed class of grammatical class in Dangme as in some other Ghanaian languages.

2. (a) Gbé ɔ    ngɛ̀ **tsō    ɔ    sìsì**.
       Dog DEF at   tree DEF under
       "The dog is under the tree."                                    (LOCP1)

   (b) Jíjé à    ngɛ̀ ní    ɔ    yèé    ngɛ́?
       QP 3PL at food   DEF eat.PROG at?
       "Where are they eating the food?"

   (c) À    ngɛ̀    ní    ɔ yèé        ngɛ́ **kpókú    ɔ    nyà**.
       They are  food   DEF eat.PROG   at   entrance DEF edge
       "They are eating the food at the edge of the entrance."          (LOCP2)

   (d) Jíjé        wà      màá    nà    lò    ɔ    èkō    ngɛ́?
       OP          IP      FUT    see   fish  DEF some   at
       "Where will we get some of the fish to buy?"

   (e) Nyɛ̀        màá    nà    èkō    **ngɛ̀ jùà    à    mì**.
       2PL         FUT    get    some   at market DEF inside
       "You will get some in the market."

We observe in example (2a) that the postposition *sìsì* "under" in the adpositional phrase occurrs clause finally. The postposition *nyà* "edge of" in (2c) points to the position of the postpositional object, *kpókú ɔ* "the entrance". Similarly, construction (2e) is the response to the question in (2d). *Ngɛ jùà à mì* "in the market" is the postpositional phrase indicating the location where the object *lo* "fish/meat" could be bought from.

3.  (a) Bùɛ́        bágì   ɔ`  ngɛ̀     dákà à   **mì**.
       Bùɛ́.POSS  bag  DEF  COP    box   DEF   inside
       "Bùɛ́'s bag is in the box."                                           (LOCP3)

    (b) Tsɔɔ́lɔ̀`  ɔ`  ngɛ̀   **pà   à   nyà**.
        Teacher  DEF  at       river  DEF  mouth.
        "The teacher is at the river bank."                           (LOCP4)

    (c) Àtí   ɔ́   ngɛ̀   tsū   ɔ   **yī   nɔ**.
        Cat  DEF  at    room  DEF  head  top.
        "The cat is on top of the roof."                             (LOCP5)

    (d) Àdétà  ngɛ̀  sùkúú   tsū     ɔ`   **hè**.
        Àdétà   at   school  building  DEF   side
        "Àdétà is by the school building."

    (e) Sɔlèmì  tsū     ɔ́  ngɛ̀   mà   à   **kpɛ̀tí**.
        Church  building  DEF  at   town  DEF   middle
        "The chapel is at the centre of the town."

    (f) Kɔ́ɔpòó   ɔ`   ngɛ̀  nyū   ɔ`   **hɛ́**.
        Cup     DEF   at   water  DEF   face
        "The cup is on the surface of the water."                    (LOCP6)

    (g) Tòkòtá   à    ngɛ̀  òkplɔɔ  ɔ   **sìsì**.
        Foot wear DEF  at    table  DEF  under
        "The foot wear is under the table."                          (LOCP7)

    (h) Safie  ɔ   ngɛ̀   tànki   ɔ   **tūé**.
        Key  DEF   at    tank   DEF  edge
        "The key is at the edge of the tank."

In (3a-h), the verb *ngɛ̀* "at" is a be-located verb that takes arguments that express the location of the object. From the data available, *ngɛ̀* is used in reference to the position or the location of an entity which can be animate (human and animal) and inanimate. *Ngɛ* also has the meaning "be.at" or can be interpreted as X, the subject, is at a certain location as discussed in positional verbs and verbs of change of location in section 3 and 4 of this paper. In (3a), *Bùɛ́ bágì ɔ* is the subject of the clause. "*Bùɛ́'s* bag" is at a certain location *dákà à mì* "in the box" *mì* "inside" is the

portion of the box where the subject, *Bùέ bágì ɔ*, "*Bùέ's* bag" can be found or located at the time of speech. In (3b), *tsɔɔ́lɔ ɔ̀* "the teacher", is at a particular point, *nyà* "edge of" of *pà à* "the river". In (3c), *tsū ɔ yī nɔ* "at the top of the building" is where the subject, *àtí ɔ́* "the cat" is situated at the time of speech. *Àdétà* in (3d) can be located by *hè* "side of" the object of the phrase, *sùkúú tsū ɔ̀* "the school building". In (3e), *sɔlèmì tsū ɔ́* "the chapel" is situated at a location, *kpὲtí* "middle" of *mà à* "the town". In (3f-h), *kɔ́ɔpòó ɔ̀* "the cup" is at the surface, *hέ* of *nyū ɔ* "the water", *tòkòtá à* "foot wear" is at a point, *sìsì* "under" of the object *òkplɔɔ ɔ* "the table" and *safie ɔ* "the key" is at a location, *tànki ɔ tūé* "at the edge of the tank" respectively.

I discuss locative pronouns that point to places in (4a-5b).

4. (a) Wà   bā      **híέ ɔ** līngmī    nέ ɔ̀.
      1PL  come.AOR here  recently   this
      "We came here recently."

   (b) Sūkúú bímὲ      ngὲ   **híέ ɔ.**
       school children   at    here
       "School children are here."

5. (a) À    hō    **lējέ ɔ̀**   yà    píɔ̀.
       3PL  go    there      PRT   now.
       "They have just gone there."

   (b) Tɔ      ɔ̀   ngὲ   **lējέ ɔ** kpàmìsá.
       Bottle  DEF  at    there    still.
       "The bottle is still there."

