

Excercise Noun Classes

The following are a number of example sentences from the Bantu language Tunen spoken in Cameroon. For each sentence look for the noun and find the agreeing prefixes on the words that modify the noun or that depend on the noun. Look at the other sentences to find these agreeing prefixes. Establish the noun class system for this language and give the table of agreement prefixes for each noun class and for each type of dependent word. Also try to determine the noun class prefix for each noun (class). Give the singular / plural patterns of the noun classes. Both the sentences and their translations may sound a bit strange because they are constructed for the purpose of this exercise.

- (i) wamía móná motótó amóte ábá hékákáo
my child small one is nice
My one small child is nice.

- (iii) babáŋ bá kíŋ báneá báná wéyá kōmen ê
enemies of chief how.many PAST him attack QUES
How many enemies of the chief attacked him?

- (iv) bámiá bōndu báfandē bāndo bōní bána bōkim luk
my wives two PRES these children all feed
My two wives feed all these children.

- (v) wíní mókaŋa moŋéŋ owá báná humb wōndo lo
this root big that they:PAST dig PRES fall
That big root that one digged, is falling.

- (vi) wayé ómbánj owá wōndo ba o mokat wóná ko
his stick that PRES be in hand PAST fall
His stick that is in his hand, is fell.

- (vii) míní mékaŋa méŋéŋ oyá báná humb yéndo lo
these roots big that they:PAST dig PRES fall
plural of (v))

- (viii) wayía émbánj oyá yéndo ba o mokat yéná ko
his sticks that PRES be in hand PAST fall
plural of (vi))

- (ix) níní nímí néfomá netete némote one nélia ikísín nèle fonókótó
this my orange small one that be kitchen be rotten
This small orange of mine that is in the kitchen, is rotten.

- (x) óní māmía máfomá matete máfandē omá málía ikísín mále fonókótó
these my oranges small two that be kitchenbe rotten
plural of (ix))

- (xi) yéy élema oyá méná lemanak yéndo bá yes
 this dream that I PAST dream PRES be good
 The dream that I dreamt was nice.
- (xii) béy bélema obía méná lemanak béndo bá bes
 these dreams that I PAST dream PRES are good
 (meervoud van (xii))
- (xiii) yé yamía mékɔ oyá yélíá mifítifí yéná kuen o helamb
 that my leopard that be black PAST fall in trap
 That leopard of mine that is black fell in the trap.
- (xiv) yétana imwíŋ meŋeŋ yená kuen o helamb
 this goat big PAST fall in trap.
 This big goat fell in the trap.
- (xv) yé yamía mékɔ oyá yélíá mifítifí yéná kuená o tolomb
 these my leopards that be black PAST fall in trap
 plural of (xiii)
- (xvi) húlón híamía hélɔ ohía héliá ó mim
 bring my pepper that be in house.
 Bring my pepper that is on the house.
- (xvii) húlón túamía tólɔ otúa tólía ó mim
 bring my peppers that be in house.
 plural of (xvi)
- (xviii) bóle búes obúa bólíá sianátɔ bóle kotakatɔ
 tree nice that be grown be dry
 That nice tree that is grown is dry.