APPENDICES

Below follow lists of Ga (Appendix 1) and Norwegian (Appendix 2) constructions annotated relative to the principles and methods of the system as laid out in sections I and V, and using the labels defined in sections II, III and IV.

Although in these appendices the glossing is rather compact, most of the examples have been entered in the database TypeCraft (www.typecraft.org), where they can be inspected for more detailed glossing and annotation. Appendix 3 provides a guide to how to access this database, and an example of a search.

What is presented here, through the main text and the appendices, is a system on which research can be based – we have refrained from making comparative or other analytic statements about the phenomena covered. Only one point may be made, on the occasion of the construction lists for Ga and Norwegian occurring here juxtaposed:

In any genealogical tree of languages of the world, these languages would be miles (branches) apart. Yet, in the spirit of modern linguistics and conceptions of ‘universal grammar’, one might expect that despite such distances in genealogy, assemblies of verb construction types in the two languages would show a significant degree of overlap. As a preliminary observation, it is therefore of interest to note that among all the types represented in the following two appendices, only three types overlap1 – all of the other nearly 200 of each language are not shared by the other.

Obviously, comparing the Ga list with a similar list for Akan or Ewe, or other West African languages, would display much overlap, as would a comparison of the Norwegian list with lists for other Germanic languages. What the overlap areas may be, however, up and down branches of genealogical and areal networks, is hopefully what the present system may be of aid in revealing.

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1 Identifying them is left as an exercise for the reader.
Appendix 1: LIST OF GA VERB CONSTRUCTION TYPES

The list given below makes no claims to completeness. It is probably fairly representative of Ga verb constructions, but it does not include interrogative or focus constructions. Nor are the templates as given necessarily final, but they are intended to embody the principles and methods of the system as laid out in sections I and V. Problems and possible alternatives are discussed following particular examples.

For the sake of consistency, and possible so-far unrecognized relevance, the tense-aspect marking of each verb is indicated in the glossing, but this is not always reflected in slot 1 since it is rarely considered a characterising feature of a construction. It is mainly indicated in slot 1 labels for intransitives, since it seems to be in PROPERTY, STATE, and PHENOMENON constructions, which are often intransitive, that it is most likely to be relevant.

It may be noted that for most constructions in which the object is or includes a verb-last nominalization (nomvL) the final label in CAPS is in slot 5 (Aspektionsart), not slot 6. Both 5 and 6 are rarely filled in any of the templates given because it has not normally seemed necessary, although there is no obvious reason why they should not be. The labels for these slots are less well established than most of the others, and so we occasionally comment on them.

Intransitive:

The first four templates below can be considered basic to the language and to intransitive expressions in the language. Other intransitive templates are essentially elaborations of these four.

\texttt{v-intr-suActivated-ACTIVATION}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{E-tsine}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item 3S.AOR-sneeze
    \end{itemize}
  \end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item ‘She sneezed.’
\end{itemize}

\texttt{v-intr-suAg-COMMUNICATION}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{Ee-fle}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item 3S.PROG-.retort
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item ‘He was answering back.’
\end{itemize}

\texttt{v-intr-suAgmover-MOTION}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{Kofi ba}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item K AOR.come
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item ‘Kofi came’
\end{itemize}

\texttt{v-intr-suTh-ACTIVATION}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{Shikpon le hosø}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item earth DEF AOR.shake
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item ‘The earth quaked, there was an earthquake.’
\end{itemize}

\texttt{v-intr-suTh-PHENOM}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{Nugbo ne}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item heaven AOR.rained
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item ‘It rained’
\end{itemize}

\texttt{v-intr-suTh-PROPTYASCR}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{Te le wa}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item stone DEF AOR.is.hard
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item ‘The stone is hard’
\end{itemize}

\texttt{vAor-intr-suTh-STATE}
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{Shinaa le kà}
  \begin{itemize}
    \item door DEF AOR.open
  \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
  \item ‘The door is open.’
\end{itemize}
Slot 6 indicates that being black is here regarded as an established property and not a transient state. The same construction could indicate a regularly changing or alternating state, but in that case the slot 6 label would have to be changed to reflect this.

