

Studies in African Linguistics

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Nana Aba Appiah Amfo: *Noun phrase and clausal connectives in Akan*

This paper explores the semantics and pragmatics of noun phrase and clausal connectives in Akan (Niger-Congo, Kwa branch), highlighting dialectal variation. In Fante, noun phrases may be conjoined by *nyé* which encodes comitativity, or *nà*, which is underdetermined between comitative and coordinative meanings. Asante, on the other hand, uses the underdetermined noun phrase connective *né*. The interlocutor in Asante thus relies on contextual information to determine the intended interpretation. Clausal conjunction in both dialects is performed by *nà*, but a temporal marker can be aptly used in certain contexts as an alternative to the clausal connective. This situation, where the temporal marker functions as a clausal connective, is more general in Fante where the temporal marker is even used in certain contrastive contexts. This phenomenon demonstrates the close conceptual affinity between temporal markers and clausal coordinators.

Ethelbert E. Kari: *The pronominal system of Oḍual*

This paper discusses the pronominal system of Oḍual, which has five subsets of pronouns: personal, reflexive, interrogative, demonstrative, and indefinite. A noteworthy feature of the system is the distinction between inclusive and exclusive first person plural personal pronouns. Reflexivity is marked by a noun meaning ‘self’ plus a possessive pronoun, the noun varying in form depending on the singularity or plurality of the antecedent. It is noted that tense/aspect markers in Oḍual show limited agreement for person and number, and in some cases they do not have distinct forms to reflect the differences in the forms of pronouns occasioned by differences in person and number. Also noted is the fact that the basic word order in Oḍual simple clauses is SVO, and that word order in NPs to a large extent is typologically consistent with the basic word order, as many of the pronouns that function as modifiers follow the noun they modify.

Torben Andersen: *Kurmuk phonology*

This article describes the basic aspects of the phonology of Kurmuk, a previously undescribed language belonging to the Northern Burun subbranch of the Western Nilotic family. After a morphosyntactic overview, the treatment of the phonology includes syllable structure and word shapes, vowels and vowel alternation, consonants and consonant alternation, and tones and tonal processes.