



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

A grammar of Mundabli : a Bantoid (Yemne-Kimbi) language of Cameroon

Voll, R.M.; Voll R.M.

Citation

Voll, R. M. (2017, October 26). *A grammar of Mundabli : a Bantoid (Yemne-Kimbi) language of Cameroon*. LOT dissertation series. LOT, Utrecht. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/56258>

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/1887/56258>

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

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/56258> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Voll, Rebecca

Title: A grammar of Mundabli : a Bantoid (Yemne-Kimbi) language of Cameroon

Date: 2017-10-26

CHAPTER 16

Glossed texts

16.1 Song by Yung Henrik, “It is eating me up”

16.1.1 Introduction

This song was written by Yung Henrik who died from a disease shortly after this song was recorded. Besides being a farmer, Yung Henrik was a gifted musician who composed his own songs and accompanied them on the guitar. The song is a so-called ‘bottle-dance’, which is a popular music style of North-West Cameroon. During the performance, the audience taps the rhythm on bottles. The song treats some of the problems society is facing due to more and more young girls leaving the village in search of a better life.

16.1.2 Text

- (1) ń = bú gán wú lā, yē bwē à gán
1SG = ask(b) go(a) CL1PP DAT COMP CL1/2.friend 2SG go(a).IPFV
f̣í tí nà
pass(b).IPFV surprisingly where

‘I ask her: friend, where are you going?’

- (2) wù fò tʃú mí lā, yē lòn b-ó
 CL1 tell(a).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1SG.PP DAT COMP CL8.suffering CL8-DET
 yí nìm tí mī
 eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1SG

‘She told me: I am suffering.’

- (3) nǐ ɲgī nìm tsá kú, yē
 CL1/2.mother CL1;1SG.POSS live(a).IPFV Tsa home_village.LOC COMP
 nǐ ɲgī nìm tsá kú,
 CL1/2.mother CL1;1SG.POSS live(a).IPFV Tsa home_village.LOC
 bwē
 CL1/2.friend

‘My mother lives in Tsaku. My mother lives in Tsaku, my friend.’

- (4) ń=bú gàn wú lā, yē nǐ, à gàn
 1SG=ask(b) go(a) CL1PP DAT COMP CL1/2.mother 2SG go(a).IPFV
 fí tí nā ō
 pass(b).IPFV surprisingly where INTERJ

‘I asked her: mother where are you going?’

- (5) nǐ mí fò tʃú mí lā, yē mī
 CL1/2.mother CONSEC tell(a).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1SG.PP DAT COMP 1SG
 wān, ń=lyà fí ɲè
 CL1.child 1SG=go_to_bush(a).IPFV pass(b).IPFV leave(a).IPFV
 bō ɲgí
 CL3/7a.stroll CL3;1SG.POSS

‘My mother told me: my child, I am wandering.’

- (6) lòn b-ó yí nìm tí mī,
 CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1SG
 lòn b-ó yí nìm tí mī
 CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1SG

‘Suffering is eating me up. Suffering is eating me up.’

- (7) better nìm gàn mí lā, yē ń=dzé
 better sit(a) go(a) 1SG.PP DAT COMP 1SG=miss_track(c).IPFV
 lè ɲè tòm b-ó yīŋ
 get_lost(a).IPFV leave(a).IPFV CL7/8.palm_village CL8-DET bush.LOC

‘It would be better for me to leave and get lost in the bush of any village.’

- (8) bī kù dzí gàn kyēn mī, yē bī kù
 CL8 cry(a) walk_around(b) go(a) CL7/8.soul in COMP CL8 cry(a)
 dzí gàn kyēn mī
 walk_around(b) go(a) CL7/8.soul in

‘She is crying in her soul. She is crying in her soul.’

- (9) bī mí nìm f-ǎnǐ (ē), bī dzé nìm tí
 1PL CONSEC sit(a) PROX-there INTERJ 1PL speak(b) sit(a) surprisingly
 mě yē, lòn bós dǐ tá mě yēn lā, bī
 only COMP CL8.suffering CL8-DET be(b) specifically only Y. DAT CL8
 kwó fúbǒ bí ngō
 enter(c) also 1PL.PP upon

‘And we are sitting here, saying that only Yain is suffering, but the suffering has also attacked some of us.’

