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**A grammar of Nchane: A Bantoid (Beboid) language of Cameroon**  
Boutwell, R.L.

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# A grammar of Nchane

A Bantoid (Beboid) language of  
Cameroon

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A grammar of Nchane  
A Bantoid (Beboid) language of  
Cameroon

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in 1965

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---

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*Mbeɛŋse nyume fe Nyo le!* (To God be the glory!)



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## List of abbreviations

---

1, 2, 3	first, second, third
AM	associative marker
ANA1	anaphoric demonstrative 1
ANA2	anaphoric demonstrative 2
APPL	applicative
CAUS	causative
CE	counter-expectation
COM	comitative
COMP	complementizer
COMP(K)	ki complementizer
COMPL	completive
COND	conditional
COP	copula
<sup>p</sup> COP	past copula
COP(N)	n-copula
DIST	distal
DISTR	distributive
EXCL	exclusive
FOC	focus particle
FUT	future
GEST	quotable gesture marker
HAB	habitual
HORT	hortative
IDEO	ideophone
IMP	imperative
INTERJ	interjection
ITER	iterative
LOC	locative
NEG1	negative 1 particle
NEG2	negative 2 particle

NMZR	nominalizer
P1	near past
P2	medial past
P3	remote past
PL or pl	plural
POSS	possessive
PRO	pronoun
PROG	progressive
PROX	proximal
Q	question particle
QP	polar question tonal clitic
REL	relativizer
RES	resultative
SET	setting
SG or sg	singular
SIT	situative
VET	vetitive

---

## List of symbols

---

//	phonemic representation
[ ]	phonetic representation
] ]	right edge phrase boundary
C	consonant
V	vowel
N	nasal consonant or noun
·	half-long vowel
:	long vowel
-	morpheme break
~	alternative form (usually indicating free variation)
G	glide
(v)	verb
F	fricative
.	syllable boundary
σ	syllable
↓	tonal downstep or downdrift
↓	lowered tonal register associated with reduplicated forms
↑	raised tonal register associated with some conditional constructions and some topics
°	partially lowered tone
<sup>H</sup> =	high tone clitic
*	protoform or ungrammatical form
??	unanalyzed or unknown
#	semantically unacceptable





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## Lists of affixes and particles

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### Affixes:

-é/V-Ṽ	PROG	progressive suffix
-sé	CAUS	causative suffix
-yè	DISTR	distributive suffix
kī-	c7	class 7 nominal and agreement prefix
bī-	c8	class 8 nominal and agreement prefix
fī(N)-	c19	class 19 nominal and agreement prefix
mū(N)-	c18a	class 18a nominal and agreement prefix
bvū-	c14	class 14 nominal and agreement prefix
mā(N)-/N-	c6a	class 6a nominal and agreement prefix
bā-	c2	class 2 nominal and agreement prefix
fē-	c16	class 16 nominal and agreement prefix
ā-	c6, c18	class 6 and class 18 nominal and agreement prefix
chī-	c13	class 13 nominal and agreement prefix
∅-	c1, c4, c5	classes 1, 4 and 5 nominal prefix
-w-	c3	class 3 nominal infix
wu-	c1, c3	class 1 and class 3 agreement prefix
N-	NMZR	nominalizer prefix
N-	1SG	first-person singular agreement prefix

**Particles:**

á	NEG1	clause-initial negation particle in non-past and/or progressive clausal negation constructions
à	‘in’	preposition expressing bounded location
bá~bá:	‘still’	expresses ongoing action or condition; also present in certain clausal negation constructions
bé	P1, <sup>h</sup> COP	near past, past copula
bé	‘with’	coordinating conjunction; comitative preposition
ché	P2	medial past
dó	SIT	situative particle, marks support clauses expressing backgrounded situational information
fè	‘at’	preposition expressing movement
gé	EXCL	exclusive marker
gē	NEG2	negation particle; clause-final in all negative constructions, immediately precedes negated clausal constituents
gē	P3	remote past, narrative past
ká	ITER	iterative marker, expresses repetition of action
kì	COMP(K)	complementizer, complement always has same subject as main clause
là	CE	counter-expectation particle
lé	COP	copula
lē	APPL	applicative postposition
lē	SET	setting particle, introduces support clauses expressing general background information
lē	COMP	complementizer
lò	FOC	verb focus particle
mō	RES	resultative particle, expresses resultative relationship between its clause and a previous clause; also functions as a scalar focus particle
né	‘if’	conditional particle, introduces protases of conditional constructions
né	GEST	quotable gesture particle
nù	COP(N)	n-copula; also functions as marker of counter-expectation focus
té	‘also’	additive particle
tó	HAB	habitual marker
tú	‘return’	durative marker, sequential marker
yè	‘on’	preposition expressing unbounded location