The question of complexity, as in what makes one language more complex than another, is a long-established topic of debate among linguists. Recently, this issue has been complemented with the view that languages are complex adaptive systems, in which emergence and self-organization play major roles. However, few students of the phenomenon have gone beyond the basic assessment of the number of units and rules in a language (what has been characterized as *bit complexity*) or shown some familiarity with the science of complexity. This book reveals how much can be learned by overcoming these limitations, especially by adopting developmental and evolutionary perspectives.

The contributors include specialists of language acquisition, evolution and ecology, grammaticization, phonology, and modelling, all of whom approach languages as dynamical, emergent, and adaptive complex systems.

**Salikoko S. Mufwene** is Professor of Linguistics and a member of the Committee on Evolutionary Biology and the Committee on the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *The Ecology of Language Evolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), *Créoles, écologie sociale, évolution linguistique* (2005), and *Language Evolution: Contact, Competition and Change* (2008). He has edited several books, including *Iberian Imperialism and Language Evolution in Latin America* (2014). He is the founding editor of Cambridge Approaches to Language Contact. His research includes the emergence of creoles, the phylogenetic emergence of language, and globalization and language vitality.

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Developmental and Evolutionary Perspectives

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Acknowledgments

This book is largely the fruition of the 10-month fellowship that the lead editor Salikoko S. Mufwene enjoyed at the Collegium de Lyon from October 2010 to July 2011. It enabled him to obtain funding from the same institution to co-host, in collaboration with the other two editors and with Jean-Marie Hombert and Egidio Marsico, all at University of Lyon and CNRS, a workshop with the same title as the present book. We express our hearty thanks to the then Collegium’s director Alain Peyraube for his interest in the subject matter, for his encouragements and advice during the preparations, and for ultimately making it possible for this book to materialize. We are also deeply indebted to the Collegium’s then administrative coordinator Marie-Jeanne Barrier for single-handedly managing the logistics that enabled the Workshop from the time the funding was allocated, through actually coordinating the details of the meeting (for instance, making sure that we had all the equipment and the meals on time), to the bookkeeping details she graciously attended to after the event. We likewise thank the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon for lending us facilities for the Workshop.

We are equally grateful to other participants who underscored the significance of the Workshop but did not submit their papers for publication: William S.-Y. Wang (Joint Research Centre for Language and Human Complexity, Chinese University of Hong Kong), Vittorio Loreto (Sapienza University of Rome) and Francesca Tria (Institute for Scientific Interchange, Turin), Jean-Marie Hombert (CNRS and Université de Lyon), Fermin Moscoso del Prado Martín (then a CNRS fellow at Université de Lyon), and Ramon Ferrer-i-Cancho (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain). Our exchanges would have certainly been less productive without their engaged contributions.

Additionally, Christophe Coupé and François Pellegrino are grateful to the LABEX ASLAN (ANR-10-LABX-0081, French program “Investissements d’Avenir” ANR-11-IDEX-0007) of the University of Lyon and to the Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage (UMR5596) for their support.

Lucía Lureiro Porto and Maxi San Miguel thank Vincent Blondel and IOP Publishing for permission to reproduce Figure 8.5.