



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Things hold together : foundation for a systemic treatment of verbal and nominal tone in Plateau Shimakonde

Leach, M.B.

Citation

Leach, M. B. (2010, September 30). *Things hold together : foundation for a systemic treatment of verbal and nominal tone in Plateau Shimakonde*. LOT dissertation series. LOT, Utrecht. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/16000>

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/1887/16000>

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

Michael Benjamin Leach

Things Hold Together

Foundations for a systemic treatment
of verbal and nominal tone
in Plateau Shimakonde

This is a study of Plateau Shimakonde, a sub-dialect of the Makonde language which is spoken on the Makonde Plateau in northern Mozambique.

The study examines the phonological and morphological units which contribute to word structure in the verbal and nominal systems, and proposes that word formation in each of these systems is hierarchical. On this basis, simple or 'basic' structures which constitute core matrices in each system are distinguished from more complex or 'derived' structures which constitute expanded matrices.

In the verbal system, it is proposed that the core tense-aspect matrix contains just four basic structures: two perfective tenses referring to past events, and two imperfective tenses referring to non-past events. Negative, conjoint and relative verb structures are then derived, or 'built', from these basic forms. In the nominal system, it is proposed that simple or 'basic' nouns consist of a neutral noun prefix added to a simple stem. Different kinds of complex nouns are then derived from these basic forms.

The study lays the foundation for a systemic treatment of the way in which different underlying tone patterns in the language are formed and relate to each other as part of a coherent morphosemantic system. In an appendix, it is proposed that the underlying tone patterns which are assigned to derived structures are not arbitrary but are instead derived from the patterns assigned to basic structures in each system.

Michael Benjamin Leach

Things Hold Together

Foundations for a systemic treatment
of verbal and nominal tone
in Plateau Shimakonde