A generic property is one that is considered inherent in the item, and so represents a normal condition.

Perhaps two templates are necessary for this sentence: the one given above, for an interpretation according to which being dry is considered the normal condition of the dress, not due to a change, and another with \textsc{State} in slot 6 to take care of the interpretation according to which it was recently wet but is now dry. It is not clear in what way the aspect of the verb is relevant to this – see ‘It is black’ above.

Notice that in this case ‘dryness’ is not a property of the argument at all, but of a final state of affairs. In physics, when water dries it changes state from liquid to vapour, but in ordinary thinking it simply disappears, rather than changing state. Therefore, the situation type label \textsc{Endstate} has been used instead of \textsc{ChangeofState}, on the assumption that this is what people speaking Ga generally mean.

Perhaps the main distinction between this expression, which is labelled a Psychological State, and the preceding lies in the Aktionsart – being angry is normally a dynamic and unstable event (as is being confused, in ‘The man is confused’ four lines above), The nature of the Ga expression for “happy”, employing as it does a verb that basically means ‘stay’ or ‘remain’, suggests that it expresses something conceptualized as a maintained, steady state.

The emotion of being angry is expressed as reddening of the eye of the person who feels the emotion. Thus the experiencer of the emotion appears not as the subject but as the specifier (possessor) of the affected body part, which is the syntactic subject.

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It is not really clear why the verb is habitual in this example but not in the preceding one, unless perhaps the sea being cool is regarded as more subject to change than a person being kind.

vPrf-intr-suPostp-suLocus-PROPTYESTABD

E-he é-jo
3S.POSS-self PERF-cool ‘It [non-empty] is cool’

vPrf-intr-suPostp_suUnif-suLocus-PROPTYESTABD

Kakla le nna e-ba
knife the edge PERF-come ‘The knife is sharp’.

The subject is said to be unified with the verb because the verb ba cannot mean ‘be sharp’ without an argument that refers to something with an edge. As in many other property constructions displayed this reference is not expressed by the head of the argument (in this case the Subject), but by its specifier.

v-intr-suPostp_suUnifSpecPossp_suUnifSpecBP_suUnifSpecSpec-suLocus-PROPTY

E-tsui nna wa
3S.POSS-heart edge AOR.hard ‘He is brave’.

v-intrComp-compDECLbare_suIDcompSu-suAg_obThsit-ABILITY

Mi-ny-ɛ mi-ŋma-a mi-gbe
1S-able-HAB 1S-write-HAB 1SPOSS-name ‘I can write my name.’

v-intrComp-compIRRcmp_suIDcompSu-suAg-MOTIONDIRECTED

Yoo le é-tee ni é-yá-hé wolo le
woman1 DEF PERF-go COMP 3S1.SBJV-EGR.SBJV-buy book DEF ‘The woman has gone to buy the book’

v-intrComp-compIRRcmp_suIDcompSu-suAgintent-ABILITY

Wɔ-nyɛ ni wɔ-ŋba
1P-able-HAB COMP 1P.SBJV-come ‘We are able to come’

It seems to be a requirement of the verb meaning ‘be able to’ that its subject have identical reference with the subject of its Complement clause.

v-intrImpersComp-suExpl_compDECLcmp-NEED

E-hia ake ame-feɛ
3S.AOR.need COMP 3S.AOR-do ‘It is necessary that they do (it).’

This is the only construction so far in which there is nothing to put in slot 4 – the subject is ‘expletive’ and so not an argument, and the complement clause is not an object, since it cannot be pronominalized, although perhaps it could be said to have a role of some sort such as ‘Thematic situation abstract’.

vPrf-intrScpr-scResIncrm_scAdj-suTh-PROPTYESTABD

Maŋo le e-tsu heluu
mango DEF PERF-redden red ‘The mango is ripe, red’.

