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A grammar of Lumun : a Kordofanian language of Sudan

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

A grammar of Lumun
a Kordofanian language of Sudan
door Heleen Smits

1. Negation marking on Lumun verbs has developed from the verb **ɔkɔrɛnnɔ** ‘let, allow, abstain from’.
2. The proclitic ‘restrictor’ turns a Lumun adjective or verb phrase into an attributive modifier restricting the reference of the head noun.
3. In Lumun, passivization of an active clause does not provide a criterion for distinguishing primary from non-primary objects, nor locative objects from locative adjuncts.
4. In Lumun, whether or not the Locative applicative derivation is used when a locative constituent is present in the clause is determined primarily by the semantics of the verb, but pragmatic factors can also play a role.
5. A lot of assimilation, lenition and deletion at word edge, processes by which word boundaries are obscured, makes a language difficult to understand for outsiders. When such languages or language variants are found in areas where people of different language communities live in close proximity, one can imagine that a desire for being not understandable has played a role.

6. It is unlikely that the Narrow Talodi languages (to which Lumun belongs) are genetically unrelated to any other language (group). (Contra the presentation in *Glottolog 3.0* edited by Harald Hammarström, Robert Forkel & Martin Haspelmath. <http://glottolog.org>, Last accessed 11 August 2017).
7. Orthography decisions need some community support, but will never make everybody happy.
8. Field work in the home area of a language (as opposed to working with speakers elsewhere) is necessary for getting full grip on the vocabulary.
9. A scarcity of nouns, verbs and adjectives in the semantic field of virtues and vices does not point to a lack of ethical/moral understanding.
10. Pamphlets and pulp fiction have a legitimate place in African Studies libraries.