- (10) lòn b-ó yí fúbǒ bī (e), bī dzé nìm
 CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV also 1PL INTERJ 1PL speak(b) sit(a)
 mě ā mò wù-mwò
 only COM CL1.person CL1-one

‘The suffering is also eating us up and we are only talking about one person.’

- (11) à kyé wān ně yū (e),
 2SG look(c) CL1.child CL1/2.mother.2SG.POSS buttock.LOC INTERJ
 mò dzū kyé fúbǒ á yū
 CL1.person CL1.other look(c) also 2SG.PP buttock.LOC

‘If you talk against your brother or your sister, somebody will also talk against you.’

- (12) bī kù dzí gàn kyēn mī, yē
 1PL cry(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV go(a).IPFV CL7/8.soul in COMP
 bī kù dzí gàn kyēn mī, yō
 1PL cry(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV go(a).IPFV CL7/8.soul in INTERJ

‘We are crying in our soul, we are crying in our soul.’

- (13) bē dzé gàn bǒ lā yē bān bō á
 IMPERS say(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP CL1/2.outside be_bad(a) ADVLZ
 kī-lī
 NMLZ-be_strong(a)

‘They are telling them that [the world] outside is very bad.’

- (14) bǔ fò tǔjí bí lā yē bǔ tsè
 CL2 tell(a).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1PL.PP DAT COMP CL2 search(a)
 dzí gàn kpǒ
 walk_around(b) go(a) CL3/7a.money

‘They are telling us that they are searching for money.’

- (15) tō nō dzwàn kǔ b-ǔ bǔ (e), bǔ
 CL7/8.day SUBORD CL9.illness catch(b) CL8-REL CL2 INTERJ CL2
 mī nīm gàn tí f-ǔ gbó (e)
 CONSEC sit(a) go(a) surprisingly PROX-there house.LOC INTERJ

‘The day that an illness has attacked them they will be there, staying in the house.’

- (16) bē-tǐ bǔ yí nīm tí lòn
 CL2-father 3PL.POSS eat(b).IPFV sit(a) surprisingly CL8.suffering
 (e), nīn bǔ yí nīm tí
 INTERJ CL1/2.mother 3PL.POSS eat(b).IPFV sit(a) surprisingly
 lòn (è)
 CL8.suffering INTERJ

‘Their father will be suffering and their mother will be suffering.’

- (17) tō mí wě ǐ tí (é), wù
 CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a) surprisingly INTERJ CL1
 gwān nīm f-ǔ gbó (o)
 be_sick(a) sit(a) PROX-there house.LOC INTERJ

‘When the day has dawned, she is there with an illness in the house.’

- (18) bī bú gàn wú lā, yē nǐ, à
 1PL ask(b) go(a) CL1PP DAT COMP CL1/2.mother.1SG/PL.POSS 2SG
 gwàn tí mǎn yē
 be_sick(a) surprisingly what QUOT.Q

‘We ask her: mother, why are you ill?’

- (19) bī dzé gàn bǔ lā yē, tō fī ā
 1PL speak(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP be_smart(b) pass(b) COM
 yū y-ā (ò)
 CL9/10.buttock CL9-2SG.POSS INTERJ

‘We always tell them that they should be very careful with their sex life’