The secondary predicate, the adjective heluu, expresses the idea that the ripeness of the mango is the result of incremental change.

v-intrScpr-scAdj-suAg-PROPTYDYN

E-fe-ɔ dioo
3S-make-HAB quiet ‘He became quiet-mannered’
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vProg-tr-suEff_obAffinrcm-EXPER

Fei mii-ye le
cold PROG-eat him
‘He is cold’

Of course the person who is cold is not being literally devoured, but the use of the verb meaning ‘eat’ indicates that the effect of cold on the experiencer is incremental.

v-tr-suExper_obEndpt-COGNITION

Beni mi-ya-hele shi le...
when 1S.AOR-EGR.AOR-realize down TOP
‘Before I realized…’

v-tr-suPoss_obThAbst-PROPTY

E-ye hewale
3S-AOR.have health
‘He is healthy.’

v-tr-suPossAbst_obLoc-PROPTY

Sane le ye mli
matter DEF AOR.have inside
‘The story is true’

v-tr-suSens_obPercpt-PERCPT

Mi-na wolo le
1S-AOR.see book DEF
‘I saw the book’

v-tr-suTh_obEndpt-REDUCTION

Kofi ba shi
K AOR.come down
‘Kofi lost weight’

v-tr-suIDobSpec_obPossp_obBPobSpec-suAg_obAff-PSYCHSTATE

Kofi mii-ye e-tsui
K PROG-eat 3S.POSS-heart
‘Kofi is worried.’

v-tr-suIDobSpec_obPostp-suAg_obLoc-WASHING

E-baa-bule e-he
3S1-INGR.FUT-purify 3S1.POSS-self
‘She will purify herself.’

v-tr-suIDobSpecSpec_obPostp_obSpecPostp-suAg_obLocus-COLLECT

Ame-bua ame-he naa
3P1-AOR.assemble 3P1-self edge
‘They assembled.’

v-tr-suPossp_suBPspec_suSpec-suLocsuSpec-suLocus_obExp-EXPER

Mí-hic di mi
1S1.POSS-face black 1S1
‘I am dizzy.’

v-tr-suPostp-suLocus_obThAbst-PROPTY

E-he ye fco
3S.POSS-self AOR.have beauty
‘She is beautiful’

v-tr-suPostp-suLocus_obLoc-PROPTYDYN

E-naa ba shi
3S.POSS-edge AOR.come down
‘It lessened, was reduced’

v-tr-suPostp_obIDsuSpec-suLocus_obExp-EXPER

E-he ẹkọ le
3S1.POSS-self AOR.sweet 3S1
‘He is ticklish’
v-tr-suPostp_obPostp-suActivated_obThloc-SUCCEEDING
   E-naa e-homɔ niŋmaa le nɔ
3S.POSS-edge PERF-master writing DEF surface
   ‘She has mastered the art of writing.’

v-tr-suPostp_obUnif-suLocus_obEndstate-PROPTYESTABD
   E-he e-bɔŋ kanale
3S.POSS-self PERF-create rust
   ‘It has got rusty, is rusty.’

v-tr-suSpecIDobSpec_suBPsuSpec-suTh_obEndpt-PSYCHSTATE
   E-mii ë-shɛ e-he
3S1.POSS-throat PERF-reach 3S1.POSS-self
   ‘He is happy’

v-tr-obBPsu-suPoss_obTh-PROPTY
   E-yɛ tsui
3S-AOR.have heart
   ‘He is patient’

v-tr-obPostp-suAg_obTh-CARETAKING
   E-baa ame-yi
3S-protect 3P.POSS-head
   ‘She protected them’

v-tr-obPostp-suAg-obLocus-CONTINUATION
   Wɔ-hie gbi le mli
1P.AOR-hold day DEF inside
   ‘We are managing for the day.’

