

Conferences, workshops, schools

2nd Department of African Language and Literature International Conference

12-14-Jul-2012

Gaborone, Botswana

Contact Person: Pearl Seloma, selomap@mopipi.ub.bw

Call for papers deadline: 30-Apr-2012

Conference Theme: African Languages, Literatures and Cultures in Development

This is an international and interdisciplinary conference which will grant scholars and practitioners an opportunity to debate on how African languages, literatures and cultures can contribute meaningfully to development, locally, regionally and/or internationally.

Registration: Participants will be required to pay a registration fee of P1000 or US\$150. Students will pay P150 or US\$20.

The conference welcomes papers on the following sub-themes and/or any other relevant topics in the areas of language, literature and culture:

Language:

- African languages as tools of socio-economic development
- Language contact, domination, maintenance and shift
- Linguistic landscapes
- Language technology
- Sign language in Africa
- Linguistic description and documentation
- Language policy and planning
- Language proficiency in indigenous languages
- Language, education and literacy
- Language use, communication and the media
- Indigenous languages and gender issues
- Translation, interpretation and lexicography

Literature/Culture:

- African literatures and cultures as tools of socio-economic development
- Culture, folkloric formations and spaces

- Globalization, gender and power relations
- Literary theory and African philosophy
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)
- Literature, creativity and innovation
- Oral culture and Education
- Ideologies, beliefs and ethics
- Theatre, performance and the arts
- Intangible heritage and entrepreneurship
- Popular culture

General Sub-themes:

- Inter-cultural communication, discourse and language use
- Unity in linguistic and cultural diversity
- Linguistic and literary research
- Public speaking and development

Submission of Abstracts: Abstracts, of not more than 300 words, should be emailed, not later than 30 April 2012, to selomap@mopipi.ub.bw and batibohm@mopipi.ub.bw. Abstracts received after the aforementioned date will not be considered. Notices of acceptance will be sent out before 15 May 2012.

For further details please contact:

- 1) Dr. P. S. Seloma: Telephone: +267-355-2657; Email: selomap@mopipi.ub.bw
- 2) Prof H.M. Batibo: Telephone: +267-355-2638; Email: batibohm@mopipi.ub.bw

Niger-Congo International Congress (2nd call)

Towards Proto-Niger-Congo: Comparison and Reconstruction

LLACAN, Paris, 18-21 September 2012

Contact Person: Valentin Vydrin

Web Site: <http://www.nigercongo.com>

<http://llacan.vjf.cnrs.fr/fichiers/nigercongo>

The Niger-Congo International Congress (NigerCongress) is gathering scholars in comparative linguistic studies of the largest African language macrofamily. Issues of comparative analysis, reconstruction, language convergence and history will be discussed during three days of sessions in the Center for African Linguistics, Languages and Cultures (LLACAN) in Paris.

2nd Call for Papers: We invite all colleagues working in the field of Niger-Congo comparative and historical linguistics to submit topics and abstracts for their presentations at the Congress.

The aim of the Congress is to forward the reconstruction of the proto-languages of the Niger-Congo constituent families and, eventually, of the Proto-Niger-Congo language. Data-based communications suggesting proto-language reconstructions (phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactical, semantic, etc.) of various chronological levels or concrete steps toward such reconstructions are especially welcome.

Topics and abstracts should be directed to the Organizing Committee (mailnigercongo.com, vydrinegmail.com). Abstracts should not exceed 1,000 words (exclusive of data and references).

Presentations will be 20 minutes plus 10 minutes discussion.

The Organizing Committee will be looking for possibility to cover travel and accommodation expenditures of some participants (according to the results of selection by the Scientific Committee). Further important details concerning abstract submission are available on the Congress website. Please make sure that you consult these before submitting an abstract:

<http://www.nigercongo.com/stylesheet.pdf>

<http://llacan.vjf.cnrs.fr/fichiers/nigercongo>

Taking into account the fact that results of a serious comparative work are hard to display in a 1,000-words abstract, we invite colleagues to send their files containing

comparative data for the posting on the site of the Niger-Congo Congress. It will facilitate the discussion among specialists during the months preceding the Congress and at the Congress.

A publication of the Proceedings of the Congress is planned.

