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Pages vii–x of

Syllable Weight in African Languages

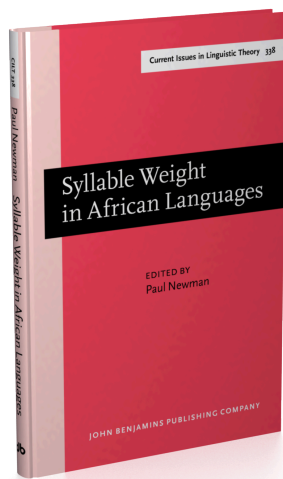
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Notes on contributors

LOTTA AUNIO (formerly Harjula) is the University Lecturer in Bantu languages at the Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki. Her work has focused on descriptive studies of Bantu languages as well as theoretical advances in the analysis of Bantu prosodic systems in Eastern and Southern Africa. She is the author of *The Ha Language of Tanzania* (Rüdiger Köppe, 2004).

FRANÇOIS DELL is Director of Research (emeritus) at CNRS (Paris). He received his PhD from MIT in 1970. He is best known for his work on the phonology of French. More recently, he has focused his research on text-to-tune alignment in singing. He has co-authored two books with Mohamed Elmedlaoui: *Syllables in Tashlhiyt Berber and in Moroccan Arabic* (Kluwer, 2002) and *Poetic Meter and Musical Form in Tashlhiyt Berber Songs* (Rüdiger Köppe, 2008).

MOHAMED ELMEDLAOUI has published a dozen books and about a hundred articles on the phonology, metrics, sociolinguistic, poetry, and ethnomusicology of languages in Morocco (Berber, Moroccan Arabic, Classical Arabic, and Hebrew). He taught Hebrew at Mohammed 1st University (Oujda, Morocco) and has worked as researcher successively at C.N.R.S (Paris), *Institut Royal de la Culture Amazighe* (Rabat), and *Institut Universitaire de la Recherche Scientifique* (Rabat). He won the 2012 Moroccan Book Prize (language and literature category).

MATTHEW GORDON is Professor of Linguistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests include prosody, phonological theory, typology, and the phonetic and phonological description of endangered languages. He is the author of *Syllable Weight: Phonetics, Phonology, Typology* (Routledge, 2006) and *Phonological Typology* (Oxford 2016).

RICHARD GRISCOM is a PhD student in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Oregon. His past research has included diachronic studies of the Western Nilotic and Koman languages as well as phonological studies of Maa (Eastern Nilotic). His current work centers around the documentation and description of Asmjeeg Datooga (Southern Nilotic), supported through a grant from the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme.

ANDREW HEDDING graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Minnesota in 2012 with a B.A. in Linguistics and Spanish. While still an undergraduate, he conducted research on *s*-elision in Spanish, and worked with native speakers on Amharic phonology, focusing primarily on gemination. He has presented his research on Amharic at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the LSA and at the University of Minnesota Linguistics Colloquium. Since graduation he has worked as an English teacher in South America and Europe. Beginning in the fall, 2016, he has embarked on a PhD program at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

JOHN KEEGAN received a PhD in linguistics from the City University of New York. Before doing his graduate studies he was a Peace Corps Volunteer working as a high school teacher in southern Chad. For the past seven years he has been directing the Sara-Bagirmi Language project, which uses language databases to produce lexical descriptions of Sara-Bagirmi languages. The project has resulted in the publication of fifteen lexicons/dictionaries, several with extensive grammatical introductions. These works, together with recordings by native speakers, have been made available open access on the internet.

ASHLEY MCKEEVER received a PhD in linguistics from the University of Texas at Arlington based on fieldwork carried out among Fur refugees in the United States. Her interests lie in language documentation and revitalization, especially with regard to endangered languages. She is passionate about helping refugees and immigrants make the transition to life in the United States.

