

Talks of SFB632

Project: B2

Speaker:

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Time: Thursday, 29th September 2005, 15:00

Place:

HUB, Room 420 (Seminar Room of the SFB 632 at Hausvogteiplatz), Mohrenstr. 40-41

Title: TONAL ALTERNATION IN BOLE

Abstract:

Bole is a language of the West Chadic family spoken in Yobe, Gombe and Bauchi states of Nigeria. Bole, like all Chadic languages, is a tone language with two contrastive tones, High and Low. However Bole has tonal alternations such as (i.) low tone raising (LTR), a phenomenon where a syllable bearing a low tone is raised to high when preceded by another high; (ii.) lexical/ syntactic conditioning of tones, a situation where the tone of some words alternate i.e. they are realized as either high or low depending on the environment in which the word appears; and (iii.) pre-clitic lowering, i.e. the lowering of a high before a clitic if that high is itself preceded by another high. This paper will examine in detail the tonal alternations outlined above. The paper will also show constraints against some of these alternating phenomena such as blocking environments for LTR. Finally, we will show that some of these alternations are prosodically guided.