- (20) yū y-ṽ bò ɲwén ǎ kī-lī
 CL9/10.buttock CL9-DET be_bad(a) now ADVLZ NMLZ-be_strong(a)
 (e)
 INTERJ
 ‘Sex is very dangerous these days.’
- (21) lòn b-ṣ yí nìm tí bí (e),
 CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1PL INTERJ
 bī yí fúbǎ bī (o)
 CL8 eat(b).IPFV also 1PL INTERJ
 ‘Suffering is eating them up and it is also eating some of us up.’¹
- (22) à bòn gàn kpé (é), wù dzé tʃú
 2SG call(a) go(a) CL1.woman INTERJ CL1 say(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV
 wá lā yē (o)
 2SG.PP DAT COMP INTERJ
 ‘If you call a woman, she will tell you that’
- (23) kpó wú dǐ mě kām bī-kpōn,
 CL3/7a.money CL3;3SG.POSS be(b) only CL7/8.thousand CL8-five
 bwē
 CL1/2.friend
 ‘her price is always 5000 francs, my friend.’ (lit.: her money)
- (24) tō nō lòn kǎ b-ṣ wù
 CL7/8.day SUBORD CL8.suffering catch(b) CL8-REL CL1
 kām b-ṣ bī-kpōn ā dǐ wō
 CL7/8.thousand CL8-DET CL8-five NEG be(b) NEG
 ‘The day that suffering attacks her, the 5000 francs are not there.’
- (25) nǐ mī yí nìm tí
 CL1/2.mother;3SG.POSS CONSEC eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly
 lòn (è), tǐ mī yí
 CL8.suffering INTERJ CL1/2.father.3SG.POSS CONSEC eat(b).IPFV
 nìm tí lòn (e)
 sit(a).IPFV surprisingly CL8.suffering INTERJ
 ‘Her mother is suffering and her father is suffering.’

¹The Class 8 pronoun is used to refer to a group of people in an abusive way.

- (26) tō mī wé ʃĩ tí (e),
 CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b).IPFV go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ
 wù kō nīm f-ʒ gbó, (o)
 CL1 cry(a) sit(a) PROX-there house.LOC INTERJ

‘When day has broken, she is still there in the house crying.’

- (27) nĩ bú ʃĩ tí wú lā, yē
 CL1/2.mother.3POSS ask(b) go_down(a) surprisingly CL1PP DAT COMP
 mī wān, ɲwóm w-ā dǐ tí nā
 1SG CL1.child CL1.husband CL1-2SG.POSS be(b) surprisingly where
 (o)
 INTERJ

‘And the mother will ask her: My child, where is your husband?’

- (28) wù dzé gàn nĩ lā yē,
 CL1 speak(b) go(a) CL1/2.mother;3POSS DAT COMP
 nĩ, ā n=dǐ wō ā mōnō
 CL1/2.mother;1POSS NEG 1SG=be(b) NEG COM CL1.male

‘and the daughter will say: Please mother, I don’t have a man.’

- (29) bī mī dzě gàn bǎ lā, yē nīm nĩ ā
 1PL CONSEC speak(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP sit(a) IMP.PL COM
 mō kwě (e)
 CL1.man CL3/7a.home_village INTERJ

‘We are telling them: Stay and get married to a native man!’

- (30) bǎ dzé ʃĩ bí lā yē, ɲwóm
 CL2 speak(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1PL.PP DAT COMP CL2.husbands
 kwě ā fyá tí wō bī
 CL3/7a.home_village NEG give(b).IPFV surprisingly NEG 1PL

‘and they are telling us that native men are not giving us.’

- (31) better dǐ yē bī bí ɲē gān
 better be(b) COMP 1PL go_out(b).IPFV leave(a).IPFV go(a)
 tǒm b-ʒ yĩŋ (...)
 CL7/8.palm_village CL8-DET bush.LOC

‘It is better for us to go out to other home villages.’

- (32) tō mī wě ǰí tí (e), bǎo
 CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ CL2
 tǐjí tí bē~bē (e)
 come(b).IPFV surprisingly CL7/8.half~RED INTERJ

‘And then day has broken and they will be coming back half way.’
 (i.e. attacked by illness, lost weight)

- (33) tō mī wě ǰí tí (e),
 CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ
 lòn b-ǎ yí nīm tí ǎ bǎo
 CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a) surprisingly ADVLZ CL2
 (e)
 INTERJ

‘And then day has broken and the suffering is only attacking them.’

- (34) bī kù dzí gàn kyēn mī (ē), bī
 1PL cry(a) walk_around(b).IPFV go(a) CL7/8.soul in INTERJ 1PL
 kù dzí gàn kyēn mī (e)
 cry(a) walk_around(b).IPFV go(a) CL7/8.soul in

‘They are crying in their soul, they are crying in their soul.’

- (35) bì bú gàn bǎ lā, yē bēn là dzí
 1PL ask(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP 2PL do(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV
 tí mǎn
 surprisingly what

‘We are asking them: What are you doing [aimlessly]?’

