



Universiteit  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

## Form and meaning in Fulfulde: a morphophonological study of Maasinankooore

Breedveld, J.O.

### Citation

Breedveld, J. O. (1995, May 30). *Form and meaning in Fulfulde: a morphophonological study of Maasinankooore*. CNWS/LDS Publications. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/68663>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/68663>

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

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/68663> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

**Author:** Breedveld, J.O.

**Title:** Form and meaning in Fulfulde: a morphophonological study of Maasinankoore

**Issue Date:** 1995-05-30

# **Form and meaning in Fulfulde**

**A morphophonological study of Maasinankoore**

**Proefschrift**

**TER VERKRIJGING VAN DE GRAAD VAN DOCTOR  
AAN DE RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT TE LEIDEN  
OP GEZAG VAN DE RECTOR MAGNIFICUS DR. L. LEERTOUWER,  
HOOGLEERAAR IN DE FACULTEIT DER GODGELEERDHEID,  
VOLGENS HET BESLUIT VAN HET COLLEGE VAN DEKANEN  
TE VERDEDIGEN OP DINSDAG 30 MEI 1995  
TE KLOKKE 15.15 UUR**

**door**

**Johanna Odilia Breedveld  
geboren te Nkambe, Kameroen in 1960**

**PROMOTIECOMMISSIE**

**PROMOTOR:** PROF. DR. TH.C. SCHADEBERG

**REFERENT:** DR. G.J. DIMMENDAAL

**OVERIGE LEDEN:** PROF. DR. F.H.H. KORTLANDT

PROF. DR. W.F.H. ADELAAR

PROF. DR. W.A.L. STOKHOF

# **Form and meaning in Fulfulde**

**A morphophonological study of Maasinankoore**

**by**

**J.O. Breedveld**

**Research School CNWS**

**Leiden 1995**

CNWS PUBLICATIONS  
VOLUME 32

CNWS PUBLICATIONS is a series publised by the Research School CNWS, Leiden University.

EDITORIAL BOARD: R.T.J. Buve; M. Forrer; K. Jongeling; R. Kruk; G.J.M. van Loon; W. van der Molen; J. de Moor; F.E. Tjon Sie Fat (chief editor); W.J. Vogelsang; W. van Zanten.

CORRESPONDENCE should be sent to: Dr. F.E. Tjon Sie Fat, Chief Editor CNWS Publications, c/o Research School CNWS, Leiden University, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden.

CIP-DATA, KONINKLIJKE BIBLIOTHEEK, DEN HAAG

Breedveld, Johanna Odilia

Form and meaning in Fulfulde : a morphophonological study of Maasinankoore / Johanna Odilia Breedveld. - Leiden: Research School CNWS. - (CNWS Publications, ISSN 0925-3084; vol. 32) Thesis Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, 1995. - With ref.

ISBN 90-73782-40-6

Subject headings: African linguistics.

Cover design by Nelleke Oosten

Drawing of Fulbe going to a market in Maasina by Anneke Breedveld

Printed in the Netherlands by Ridderprint, Ridderkerk

© Copyright 1995 Research School CNWS, Leiden University

Copyright reserved. Subject to the exceptions provided for by law, no part of this publication may be reproduced and/or published in print, by photocopying, on microfilm or in any other way without the written consent of the copyright-holder(s); the same applies to whole or partial adaptations. The publisher retains the sole right to collect from third parties fees in respect of copying and/or take legal or other action for this purpose.