Deadline for submission of topics: 1 March 2012

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 April 2012

Notification of acceptance: 15 May 2012

Scientific Committee: Kirill Babaev (Moscow), Koen Bostoen (Gant), Gerrit Dimmendaal (Köln), Jean-Marie Hombert (Lyon), Larry Hyman (Berkeley), Derek Nurse (Newfoundland), Gérard Philippson (Paris-Lyon), Konstantin Pozdniakov (Paris), Guillaume Segerer (Paris), Victor Vinogradov (Moscow), Valentin Vydrin (Paris)

7th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL 7)

20-24 August 2012; Buea, South West Region, Cameroon

Contact Person: Pius Tamanji (tamanjip@yahoo.fr), wocalbuea@yahoo.fr

Web Site: <http://www.wocal.rutgers.edu/>

The World Congress of African Linguistics will hold from the 20th to the 24th of August 2012 at the University of Buea, Cameroon. The theme of the congress is language description and documentation for development, education and the preservation of cultural heritage in Africa. Discussions will center on the following six sub-themes:

1. Language in education
2. Language documentation
3. The social dimensions of language
4. 'Contact languages' in the growth and development of African states
5. Intercultural communication
6. Linguistic analyses (phonetics, phonology, morphology, lexicology, syntax, historical linguistics, language classification, etc.).

WOCAL 7 Workshop: Antipassives in African languages

CONTACT: Guillaume Segerer (LLACAN - CNRS), segerer@vjf.cnrs.fr; Koen Bostoen (Ghent University, Royal Museum for Central Africa, Université libre de Bruxelles) koen.bostoen@ugent.be

An antipassive construction is a derived detransitivized construction with a two-place predicate, related to a corresponding transitive construction whose predicate is the same lexical item (Polinsky 2008). Just like passives, antipassives thus involve a valence decrease. However, in contrast to the former, it is the patient-like NP that is suppressed or realized as a demoted argument, and not the agent-like NP (Creissels 2006; Keenan and Dryer 2007; Polinsky 2008). The examples in (1) and (2), both taken from Schröder (2006: 96), illustrate transitive/antipassive alternations, respectively in Shilluk, where the patient-like argument becomes an oblique, and in Burun, where it is deleted.

- (1) a. Wüno a-'yer yi jal-ani (SHILLUK)
 rope PST:E-twist:T ERG man-REF
 'The man twisted the rope.'
- b. Jal-ani a-'yët ki wüno
 man-REF PST:E-twist:AP OBL rope
 'The man twisted the rope.'
- (2) a. Lälbäär yööl geel (BURUN)
 giraffe 3SG: chase:PRO lion
 'The lion is chasing the giraffe.'
- b. Geel yүүл-ir
 lion 3SG: chase:PRO-AP
 'The lion is chasing.'

Antipassives are typically found in ergative languages (Creissels 2006; Dixon 1994; Keenan and Dryer 2007; Polinsky 2008), where the basic 'absolutive' case encodes both the single argument of intransitive verbs and the patient-like argument of transitive verbs, as opposed to the agent-like argument of transitive verbs which is encoded by means of a marked 'ergative' case (cf. Dixon 1994: 9). This close association with ergativity could be a reason why antipassives are a relatively rare typological feature in Africa. According to the relevant WALS map, antipassive constructions occur only in 4 out of 32 surveyed African languages, three of them in north-eastern Africa (Krongo, Päre, Lango) and one in western Africa (Koyraboro

Senni - Songhay), but all belonging to Nilo-Saharan (Polinsky 2008), just like the West-Nilotic and Surmic languages discussed by Schröder (2006). Following WALS, antipassives would be completely absent from Niger-Congo, Afro-Asiatic and Khoisan languages.

Nevertheless, both the link of antipassives with ergativity and their typological rarity in Africa need to be nuanced. Cases of antipassives are known from nominative-accusative oriented African languages, both in Nilo-Saharan where they occur in languages exhibiting ergative traces (Schröder 2006) and in other language families where ergativity is not a historical fact. Creissels (2006) reports morphological passive constructions in Soninke (Mande, Niger-Congo) and Wolof (Atlantic, Niger-Congo) (see also Voisin-Nouguier 2002). Given that the antipassive is a typological feature, whose study is relatively recent, it is to be expected that there are many more African languages where the construction has remained unnoticed or where it was described differently. Such is for instance the case in the Bantu language Songye, where Stappers (1964: 27) labelled the new function of the inherited Proto-Bantu associative suffix *-an- as 'alterative'. This de-transitivizing suffix indicating that the action is directed towards others which can no longer be mentioned as an object, e.g. *kumona* 'to see' > *kumonána* 'to see others', could easily be reanalyzed as an antipassive, even if the available description is strictly morphological.