In (4a) and (4b), híέ ɔ "here" is the object of the clause that points to a location. Híέ ɔ "here" in (4a) is followed by an adverbial phrase, līngmī nέ ɔ̀ "recently". In (5a), the locative NP lējέ ɔ̀ "there" is preposed in the construction. That is, it has occurred in between the verb phrase hō …yà "have gone". Lējέ ɔ̀ "there" in (5b) has occurred after the verb of be-located ngὲ as in (4a). According to Van Staden (2007), the ground space indicating verbs are classified into two classes; those encoding location "be prox/ dist/ media-Generic/ down/ up/ seaward/ landward); those encoding direction (same semantic distinction).  When an NP with postposition is an adjunct filling the role of an adverbial phrase, it clearly indicates direction or location (Dakubu, 1987:84). Dangme has a set of nouns that function to indicate location and direction to the cardinal points.  Consider examples (6a-d).

6. (a) Yo̐     ɔ̀   jè   **bōká blɔ** kὲ    ma̐.
       Woman  DEF  leave east   way  AUX    come.
       "The woman is coming from the eastward."

   (b) Kɔɔ́hīɔ̀   nέ   fìà   à    jè    **ànέ**      **blɔ**.
        Wind    that blow  PRT  leave  westward   way.
       "The wind that blew was from the west."

(c) ɛ́lóplèé ɔˋ jè **wò mì blɔ**.
    Airplane DEF leave sea inside way.
    "The airplane appeared from the southern part."

(d) Sàlífù jè Ghana mà ā è **yìtí màjè**.
    Sàlífù leave Ghana country DEF 3SG.POSS top area
    "Sàlífù comes from the northern part of Ghana."

The locative nouns *bōká* "east", *ànɛ́* "west" and the descriptive nouns , *wò mì blɔ*"
south" and *yìtí màjè* "north" locates the cardinal points in Dangme.

### *Positional verbs of Dangme*

Positional verbs are those verbs which, in combination with one of several locational
preverbs, may appear in the basic construction that functions as an answer to a
"where" question, the so called basic locative construction (Kutscher & Genc, 2007).
According to Ameka and Levinson (2007), in addition to the prepositions and
postpositions used in expressing locative statements, there are many more
languages that have a set of alternative verbs or verbal affixes such as verb of
"sitting", "standing" and "lying". The verbs, "sit", "stand" and "hang", etc. are
classified according to which verbs they take in both existential and locative
statements (Levinson & Wilkins, 2006, p. 173). The use of postural verbs to code
basic locative functions on Goemai, dates back to the 2003 (Ameka & Levinson,
2007; Hellwig, 2003).

Dangme positional verbs express the posture of an animate (human or
animal) in a construction. The posture can be *dàá sí* "standing", *hìí sí* "sitting", *hwɔɔ
sí* "lying down", *kpláà sí* "hanging" or "dangling", *sɔɔ sí* "squatting", *kplãã sí*
"kneeling down" and *kpásà sí* "leaning". These states, according to Keegan (2002),
are typically entered into through relatively brief movements. They code a static
position of animate and inanimate entities. Posture verbs according to Fortis (2010,
p. 4) and Atintono (2013, p. 183), constitute a small set, often with an
anthropomorphic source such as "sit", "stand", "lie" though not exclusively "hang"
which often have causative counterparts. They have a "sortal" character, i.e. they
classify their subject nominal concepts by semantic criteria (Ameka & Levinson,
2007, p. 859). Position verbs indicate the positions that verbs assume (move to) and
the positions such verbs currently occupied (Atintono, 2013). It is to be noted that
these verbs strictly mean "come to be in X position" where "X" can be "sitting",
"lying", "standing", "leaning against" or "hanging". That is, to be: at---, on---, in---,
by--- position and become "sitting", "lying", "standing", "leaning against" or
"hanging" that are used in expressing locative function (Ameka, 1999; Dakubu &
Ford, 1988). Dangme positional verbs denote the posture of animate and inanimate
entities and have causative meaning. They are in the form of phrasal verbs.

In Dangme as in English, phrasal verbs are made of two parts: a base verb
and a word that is either a postposition or an adverb particle. These phrasal verbs
occur as a V + Particle. It is not always possible to guess the meaning of a phrasal

verb from the individual morphemes that constitute the word as indicated above. They occur as postpositions. These postpositions denote change of positions. They include:

7. (a) *hìí sì* "sitting"

(b) *kplãã´ sì* "at kneeling position"
sit down                                          kneel down

(c) *dàá sì* "standing"

(d) *tè sì* "get up/stand up"
stand down                                       rise down

(e) *hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì* "lying down"

(f) *kpásà sì* "lean against"
lie down                                          lean down

(g) *ngɔ̀ɔ´ fɔ̀ sì* put (lying down)

(h) *wó da sì* "put (standing)
take put down                                    take stand down

(i) *bɛ̀lé sì/ kpláá sì* "hanging"

(j) *bile sì/fiá sì* "lie prostrate"
hang down                                         lie down straight

*Dàá sì* "standing" is a posture verb that indicates that the reference is supported from the ground and points vertically upwards. *Dàá sì* "standing", applies both to animate and inanimate entities. For instance: *Tawiah dàá sì.* "Tawiah, is at a standing position" (on or in or by or under something, or at a location). *Hìí sì* "sitting" is used to denote a stable position for animate and inanimate entities on the surface of an object. For example, *Gad hìí sì. "*Gad is at a sitting position" (on or in or by or under something or at a location).

*kpláà sì* "hanging" or "dangling" is used to refer to an object tied to one end upwards and pulling down vertically from the point of the attachment, that is, a "hang" verb describes an entity suspending on the surface of the ground as in *kpà à kpláá sì* "the rope is hanging" (on or in or by or under something or against something, from a direction or at a location). *Sɔɔ` sì* "squatting" refers to a postural shape. It is a verb used to denote entities that are at the lowering position of the body with reference to folding of the legs at the knee level. *Nàkí sɔɔ` sì. "Nàkí* is at a squatting position" (on or in something, or at a location).