*To Felix and Caroline*



# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .....	xiv
Abbreviations .....	xvi
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1     The language and its speakers.....	1
1.1.1     Pulaaku.....	1
1.1.2     Fulfulde language names.....	5
1.2     Fulfulde dialects.....	6
1.2.1     Maasina .....	10
1.2.2     Ringimaaji.....	12
1.3     Overview of research topics.....	13
1.4     Theoretical and methodological preliminaries.....	16
Part I Phonology.....	19
Chapter 2 Speech sounds .....	21
2.1     Fulfulde speech sounds.....	21
2.2     The phonological features.....	22
2.3     Representation of segments with temporal structure.....	24
2.3.1     Vowel length .....	24
2.3.2     Long or geminate consonants.....	25
2.3.3     Prenasalization .....	27
2.3.4     Affricates.....	32
2.4     The consonantal or vocalic status of time slots .....	34
2.5     Voiceless vowels and [h].....	36
2.6     Laryngealization or creaky voice.....	38
2.6.1     Laryngealized vowels and [?] .....	38
2.6.2     Final glottality .....	39
2.6.3     Laryngealized consonants .....	42
2.7     Nasalized vowels .....	45
2.8     Labial approximants [ɥ], [β], and [w].....	49
2.9     Vowel assimilation.....	53
2.9.1     Frontness assimilation.....	53
2.9.2     Total vowel assimilation .....	54
2.9.3     Merger of [a] with [w].....	54
2.9.4     ATR vowel harmony.....	55

<b>Chapter 3 Consonant alternation.....</b>	<b>60</b>
3.0      Introduction .....	60
3.1      Initial consonant alternations.....	61
3.1.1     The forms of word initial consonant alternations .....	61
3.1.2     Initial consonant alternation in nouns .....	65
3.1.3     Initial consonant alternation in adjectives.....	72
3.1.4     Initial consonant alternation in verb forms.....	75
3.1.5     Influence of the vowel on initial consonant alternation.....	78
3.1.6     Dialect comparison of alternations with [w] and [y].....	81
3.2      Stem final consonant alternations.....	87
3.2.1     Klingenheben's hamza assimilation rules.....	87
3.2.2     Alternation of laryngealized with nasal consonants .....	90
3.2.3     Nasal assimilation.....	93
3.2.4     Total assimilation.....	94
3.2.5     Syllable final consonant alternation.....	94
3.2.6     Exceptional alternations.....	95
<b>Chapter 4 The syllable.....</b>	<b>98</b>
4.0      Introduction .....	98
4.1      Syllabification rules.....	98
4.2      Well-formed syllable structures.....	100
4.2.1     Syllable templates.....	100
4.2.2     Syllable weight.....	102
4.3      Well-formedness of the CVVC syllable structure.....	105
4.3.1     Marginality of the CVVC syllable.....	105
4.3.2     A phonetic experiment on vowel length in CVVC syllables .....	106
4.3.3     Shortening or compensatory lengthening (CVVC vs. CVCC).....	108
4.4      Sonority and syllable structure .....	109
4.4.1     Klingenheben's "Silbenauslautgesetze" .....	111
4.4.2     Coda constraints in Maasina.....	113
4.4.3     Paradis' sonority hierarchy of coronal consonants.....	114
4.4.4     Sonority hierarchy in Maasina.....	116
4.4.5     Place of [m] in the sonority hierarchy.....	118
4.5      Syllable contact rules.....	118
4.5.1     Head strengthening of [r].....	119
4.5.2     Coda weakening.....	120
4.5.3     Contact metathesis .....	122
4.5.4     Total assimilation or gemination .....	123
4.5.5     Coda deletion and compensatory lengthening .....	125
4.5.6     Epenthesis or the blocking of vowel deletion? .....	126
4.6      Stress.....	130
4.6.1     Previous analyses.....	130
4.6.2     Stress assignment rules .....	134
4.7      Intonation.....	137
4.7.1     Declarative phrase.....	138

