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Phonology and Morphology of Mambay (Niger-Congo, Adamawa)
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Stellingen
behorende bij het proefschrift
Phonology and morphology of Mambay (Niger-Congo, Adamawa)
door Erik John Anonby

1. Although, cross-linguistically, ideophones tend to resist derivation, Mambay is an example of a language where a variety of regular, productive derivational possibilities is available for ideophones.
2. The lack of a single satisfactory classification of pharyngeal and glottalic articulations in Mambay as consonantal, vocalic or suprasegmental is a reminder that descriptive categories are tools for understanding rather than linguistic realities, and that even the most basic categories may be reconsidered.
3. The structure of many non-canonical nouns in Mambay can be explained with reference to Mundang noun prefixes.
4. The proto Kebi-Benue unrounded high central vowel ə, which is absent from Mambay, has been recast in the Mambay lexicon in all of the five basic vowel positions (i e a o u).
5. Because of its low frequency and modest phonetic salience, the contrastive preglottalized w originally overlooked in Mambay (Eguchi 1971) has also been overlooked in descriptions of Tupuri (cf. Ruelland 1992:30) and, most likely, other Adamawa languages.
6. The Central and Southern groups of Kebi-Benue (Greenberg's Adamawa 6) are homogeneous and should be placed together under a single node within Kebi-Benue; the small but heterogeneous Northern group should fall under at least one parallel node.
7. Correspondences in the lexicon, phonology and even some of the basic morphology of Luri (Southwestern Iranian) and Kurdish (Northwestern Iranian) suggest that Lurs originally spoke a Northwestern language.
8. Irregular phonological inventories are less surprising than inconsistent distribution patterns.
9. Because it promotes involvement and identification with national and ultimately global symbols, literacy—even in the mother tongue—often leads to a long-term decline in the viability of smaller languages and cultures.
10. Synchronic and diachronic instability in language is the greatest single factor in restraining the arisal of propaganda-driven authority structures, and in preventing their enduring success.
11. As long as people from wealthy countries continue to cheaply purchase natural goods such as cotton, coffee, hardwoods and minerals, for which local producers are paid far less than foreign processors and distributors, poor countries will remain poor and existing natural resources will be depleted.
12. Since no person or society can live up to all aspects of a religion's moral code, religious denominations are organized around the classification of sins into those which are negotiable and those which are not.