*Kpásà sì* "lean against" is used for entities that are positioned diagonally with their tips against the edge of the upper part of the entity receiving support as exemplified in *Tsàátsɛ́ kpásà sì ngɛ̀ gli ɔ he.* "Father is leaning against the wall". *Hwɔɔ´ sì* "lie down" is a positional verb mostly predicating the posture of an animate

entity on a ground surface. The verb, *fɔɔ´ sì* "lie down" is, however, used for inanimate entities to express the same meaning as *hwɔɔ´ sì.* These verbs of position can occur with postpositions to indicate the location of the postures expressed by the verbs as exemplified in (7-8).

8.  (a) Tɛɛ    hwɔɔ    sì    ngɛ́    mángòó    tsō    ɔ    sìsì.
    Teye    lying    down    at    mango    tree    DEF    under
    "Teye is lying down under the mango tree."

    (b) Tsō    ɔ    fɔɔ´    sì    ngɛ́    blɔ    ɔ`    mì.
    Tree    DEF    lie    down    at    path    DEF    inside
    "The stick is lying in the middle of the path."

        *Hwɔɔ´ si* and *fɔɔ´ sì* express the posture of the entities at a location, *ngɛ́ mángòó tsō ɔ sisi,* "under the mango tree" and *ngɛ́ blɔ ɔ mi,* "in the middle of the path" in (7a-b). The objects of the postpositional phrases in (8a & b), *mángòó tsō ɔ`* "the mango tree" and *blɔ ɔ´* "the path" are preposed. That is the postpositions *ngɛ́ sìsì* "is under" and *ngɛ́ mi* "is inside" have become *ngɛ́… sìsì* "at … under" and *ngɛ́… mi* "at…inside". The positional verbs in Dangme often combine with postpositional phrases to describe the location of an entity in relation to a ground in a spatial relation. The entity designates the object that is located (Talmy, 1985, pp. 60-61; 2000a, pp. 311-315, 2007, p. 70; Levinson, 1992, p. 11). The ground acts as the reference point or the place where the figure is located (Talmy, 2000a, p. 312; 2000b, p. 25). Consider these examples (9):

9.  (a) Nyumu    ɔ`    **hìí**    **sì**    ngɛ´    sɛ´    ɔ`    mì.
    Man    DEF    sit.PROG    down    be.at    chair    DEF    inside. (PPOS1)
    "The man is sitting in the chair."

    (b) Bímwɔyo´    ɔ`    **hwɔ`ɔ´**    **sì**    ngɛ´    **sà**    **à**    **nɔ**.
    Baby    DEF    lie.PROG    down    be.at    mat    DEF    on.
    "The baby is lying on the mat."    (PPOS2)

    (c) Nàkí    **kpláá**    **sì**    ngɛ´    **zugba´**.
    Nàkí    kneel.PROG    down    be.at    ground.
    "Nàkí´ is at a kneeling position on the ground."    (PPOS3)

    (d) Sìàde´    **sɔɔ´**    **sì**    **ngɛ´**    **àgbo´**    ɔ`    **nyà**.
    Sìàde´    squat.PROG    down    be.at    gate    DEF    mouth.    (PPOS4)
    "Sìàde´ is at a squatting position at the entrance of the gate." (PPOS4)

    (e) Àdò    **kpásà**    **sì**    ngɛ´    **glì**    ɔ`    **hē.**
    Àdò    lean.PERF    down    be.at    wall    DEF    side.
    "Àdò has leaned against the wall."    (PPOS5)

The positional verbs in the constructions in (9a-e) express stative locative relations. The entities that have assumed the varied positions and postures in sentences (9a-e) are represented by the nouns in the subject positions: *Nyūmū ɔ̀* "the man" in (9a), *bímwɔ̄yo ɔ́* "the baby" in (9b), *Nàkí* "a personal name" in (9c), *Sìàde ̋* "a personal name" in (8d) and *Àdò* "a personal name". The subject NPs are human nouns whose body positions are described by the posture predicates *hìǐ sì* "be sitting", *hwɔ ɔ̀ ́sì* "be lying", *kpláá sì*, "be kneeling" *sɔɔ ́sì* "be squatting" and *kpásà sī* "be leaning against". As in (8a-b), the objects of (9a-b) and (9d-e): *sɛ ́ɔ ̀* "the chair", *sà à* "the mat", *àgbo ́ɔ̀* "the gate" and *glì ɔ ̀* "the wall" - have occurred in between the locative markers: *ngɛ ́mì* "is inside", *ngɛ ́nɔ̄* "is on top", *ngɛ ́nyà* "at the entrance" and *ngɛ ́hē* "by the side". (9c) however, points to a location represented by *zūgba ́* "ground".

10. (a) Ngmòngmlòkí **hì** nyùmù ɔ **sì ngɛ́ tsū ɔ sē.**
    Ngmòngmlòkí sit man DEF down at house DEF POSTPOS
    'Ngmòngmlòkí put the man at a sitting position at the back of the house.'

   (b) Nùɛ́ⱼ **kplɛ̃́** jokùɛₖ ɔ **sì ngɛ́ yálè ɔ mì** nɛ́ èₖ jɛ́ lɛⱼ.
       Nùɛ́ⱼ kneel child DEF down at yard DEF inside when 3SG insult SG.OBJ
   'Nùɛ́ⱼ put the child to a kneeling position in the yard when he/she insulted him.'

In (10a), *Ngmòngmlòkí* caused *nyùmù ɔ* "the man" to be at a sitting position at a location, *ngɛ́ tsū ɔ sē* "at the back of the house" . In (10b), the subject, *Nùɛ́ⱼ,* moved the object *jokùɛₖ ɔ* "the child" from an unspecified position at time one (t₁) to *kplã́ sì* "a kneeling position" at a subsequent time two (t₂) at a location, *ngɛ́ yálè ɔ mì* "in the yard" for insulting him. In the syntax, this form of verbs involves a separate rule which shifts complements one step to the left of the main verb in a transitive construction. For instance, *hì sì* "sit down", *kplɛ̃́ sì* "kneel down" with the objects *nyùmù ɔ* "the man" and *jokùɛₖ ɔ* "the child" in (10a) and (10b) respectively, will become **hì** *nyùmù ɔ* **sì** "sit the man down" and **kplɛ̃́** *jokùɛₖ ɔ* **sì** "put the child at a kneeling position". Also in (11), a verb like *kpásà sì* "lean against" plus an object *pàmplòó* "bamboo" will become *kpásà pàmplòó sì* "lean the bamboo against something" as in the transitive example in (11a). Thus, *kpásà sì* + object → *kpásà* + object + *sì*.

