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The phonological systems of the Mbam languages of Cameroon with a focus on vowels and vowel harmony

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The phonological systems of
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Preface

Languages are so rich, multiple and varied that through this study I have merely “... been at a great feast of languages and stol'n the scraps.”¹ This book is dedicated to all who introduced me to that 'great feast of languages', even if I have come away with only the scraps.

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¹ Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost, act V, scene 1.

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Abbreviations and symbols

≠	micro-stem boundary	cl.	cluster
-	morpheme break	COMP	completive
=	clitic boundary	CONJ	conjunction
(n)	noun	CONT	continuous
(v)	verb	DEM	demonstrative
1p	1 st person pl. concord	DIM	diminutive
1s	1 st person sing. concord	DIR	directional
1sIO	1 st person indirect object	DIST	distal prefix
2p	2 nd person pl. concord	e.o.	each other
2s	2 nd person sing. concord	EXT	extension
3pPOS	3 rd person pl. possessive	EXTENS	extensive
3s.OBJ	3 rd person object	F1	formant one
3sIO	3 rd person sing. indirect object	F2	formant two
ADV	adverb	Ft	front (vowel)
APPL	applicative suffix	FT1	immediate (certain) future
ASSOC	associative	FT2	distant future
ATR	advanced tongue root	FT3	distant (uncertain) future
AuxV	auxiliary verb	FT	Future (not defined)
Ave.	average	FV	final vowel
C	consonant	H	high tone
c9	noun class 9	HAB	habitual
CAUS	causative	IMP	imperative
		INC	incompletive
		INF	infinitive

INTENS	intensifier	PST	past tense (not defined)
INTR	intransitive verb		
IO	indirect object	RD	round (vowel)
ITER	iterative	RECP	reciprocal
L	low tone	REFL	reflexive
LOC	locative	REP	repetitive
MCS	Modified Contrastive Specification	RT	root
		S	subject
NARR	narrative tense	s.o.	someone
NC	noun class	SDA	Successive Division Algorithm
NEG	negative marker		
NPhr	noun phrase	SEPAR	separative
o.s.	oneself	sffx	suffix
OBJ	object	sg	singular
P0	immediate past tense	smth.	something
P1	recent past tense	sp.	species
P2	yesterday past tense	ss	same subject
P4	distant past tense	STATIV	stative
P.C.	personal communication	SUBJ	subject
		T/A	tense/aspect marker
PFX	prefix	TBU	tone bearing unit
PL	plural	TR	transitive verb
POS	positional	trad.	traditional
POSS	possessive	V	vowel
PR	present	VH	vowel harmony
PREP	preposition	Vrt	verb root
PFV	perfective	V-sffx(es)	Verb-suffix(es)