

As these languages have restricted tonal systems in which only one high tone per word is allowed, the discussion extends into other aspects related to the “stress-tone scale” and pitch prominence relevant for linguistic typology.

The book *Syllable Weight in African Languages* is a unique monograph discussing the concept of syllable weight, which is manifested in language in relation to complex phenomena, including stress, tone, reduplication, sonority, germination, vowel length, minimal word requirements, and metrics. African languages enable discussing this complexity from both a theoretical perspective and as a representation of typologically, genetically and geographically different languages. The authors of these particular presentations are renown specialists in theoretical and/or African linguistics, focusing on the language of their long-term and exhaustive studies.

The volume is organized so that chapters highlight particular aspects related to syllable weight and develop the ideas by complementing each other. In this approach, the understanding of syllable weight goes beyond the ‘classic’ opposition between light and heavy syllables which is based on the contrast between Cv and Cvv/Cvc syllables and extends it to many other types and variants that include other features. Since its establishment as a linguistic concept on the basis of Chadic languages, syllable weight has gained a new dimension due to going beyond the previously analyzed circle of languages, especially including tonal languages.

The monograph on syllable weight edited by Paul Newman gives linguistic investigations new directions, possibly not related only to syllable weight. The discussion on the psychological reality of syllable weight includes the question of correlation between the abstract concept invented by linguists for analytical purposes and the speakers’ feeling for language that escapes the frames of linguistic investigation.

Nina Pawlak

Samuel G. Obeng, Christopher R. Green (eds.), *African Linguistics in the 21st Century: Essays in Honour of Paul Newman*,
 Koln: Rudiger Koppe Verlag, 2017, 154 pp.

This book is a collection of 10 chapters written on various linguistic aspects of diverse African languages. The purpose of the book is to celebrate the eightieth birthday and fiftieth professional anniversary of the accomplished and renown Hausaist and Chadist, Paul Newman. There is no doubt that Newman could be said to be the most prominent Hausaist of all times, the author of many seminal and widely used descriptions of the language, with immense contributions not only to Hausa and Chadic studies, but also to African and global linguistics in general. In fact, prior to the current volume, leading Chadists, Philip J. Jaggar and H. Ekkehard Wolff had compiled a commentary of Newman’s works titled *Chadic and Hausa Linguistics: Selected Papers of Paul Newman with commentaries*, presenting some of the finest linguistic studies on Hausa and Chadic languages available thus far.

The eight analytical chapters in this volume cover a wide range of topical issues on many traditional aspects of linguistics: phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics, as well as the interface between these subfields such as phonetics-phonology and phonology-semantics. The two other chapters are the introduction and an account of Newman’s professional life. The languages discussed belong to the two major African language phyla: Afro-Asiatic (to which the Chadic group belongs) and Niger-Congo (which is the largest linguistic family on the continent). The methodology across these chapters is similar, in that most of the authors employ empirical field data, applying various linguistic theories (many of which were Newman’s brainchildren) as tools for data analysis and interpretation. Similarly, the authors have used a systematic glossing pattern which presents the data in enormous grammatical detail, and provides evidence of the assumptions and conclusions postulated thereof. The chapters are discussed in turn.

Chapter 1 is an introduction by the editors which provides the general overview of the book ranging from the aims and scope of the publication, to the topics and languages covered, as well as the theoretical frameworks

and general methodological issues pertaining to all of the chapters in the book. Apart from a general summary of the volume, the editors highlight the key issues and contributions of each chapter.

In chapter 2, Wolff, H. E. analyses *Vocalogenesis in (Central) Chadic Languages* which is a diachronic reanalysis of the vowel systems of Chadic languages. In the beginning, Wolff discusses the Chadic vowel system in general, and the typological features of Central Chadic vowels, followed by a reconstructive analysis of the genesis and evolution of the Chadic vowel system. Wolff suggests that there may be no phonemic vowels in the Proto-Chadic language, and that the Central Chadic vowels, as they are today, are a result of prosodic features such as labialization and palatalization. In the end, four diachronic stages of the evolution of the Central Chadic vowel inventory were discussed. These include: step 1: /a/, step 2: /i, u/, step 3: epenthetic *schwa*, step 4: /e, o/.

Chapter 3, titled *Nasality and the Gengbe syllable* by Lotven, S. and Obeng, S. G. addresses the question of nasality in the consonantal and vocalic syllables of the Gengbe (Mina) language (Left Bank, Kwa group, Niger-Congo) spoken in Southern Togo and the Mono region of Benin. Employing the autosegmental theory, the authors examine the application of the so-called *Oral-Nasal Onset Allophony Rules* in the language. They conclude that these rules are largely applicable to the Gengbe syllable albeit with some exceptions. Nasalization in this language, according to the authors, is syllable-bound, in that it could only spread within, but not outside of the syllable boundary. In terms of the direction of nasalization, nasality usually spreads leftwards onto a preceding consonant, but also rightwards, albeit in limited circumstances such as clitic nasality.

Abbie Hantgan-Sonko's *A weight-based analysis of Joola Eegimaa lenition* in chapter 4 discusses syllable weight in relation to segment position in Joola Eegimaa (Atlantic, Niger-Congo) spoken in Southern Senegal. The purpose of the chapter was to show that Eegimaa lenition is sensitive to syllable weight, and to contribute to the current discussion on the phonemic representation of the Eegimaa consonants. The earlier parts of the chapter focus on background issues such as Eegimaa consonantal inventory, which is followed by a summary of the existing literature related to the topic. Using the theory of *Weight by Position* proposed by

Hayes (1989), Hantgan-Sonko shows that lenition in Eegimaa is sensitive to syllable weight. In conclusion, the implications of the weight-based analysis of lenition on the contemporary controversies surrounding some consonantal phonemes were discussed.