Note that if the specifier of the postposition is unexpressed, as in the common response to the greeting
Te tɛŋŋ? ‘how is it going?’ – Wɔ hi ɛ mli – a relevant period of time is the implied specifier of mli.²

v-tr-obPostp-suAgmover_obEndpt-MOTIONDIRECTED
   Kofi tee yara nɔ
K AOR.go funeral on
   ‘Kofi went to the funeral’

v-tr-obPostp-suAgsens_obLocus-COGNITION
   E-nu sane le shishi
3S-AOR.sense matter DEF underneath
   ‘She understood the problem’

v-tr-obPostp-suAgeff_obLocus-
   Gbeke le gbe kakla le naa
child DEF AOR.kill knife DEF edge
   ‘The child made the knife blunt.’

v-tr-obPostp-suEff_obLocus-EXPER
   E-ŋɔɔ mi-naa
3S-AOR.tasty 1S.POSS-edge
   ‘It pleased me’

v-tr-obPostp-suSens_obLocus-PERCPT
   E-nu o-he
3S-AOR.sense 2S.POSS-self
   ‘He heard about you’

v-tr-obPostp-suStartpt_obLoc-COMPARISONEQUATIVE
   E-gbe-ɔ nye-ŋɔ le nɔ
3S-fall-HAB 2P.POSS-thing DEF surface
   ‘It coincides with yours.’

v-tr-obPostp-suTh_obLocus-DEPEND
   E-damɔ e-ŋɔ
3S-AOR.stand 3S.POSS-top
   ‘It depends on him.’

² Thanks to Mrs. Patience Obeng for this insight.
v-tr-obPostp_obSpecBPobSpecSpec-suAg_obLoc-COMMUNICATION

Mi-wo ame-toi nɔ
1S.AOR-raise 3P.POSS-ear on 'I informed them of it.'
The object head, which is the postposition nɔ, has a specifier that is a body part (ear) of its specifier, ame 'their'.

vHab-trLght-obUnif-suAg_obThAbst-PROPTYGEN

E-fe-ɔ hejɔ
3S-do-HAB laziness 'He is lazy.'

v-tr-obUnif-suAgsens_obLocus-PERCPT

Wɔ-bo toi
1S-AOR.listen ear 'We listened.'

v-tr-obSpecPostp-suSens_obPercpt-SENSATION

E-nu kooloo le he fu
3S-AOR.sense animal DEF self smell 'He smelled the animal'

v-tr-obDECLcmp-suSens_obPrcsit-PERCPT

Mi-na ake e-ye jeme
1S-AOR.see COMP 3S-AOR.be there 'I saw that he was there'
The object is a declarative clause introduced by a complementizer, which has the role of a perceived situation.

v-tr-obIRRcmp-suAgintent_obThsit-INTENT

M-a-suma ni Akwele a-ye nii
1S-SBJV-like COMP A. SBJV-eat things 'I want Akwele to eat'
In this situation, which is one of intention, the object clause has irrealis aspect.

v-tr-obIRRbare-suAgintent_obThsit-INTENT

Mii-tao é-ba
1S.PROG-want 3S.SBJV-come 'I want him to come'
This construction is similar to the above except that the object clause is not introduced by a complementizer.

v-tr-suIDobSu_obNomvL-suAg_obThsit-INCHOATIVE

E-bɔi ame-bi-mɔ
3S-AOR.begin 3P.POSS-ask-NOM 'He began asking them.'

v-tr-suIDobSu_obNomvL-suAg_obThsit-CESSATION

Ame-fɔɔ daa to-ɔ
3P-AOR.cease drink-exhaust-NOM 'They stopped getting drunk'

v-tr-suIDobSu_obNomvL-suAg_obThsit-DOFREQUENTLY

Mi-fɔɔ ɔ-shi-bi-mɔ
1S-do.often-HAB 2S.POSS-down-ask-NOM 'I often ask after you'
Since the object is a nominalized clause it has a logical subject, which in this case (and typically of aspectual verbs in Ga) is the syntactic subject of the head verb.

v-tr-suPossp_suSpecIDob-suEff_obSens-EXPER

E-tsuinaa mii-funta le
3S.POSS-desire PROG-nauseate 3S 'She feels sick, nauseous.'
Note that this is a case where an argument (the subject) is expressed as the possession of its specifier, but is not its body part.
In this case the subject (mi) of the object’s specifier (kase-mɔ) (which is also the specifier of the object’s specifier) is identical with the subject of the head verb – compare the example before the previous, where there is no postposition.