4.7.2	Yes-no questions and topic phrases .....	138
4.7.3	The a-tonic words.....	139
4.7.4	Focus .....	140
 Part II Word formation .....		143
Chapter 5 Verbs, adverbs and particles .....		145
5.1	Internal structure of the verb.....	145
5.2	Verb roots.....	149
5.3	Extensions .....	151
5.3.1	Associative * <b>q</b> .....	154
5.3.2	Inchoative * <b>id</b> .....	156
5.3.3	Evasive: reduplication.....	157
5.3.4	Intensive * <b>?.</b> .....	158
5.3.5	Exhaustive * <b>l</b> .....	161
5.3.6	Brusque * <b>b</b> .....	162
5.3.7	Partitive * <b>is</b> .....	163
5.3.8	Resultative * <b>i<sup>n</sup>d</b> .....	164
5.3.9	Reciprocal * <b>o<sup>n</sup>dir</b> .....	166
5.3.10	Simulative * <b>iŋkin</b> .....	167
5.3.11	Reversive * <b>it</b> .....	167
5.3.12	Causative * <b>in</b> .....	172
5.3.13	Comitative * <b>id</b> .....	174
5.3.14	Circumstantial * <b>ir</b> .....	176
5.3.15	Altri-locative * <b>ɔy</b> .....	178
5.3.16	Dative * <b>an</b> .....	179
5.3.17	Extensions in combination .....	180
5.4	Conjugational categories.....	181
5.4.1	Imperative.....	185
5.4.2	Subjunctive.....	188
5.4.3	Verb focus .....	193
5.4.4	Exhortative .....	195
5.4.5	Incompletive.....	196
5.4.6	Relative incompletive.....	199
5.4.7	Compleutive .....	206
5.4.8	Relative completive.....	208
5.4.9	Indefinite incompletive .....	214
5.4.10	Negative conjugational suffixes.....	215
5.5	Further analysis of the conjugational suffixes in Maasina.....	220
5.5.1	Tense .....	221
5.5.1.1	Present.....	222
5.5.1.2	Past tense marker <b>nɔ</b> .....	222
5.5.2	Voice .....	226
5.5.2.1	Active .....	227

5.5.2.2	Middle.....	228
5.5.2.3	Passive.....	228
5.5.3	Aspect .....	229
5.5.3.1	Incompletive .....	230
5.5.3.2	Compleutive.....	230
5.5.4	Discourse.....	231
5.5.4.1	General.....	232
5.5.4.2	Focalizing (relative).....	232
5.5.4.3	Focused (verb focus).....	233
5.5.5	Polarity.....	233
5.5.6	Mood.....	234
5.5.7	Deep structure of the conjugational suffixes .....	235
5.6	Some verb-related minor word classes.....	240
5.6.1	Copulas .....	240
5.6.1.1	The copula of identity <i>yɔ</i> .....	240
5.6.1.2	Locative copula <i>?ana</i> .....	241
5.6.2	Modal predicates.....	244
5.6.3	Adverbs.....	245
5.6.4	Ideophones.....	250
5.6.5	Question particles.....	251
5.6.6	Conjunctions .....	251
5.6.7	Topic markers .....	255
 Chapter 6	 The nominal grade system.....	258
6.1	The semantic basis of the grade system.....	258
6.1.1	The semantic effect of the different suffix grades .....	262
6.1.2	Grade A: the objective word derivation.....	264
6.1.3	Grade B: the associative word derivation.....	267
6.1.4	Grade C: the circumstantial word derivation.....	270
6.1.5	Grade D: the subjective word derivation .....	276
6.1.6	The semantic hypothesis.....	277
6.2	Phonological derivation of the suffix forms .....	278
6.2.1	Grade A: vowel initial suffix form.....	280
6.2.2	Grade B: continuant initial suffix form.....	285
6.2.3	Grade C: plosive initial suffix form.....	289
6.2.4	Grade D: prenasalized initial suffix form .....	291
6.2.5	The historical phonological hypothesis .....	293
 Chapter 7	 The noun classes.....	295
7.1	The semantic principles of nominal classification .....	295
7.1.1	Number .....	296
7.1.2	Size.....	296
7.1.3	Semantic associations .....	297
7.2	Singular classes.....	300
7.2.1	The 'O class .....	300