FIONA MC LAUGHLIN is chair of the Linguistics Department at the University of Florida. She has published extensively on the phonology and morphology of the Atlantic languages, and she currently writes on language contact in urban West Africa. She is a former director of the West African Research Center in Dakar, and has translated Senegalese novelist Boubacar Boris Diop's novel *Murambi, le livre des ossements* into English.

A. AGOSWIN MUSAH is currently a DAAD doctoral fellow at the Institute of African Studies at Frankfurt University, Germany, where he is conducting research on central topics in Kusaal grammar. He received his M.Phil in Linguistics from the University of Ghana (Legon-Accra). His research interests include phonology, morphosyntax, and the structural description of Kusaal and its promotion in Ghana. Since 2010, he has been a member of and linguistics consultant to the Kusaal Orthography Committee.

PAUL NEWMAN is Distinguished Professor of Linguistics (emeritus) and Adjunct Professor of Law at Indiana University. Before coming to Indiana, he held positions at Yale University, Abdullahi Bayero College (Kano, Nigeria), and the University of Leiden, where he founded the *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. He has published twenty books, including *The Hausa Language: An Encyclopedic Reference Grammar* (Yale University Press, 2000) and *Linguistic Fieldwork*, co-edited with Martha Ratliff (Cambridge University Press, 2001) and numerous articles, book reviews, and ethnomusicological recordings. He is also a lawyer. After retiring from Indiana, he worked as library copyright specialist at the University of Michigan and served as pro bono Special Counsel to the LSA.

DORIS PAYNE is Professor of Linguistics and Director of the African Studies Program at the University of Oregon, and a linguistics consultant with SIL International. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in South America and East Africa, and has consulted with field linguists from East and West Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Together with Maasai speakers she is developing a trilingual Maasai-Swahili-English dictionary. Although her work focuses on morphosyntax, lexical semantics, and discourse, as a field researcher she also addresses phonetics and phonology. Her latest book, co-edited with Shahar Shirtz, *Beyond Aspect: The Expression of Discourse Functions in African Languages* (John Benjamins, 2015), examines the interplay of tense-aspect grammar with discourse structure and function.

HANNAH SANDE is a PhD candidate in linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley. For the past three years she has been studying Guébie, an endangered Kru language spoken in Côte d'Ivoire. She has also worked with speakers of other African languages including Amharic (Semitic), Dafin (Mande), Moro (Kordofanian), and Nouchi, a contact language spoken in urban Côte d'Ivoire. Sande's work focuses on morphology and its interfaces with syntax and phonology, influenced heavily by data from under-documented languages.

RUSSELL SCHUH was Distinguished Professor of Linguistics at UCLA. He specialized in languages of the Chadic family. He has done extensive field research in West Africa, particularly northern Nigeria, and is the author of numerous books and articles focusing on language description, most recently *Bole-English-Hausa Dictionary and English-Bole Wordlist* co-authored with Alhaji Maina Gimba (University of California Press, 2015). Since the early 1980s he combined his interest in music and linguistics through the study of the metrics of Hausa poetry and music. Throughout his life he was an avid distance runner, having finished over 30 marathons, often placing in the top 10 in his age group. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*) from the University of Maiduguri. Schuh passed away on November 8, 2016 at the age of 75.

LAMEEN SOUAG is a researcher at LACITO, a laboratory of the French National Center for Scientific Research. His research is focused mainly on historical linguistics and language contact in and around the Sahara, along with the documentation of endangered languages of the region. He has conducted fieldwork in Algeria and Egypt. His first book, based on his SOAS PhD thesis, is *Berber and Arabic in Siwa (Egypt): A Study in Linguistic Contact* (Rüdiger Köppe, 2013).

CAROLINE WILTSHIRE is Associate Professor and past Chair of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Florida. She has published over 40 articles in major journals, books, and conference proceedings. She has also co-edited three books, including *Romance Phonology and Variation*, with Joachim Camps (John Benjamins, 2002). The focus of her research and teaching has been on theoretical phonology and its interactions with morphology, phonetics, and second language acquisition.