

# Liko phonology and grammar : a Bantu language of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Wit, G. de

#### Citation

Wit, G. de. (2015, November 5). *Liko phonology and grammar: a Bantu language of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. LOT dissertation series.* LOT, Utrecht. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/36066

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

License: License agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the

Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden

Downloaded from: <a href="https://hdl.handle.net/1887/36066">https://hdl.handle.net/1887/36066</a>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

#### Cover Page



# Universiteit Leiden



The handle <a href="http://hdl.handle.net/1887/36066">http://hdl.handle.net/1887/36066</a> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Wit, Gerrit de

Title: Liko phonology and grammar: a Bantu language of the Democratic Republic of

the Congo

**Issue Date:** 2015-11-05

#### Gerrit de Wit

## Liko Phonology and Grammar

### A Bantu language of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This thesis presents a detailed description of the phonology, the tone system and the grammar of Liko, a Bantu language spoken by about 70,000 people in the northeastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It provides numerous examples.

Liko has a nine-vowel system with ATR contrast in the mid and high vowels. Its pervasive vowel-harmony system is [+ATR] dominant, but there are dominant verbal and nominal [-ATR] enclitics which influence preceding [+ATR] non-high vowels. Liko is a tone language with both lexical and grammatical tone contrasts, depressor consonants and automatic as well as non-automatic downstep.

Liko is one of the "Northern Bantu Borderland" languages. The Bantu nounclass and agreement system is present to a large extent. Nevertheless, subject agreement is limited in verbal morphology, and object agreement is obligatory for first and second persons and class 1 and 2 objects only. The Liko verbal system is complex. To encode Tense/Aspect/Mood, the language uses segmental morphemes, tone melodies as well as time adverbials. Tone and vowel-harmony rules determine the surface realization of the verb form.

Topics in syntax include: verb valency and object agreement, word order, relative clauses, complex sentences and information structure, including an analysis of focus marking. Liko is a language with strict SVO word order. Relativization and left-dislocation reveal a syntactic means to differentiate between objects and adjuncts in this language.

The two appendices contain ten texts as well as verb paradigms.

Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics

ISBN 978-94-6093-192-5



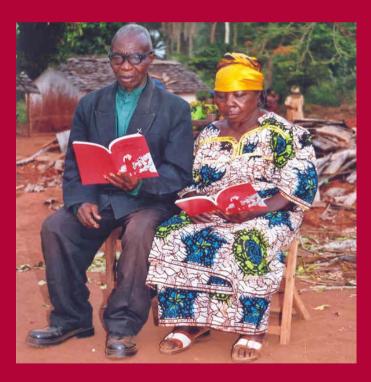
Liko Phonology and Grammar

Gerrit de Wit

Gerrit de Wit

# Liko Phonology and Grammar

A Bantu language of the Democratic Republic of the Congo









Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics

Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap