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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
the Mbam languages of Cameroon
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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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Contents

Acknowledgements	v
Preface	vii
Contents	xiii
Abbreviations and symbols	xvii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 The Mbam languages in this study	2
1.2 The sociolinguistics of the Mbam	4
1.3 Oral histories of the origins of the Mbam peoples	4
1.4 Previous work done in the Mbam languages	10
1.5 Types of data collected	11
1.6 The language corpus	12
1.6.1 Nen	12
1.6.2 Maande	13
1.6.3 Yambeta	13
1.6.4 Tuki	14
1.6.5 The Yambassa languages	15
1.6.6 Mbure	17
1.7 Divergent features of the Mbam languages	18
1.8 Purpose of the thesis	20
2 Phonological overviews	21
2.1 Nen phonological overview	21
2.1.1 Consonants	21
2.1.2 Vowels	23
2.1.3 Vowel-harmony processes	27
2.1.4 Hiatus-resolution processes	36
2.1.5 Tone	38
2.2 Maande phonological overview	39
2.2.1 Consonants	39
2.2.2 Vowels	42
2.2.3 Vowel-harmony processes	46
2.2.4 Hiatus-resolution processes	54
2.2.5 Tone	59
2.3 Yambeta phonological overview	61
2.3.1 Consonants	61
2.3.2 Vowels	66
2.3.3 Vowel-harmony processes	70
2.3.4 Hiatus-resolution processes	77
2.3.5 Tone	80
2.4 Tuki phonological overview	82
2.4.1 Consonants	82

2.4.2	Vowels	86
2.4.3	Vowel-harmony processes	89
2.4.4	Hiatus-resolution processes	98
2.4.5	Tone	99
2.5	Gunu phonological overview.....	102
2.5.1	Consonants.....	102
2.5.2	Vowels.....	103
2.5.3	Vowel-harmony processes.....	106
2.5.4	Hiatus-resolution processes	114
2.5.5	Tone	115
2.6	Elip phonological overview.....	116
2.6.1	Consonants.....	117
2.6.2	Vowels.....	119
2.6.3	Vowel-harmony processes.....	123
2.6.4	Hiatus-resolution processes	132
2.6.5	Tone	134
2.7	Mmala phonological overview	135
2.7.1	Consonants.....	136
2.7.2	Vowels.....	138
2.7.3	Vowel-harmony processes.....	144
2.7.4	Hiatus-resolution processes	156
2.7.5	Tone	158
2.8	Yangben phonological overview	159
2.8.1	Consonants.....	160
2.8.2	Vowels.....	161
2.8.3	Vowel-harmony processes.....	169
2.8.4	Hiatus-resolution processes	178
2.8.5	Tone	180
2.9	Mbure phonological overview.....	181
2.9.1	Consonants.....	181
2.9.2	Vowels.....	187
2.9.3	Vowel-harmony processes.....	192
2.9.4	Hiatus-resolution processes	198
2.9.5	Tone	200
2.10	Baca phonological overview	201
2.10.1	Consonants.....	202
2.10.2	Vowels	207
2.10.3	Vowel-harmony processes	212
2.10.4	Hiatus-resolution processes.....	218
2.10.5	Tone	220
2.11	Acoustic analysis of the Mbam vowel systems	222
2.11.1	Acoustic considerations in ATR harmony	223
2.11.2	Acoustic analysis of the vowels of the Mbam languages.....	225
2.12	Conclusions	243
3	Dominance, directionality and domain of Mbam vowel harmony.....	245

3.1	[+ATR] dominance.....	245
3.2	Directionality in vowel harmony.....	246
3.2.1	Overview of vowel-harmony directionality in the literature.....	246
3.2.2	Directionality and prefix-/suffix-controlled vowel harmony in the Mbam languages.....	249
3.2.3	Conclusions.....	256
3.3	The domain of vowel harmony.....	257
3.3.1	The phonological word.....	257
3.3.2	The grammatical word.....	257
3.3.3	Clitics.....	258
3.3.4	Vowel harmony and the phonological word.....	259
3.3.5	Mismatches in the noun phrase.....	269
3.3.6	Conclusion.....	276
4	Contrastive features and the relationship between inventory and behaviour	279
4.1	Vowel inventories and vowel harmony.....	279
4.1.1	The high front vowel in the Mbam 8-vowel languages.....	281
4.1.2	Comparison of the Mbam vowel systems.....	285
4.2	The vowel /a/ in ATR-harmony systems.....	287
4.2.1	An overview of the behaviour of /a/ in ATR-harmony systems.....	287
4.2.2	Behaviour of /a/ in the Mbam languages.....	288
4.2.3	Conclusion.....	290
4.3	Neutral vowels.....	291
4.3.1	Neutral vowels in ATR harmony.....	291
4.3.2	Neutral vowels in rounding and fronting harmony.....	294
4.3.3	Neutral vowels in height harmony.....	300
4.3.4	Various analyses of neutral vowels.....	302
4.4	Interaction of vowel inventory and vowel harmony.....	310
4.4.1	Contrastive-feature hierarchy in phonology (Dresher 2009).....	310
4.4.2	Modified Contrastive Specification.....	313
4.4.3	Contrastive-feature hierarchy and MCS analysis of the Mbam languages.....	314
4.4.4	The problem of ATR disharmony in Mmala.....	323
4.5	Conclusions.....	326
4.5.1	The relationship of vowel inventory and ATR harmony.....	326
4.5.2	Gaps in vowel harmony and language-specific feature hierarchies	327
5	Classification of the Mbam languages.....	329
5.1	Historical classification.....	329
5.1.1	Mbam diachronic vowel derivations from proto-Bantu.....	329
5.1.2	Origins of ATR harmony and proto-Bantu *i (and *u).....	336
5.1.3	Sound change: from i, o to e, o?.....	339
5.1.4	Sound change: e > ə?.....	346
5.1.5	Towards proto-Mbam.....	348
5.2	Structural issues in language classification.....	353
5.3	Lexicostatistical classification.....	356
5.4	Conclusions.....	359

5.5	Classification of the Mbam languages in the wider linguistic context	361
5.5.1	Basaa and Nyokon	361
5.5.2	The Mbam languages in the wider context of Bantu and Bantoid ..	364
6	Conclusion	373
6.1	Summary of the topics discussed in this study	373
6.2	The salient aspects of vowel harmony in the Mbam languages.....	374
6.2.1	Non-participating (neutral) vowels	374
6.2.2	The role of domains and directionality in vowel harmony	375
6.3	Relationship between vowel inventory and vowel harmony	376
6.4	Classification and interrelationship of the Mbam languages.....	377
	References	379
	English Summary	391
	Samenvatting	393
	Curriculum vitae	395

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
NARR	narrative tense	S	subject
NC	noun class	s.o.	someone
NEG	negative marker	SDA	Successive Division Algorithm
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
PFX	prefix	T/A	tense/aspect marker
PL	plural	TBU	tone bearing unit
POS	positional	TR	transitive verb
POSS	possessive	trad.	traditional
PR	present	V	vowel
PREP	preposition	VH	vowel harmony
PFV	perfective	Vrt	verb root
		V-sffx(es)	Verb-suffix(es)