The proposed workshop aims at a better documentation, description and understanding of antipassive constructions in African languages, especially from language families where they are thought to be inexistent or extremely rare. We invite papers that take a closer look at antipassives in African and pay attention to following topics/questions:

1. Is the antipassive morphological or periphrastic?
2. Is the patient-like argument left implicit or expressed as an oblique argument?
3. Does the antipassive co-exist with the passive and can be analyzed as its mirror image?
4. Is antipassivation (historically) linked with ergativity or not?
5. Is the antipassive marker dedicated or does it exhibit synchronic polysemy?
6. What is the etymology of the antipassive marker? Is it a morpheme diachronically associated with other functions (e.g. reflexive, reciprocal, middle) which underwent semantic shift or did it directly grammaticalize from a distinct lexical source?
7. What are its semantic and discourse functions (e.g. affectedness, individuation, definiteness, etc.) as well as its structural functions (e.g. making the agent-like argument the syntactic pivot for grammatical processes)?

References

- Creissels, Denis. 2006. *Syntaxe générale, une introduction typologique*. 2. La phrase. Paris: Lavoisier.
- Dixon, Robert M. W. 1994. *Ergativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Keenan, Edward L. and Matthew S. Dryer. 2007. Passive in the World's Languages. In Timothy Shopen (ed.), *Clause Structure, Language Typology and Syntactic Description*, Vol. 1: Clause Structure, 2nd edn, 325-361. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Polinsky, Maria. 2008. Antipassive constructions. In Martin Haspelmath, Matthew S. Dryer, David Gil & Bernard Comrie (eds.), *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Munich: Max Planck Digital Library, chapter 108. Available online at <http://wals.info/feature/108>.
- Schröder, Helga. 2006. Antipassive and ergativity in Western Nilotic and Surmic. *Annual Publication in African Linguistics* 4, 91-108.
- Stappers, Leo. 1964. *Morfologie van het Songye* (Annales. Série in -8 p0 s. Sciences humaines, no 51). Tervuren: Musée royal de l'Afrique centrale.
- Voisin-Nouguier, Sylvie. 2002. *Relations entre fonctions sémantiques et fonctions syntaxiques en wolof*. Lyon: Université Lumière Lyon2, thèse de doctorat.

WOCAL 7 Workshop: The history of post-verbal negation in African languages

Contact Person: Maud Devos (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren), maud.devos@africanmuseum.be; Dmitry Idiatov (LLACAN-CNRS, Paris)

Notwithstanding a cross-linguistic tendency for negative markers to occur before the verb (Dryer 1988) there is an area in Africa where post-verbal negative markers abound. Following Dryer (2009:307) this area 'stretches from Nigeria across to the Central African Republic and down into the northern Democratic Republic of the Congo'. This region overlaps with the 'hotbed' of a large linguistic area referred to by Güldemann (2008) as the Macro-Sudan belt. The proposed workshop aims at a better understanding of the typologically unusual phenomenon of post-verbal negative markers and its history in the African context.

We invite papers that take a closer look at post-verbal negative markers in African languages (within and beyond the area described above) and contribute to one of the following topics (or another topic relevant to post-verbal negation):

1. The position of the post-verbal negative marker: In the area identified by Dryer the post-verbal negative markers typically occur 'at the end of the clause, following any adverbs or adjunct phrases' (Dryer 2009:307). Outside the area the position of the post-verbal negative marker shows more variation. Data, mostly from Bantu languages, show that the post-verbal negative marker may also occur immediately after the verb (Devos et al. 2010), or that (pragmatically motivated) variation is possible (Odden 1996, Philippson & Nurse 2000).

2. The etymology of the post-verbal negative marker: What is the source of the post-verbal negative marker and especially are non-negative source meanings as suggested for Metta (Grassfields Bantu, Mihas 2009), Senufo (Gur, Carlson 1994), Ma (Adamawa-Ubangi, Tucker and Bryan 1966) and a number of Bantu languages (Devos & van der Auwera forthcoming) a recurrent phenomenon?

