

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