Position verbs can be expressed transitively and intransitively in Dangme as in other languages. The transitive verbs of change of position are causative. They are verbs of motion that indicate the position in which the direct object is placed. Thus, position verbs express the meaning that an entity is causing another entity (the object) to be placed in a certain position with respect to the ground which can be "be in a position" of sitting, standing, lying, hanging, etc. That is the stative locative constructions are used to code "be in a position".

11. (a) Jàbàté   **kpásà**    pàmplòó     **sì**     **ngɛ́**    **gbògbò ɔ**    hè.
         Jàbàté    lean       bamboo        down    by     wall   DEF    side
         'Jàbàté lean bamboo against a wall.'               (PPOS6)

    (b) Pàmplòó         **kpásà sì**       **ngɛ́**    **gbògbò hè.**
         Bamboo          lean down     by     wall   side
         'A bamboo is leaned against a wall.'

12. (a) Kúmá  **b̀ɛlé**        kpà   à      **sì**    **ngɛ́**   tsō        ɔ̀   nɔ̀.
         Kúmá   hang.PERF    rope   DEF    down   by    tree.POSS   DEF   top

         'Kúmá hanged the rope to the tree.'

    (b) Kpà   à    **b̀ɛlé**        **sì**    **ngɛ́** tsō        ɔ̀    nɔ̀.
         rope   DEF   hang.IPFT     down   by    tree .POSS DEF   to
         'The rope hangs on the tree.'

Thus, in (11a) the direct object, *pàmplòó* "bamboo" moved to be at a leaning position at a location, *gbògbò hè* "by the wall" by Jabate. The intransitive verbs distinguish between verbs of motion, which indicate the position where the subject currently occupies. Thus, "come to be in a standing position" only if the previous position is lying or sitting and from a standing position in one place to another standing position. The original position of the theme is not expressed, but, the new position is denoted by postposition. In the intransitive example in (11b), the new position of the subject, *pàmplòó* is indicated by the position *kpásà sì* "lean down" at a location, *gbògbò hè* "by the wall". In (11b), a resultative state of the new position *pàmplòó* "bamboo" has assumed, is presented. Thus, the subject for the new position is covert or not expressed.

The example in (12a) indicates a change of position of the object *kpà à* "the rope", from a lower level to a hanging position. This change of position came about as a result of an action initiated by the subject, *Kúmá.* The phrasal verb, *b̀ɛlé sì* "hang down" means "come to be in a hanging position" *ngɛ́ tsō ɔ̀ nɔ̀* "on the tree" is the location goal of the object. The phrasal verb, *b̀ɛlé sì* "hang down" has become discontinuous in the transitive sentence of (12a); the object *kpà à* "the rope" appears in between the verb *b̀ɛlé* "hang" and its postposition *sì* "down". *Hang* is used to indicate that the object, *kpà à* "the rope" is supported from above. This means that the rope is attached only to one point of the tree. The result of the action of the subject, *Kúmá,* is the current position the object *kpà à* has assumed. In other words, X brought it about that Y had to change position and became placed up high at location two, on the tree. In (12b) on the other hand, the object, *kpà à* "the rope" fills in the subject position since the subject position of the clause was vacant. The verb *b̀ɛlé sì* "hang down" is not discontinuous as in (12a) simply because, the use of *b̀ɛlé sì* in (12b) does not require a complement as in (12a). Sentence (12a) implies that (x), *Kúmá* did something that brought it about that (y), *kpà à* "the rope" has come to be at a hanging position at a location on the tree. The semantics of sentence (12b) is that (y) has come to be in a hanging position at a location.

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Consider other verbs of change of position in (13a-14b).

13. (a) Dèdé$_k$ **hwɔ̀ɔ̀** è$_k$ bí ɔ̀ **sì ngɛ́ tsù ɔ̀ mì.**
     Dèdé lay.PERF 3SG.POSS child. DEF down in room DEF inside
     "Dèdé put her child to bed in the room."

   (b) Dèdé bí ɔ̀ **hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì ngɛ́ tsù ɔ̀ mì.**
     Dèdé.POSS child. DEF lie down in room DEF inside
     "Dèdé's child is lying in the room."

14. (a) Amúzù **kpásà** àtsìlé ɔ̀ **sì ngɛ́ gbògbò ɔ̀ hè.**
     Amúzù lean ladder DEF against at wall DEF side
     "Amúzù leaned the ladder against the wall.
     "Amúzù caused the ladder to be by the wall."

   (b) Àtsìlé ɔ̀ **kpásà sì ngɛ́ gbògbò ɔ̀ hè.**
     ladder DEF lean against at wall DEF side
     "The ladder leans against the wall." (PPOS7)

In (13a), *Dèdé* and *è bí ɔ̀* "her child" are the NPs of the sentence. *Hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì* "lying" is a verb of posture. *Dèdé* is the subject of the clause and *è$_k$ bí ɔ̀* "her child" is the object-undergoer of the action of move designated by *hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì* "be in a lying position". As in (13a), the phrasal verb of (13a) is also discontinuous with its object intervening. This action of change of position initiated by the subject is expressed by the verb phrase *hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì* "lying down" which co-occurs with the postpositional phrase, *ngɛ́ tsù ɔ̀ mì* "in the room". The postpositional phrase indicates the location where *Dèdé bí ɔ̀* "Dede's child" currently lies. The verb, *hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì* "lying down" implies that *Dèdé bí ɔ̀* is being supported from the ground. The result of the action of the subject, *Dèdé*, is the current position the object, *è bí ɔ̀*, has assumed at a location. Clause (13b) as in (12b) has the object of *hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì* "be in a lying position" as the subject of the intransitive clause. By contrast, the verb phrase, *hwɔ̀ɔ̀ sì* is not discontinuous as in (13b). The semantics of clause (13a) is that (x), *Dèdé,* brought it about that *è bí ɔ̀* "her child" became at a lying position in a room. While clause (13b) means that (y) has come to be in a lying position in a room.

