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## **Phonology and Morphology of Mambay (Niger-Congo, Adamawa)**

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**Erik John Anonby**

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Mambay (Niger-Congo, Adamawa)**



# Phonology and morphology of Mambay (Niger-Congo, Adamawa)

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van  
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op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden,  
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties  
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door

Erik John Anonby  
geboren te Winnipeg, Canada  
in 1975

## **Promotiecommissie**

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# **Phonology and morphology of Mambay (Niger-Congo, Adamawa)**

Erik John Anonby

## Acknowledgments

This book is dedicated to Ti'za Christina, star of the Ramadan moon, who endured my dream of Africa and made it come true; and to Tinaga Parisa and Kyahrimi Nisse, my hot-blooded little Mambay girls.

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« **Heega hji haa saa fi naale ya** » ‘Un couteau ne peut pas rentrer dans le fourreau de son collègue.’

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## Abbreviations and symbols

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| adj.             | adjective                       |
| adv.             | adverb                          |
| al.              | alienable                       |
| ANAPH            | anaphoric demonstrative         |
| ATTRIB           | attributive copula              |
| AUG              | augmentative                    |
| borr.            | borrowing                       |
| C                | consonant                       |
| C/I              | co-referential/impersonal       |
| CAUS             | causative                       |
| Cd               | coda                            |
| CL1              | class 1                         |
| COLL             | collective                      |
| COREF / coref.   | co-referential                  |
| dem.             | demonstrative                   |
| DU               | dual                            |
| EMPH             | emphasis                        |
| EXCL / excl.     | exclusive                       |
| EXPECT           | expectation marker              |
| F <sub>0</sub>   | fundamental frequency           |
| Fr.              | French                          |
| Fulf.            | Fulfulde                        |
| FUT              | future                          |
| GEN              | generic                         |
| H                | high (tone); laryngeal          |
| h                | pharyngealization               |
| HEAD             | syntactic head                  |
| Hz               | Hertz                           |
| i                | identical participant reference |
| IDEO             | ideophone                       |
| IMPERS / impers. | impersonal                      |
| IMPFV            | imperfective                    |
| INAL / inal.     | inalienable                     |
| INCL / incl.     | inclusive                       |

|          |                                              |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|
| INDEP    | independent pronoun                          |
| intr.    | intransitive                                 |
| IRR      | irrealis                                     |
| j        | non-identical (switch) participant reference |
| L        | low (tone); Type 2 sonorant                  |
| lex.     | lexically determined                         |
| LF       | linked form                                  |
| lit.     | literally                                    |
| N        | nasal consonant; Type 1 sonorant             |
| n.       | noun                                         |
| NEG      | negative, negation                           |
| NONPFV   | non-perfective                               |
| NUM      | numeral prefix                               |
| O        | onset; obstruent; object                     |
| OBJ      | object                                       |
| OPT      | optative                                     |
| ORD      | ordinal                                      |
| PERF     | perfect                                      |
| PFV      | perfective                                   |
| PFX      | prefix                                       |
| PL / pl. | plural                                       |
| PLUPERF  | pluperfect                                   |
| pn.      | pronoun                                      |
| POSS     | possessive                                   |
| Pred.    | predicate                                    |
| QM       | question-marking particle                    |
| QUOT     | quotation marker                             |
| R        | rhyme; Type 3 sonorant                       |
| re.      | regarding                                    |
| REAL     | realis                                       |
| REFL     | reflexive                                    |
| REL      | relativizer                                  |
| REP      | reported speech                              |
| S        | subject                                      |
| SG / sg. | singular                                     |
| sp.      | species                                      |
| TAM      | tense/aspect/mode                            |
| TOPIC    | topicalization and related functions         |
| tr.      | transitive                                   |
| TRS      | tone register shift                          |
| V        | vowel; oral vowel; verb                      |
| Ũ        | nasalized vowel                              |
| v.       | verb                                         |

|           |                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| VN / v.n. | verbal noun                                                                                                                                 |
| VV        | long vowel                                                                                                                                  |
| X         | segment (C or V)                                                                                                                            |
| α         | exhibiting a specific value                                                                                                                 |
| μ         | mora                                                                                                                                        |
| σ         | syllable                                                                                                                                    |
| Ø         | zero pronoun                                                                                                                                |
| 1         | first person                                                                                                                                |
| 1&2       | first-and-second person                                                                                                                     |
| 2         | second person                                                                                                                               |
| 3         | third person                                                                                                                                |
| *         | ungrammatical or unattested structure                                                                                                       |
| [ ]       | phonetic transcription; boundary                                                                                                            |
| /         | either/or; phonological transcription                                                                                                       |
| .         | syllable boundary (used to distinguish a <b>g + b</b> sequence from unitary <b>gb</b> ); separator between words glossing a single morpheme |
| :         | separator between glosses of fused morphemes                                                                                                |
| -         | morpheme boundary                                                                                                                           |
| +         | morpheme boundary                                                                                                                           |
| =         | stem-clitic boundary                                                                                                                        |
| ±         | optional                                                                                                                                    |
| ~         | free variation / allomorphic alternation                                                                                                    |
| ↓         | non-automatic downstep                                                                                                                      |
| ˊ         | high tone/pitch                                                                                                                             |
| ˋ         | low tone/pitch                                                                                                                              |
| ˆ         | falling tone/pitch                                                                                                                          |
| ˉ         | mid pitch                                                                                                                                   |
| ˊ         | rising tone/pitch                                                                                                                           |
| ˝         | expectation marker                                                                                                                          |
| ʔ         | preglottalization                                                                                                                           |
| ˙         | glottalization (vowels)                                                                                                                     |
| ˚         | nasalization                                                                                                                                |

## Glossary

### Mambay

- ʔàzgàrà**      reciprocal kinship unit used between a person and all blood relatives with the person's female in-laws who are older than his or her spouse
- fàṣzàrà**      reciprocal kinship unit used between a woman and her female relatives with her male in-laws who are older than her husband
- fàhzàrà**      reciprocal kinship term used between a man and his male relatives with his male in-laws who are older than his wife

### Regional French

- boule*      ball of moist cooked grain meal; also called *cous-cous*