The object is labelled formally as a verb-last nominalization, although in this particular example the nominalized verb has no object.

In this interesting construction, the subject and object of the head verb have identical reference with the subject and object of the extraposed clause, although in the extraposed clause the object is not phonetically expressed. The subjunctive aspect of the verb in the extraposed clause is also constrained by the future (irrealis) feature of the head verb.

The phonetically unrealized specifier of the postposition (represented in the gloss by PRO) is the subject under discussion, or what the interlocutor said.
vHab-trImpers-suExpl_obNomvL_obIntrComp-DOFREQUENTLY

E-fɔ́-ka-a akɛ aме-бa-a бiɛ
3S-frequently-HAB stick-NOM COMP 3P-come-HAB here

‘It often happens that they come here’

This might look like another case where the aspect of the second clause is constrained by that in the first. However, the clause beginning with akɛ is the complement of the nominalized verb ka-a ‘sticking’ which is the object of the head verb, and not the complement of the head verb itself.

v-trVid-suAg_obAffincrem_vidObTrgt-COMPARISONCOMPARATIVE

E-ye lоо fe mi
3S-AOR.eat meat surpass 1S
‘She ate more meat than me.’

v-trVid-vidObBPvidObSpec-suAg_obTh_vidObLoc-ACQUISITION

E-mа wоlо le ye mи-dе
3S-AOR.borrow book DEF be.at 1SPOSS-hand

‘She borrowed the book from me.’

v-trVid-obPostp_vidObBPvidObSpec-suAg_obTop_vidObLoc-ASKINGABOUT

Wо-bи о-naаnеmе-и a-shi ye е-dе-ŋ
1P-AOR.ask 2S.POSS-friend-P ASSOC-down AOR.be 3S.POSS-hand-LOC

‘We asked him about your friends.’

v-trVid-obPostp_obSpecIDvidObSpec-suAg_obLocus_vidObLoc-INCREMENTALRESULT-EXPER

E-fо mli ye e-blaye-аŋ
3S-AOR.cut PRO.POSS inside be.at 3S.POSS-youngwomen-LOC

‘She has gone through her young-womanhood/puberty.’

In this construction the covert specifier of the postposition mli, glossed here as PRO.POSS, is the period of time during which the experience took place.³ It thus in effect has an aspectual function, and is represented in Slot 5 as INCREMENTALRESULT.

v-trVid-vidObPostp-suMover_obEndpt_vidObLocus-CHANGESTATUS

O-gbee shi ye аsaфо mli le
2S-fall down be.at organization inside DEF
‘You lost your status in the organization,’

v-trVid-vidObPostp-suExper_obLoc_vidObStartpt-CONSCIOUSNESS

E-heле shи ye wо mli
3S.AOR.realize down be.at sleep inside

‘She woke up with a start.’

v-trVid-vidObPostp-suAg_obTh_vidObStartpt-MOTIONCAUSED

Mi-wо kukwеlе ye lа lе nо
1S.AOR-collect pot DEF AOR.be at fire DEF surface
‘I took the pot from the fire.’

v-trVid-obUnif-suAg_obTh_vidObLoc-ASSUMELOCATION

Ame-bа-бо аде ye Ga
3P-INGR.AOR.do thing be at Accra

‘They came to settle permanently in Accra.’

It is only in combination with аде that бо means ‘settle’, so object and verb are unified. Since settling implies settling somewhere, the locative expression is considered to be part of the construction template.