In (14a), *Amúzù* is the subject of change of position and *àtsìlé ɔ̀* "the ladder" is the complement of the verb phrase *kpásà sì* "lean against". *Àtsìlé ɔ̀* "the ladder" is the object of the clause which change of position is attributed to *Amúzù,* the subject. The new position of the ladder has been indicated by the predicate, *kpásà sì* "lean against" at a location, *ngɛ́ gbògbò ɔ̀ hè* "by the wall". *Kpásà sì* in (14a) is discontinuous as in (12a & 13a). "Lean against" is used to indicate that the object, *àtsìlé ɔ̀* "the ladder", is supported from the side of the wall. This means that the ladder is attached to one side of the wall. The result of the action of *Amúzù,* is the current position the object, *àtsìlé ɔ̀*, has occupied. In other words, X causes Y to change position at time one ($t_1$) and become placed by the side of the wall at a subsequent time two ($t_2$). *Ngɛ́ gbògbò ɔ̀ hè* "by the wall" is an adjunct of location. Example (14a) denotes that (x), *Amúzù* did something that resulted in (y), *àtsìlé* coming to be at a position of leaning at a location, *ngɛ́ gbògbò ɔ̀ hè* "by the wall".

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The semantics of sentence (14b) is that (y) has come to be in a leaning position by the wall.

### *Verbs of change of location*

In the previous section, I dealt with phrasal verbs of change of position. In this section, I discuss lexical causative verbs that denote a change of location in an entity at locations expressed by the postposition class or adjunct of location. They express the notion of "be.on", "be.at", "be.in", "be.by" and "hang" (see Essegbey as cited in Ameka & Levinson, 2007; Ameka, de Witte, & Wilkins, 1999).

Positional and locational verbs employ almost the same postpositions to express change of position or location, but in change of position, the postpositional phrase focusses on the positioning of the object. Change of location however, has more to do with a place. Some postpositions and adverbs especially of place used to denote a change of location in Dangme include:

15. *hè*　　　　　　"side"　　　　　*nɔ̀*　　　"on"
　　*mì*　　"in/inside"　　　　*zùgbá*　"(on the)ground"
　　*sìsì*　　"down/downstairs"　　*wē mì*　"in the house"
　　*hɛ́ mì*　　"in front of"　　　　*hɛ́*　　"place"

These postpositions co-occur with lexical verbs to denote the change of location in objects. A verb of this nature requires an actor/causer (initiator of the process of change of location), object-patient-theme and a location where the patient-theme is deposited as expressed by the locative complement. In addition, the lexical verb with an adverb of place can also be used to express location in Dangme. Verbs made complete by postpositional phrases to illustrate change of location include:

16. *fá*　　　　"order"　　　　　*plɛ́/kpá*　"pour"
　　*kɛ̀*　　"take"　　　　　　*fɔ̀*　　"put"
　　*tsì nyà*　"detain"　　　　　*bú nyà*　"cover"

These verbs can be used transitively and intransitively. I now examine transitive sentences that express cause-and-effect relation only in locative constructions in Dangme. Consider sentences (17-23):

17. Dòósì　**fá**　Àkùàfò$_j$　**ké**　é$_j$　yá　hì　**tsù**　**ɔ̀**　**sìsì.**
　　Dòósì　order　Àkùàfò　that　3SG　go　sit　vroom　DEF　down
　　"Dòósì ordered Àkùàfò to sit at the ground floor of the building."

18. Bàtsá　**plɛ́/kpá**　nyù　ɔ̀　kɛ̀　pùé　**zùgbà**　**à**　**nɔ̀.**
　　Bàtsá　pour　water　DEF　AUX　pour　ground.OBLQ　DEF　on
　　"Bàtsá poured the water on to the ground."

19. Kòjólɔ̀　ɔ̀　**wò**　jùlɔ̀　ɔ̀　**tsu**　**mì.**
　　Judge　DEF　put　thief　DEF　prison　inside.OBLQ
　　"The judge put the thief into prison cell."

In (17), *Dòósì* is the subject and *Àkùàfò* is the grammatical object of the clause. The verb of the predicate, *yá hì* "go sit" is made complete in causation with the locative phrase *tsù ɔ̀ sìsì* "under the tree". *Tsù ɔ̀ sìsì* is an adverb of place that indicates the new location of *Àkùàfò*ⱼ. This means that *Dòósì* causes *Àkùàfò* to change location and be at the ground floor of the building. Thus, the cause is in *fá* "order". This implies that but for the order from *Dòósì* at an earlier time one (t₁), *Àkùàfò*ⱼ would not have been sitting at that new location *tsù ɔ̀ sìsì* at that particular time which is at a subsequent time two (t₂).

The verb *plɛ́/kpá* "pour" takes two NPs: *Bàtsá* is the subject and *nyù ɔ̀* "the water" is the complement of the action of *plɛ́/kpá*. *Nyù ɔ̀* "the water" is the object whose position has been changed. It is said that *Batsa*, the subject is responsible for the new location of the object *nyù ɔ̀*. This change in location has been expressed by the discontinuous VP in the predicate, *plɛ́ … pùé* "poured on to". On the floor, *zùgbà à nɔ̀* is therefore the new location of the theme, *nyù.* This means that the water would not have been at that new location *zùgbà à nɔ̀* "on the floor" at that subsequent time (t₂) if *Batsa* has not, at an earlier time (t₁), caused it to happen.

