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

Anonby, E.J.

### Citation

Anonby, E. J. (2008, May 22). *Phonology and Morphology of Mambay (Niger-Congo, Adamawa)*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/13045>

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**Erik John Anonby**

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



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

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van  
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,  
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden,  
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties  
te verdedigen op donderdag 22 mei 2008  
klokke 15.00 uur

door

Erik John Anonby  
geboren te Winnipeg, Canada  
in 1975

## **Promotiecommissie**

Promotor: Prof. dr. Th. C. Schadeberg  
Copromotor: Dr. C. Kutsch Lojenga  
Referent: Dr. R. Boyd (CNRS, Villejuif, Frankrijk)  
Overige leden: Prof. dr. W. F. H. Adelaar  
Prof. dr. M. Mous  
Prof. dr. M. van Oostendorp

# **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.

The present research on Mambay was conducted for a doctoral programme in the Department of African Languages and Cultures at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Fieldwork was funded within the context of a language development consultancy jointly administered by SIL Chad and SIL Cameroon. Authorization for field research was granted by MINREST (the Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique) of Cameroon, permit 006/MINREST/B00/D00/D11.

I wish to thank my colleagues at Leiden University for their insight, humour, and encouragement, in particular Christian Rapold, Maarten Kossman, and K'es Mulugeta Seyoum.

I thank my colleagues of SIL Chad and SIL Cameroon, many of whom contributed in specific ways to the success this research and the enjoyment of our work together: Padeu Dakouli, Diane Friesen, Marti Giger, Caroline Grant, Jeff Heath, Jérémie Mondy Mégay, Julien Tchékoua, Bruce Jakeway, Gideon Noussi, Edward and Diane Tong, and Liz Williams. Discussions on a wide range of linguistic topics with Jim Roberts, Lukas Neukom and Richard Gravina were constructive. Vaughn and Mary Ohlman helped us greatly during times of sickness.

I appreciated academic exchange with many other people working in the field. Assessments of aspects of the present research by Roger Blench, John Esling, Ken Olson, Cho Jun-Mo and Gordon Tisher were beneficial. In particular, Stefan Elders (deceased) did all he could to ensure that I was well-prepared for fieldwork on Mambay by furnishing me with numerous resources which would have been otherwise difficult to locate, by sharing his own field notes on Mambay, by involving me in his other works-in-progress in the field of Adamawa languages. Paul Eguchi similarly laid the foundation for the present research through his previous work on Mambay, and encouraged me to engage in this field of study. I also thank Keith Snider for fostering in me a sense of wonder and love of language, especially in the areas of phonology and tone, and so for inspiring me to pursue further studies in African linguistics. His comments on the tone chapter of the present research were invaluable.

Au Cameroun, nous avons apprécié l'accueil que nous avons reçu dans chaque secteur. Nous reconnaissons les administrateurs tels que le préfet de Guider, le sous-préfet de Guider, le sous-préfet de Figuil et son adjoint. En plus, nous avons apprécié la sécurité qu'ont pourvue la gendarmerie et le poste de police de Figuil.

D'autres personnes qui ont enrichi notre séjour à Figuil sont nos frères de la congrégation EFL à Figuil, les pères à la mission catholique de Figuil (en particulier le père Vladislav), le patron de Figuil Pierre Roca, et le directeur de l'École de Kolléré.

Parmi les Mambay, nous avons connu un accueil chaleureux depuis le premier moment. En effet, le pays mambay nous est devenu un foyer. Les chefs des villages mambay nous ont ouvert la porte au peuple : nous nous sommes présentés devant les chefs de Beepahna (Biparé), Kaakaala (Kakala), Kaakyo'w (Katchéo), Kaaku' (Kakou), Bisooli (Bissolé) et Kaaguma (Kagouma), et nous avons reçu leur bénédiction. D'autres chefs nous ont accueillis depuis leurs sièges.

Arrivés au pays mambay, c'était d'abord chez Swahy Kada Moïse que nous nous sommes installés. Il nous a considéré comme ses enfants, et pour nos propres enfants il était **dazwa** 'grand-père.' Nous le remercions pour son partage de lui-même et de sa famille.

C'était un grand privilège de pouvoir travailler avec la direction (ancienne et nouvelle) de COLAMA (Comité de langue mambay) y compris Kam Kaagbungni et Moussa Tao, et avec ses membres, en particulier Oussoumanou Bouba, Kwe Nathaniel, Koué Agabus, Bégui Démas et Bouba Robert. J'ai apprécié aussi l'aide de Tao Justin et de Peevina Salomon dans l'apprentissage de la langue.

Nos voisins à Kaakaala et à Figuil étaient pour nous un support et une grande joie : Saadu Kami Taw, Younoussa Wouri, Kada Kaakaala, Amina Beezwa' et sa famille, Adoum Kami, Barnabas et Tigam Kaakaala, Parna paaru Samson, Napuga, Haman Kaakaala, Njidda Robert, et les grands parmi les Mambay qui se rassemblèrent **sàa napuga** chez Kami Koué. En plus, nous étions à l'aise parmi nos frères de l'église à Kaakaala et avec leur catéchiste.

Je remercie aussi ceux que nous connaissions hors du pays mambay. À N'Djaména, nous avons eu le plaisir de connaître Oumarou Beiki, Abassi Moustapha, Mohamadou Maouarmi et tous les membres du Comité des Ressortissants du Canton de Beepahna (Biparé). À Maroua, Issa Haman et Souahibou Kassala m'ont orienté avec justesse.

C'est à Oussoumanou Bouba que je réserve un remerciement tout particulier. Il est quelqu'un qui vit selon le proverbe, « **Ku'l za' bəh paa bin, muu zyagri i am** » 'Si tu apprends la danse du pied d'un autre, tu tromperas le tien.' Cette individualité, ferme et parfois rigide, lui a permis pourtant de se donner sans vacillation à la promotion de sa langue pour l'honneur de ses parents et pour l'héritage des ses enfants et de son peuple. Nous avons connu ensemble une collaboration enrichissante, et j'espère donc que j'ai pu, en revanche, l'aider à réaliser ses propres aspirations. En ce qui concerne notre cheminement divergeant, je lui affirme qu'il n'y aura pas un autre comme lui, puisque

**« Heega hiji haa sàa fì naale ya »** ‘Un couteau ne peut pas rentrer dans le fourreau de son collègue.’

Finalement, je dis au peuple mambay, **ri zoori ro!** Nous vous saluons! **Kiswa!** Nous vous remercions! Comme « **Tuh bom hiji marva ya** » ‘Un seul bracelet ne fait aucun bruit,’ que vous vous épanouissiez dans un esprit d’entente mutuelle. **La’ fah kaa fuu peh bee naa sigzi Kaakaala ma Lahzwa’, ró haan iro kinabom.** Ná liizi ka ná daazi ig para. Siketi má gbah sehzinza, má gii zimfin anza. **Má pale la’ ido’.**

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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
Ṽ	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
^	falling tone/pitch
˘	mid pitch
ˇ	rising tone/pitch
՝	expectation marker
՚	preglottalization
՛	glottalization (vowels)
՚	nasalization

## Glossary

### Mambay

- ?àzgárà** 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
- fàjzárà** reciprocal kinship unit used between a woman and her female relatives with her male in-laws who are older than her husband
- fahzárà** 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*