7.2.1.1	The grade A suffix form - <i>ɔ</i> .....	302
7.2.1.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>jo</i> .....	305
7.2.1.3	The grade B suffix form - <i>wɔ</i> : agentive.....	306
7.2.1.4	The grade C suffix form - <i>dɔ</i> in kinship terms.....	306
7.2.1.5	The grade D suffix form - <i>dɔ</i> .....	309
7.2.1.6	The suffix form - <i>kɔ</i> .....	311
7.2.1.7	'O class nouns with a suffix from other classes.....	311
7.2.1.8	'O class nouns without a class suffix.....	313
7.2.2	The NDU class .....	318
7.2.2.1	The grade A suffix forms - <i>uru</i> - <i>ru</i> - <i>du</i> - <i>ndu</i> .....	322
7.2.2.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>ru</i> .....	325
7.2.2.3	The grade C suffix form - <i>du</i> .....	325
7.2.2.4	The grade D suffix form - <i>ndu</i> .....	327
7.2.3	The NDI class.....	329
7.2.3.1	The grade A suffix forms - <i>iri</i> - <i>ri</i> - <i>di</i> - <i>ndi</i> .....	331
7.2.3.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>ri</i> .....	332
7.2.3.3	The grade C suffix form - <i>di</i> .....	333
7.2.3.4	The grade D suffix forms - <i>ndi</i> and - <i>nji</i> .....	335
7.2.4	The NDE class.....	336
7.2.4.1	The grade A suffix forms - <i>ere</i> - <i>re</i> - <i>de</i> - <i>nde</i> .....	339
7.2.4.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>re</i> .....	340
7.2.4.3	The grade C suffix forms - <i>de</i> and - <i>nje</i> .....	341
7.2.4.4	The grade D suffix form - <i>nde</i> .....	344
7.2.5	The NGE class.....	347
7.2.5.1	The grade A suffix form - <i>e</i> .....	349
7.2.5.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>we</i> .....	351
7.2.5.3	Erroneous analysis of the suffix form - <i>ge</i> .....	353
7.2.5.4	The grade D suffix form - <i>nge</i> .....	355
7.2.5.5	The content of the NGE class: a dialect comparison .....	357
7.2.6	The NGO class .....	361
7.2.6.1	The grade A suffix form - <i>ɔ</i> .....	364
7.2.6.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>wɔ</i> .....	365
7.2.6.3	The grade C suffix form - <i>go</i> .....	366
7.2.6.4	The grade D suffix form - <i>ngo</i> .....	366
7.2.7	The NGU class .....	368
7.2.7.1	The grade A suffix form - <i>u</i> .....	373
7.2.7.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>wu</i> .....	375
7.2.7.3	The grade C suffix form - <i>gu</i> .....	375
7.2.7.4	The grade D suffix form - <i>ngu</i> .....	376
7.2.8	The NGOL class.....	377
7.2.8.1	The grade A suffix form - <i>ol</i> .....	378
7.2.8.2	The grade B suffix form - <i>wol</i> .....	380
7.2.8.3	The grade C suffix forms - <i>gol</i> and - <i>ngol</i> .....	381
7.2.8.4	The grade D suffix form - <i>ngol</i> .....	383
7.2.9	The NGAL class.....	384

7.2.9.1	The grade A suffix form -al.....	386
7.2.9.2	The grade B suffix form -wal.....	387
7.2.9.3	The grade C suffix form -gal .....	388
7.2.9.4	The grade D suffix form - <sup>n</sup> gal.....	389
7.2.10	The NGEL class.....	391
7.2.10.1	The grade A suffix form -el.....	393
7.2.10.2	The grade B suffix form -wel .....	395
7.2.10.3	The grade C suffix form -gel .....	395
7.2.10.4	The grade D suffix form - <sup>n</sup> gel.....	396
7.2.10.5	The suffix form -lel.....	397
7.2.11	The KOL class .....	398
7.2.12	The KI class .....	400
7.2.12.1	The grade A suffix form -i.....	401
7.2.12.2	The grade B suffix form -wi.....	402
7.2.12.3	The grade C suffix form -ki .....	403
7.2.12.4	The grade D suffix form -ki.....	405
7.2.12.5	The suffix form -eefi .....	405
7.2.13	The KA class.....	406
7.2.13.1	The grade A suffix form -a.....	407
7.2.13.2	The grade B suffix form -wa.....	409
7.2.13.3	The grade C suffix form -ka .....	409
7.2.13.4	The grade D suffix form -ka.....	410
7.2.14	The BA/NGA class .....	411
7.2.14.1	Relation between the BA and the KA class.....	412
7.2.14.2	The grade A suffix form -a.....	414
7.2.14.3	The grade B suffix form -wa.....	414
7.2.14.4	The suffix form -ba .....	414
7.3	Uncountable classes.....	416
7.3.1	The KO class.....	416
7.3.1.1	The grade A suffix form -ɔ.....	417
7.3.1.2	The grade B suffix form -wɔ.....	418
7.3.1.3	The grade C suffix form -kɔ .....	418
7.3.1.4	The grade D suffix form -kɔ.....	418
7.3.2	The 'DAM class .....	419
7.3.2.1	The grade A suffix form -am.....	420
7.3.2.2	The grade D suffix form -d <sup>n</sup> am .....	421
7.3.2.3	The suffix form - <sup>n</sup> dam .....	421
7.3.3	The KAL class .....	422
7.3.3.1	The grade A suffix form -al.....	423
7.3.3.2	The grade C suffix form -kal.....	424
7.3.3.3	The grade D suffix form -kal.....	424
7.3.4	The 'DUM class .....	424
7.4	Plural classes.....	427
7.4.1	The 'BE class.....	427
7.4.1.1	The grade A suffix -be .....	428