Sentence (19) has *Kòjólɔ̀ ɔ̀* "the judge" as the subject and *jùlɔ̀ ɔ̀* "the thief" is the theme whose position is assigned by the verb *wò* "put". The subject, *kòjólɔ̀ ɔ̀* "the judge" *is* construed as being responsible for the action of change of location from an unexpressed location of the theme, *jùlɔ̀ ɔ̀* "the thief" into a prison's cells. This action of the subject is expressed by the lexical causative verb *wò* "put" and the postpositional phrase, *tsu mi* "in cells" at (t₂). The object would not have been at his current location *tsu mì* "in to prison cell", if the subject, *kòjólɔ̀ ɔ̀* has not, at an earlier time (t₁), caused him to move from the unexpressed position.

I now examine another group of verbs of location constructions in (20-22) which become discontinuous as in the transitive constructions discussed in (11a, 12a &13a).

20. Sàbúkí            kɛ̀          plɛ́étè  ɔ̀     fɔ̀    sɛ́              ɔ̀    nɔ̀.
    Sàbúkí.          take  plate  DEF  put    chair OBLQ DEF  on.
    "Sàbúkí put the plate on the chair."

There are two participants in (20) as in (11a), (12a), (13a), (14) and (17). These are *Sàbúkí* and *plɛ̀étè ɔ̀* "the plate". *Sàbúkí* is the subject for the phrasal verb *kɛ̀ fɔ̀* "take put".  The postpositional phrase *sɛ́ ɔ̀ nɔ̀* "on the chair" indicates the new location of the theme. The subject is responsible for the change of location of the object, *plɛ̀étè ɔ̀* "the plate". This change of position would not have happened at (t₂) if *Sàbúkí* has not initiated an action which moves the object at an earlier time (t₁). The sentence denotes that (x), *Sàbúkí* in (17) changed the location of (y), *plɛ̀étè* "plate" by placing it not at its original point but on the chair, *sɛ́ ɔ̀ nɔ̀.*

21. Yàò                    **kɛ̀**          sìká   à    **fɔ̀**          òkplɔ̀ɔ ɔ̀   nɔ̀.
    Yaw              take          money DEF put              table   DEF top
    "Yaw put the money on top of the table."

In (21), *Yàò,* the subject of the clause changed the position of *sìká à* "the money" by moving it from an unexpressed location to on to the table. *Yàò* is therefore the agent of *kè fɔ̀* "put" and *sìká á* "the money" is the undergoer of the action initiated by *Yàò.* The original location of the *sìká á* "the money" in sentence (21), has been changed by the action of the subject. *Yàò's* action is expressed by the phrasal verb *kɛ…fɔ* "put" and the postpositional phrase *òkplɔ̀ɔ ɔ̀ nɔ̀* "on the top of the table."

It is observed that sentences (19-21) make use of the lexical verb *wò* and the phrasal verb *kè fɔ̀* both translating as "put" and *tsì nyà* "detain" in (21) and (22) to express cause which move objects from one location to another. The structure of the verb *kè fɔ̀* "put" and *tsì nyà* "detain" have an order in the syntax where the object is moved in between the two locative verbs (pre-posed) as discussed earlier in this paper. Each of the actions expressed are triggered off by subjects whose earlier actions resulted in relocating the objects.

22. Dɔ́kìtà à **tsì** Màámlé **nyà ngɛ́ tsámì hé ɔ̀**.
    Doctor DEF detain Màámlé body-part at hospital.OBLQ place DEF
    "The doctor detained Màámlé at the hospital."

Change of location verbs also expresses various degrees in direct and indirect causative. These verbs typically express movement, manner and path or goal. Path or goal information is expressed by locative nouns. The kind of change this type of verbs denotes is physical. Verbs of change of location in Dangme can be in the form of phrasal verbs. These include:

23. (a) *mà fo kè jè*           (b)    *tè kè jè*
    "run race move leave"              "fly move leave"

    (c) *tè sì      kè   jè*       (d)  *nyɛ́ɛ́ kè hò*
    "get up/wake up move leave"         "walk move go"

    (e) *tlòó kè  bè (kè   hò)*     (f)   *wo zí*
    "carry move pass (move go")          "vanish"

    (g) *lá   kè   jè/bà/hò*       (h)   *jè   kè   bà/yà*
    "sing move leave/come/go"             "leave move come/go"

Consider the basic sentences and causative sentences that express a change of location in Dangme. The basic sentences are non-causative.

24. (a) Dèdé **mà    fo   kè    jè   Sékésùá.**
    Dèdé   run.AOR race move away from Sékésùá.
    "Dèdé ran away from Sékésùá."
    (b) Tsɔ̀ɔ́lɔ̀ ɔ´ **há**      Dèdé **mà fo kè jè Sékésùá.**
    Teacher DET make.AOR Dèdé run race move from Sékésùá.
    "The teacher caused Dèdé to run away from Sékésùá."

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25. (a)  Òkó **tè**     **sì kɛ̀**   **jè**   **è**        máhé ɔ̀   mì.
     Òkó wake.AOR up move from 3SG.OBJ.POSS   sleep DEF   inside
     "Òkó woke up."


    (b)  Ngmlàá à **há**     Òkó$_j$ **tè**   **sì**   **kɛ̀**    **jè**   è$_j$
     Noise    DEF make.AOR Oko$_j$ wake   up    move   from 3SG$_j$.OBJ.POSS

     máhé ɔ̀   mì.
     sleep DEF   inside
     "The noise caused Oko to wake up from his sleep."