- (36) lòn b-ǎ yí nīm bǎ (e), lòn
 CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a) CL2 INTERJ CL8.suffering
 b-ǎ yí fúbǎ bī (e)
 CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV also 1PL INTERJ

‘The suffering is still eating them up and it is also eating us up.’

- (37) bī dzé gàn bǎ lā, yē ní,
 1PL speak(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP CL1/2.mother.1SG/PL.POSS
 lòn b-ǎ yí bī (e)
 CL7/8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV 1PL INTERJ

‘We are telling them: Please, the suffering is eating us up.’

- (38) wù dzé tʃú mí lā, yē lòn b-ʒ
 CL1 say(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1SG.PP DAT COMP CL8.suffering CL8-DET
 yí fúbǎ mī (e)
 eat(b).IPFV also 1SG INTERJ

‘And she will also tell us that the suffering is also eating her up.’

- (39) bī kù dzǐ gàn (e)
 CL8 cry(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV go(a) INTERJ

‘They are crying’

- (40) bī dzé gàn tí (e)
 CL8 say(b) go(a) surprisingly INTERJ

‘and they keep on talking.’

- (41) bī mī dzě tʃú wá lā yē, bān
 1PL CONSEC say(b) come(b) 2SG.PP DAT COMP CL1/2.outside
 bò ǎ kī-lī
 be_bad(a) ADVLZ NMLZ-be_strong(a)

‘We are talking to you, saying that [the world] outside is very bad.’

- (42) bēn mù kō bēn fō yē
 2PL take(a) CL8a.intelligence 2PL.PP head.LOC QUOT

‘You should be careful and put some sense in your heads.’

- (43) tō mī wě ʃì tí (e)
 CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ

‘When day has broken’

- (44) nǐ mī dzě gàn wá lā (e)
 CL1.mother.2SG.POSS CONSEC speak(b) go(a) 2SG.PP DAT INTERJ

‘your mother will tell you.’

- (45) bī ā wǜ wō ɲō ní
 CL8 NEG hear(b).IPFV NEG CL8a.talk CL1/2.mother

‘They will not be hearing their mother’s advice.’

- (46) bǎ mī kù nīm tí (e), ní
 CL2 CONSEC cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ CL1/2.mother.1POSS
 mī kù nīm tí (e)
 CONSEC cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ

‘They will still be crying, and our mother will still be crying.’

- (47) à mī syě nìm á dzæ, à mī
 2SG CONSEC expose_teeth(b) sit(a) 2SG.PP mouth.LOC 2SG CONSEC
 syě nìm á dzæ
 expose_teeth(b) sit(a) 2SG.PP mouth.LOC

‘and you will still be exposing your teeth, and you will still be exposing your teeth.’

- (48) nế mī kù nìm tí (e), yē
 CL1.mother.2SG.POSS CONSEC cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ COMP
 mī wān gàn fí tí nē
 1SG CL1.child go(a) pass(b) surprisingly where

‘Your mother will still be crying: Where is my child going?’

- (49) mī wān gàn fí tí nē, mī wān gàn
 1SG CL1.child go(a) pass(b) surprisingly where 1SG CL1.child go(a)
 fí tí nē
 pass(b) surprisingly where

‘Where is my child going? Where is my child going?’

- (50) bī yí nìm mī (o), bī yí nìm mī (o)
 CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ

‘It is eating me up, it is eating me up.’

- (51) bī yí nìm mī (o), bī yí nìm mī (o)
 CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ

‘It is eating me up, it is eating me up.’

16.2 Recipe for corn beer

16.2.1 Introduction

The following text is a spontaneous presentation of a recipe for corn beer. As such, it is not necessarily a correct or complete recipe, but serves to present Mundabli in use.

16.2.2 Text

- (1) bā fā bā fyē nā bā kǎ
 IMPERS want(a).IPFV IMPERS learn(a) SUBORD IMPERS HAB
 lā ná ŋkà
 make(a).IPFV AS CL6.corn_beer

‘We want to learn how to make corn beer.’