3. Post-verbal negative markers and 'Jespersen Cycles': For Bantu languages it has been suggested that post-verbal negative markers were originally used to reinforce negation and a fair number of Bantu languages display double, even triple negation. How valid is the Jespersen Cycle as a historical explanation for post-verbal negative markers in Africa and how recurrent is triple negation (involving post-verbal negative markers)?

4. Post-verbal negative markers and language contact: Following Güldemann (2008) post-verbal negation, more precisely the V-O-Neg word order pattern, is one of the linguistic features relevant for the Macro-Sudan belt. How does such a pattern diffuse? Nurse (2008:180) notes that some of the post-verbal negative markers in Bantu languages are Wanderwörter; they are easily transferred from one language to another. Do we find clear cases of borrowed post-verbal negative markers or is contact-induced grammaticalization (Beyer 2009) a more plausible scenario?

5. Stability of post-verbal negative markers: Can post-verbal negative markers be reconstructed for any significant time-depth, such as the level of a proto-family or a major branch of a family?

References:

- Beyer, Klaus. 2009. Double negation-marking: A case of contact-induced grammaticalization in West Africa? In Norbert Cyffer, Erwin Ebermann & Georg Ziegelmeyer (eds.), *Negation patterns in West African languages and beyond*, 205-222. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Carlson, R. J. 1994. *A grammar of Supyire*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Cyffer, Norbert, Erwin Ebermann & Georg Ziegelmeyer (eds.). 2009. *Negation patterns in West African languages and beyond*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Güldemann, Tom. 2008. The Macro-Sudan belt: Towards identifying a linguistic area in northern sub-Saharan Africa. In Bernd Heine & Derek Nurse (eds.), *A linguistic geography of Africa*, 151-185. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Devos, Maud, Michael Tshibanda Kasombo & Johan van der Auwera. 2010. Jespersen cycles in Kanincin: Double, triple and maybe even quadruple negation. *Africana Linguistica XVI*, 155-181.
- Devos, Maud & Johan van der Auwera. forthcoming. *Jespersen Cycles in Bantu: Double and triple negation*.
- Dryer, Matthew S. 1988. Universals of negative position. In Michael Hammond, Edith Moravcsik & Jessica Wirth (eds.), *Studies in Syntactic Typology*, 93-124. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Dryer, Matthew S. 2009. Verb-object-negative order in Central Africa. In Norbert Cyffer, Erwin Ebermann & Georg Ziegelmeyer (eds.), *Negation patterns in West African languages and beyond*, 307-362. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Mihas, E. 2009. Negation in Metta. *Rice Working Papers in Linguistics 1*: 197-222.
- Nurse, Derek. 2008. *Tense and Aspect in Bantu*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Odden, D. 1996. *The phonology and morphology of Kimatuumbi*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Philippson, Gérard & Derek Nurse. 2000. Gweno, a little known Bantu language of Northern Tanzania. In Kitore Kahigi & Maarten Mous (eds.), *Lugha za Tanzania/Languages of Tanzania*, 233-84. Leiden: CNWS.

Tucker, A.N. & M. A., Bryan.1966. Linguistic analyses. The non-Bantu languages of North-eastern Africa. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Endangered Languages: from Documentation to Revitalization (3L 2012)

July 1-13, 2012; Lyon, France

Meeting URL: http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs/colloques/3L_2012

The 4th 3L International Summer School will be hosted by LED-TDR (Langues En Danger - Terrain Documentation Revitalisation), DDL & ICAR CNRS laboratories, University Lumière-Lyon 2, France.

The focus of this Summer School will be on the links between work on description, documentation and archiving of endangered languages and the conservation, revalorization and revitalization of these languages. The Summer School will include morning lectures by major figures of the field, afternoon courses and workshops and thematic evenings. One goal of the school is to facilitate networking between on-going field projects and provide support for the launching of new field projects linked to revitalization projects. The Summer School will be trilingual: English-French-Spanish.

On Friday 6th and Saturday 7th of July, the 3L Consortium will host an International Conference on the Evaluation of 20 years of focus on Endangered Languages (1992-2012), with the participation of UNESCO, the CTLDC and the major foundations for Endangered Languages. On Wednesday 11th July the Summer School will also include a Student Conference.