This is followed by Christopher, R. Green and Michael C. Dow's *Morphology of nouns in Najamba (Dogon)* that constitute chapter 5. Najamba belongs to the Dogon subgroup of the Niger-Congo family, with very little descriptive literature. The authors set out to review Health's (2011) suggestion that class-internal patterns of nominal inflection is unpredictable in the language. They show that the assumed haphazard nature of the nominal inflection patterns in the language was as a result of misanalysis of all noun stems as underlying vowel-final. To explain the systematic nature and predictability of the alternations, Green and Dow propose an analysis that allows for vowel and consonant-final noun stems, taking into consideration other relevant parameters such as phonotactics, syllable shape and stem versus affixal faithfulness.

Chapter 6 is Seth Ofori's *Semanticization of some phonological attributes in sound imitating words in Akan*. The chapter focuses on the phonology-semantics interface in the segmental composition of onomatopoeic words in Akan (New-Kwa, Niger-Congo) spoken in Ghana. From data presented in the study, the author shows that there is indeed a correlation between the phonetic features and sequence of sounds of an idiophone and its referent such as the events described, physical properties or the state of delivery. The chapter provides extensive background and review of literature as well as Akan word and syllable structures in relation to various sound classes and onomatopoeic words.

In the following chapter 7, Roland P. Schaefer and Francis O. Egbohkhare discuss serial verb construction in Emai (West Benue-Congo, Niger-Congo) spoken in Nigeria. Titled *Emai serial verb domains: Symmetrical and asymmetrical*, the chapter analyses the symmetry and asymmetry of serial verb constructions in three semantic domains, *vis*: locative contact constructions, possession retention and the manner of directional motion. The authors show that predicate pair elements are symmetrical, asymmetrical or a mixture of both, across all semantic domains. Furthermore, the implication of this study on linguistic theory,

especially the intra-semantic domain variation, was discussed in the conclusion.

Kofi K. Saah's chapter 8, titled *The null 3rd person object pronoun and the syntax of Akan* provides an analysis of pronominals in Akan (New-Kwa, Niger-Congo). The chapter discusses the conditions allowing for the use of the null object and the interaction between a null pronoun and the verbal tense in the language. Saah provides a counter argument against an existing claim on this subject and provides an alternative explanation by analysing the syntactic behaviour of third person singular object pronouns in three separate conditions, *vis*: animacy condition, lexical condition and clause-final/right edge condition. By analysing various syntactic constructions such as serial verbs, and focused declarative and interrogative sentences, the author concludes that Akan allows a null 3rd person object pronoun governed by the above mentioned conditions.

Chapter 9 is Nina Pawlak's analysis of the semantic content of the notion BE in Hausa (Chadic, Afro-Asiatic) widely spoken in West Africa and beyond. As the title *'To be' and 'not to be' in Hausa: The question of grammar and communication* implies, this chapter analyses the expression of 'be' through active and stative verbs within various syntactic constructions. Pawlak shows that the interpretation expresses a variety of meanings identified in different exponents, and that Hausa, like other West African languages, codes particular notions *via* specific markers. Beyond the syntactic aspects, the study points out the semantic content of the notion BE, and that new communication contexts provide a clearer distinction between 'being' in the sense of 'existence' and 'being' in its general, unspecified context.

The final chapter 10 profiles a comprehensive account of Paul Newman's journey to the top, spanning over five decades of active academic sojourn. There are no better authors of such a chronicle than his life partner, Roxana Ma Newman and one of his most accomplished disciples, Philip J. Jaggar. In this chapter, the authors summarise his successes, contributions and the most remarkable moments of his life, both as an individual, and his career as a linguist. It takes the reader through a fascinating, inspiring, yet challenging story of the life and experiences of the man and scholar, Paul Newman. From this chapter, one would say, a linguist can't be better!

Overall, the book is extremely interesting in many ways, especially the natural data-based analysis and varied theoretical approaches applied by the authors. The scope of the book, in terms of languages and topics covered, the confluence of scholars, juxtaposed to the celebrant's life and career, is simply amazing. However, it would have been even greater if all four of the African language families were represented to celebrate Newman *san frontier*.

Ahmadu Shehu

Christine Chaillot (ed.), *The Dialogue between the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches*, Volos: Volos Academy Publications, 2016, 519 pp.

The breach of ecclesial communion between Eastern Orthodox Churches and Oriental Orthodox Churches, caused by the pronouncements of the Council of Chalcedon, concerned the relationship between the human and divine natures of Christ.

The relations between the separated Churches were very difficult and caused by mutual accusations of heresy. This painful division continues to modern times. For many centuries, the establishment of dialogue between Eastern Orthodox Churches and Oriental Orthodox Churches was not possible. It was only in 1964 the unofficial dialogue between these families of Churches began, and the official theological dialogue started in 1985.

This topic of such difficult dialogue is taken up in the book *The Dialogue between the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches* in a comprehensive and multifaceted way. The book was edited by Christine Chaillot and published in 2016 and it presents a rare view of the history of bilateral relations between Eastern Orthodox Churches and Oriental Orthodox Churches. It is a very unique source for research on understanding the relationships between them. The Editor of this publication is an eminent expert of life and spirituality of the Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Eastern Orthodox Churches and also on the dialogue between these two families of Churches. Christine Chaillot focused on