In examples (24a) *Dèdé* is the subject of the predicate, *mà fo* "run". The intransitive sentence in (24a) though declarative, does not express any causative meaning. Thus, it has not pointed out any cause of the action of *mà fo* "run" undergone by the subject, *Dèdé* in the syntax.

Example (24b) however, has two clauses. A cause clause, (i) *tsɔ̀ɔ́lɔ̀ ɔ́ há* "the teacher make" and the result clause, (ii) *Dèdé mà fo kɛ̀ jè Sékésùá* "Dèdé run away from Sékésùá". *Tsɔ̀ɔ́lɔ̀ ɔ́* is the subject and actor of the predicate, *há* and *Dèdé* is the subject-Undergoer of *mà fo* "run race" expressed in the second clause of result in (ii). The verb phrase *mà fo* designates a change of position initiated by the subject-agent, *tsɔ̀ɔ́lɔ̀ ɔ́*. This sentence expresses two actions in a process. Firstly, the object "run" *mà fo* from a place, *Sékésùá* and then "moved away" *kɛ̀ jè* "move from" to a second position not expressed by the syntax. *Sékésùá* is a locative noun that indicates the location of the object at (t$_1$). This verb of motion in (24b) implies volition, energy exertion and control. Change of position indicated in (24a) has not expressed any causer but (24b) falls in the domain of direct causation.

Sentence (25a), just as (24a), is a simple declarative one that has the phrasal verb *tè sì* "wake up" which designates a change of position. On the other hand, (25b) is bi-clausal, a cause clause, (i) *ngmlàá à há* "the noise cause" and a result clause, (ii) *Òkó$_j$ tè sì kɛ̀ jè è$_j$ máhé ɔ̀ mì* an expressed causer *ngmlàá à* "the noise" as the subject of the sentence. *Òkó$_j$* is the patient of cause of *há* and the subject of the result clause. The verb phrase, *tè sì kɛ̀ jè* "woke up from" expresses two actions involved in a process. Firstly, the object "woke up" *tè sì* from a position of lying and then "moved from" *kɛ̀ jè*, *máhé ɔ̀ mì* "from sleep" the second position. *Máhé ɔ̀ mì* is a postpositional phrase denoting the location of object at (t$_1$). *Ngmlàá à* in the cause clause of (i), is responsible for the change in the position express by *tè sì kɛ̀ jè* "woke up, moved from". The result clause in (ii) is the sentential complement of *há*. Constructions (26a-27b) give us examples of specified new locations of the objects.

26.      Àdú há   nɛ́    dɔ́kità   ko     **jè Akosombo ba    tsá**
     Àdú make COMP doctor   INDEF   from Akosombo come   heal

     è            huno    ɔ̀.
     3SG.POSS   husband DEF
     Àdú made a doctor move from **Akosombo** to heal her husband

"Àdú caused a doctor to move from Akosombo to heal her husband."
(Asante 1972, p.33)

27. (a) Ehìmó há Nàtɛ̀ **tlòó** mádàá **kɛ̀** **jè** Òbényɛ̀mí
Ehìmó make Nàtɛ̀ carry plantain move from Òbényɛ̀mí

**kɛ̀** **yā** **Mãnyàkpōngúnɔ.**
move to Mãnyàkpōngúnɔ
"Ehìmó made Nàtɛ̀ carried plantain from Òbényɛ̀mí to Mãnyàkpōngúnɔ."

(b) Akrobettoe **mane** kénámí **kɛ̀** **jè** Asɛ̀sɛ̀wá **yā há Tɛ̀ɛ̀ ngɛ̀ Àdàá**.
Akrobettoe send fried fish move from Asɛ̀sɛ̀wá go give Tɛ̀ɛ̀ at Àdàá
"Akrobbettoe sent some fried fish from Asɛ̀sɛ̀wa to Teye at Ada."

As in (25), example (26) has two clauses, a cause clause and a result clause. *Àdú* is the subject and the initiator of the discontinuous VP *jè… ba tsá* "leave…come heal" in the embedded clause of result. The verb phrase of the embedded clause, *jè… ba tsá* entails movement from one location to another location, that is, from *Akosombo* to an unspecified destination. *Dɔkità ko* "a doctor", is the subject of the second clause and the entity that *Àdú* has caused to relocate. *È huno ɔ̀* "her husband" is the object of *tsá* "heal", the new state of the object-patient, and the result of *há* "make", while *Akosombo* is the adverb of place. This implies that, *Àdú huno ɔ̀* "Adu's husband" would not have been healed at that particular time ($t_2$) if the intermediary subject, *dɔkità ko* "a doctor" has not at an earlier time ($t_1$) moved from the said location, *Akosombo* to the new location (not specified in the syntax) to treat him.

We observe that examples (27a-b) entail movement of the direct objects *mádàá* "plantain" in (27a) and *kénámí* "fried fish" in (27b) from one location to the other. In (27a), the direct object, *mádàá* "plantain" changes location from *Òbényɛ̀mí*, the original base to a new location, *Mãnyàkpōngúnɔ* as a result of *Nàtɛ̀* carrying it from its original location at an earlier time one ($t_1$). Similarly, *kénámí* "fried fish"; the direct object of construction (27b) is relocated from *Asɛ̀sɛ̀wá* to *Àdàá,* the new location.

## Conclusion

This paper explored the formation of locative constructions in four categories in Dangme; the use of the postpositional class, nouns that function to indicate location and direction to places, positional verbs and verbs of change of location that occur with postpositions and adverbs of location in locative constructions in Dangme. The data showed that postpositions and locative nouns mainly express location in Dangme.