7.4.1.2	The grade B suffix - <b>þe</b> preceded by vowel lengthening .....	429
7.4.1.3	The grade C suffix - <b>þe</b> preceded by - <b>iraa-</b> .....	432
7.4.1.4	The grade D suffix - <b>þe</b> preceded by verbal markers .....	432
7.4.1.5	The suffix form - <b>θen</b> .....	433
7.4.2	The 'DI class .....	435
7.4.2.1	The grade A suffix form - <b>i</b> .....	438
7.4.2.2	The grade B suffix form - <b>ji</b> .....	439
7.4.2.3	The grades C and D suffix form - <b>di</b> .....	442
7.4.2.4	The suffix form - <b>li</b> .....	443
7.4.3	The 'DE class.....	446
7.4.3.1	The grade A suffix form - <b>e</b> .....	449
7.4.3.2	The grade B suffix form - <b>je</b> .....	449
7.4.3.3	The grade C suffix form - <b>ðe</b> .....	450
7.4.3.4	The grade D suffix form - <b>ðe</b> .....	450
7.4.3.5	The suffix form - <b>æle</b> .....	451
7.4.3.6	The suffix form - <b>le</b> .....	451
7.4.4	The KOY class .....	454
7.4.4.1	The suffix form - <b>loy</b> .....	455
7.5	Singular/plural pairing .....	457
 Chapter 8	Nominal modifiers and pronominals .....	461
8.1	Adjectives .....	461
8.1.1	Grade A: basic adjectives .....	463
8.1.2	Grade B: denominal adjectives .....	466
8.1.3	Grade B: colour terms white, black, and red.....	467
8.1.4	Grade B: agentive nominal.....	469
8.1.5	Grade D: deverbal adjectives .....	471
8.2	Pronouns .....	473
8.2.1	Subject pronouns .....	475
8.2.2	Object pronouns .....	476
8.2.3	Locative pronouns .....	479
8.2.4	Possessive pronouns: alienable and inalienable.....	480
8.2.5	Independent pronouns .....	482
8.3	Demonstratives .....	483
8.4	Interrogatives .....	486
8.5	Numerals .....	487
8.6	Nominal adpositions, prepositions.....	490
 Appendix 1	Feature specification.....	492
Appendix 2	Results of the phonetic experiment on vowel length.....	493
 References	.....	498

## Acknowledgements

What could be the use of a book on word formation in Fulfulde to the speakers of that language who live in such a troubled area? Little would be my modesty if I claimed it would be of comfort to those who suffer. Greater is my hope, that this grammar might be a small contribution to the understanding of the language of the people of Maasina, revealing some knowledge on the way in which they encode meanings. Knowledge that can give insight into their culture, which is imperative if we want to fight the unnecessary suffering.

