

## **Negation patterns in Sama-Duru languages (Central Adamawa).**

As a contribution to the workshop : 'The history of post-verbal negation in Africa' the paper presents an overview of the negation patterns of several hitherto largely undocumented Sama-Duru languages, in particular Lonjo and members of the close-knit Vere-Gimme subgroup of the Duru Group, as well as Kolbila and Sama of the Sama (Samba Leeko) Group. The two groups form a branch of Central Adamawa.

The languages discussed in this paper are spoken in a contiguous area in and around the Alantika Mountains straddling the border between Cameroon (Northern Region) and Nigeria (Adamawa State). Post-verbal negative markers are attested in almost all, in general in the final position of negative clauses displaying a Verb-(Object-X)-Negative word order. Exceptions are negative subordinate and relative clauses (the latter in languages with a noun class system), there negative markers may take penultimate position, followed by the relevant markers or concords.

Regarding their respective negation patterns and the form of the various post-verbal negative markers the languages, even those closely related, vary considerably. The following patterns are attested:

- The post-verbal/clause-final negative marker is the only particle/morpheme/form marking negation.
- Negation is jointly marked by a negative marker preceding the verb/auxiliary and a complementary clause-final negative marker.
- Negation is jointly marked by the negative inflected verb/auxiliary and a clause-final negative marker.
- Negation is only marked by a negative marker preceding the verb/auxiliary; no clause-final negative marker occurs.
- Negation is only marked by the negative inflected verb/auxiliary; no clause-final negative marker occurs.

Most languages presented here possess an additional negative marker which also occurs clause-final. The functional difference is that the latter is generally used to negate predicate nominal clauses.

The paper concludes with the comparison of the various negation markers attested in the different languages, and a discussion whether or not (one of the) clause-final negative markers are reconstructable for the Sama-Duru branch of Central Adamawa or any of its sub-branches.

### **References:**

- Croft, William. 1990. Typology and Universals. "Typology and universals". Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics, 25. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cyffer, Norbert, Erwin Ebermann & Georg Ziegelmeyer (eds.). 2009. Negation patterns in West African languages and beyond. 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.
- Fabre, A. Gwenaëlle. 2003. Étude du samba leko, parler d'Allani. München: Lincom.
- Kastenholz, Raimund. (2010/11). Research notes.