³ Thanks again to Patience Obeng for useful discussion.
**Ditransitive:**

\[ \text{v-ditr-suAg\_obTrgt\_ob2Content-COMMUNICATION} \]

**A-bu le bem**

3.AOR-declare 3S innocence

‘He was declared innocent.’

\[ \text{v-ditr-suAg\_iobRec\_obTh-TRANSFER} \]

**E-ha mi shika**

3S-AOR.give 1S money

‘He gave me money’

Note that in this example, representing a fundamental template of the language, the first object, the recipient, is labelled ‘indirect object’, indicating that the second is the direct object, but in the preceding example, which also represents a basic template, the objects are merely given sequential labels, object and object2. This is mainly because the transfer event is clearly directed at the recipient, but the communication event above is not obviously directed at the first object, which seems to be the target of the content of the communication, but not necessarily of the communication event itself. However it would probably not be wrong to use the same convention for both.

\[ \text{v-ditr-suAg\_obTrgt\_ob2Loc-COMMUNICATION} \]

**Mii-da bo shi**

1S.PROG-thank 2S down

‘I thank you.’

\[ \text{v-ditr-suAg\_iobTrgt\_obThmover-COMMUNICATION} \]

**E-fɔ mi nine**

3S.AOR-throw 1S hand

‘She waved to me; invited me.’

\[ \text{v-ditr-suAg\_obAff\_ob2Instr-CUTTING} \]

**Nuu le bان le klane**

man DEF AOR.slash 3S cutlass

‘The man slashed him with a cutlass.’

\[ \text{v-ditr-suAg\_obLoc\_ob2Res-CUTTING} \]

**Nuu le bان mi-hie gbe**

man DEF AOR.slash 3S.POSS-face scar

‘The man cut marks on my face.’

Note that although the second object is a body part, in this construction that fact is not a feature of the construction—it could have been something else—and so it is not labelled as such.

\[ \text{v-ditr-suAg\_obTh\_ob2Instr-PENETRATION} \]

**E-gbu le kakła**

3S.AOR-pierce 3S knife

‘He stabbed him with a knife.’

\[ \text{vHab-ditr-suNrg\_ob2DECLcmp\_obSens\_ob2Thsit-COGNITION} \]

**E-fe-ɔ mi ake noko be mli**

3S-do-HAB 1S COMP something is.not inside

‘It seems to me that it isn’t true’

The subject of the sentence, e ‘it’, has a syntactic role in the construction but does not contribute to the meaning of the sentence, hence it is not regarded as an argument and has no semantic role.

\[ \text{v-ditr-obPostp-suAg\_obEndpt\_ob2Th-PLACEMENT} \]

**Ame-wo tsәне le mli yele**

3P-AOR.put vehicle DEF in yam

‘They put yams in the lorry.’

\[ \text{v-ditr-obPostp-suAg\_obLocus\_ob2Instr-CARETAKING} \]

**Ô-fo he afabaŋ**

2S.PERF-cut PRO.POSS self fence

‘You have protected it.’

In this example the specifier of the postposition he has no phonetic expression, as is the rule with 3rd person non-human, non-subject pronouns in this language in most circumstances.
v-ditr-obPostp-suAg_obLocus-ob2Th-REMOVAL
E-fɔfɔa e-he shia le
3S.AOR-rinse 3S.POSS self sand DEF ‘She washed off the sand.’

v-ditr-suIDobSpec-obPostp_ob2DECLcmp-suAg_obLoc-ob2Thsit-COGNITION
E-fee e-yi-ŋ ake wɔ-baa-fee noko
3S₁-AOR.do 3S₁.POSS-head-LOC COMP 1P-INGR.FUT-do something
‘She decided that we will do something.’

v-ditr-obUnif-suAgsens_iobTrgt_obTh-PERCPT
Wɔ-bo le toi
1S-AOR.listen 3S ear ‘We listened to him’

v-ditr-obUnif-suAgsens_iobTrgt_obContent-EMOTIONDIRECTED
O-na le mɔbɔ
2S-AOR.see 3S pity ‘You pitied him’

v-ditr-suIDobSpec_obPostp_ob2Unif-suAgsens_ob2Locus_obTh-PERCEPTION
Wɔ-bo wɔ-he toi
1P₁-AOR.listen 1P₁-body ear ‘We were expectant’

v-ditr-ob2Unif-suAg_obAff_ob2Eventunit-DESTRUCTION
A-baa-gbe bo shika gbele
3S-INGR.FUT-kill 2S money death
‘You will be fined; it will cost you a great deal of money’

v-ditrComp-compIRRcmp-suAg_iobRec_obThAbst-PERMISSION
Ashɔŋ ha mì gbɛ nl ma-ba
A, AOR.give 1S way COMP 1S.FUT-come
‘Ashong gave me permission to come.’