This study could never have been written without the help of numerous speakers of Fulfulde who initiated me into the meanings encoded in Fulfulde, the very soul of their language. Many have conquered a definite place in my heart. I hope they will consider themselves co-authors of this book. The most substantial data gathering on Maasinankoore was done with Mahmoudou Amadou Abba Cissé from Sah in Gimballa (with whom I worked in Mopti), Usman Koita from Sofara in Kunaari (in Mopti), Aysata Cissé from Duwansa (in Mopti), and Témoré Tioulenta from Toggere Kumba (in Toggere Kumba and Paris). Other contributions were given by Hammadi Cissé (Seenosa), Usman Alpha Jallo from Jenne (in Enschede), Youba Touré (Jenne), Hamsala Bocoum (in Mopti), Nyuma Suura (Toggere Kumba), Tuma Boori Gurambata and his wife Nyuma (on the Jaaka near Toggere Kumba), Allaye Tamboura from Jonnyoori (in Dortmund) and his wife Bourty Traore from Siro (in Dortmund), Hammadi Cissé from Kubolo (in Toggere Kumba), Gaafdo Sow (Toggere Kumba), Nuhun Gommi (Toggere Kumba), Bara Jigannde (Toggere Kumba), Ameeri Cori (Toggere Kumba), Diè Koumba Cissé and her children Umarou Amadou Cissé called Samba, Allaay Amadou Cissé, Jeenaba Cissé, Dikuru Cissé, Inna Cissé and Amadou Cissé in Tenenku, Maamoudou Abdoul Karim Cissé (Tenenku), Hammadou Tamboura (Bamako), Bocary Sory Traoré (Bamako), Bureyma Nyalibouly (Bamako), Seydou Tembili (Tenenku), Zoumana Cissé (Tenenku), Fatumata Amadou Dikko (Dalla), Muusa Yerowal Dikko from Dalla (Duwansa), Kumboora Aay Alu (Duwansa), Bura Yero Cissé (Duwansa), Adama Ouane from Banyagara (in Leiden), two herdsmen in Faatoma. Data on the Fulfulde dialect of the Ringimaaji were given by Yougouda Adamou Bouba (Akweto) and Raamatu Abdou from Bamenda (in Akweto). I want to thank all Fulfulde speakers who let me have a peek at their soul.

The financial burden of this study was borne mainly by the University of Leiden. The field work from '87 to '88 was financed by WOTRO grant WR 39-141. Fieldwork in Paris in May '89 and May '90 was financed by NWO grants SIR 11-44 and SIR 11-176. My parents, my uncle Jan Jansen, and my brother Bas Breedveld also contributed financially to the fieldwork and to the computer which was used to write this thesis. All are gratefully thanked.

For moral and academic support I thank my family, friends, and colleagues. A special word of thanks goes to Professor Labatut for his confidence in and enthusiastic support for my linguistic work. To Temoore Tiouagenta for his patience and for sharing with me the passion for his language and culture. To all other scholars who facilitated my research in Mali or commented on earlier parts of this work: David W. Arnott, Rogier Bedaux, Issa Diallo, Frits Kortlandt, Mary McIntosh, Mohamadou Aliou, Bureyma Nyalibouly, Carole Paradis, Hamadoun Tamboura, Bocary Sory Traore, David Wilkins, Paul de Wolf. To Vincent van Heuven and Jos Pacilly for their assistance with and useful comments on the phonetic experiment on vowel length. To my fellow research students for their support, especially Maggy Konter-Katani and Gerda Rossel. To Gerrit Dimmendaal for everything. To Dokter Visser and his family for saving my life. To Mirjam de Bruijn and Han van Dijk for their enthusiasm, for their support in Mali, and for sharing their precious insights into the Fulbe culture. To Yougouda Bouba for teaching me that something good never comes easy. And last but certainly not least to two people: Felix Ameka without whom this thesis would never have been finished and my faithful companion Caroline Angenent without whom I wouldn't have had the courage to begin.