- (2) ká à mū jú gē w-ó à mī
 COND 2SG take(a) come(b) CL3/7a.maize CL3-DET 2SG CONSEC
 kpè wǔ ŋī mī sǐ yí-jyē
 soak(a) CL3 CL6.water in CL9/10.day CL10-two

‘When you take the corn and soak it in water for two days,’

- (3) à mī wú bí yá mǐ
 2SG CONSEC drain(c) go_out(b) go_up(c) CL6

‘you then remove it [the corn],’

- (4) à mī tén wú kyà mī
 2SG CONSEC pour(c) CL3 CL9/10.basket in

‘and put it into a basket.’²

- (5) *after*, à mī tǎn tǐú yán ŋgōm
 after 2SG CONSEC cut(b) come(b) CL3/7a.leave CL1/2.plantain

‘After that, you collect plantain leaves.’

- (6) à mī bǎŋ kí tǐín wō
 2SG CONSEC lock(b) CL7 there on

‘and you cover the corn with them.’

²In order to drain out the water.

- (7) ká mū bí sǐ yí-ndē or yī-kpōn à
 COND CL6 germinate(b) CL9/10.day CL10-four or CL10-five 2SG
 mī mū ké bí yá mú ā mī gwō
 CONSEC take(a) return(c) go_out(b) go_up(c) CL6 2SG CONSEC grind(a)

‘After it has germinated for four or five days, you then remove it [the corn] and grind [it].’

- (8) ká à gwō tǔ mú, *either* mēfīn mī or
 COND 2SG grind(a) come(b) CL6 either CL1/2.machine in or
 pē wō à mī tǔ wōŋ mǔ
 CL3/7a.lower_grinding_stone on 2SG CONSEC come(b) squish(a) CL6

‘When you have ground it, either in the machine or on the grinding stone, you then mash it.’

- (9) dǔ dǎ yí-ŋyē à kē lā ŋkà
 CL9.path be_still(b) CL10-two 2SG COND make(a) CL6.corn_beer

‘There are two ways of making corn beer.’

- (10) *either* à wōŋ mǔ, ká mū gé à tǔ fī
 either 2SG squish(a) CL6 COND CL6 settle(b) 2SG scoop(b) pass(b)
 bì yá fō w-ǔ à dzyē tsālì
 go_out(b) go_up(c) CL3.head CL3-DET 2SG cook(a) CL7/8.chaff
 b-ǔ ā mū-ntǔm m-ǔ
 CL8-DET COM CL6-thick CL6-DET

‘either you wash and leave it to settle, then you remove the head and cook the chaffs with the thick one (liquid)’

- (11) or à sé mú n-sē kwě mī
 or 2SG heat(c) CL6 INF-heat(c) CL3/7a.home in

‘or you cook it in the local traditional way.’

- (12) *then after*, ká à dzyē mē mú, *the first day*
 then after COND 2SG cook(a) finish(a) CL6 the first day

‘Then after you’ve finished cooking, the first day’

- (13) tō ā m-bāŋ b-ǔ, ká à dzyē mē
 CL7/8.day COM INF-follow(b) CL8-DET COND 2SG cook(a) finish(a)

‘the first day when you’ve finished cooking’

- (14) *then*, ká tō wé kē ʃī, à mī
 then COND CL7/8.day dawn(b) return(c) go_down(a) 2SG CONSEC
 dzyē kpē mǔ
 cook(a) complete(a) CL6

‘then the next day you finish cooking.’

- (15) ká à dzyē kpē mǔ, à mī mū ʃú
 COND 2SG cook(a) complete(a) CL6 2SG CONSEC take(a) come(b)
 ŋkā mū-nkōn m-ʒ, à mī nūŋ
 CL6.corn_beer CL6-strong_corn_beer CL6-DET 2SG CONSEC add(a)
 kwó ʃī tʃín ŋgó
 enter(c) go_down(a) there upon

‘When you are done with cooking, you take the strong corn beer and add [it].’

- (16) *then* kǎ tō wé kē ʃī mū mī
 then COND CL7/8.day dawn(b) return(c) go_down(a) CL6 CONSEC
 nīm ɪ bə kə mǔ
 sit(a) LOC IMPERS so_that drink(b)

‘then the next day it will be ready for drinking’

- (17) *so* bə mī yē m-mū
 SO IMPERS CONSEC start(a) INF-drink(b).IPFV

‘So, people will then start drinking.’