v-ditrVid-suIDob2SpecSpec_obIDvidObSpec_ob2SpecPostp-suAg_obTrgt-ob2Th-vidObLoc-REMOVAL
E-fo wɔ e-he shika ye wɔ-de-ŋ
3S₁.AOR-cut 1P₁ 3S₁.POSS-self money be.at 1P₁-hand-LOC
‘She collected her money from us.’

Copula verb:
Ga has only one copula verb, with a very restricted construction range.

v-copN-PROPTY
Tsɔɔlɔ ji le
teacher BE 3S ‘He is a teacher’.

Extended verb complex:
ev_suAg-pv1ltr-pv1obEventunit-vtr-obPostp-obLocus-CONTINUE
Wɔ-ke nitsumɔ le hie ɔtsi mli
1P-move work DEF AOR.continue week inside
‘We continued the work for a week.’
Note that if the specifier of the postposition mli is not expressed, the postposition will still indicate that the event occurred within a period of time (see wɔ hie mli above).

ev_suAg-pv1ltr-pv1obStartpt-vintr-DEPARTURE
E-ke e-wu ɓɔ aafii feɛi enyo nɛɛ
3S-move 3S.POSS-husband cease FUT-do year-PL two this
‘She left her husband about two years ago.’
The last four words constitute an optional verbid adjunct phrase, and are therefore not accounted for in the template.

\[
e_{-ke\ shika\ to\ e-he}\ 3S_{1}\text{-move\ money\ AOR\ seize\ }3S_{1}\text{-self} \quad \text{‘She kept the money.’}
\]

\[
e_{-ke\ kakla\ gbu\ le}\ 3S_{1}\text{-move\ knife\ AOR\ stab\ }3S_{1} \quad \text{‘He stabbed him with a knife.’}
\]

Note the alternative construction with the same verb and arguments listed under Ditransitive constructions.

\[
o_{-ke\ tso\ le\ ts\ mi\ tsu\ le}\ 2S\text{-move\ stick\ DEF show\ }1S\text{ house\ DEF} \quad \text{‘You pointed out the house to me with a stick.’}
\]

\[
e_{-ke\-f\ shi}\ 3S\text{-move\ AOR\ throw\ down} \quad \text{‘He has died’}
\]

\[
a_{-ke\ mii\-baa\ kusum\ le\ yi}\ 3\text{-move\ PRO\ PROG\ protect\ custom\ DEF\ head} \quad \text{The custom is thus [by that means] being protected’}
\]

\[
a_{-ke\ ameo\ du\-m\ e-ba\ naagbee}\ 3\text{-move\ tomatoes\ plant-NOM\ PERF\ come\ end} \quad \text{‘Tomato planting is over.’}
\]

\[
e_{-ke\ e\-h\ f\ o\-o\ o-n\ o}\ 3S\text{-move\ 3S\ face\ throw\ HAB\ }2S\text{-POSS surface} \quad \text{‘She trusts you.’}
\]

\[
e_{-ke\-be\ e-he\ fufua\ e-tsekw\ le}\ K\text{ move\ }3S\text{-POSS\ self\ hang\ }3S\text{-POSS\ uncle\ DEF} \quad \text{‘Kofi is always hanging around his uncle; pesters his uncle; courts his uncle’s favour’}
\]

\[
(\text{Eepi, shi})\ e_{-ke\-be\ e-he}\ (3S\text{-PROG\ suffer, but})\ 3S_{1}\text{-move\ AOR\ pinch\ }3S_{1}\text{-POSS\ self} \quad \text{‘(She is suffering, but) she’s keeping it to herself.’}
\]