## List of abbreviations

A	Aadamaawa (is the dialect source of the example)
adj.	adjective
ALT	altri-locative (extension)
Ar.	Arabic (source language of loan-word)
A-rule	automatic phonological rule
ASS	associative (extension)
ATR	advanced tongue root (autosegmental feature)
augm.	augmentative
Bam.	Bambara (source language of loan-word)
BRU	brusque (extension)
C	consonant
CAUS	causative (extension)
Cd	concord
cf.	compare
CIRC	circumstantial (extension)
CL	class marker
COM	comitative (extension)
COMPL	completive (conjugational suffix)
COP	copula
CS	conjugational suffix
DAT	dative (extension)
DEM	simple demonstrative
dim.	diminutive
e.g.	for example
etc.	et cetera, and other similar things
EVAS	evasive (extension)
EXH	exhortative (conjugational suffix)
EXHA	exhaustive (extension)
excl.	exclusive (first person plural pronoun)
EXT	extension
(F)	basic series (of initial consonant alternation)
FDEM	far demonstrative
FG	final glottality
fig.	figuratively
FJ	Fuuta Jallon (is the dialect source of the example)
Fr.	French (source language of loan-word)
FT	Fuuta Tooro (is the dialect source of the example)
G	Gombe (is the dialect source of the example)

id.	idem
i.e.	that is to say, in other words
IMPpl	imperative plural (conjugational suffix)
IMPsg	imperative singular (conjugational suffix)
INCH	inchoative (extension)
incl.	inclusive (first person plural pronoun)
INCOMPL	incomplete (conjugational suffix)
INDEF	indefinite (conjugational suffix)
INF	infinitive (marker)
INT	intensive (extension)
L	Liptaako (is the dialect source of the example)
lit.	literally
LOC	locative marker, or locative copula
M	Maasina (is the dialect source of the example)
M	any morpheme (that can follow the conjugational suffix)
M.COMPL	middle completive (conjugational suffix)
M.EXH	middle exhortative (conjugational suffix)
M.INCOMPL	middle incomplete (conjugational suffix)
M.INDEF	middle indefinite (conjugational suffix)
M.IMPsg	middle imperative singular (conjugational suffix)
MP	modal predicate
M.R.COMPL	middle relative completive (conjugational suffix)
M.R.INCOMPL	middle relative incomplete (conjugational suffix)
M.SUB	middle subjunctive (conjugational suffix)
M.VF	middle verb focus (conjugational suffix)
N	noun
N	nasal (consonant)
n.d.	no date
NEG	negative (conjugational suffix)
(N)	prenasalized series (of initial consonant alternation)
<sup>n</sup> C	prenasalized consonant
N.COMPL	negative completive (conjugational suffix)
NDEM	near demonstrative
NE	Eastern Niger (is the dialect source of the example)
N.INCOMPL	negative incomplete (conjugational suffix)
N.M.COMPL	negative middle completive (conjugational suffix)
N.M.INCOMPL	negative middle incomplete (conjugational suffix)
N.P.COMPL	negative passive completive (conjugational suffix)
N.P.INCOMPL	negative passive incomplete (conjugational suffix)
O	object
OPro	object pronoun
o.s.	oneself
(P)	plosive series (of initial consonant alternation)
PART	partitive (extension)
PAST	past tense marker

P.COMPL	passive completive (conjugational suffix)
P.INCOMPL	passive incomplete (conjugational suffix)
pl.	plural
P.R.INCOMPL	passive relative incomplete (conjugational suffix)
P.R.COMPL	passive relative completive (conjugational suffix)
P-rule	phonological rule (with some exceptions, sometimes optional)
P.SUB	passive subjunctive (conjugational suffix)
P.VF	passive verb focus (conjugational suffix)
qp	question particle
qw	question word
R.COMPL	relative completive (conjugational suffix)
RDEM	referential demonstrative
REC	reciprocal (extension)
RES	resultative (extension)
REV	reversive (extension)
R.INCOMPL	relative incomplete (conjugational suffix)
Rm	Ringimaaji (is the dialect source of the example)
S	subject
SIM	simulative (extension)
sg.	singular
s.o.	someone
Son.	Soninke, Marka (source language of loan-word)
SPE	Sound Patterns of English (the model described in that publication)
SPro	subject pronoun
Srg.	Sorogo, Bozo (source language of loan-word)
sth.	something
SUB	subjunctive (conjugational suffix)
TM	topic marker
Tsk.	Tamashek, Touareg (source language of loan-word)
V	verb
V	vowel
VF	verb focus (conjugational suffix)
VR	verb root
vs.	versus
VS	verb stem
WFC	well-formedness condition
Z	Zoubko 1980 (is the source of the given example)