The paper revealed that locative constructions in Dangme can take the form of postpositions which are made up of an NP and locative morphemes: *mi* "inside", *se* "back", *nɔ/ hiɔwe* "top", *kpɛti* "middle", *he* "side", *nya* "edge of, *tue* "edge", *sisi* "down"; and locative nouns such as *zùgbá* "ground", *híɛ́ ɔ* "here", `*lējɛ́ ɔ* "there",

*bōká* "east", *ànέ* "west", *wò mì blɔ̄* "south" and *yìtí màjè* "north". The data have shown that *bōká* "east". *ànέ* "west". *wò mì blɔ̄* "south" and *yìtí màjè* "north" can be used to mark cardinal relations in locative constructions as exemplified in (6). In dealing with the locative NP *híέ ɔ`* "here" and *lējέ ɔ* "there", it is observed that each of these NPs can occur with adverb of time as an object of a locative construction as in (4a-4b) and (5a-5b).

In dealing with verbs, it has been shown that in Dangme, there are quite a number of locative predicates used to express causation. They specify the positions or locations assumed by entities. Some of these verbs could however, refer to a number of postures such as sitting, *hìí sì*, standing *dàá sì,* lying, *hwɔɔ sì,* hanging, leaning against something *kpásà sì,* kneeling, *kplãã´ sí*, squatting, *sɔɔ sí* that the object may have assumed. These posture verbs signal the relationship between the objects and the ground which is expressed in Dangme by *si* "down". It is to be noted that in Dangme, a locative morpheme or phrase can co-occur with a positional verb in a construction to express the position of an animate or an inanimate entity at a location. Positional or locative causative verbs indicate re-location of the object in a sentence. In other words, they are characterised by motion.

It is also observed that the verbs of change of location: *kè fɔ̀* "put", *wò* "put" *tsì nyà* "detain" are used to indicate a re-location of the object in a sentence. Each of these transitive verbs indicates various positions assumed by the object of the clause. The said positions are complemented by postpositions such as *zùgbá* "on the ground", *mwɔ´ mì* "into prison cell", *nɔ̀* "on", *ngέ tsámì hé* "at the hospital", *gbògbò ɔ̀ hè* "by the wall". In the intransitive clauses, the themes assume the subject's positions of their respective clauses because the subject positions are not filled. They result in the change of location in the objects.

In conclusion, the Dangme locative constructions are composed from the basic locative construction, a construction with a set of nouns that function to indicate location and direction to places and verbs of position and verbs of change of location that function in the basic locative constructions to indicate the location of entities. It is to be noted that postposition and locative nouns mainly express location in Dangme. The postposition class can take the form of a word or a phrase. The phrase is made up of an NP and locative morphemes: *mi* "inside"*, se* "back"*, nɔ/hiɔwe* "top"*, kpɛti* "middle"*, he "*side" *nya "*edge of, *tue* "edge" and *sisi* "down"*.* A locative morpheme or phrase can co-occur with a positional verb in a construction to express the position of an entity at a location. The findings of the paper will add up to the limited literature on the language and to the study of locative constructions universally.

### Abbreviations

| ADJ | Adjective |
|-----|-----------|
| ADV | Adverb |
| AOR | Aorist |
| CAUSE | Causative |
| DEF | Definite Article |
| FOC | Focus |

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| | |
|---|---|
| FUT | Future |
| HAB | Habitual |
| IPFT | Imperfective |
| NP | Noun Phrase |
| OBJ | Object |
| OBLQ | Oblique |
| PERF | Perfective |
| POSS | Possessive |
| PL | Plural |
| PROG | Progressive |
| PRT | Particle |
| QP | Question Particle |
| $t_1$ | The Time of the Event |
| $t_2$ | After a Given Earlier Time |
| V | Verb |
| VP | Verb Phrase |
| x | First Argument/Subject Actor/Instrument at Subject Position |
| y | Argument of the Verb/Object Undergoer |
| z | Intermediary Actor/Causer |
| 1SG | First Person Singular |
| 1PL | First Person Plural |
| 2PL | Second Person Plural |
| 3PL | Third Person Plural |
| 3SG.OBJ | Third Person Singular Object |
| 3SG.POSS | Third Person Singular Object Possessive Pronoun |
| j/k/i | Referential Indices |

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**APPENDIX A**

Pictures in Appendix A represents photos pointing at some locative positions in Dangme discussed in the paper. They are labeled as LOCP.

1. A dog under a tree. (LOCP1)



2. Some people eating at an entrance of a door. (LOCP2)



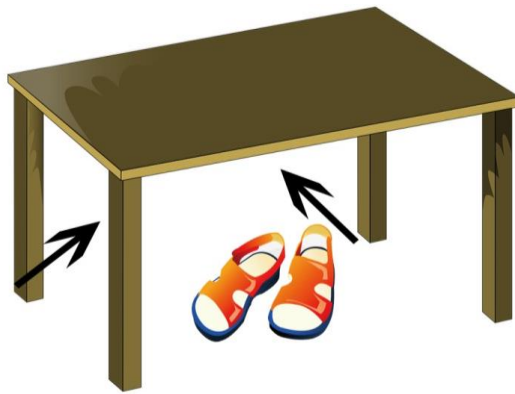3. A bag in a box.( LOCP3)



4. A teacher at the river bank.( LOCP4)

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5.  A cat on a roof top. (LOCP5)



6.  A cup on the surface of water.( LOCP6)



7.  A pair of sandals under a table. (LOCP7)

8.  A nice car parked in front of a house.( LOCP8)



https://www.bing.com/images/search/

**APPENDIX B**

Pictures under this section represent various positions and postures of entities discussed in Dangme.  Each of these photos is prefixed with PPOS...

1.  A man sitting on a chair. (PPOS1)



2.  A baby lying down on a mat. (PPOS2)



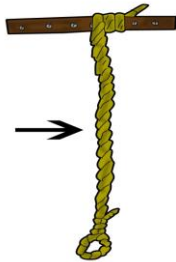3.  Someone at a kneeling position. (PPOS3)



4. A man at a squatting position. (PPOS4)



5. A man leaning against a wall. (PPOS5)

6. A rope hanging on something. (PPOS6)



7. A ladder leaning against a wall. (PPOS7)



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8. A lady at a standing position. (PPOS8)