In this case of course the \text{COMMUNICATION} situation is negative, or absence of communication.

\[
a_{-ke\ mama\ bla\ gbonyo}\ 3\text{-move\ cloth\ AOR\ wrap\ corpse} \quad \text{‘The corpse was shrouded’}
\]

\[
e_{-ke\ kpa\ ba\ tso\ le\ he}\ 3S\text{-move\ rope\ AOR\ wind\ tree\ DEF\ self} \quad \text{‘She wound the rope around the tree’}
\]
Serial verbs:

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1intr-v2intr-v2suClit-REPETITION

E-saa e-ba
3S.AOR-prepare 3S.AOR-come ‘She came again.’

sv_suAspID_suTh-v1intr-v2intr-v2suClit-DETERIORATION

Él-shá é-gbó
3S.PERF-shrink 3S.PERF-age ‘He has aged prematurely.
This construction differs from the preceding only in the role of the Subject and in the Situation Type.

sv-suAspID_suAg-v1tr-v1obTh-v2tr-v2suClit-v2obEndpnt-PLACEMENT

Hii le tsii mi ame-gbee shi
men DEF AOR.push 1S 3P-AOR.fell down ‘The men pushed me down.’

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1intr-v2tr-v2suClit-v2obBen-HELP

Ame-ye ame-bua le
3P1-AOR.eat 3P1-AOR.collect 3S ‘They helped her.’

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1tr-v1obTh-v2tr-v2suClit-v2obEndpnt-EJECTIONDIRECTED

E-fo tsensi le e-ŋme shi
3S-throw pan DEF 3S-unroll down ‘She threw the pan down.’

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1tr-v1obTh-v2tr-v2suClit-v2obEndpnt-TRANSPORT

Mi-wo gbeke le ke-tee skul
1S.AOR-collect child DEF move.AOR-go school ‘I took the child to school.’

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1tr-v1obTh-v2tr-v2suClit-v2obBen-PERMISSION

Á-gbele gbe á-ha bo
3.PERF-open road 3.PERF-give 2S ‘You have been granted permission.’

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1tr-obThAbst-v2ev-v2pv1tr-v2pv1obThSit-v2tr-v2obEndpnt-EXPOSE

Ame-fose ame-suumo ke-ha ame-bii le
3P.AOR-pour.out 3P.POSS-love move.AOR-give 3S.POSS-children DEF
‘They poured out their love for their children.’

Note that in this expression and the next (‘He found a box for me’), the object of the preverb that forms part of the second verb is indicated as ‘Pro’, meaning that analytically there is a pronoun object of ke which however has no phonetic exponent. Its role is ‘thematic situation’. Such constructions are common in Ga when the subject does not appear as a clitic on the second verb.

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1tr-v1obTh-v2ev-v2pv1tr-v2pv1obPro-v2pv1obThsit-v2pv2intr-v2tr-v2iobRec-

E-tao adeka ke-ba-ha mi
3S.AOR-search box move-come-AOR.give 1S ‘He found a box for me.’

sv_suAspID_suAg-v1tr-v1obLoc-v2ev-v2pv1tr-v2pv1obPro-v2pv1obThSit-v2tr-v2obTh-REMOVAL

E-ju shi ke-wo adeka le
3S.AOR-steal down move.PRO.AOR-carry box DEF ‘He stealthily carried the box away.’

sv_suAspID-suAg-v1tr-v1obLoc-v2ev-v2pv1tr-v2pv1obPro-v2pv1obThsit-v2tr-v2iobBen-REPRESENT

Mi-damɔ shi ke-ha le
1S-stand down move-give 3S ‘I represented her.’
The specifier of the postposition mli, which is covert here because it refers to a non-animate, refers to the actual amount of the debt, and this is also understood as the direct object of hā ‘give’, which similarly cannot be phonetically expressed. As in several other examples above, the fact that third person pronominalization is this language is frequently zero is crucial.

This sentence might look at first glance like a 3-verb serial construction, but the last verb does not share the subject of the first two, and the clause it heads is a complement of the two-verb series.