

The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics

This book presents an in-depth and comprehensive state-of-the-art account of the study of 'African languages' and 'language in Africa' since its beginnings as a 'colonial science' at the turn of the 20th century in Europe. Compiled by 55 internationally renowned scholars, this groundbreaking account looks at past and current research on 'African languages' and 'language in Africa' under the impact of paradigmatic changes from 'colonial' to 'postcolonial' perspectives. It addresses current trends in the study of the role and functions of language, African and other, in pre- and postcolonial African societies. Highlighting the central role that the 'language factor' plays in postcolonial transformation processes of sociocultural modernization and economic development, it also addresses more recent, particularly urban, patterns of communication and outlines applied dimensions of digitalization and human language technology.

H. EKKEHARD WOLFF is Professor and Chair (emeritus) of African Linguistics at Leipzig University. He publishes widely on descriptive, typological, comparative, and applied linguistics and sociolinguistics of African languages, and on oral literatures. He has published over 25 books including *Sprachkunst der Lamang* (1980), *Referenzgrammatik des Hausa* (1993), *The Lamang Language and Dictionary* (2 vols., 2015), *Language and Development in Africa: Perceptions, Ideologies and Challenges* (2016), *Multilingual Education for Africa: Concepts and Practices* (2016), *Multilingualism and Intercultural Communication: A South African Perspective* (2017), and *A History of African Linguistics* (to appear 2019).

CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOKS IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Genuinely broad in scope, each handbook in this series provides a complete state-of-the-field overview of a major sub-discipline within language study and research. Grouped into broad thematic areas, the chapters in each volume encompass the most important issues and topics within each subject, offering a coherent picture of the latest theories and findings. Together, the volumes will build into an integrated overview of the discipline in its entirety.

Published titles

- The Cambridge Handbook of Phonology*, edited by Paul de Lacy
The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Code-switching, edited by Barbara E. Bullock and Almeida Jacqueline Toribio
The Cambridge Handbook of Child Language, Second Edition, edited by Edith L. Bavin and Letitia Naigles
The Cambridge Handbook of Endangered Languages, edited by Peter K. Austin and Julia Sallabank
The Cambridge Handbook of Sociolinguistics, edited by Rajend Mesthrie
The Cambridge Handbook of Pragmatics, edited by Keith Allan and Kasia M. Jaszczolt
The Cambridge Handbook of Language Policy, edited by Bernard Spolsky
The Cambridge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition, edited by Julia Herschensohn and Martha Young-Scholten
The Cambridge Handbook of Biolinguistics, edited by Cedric Boeckx and Kleanthes K. Grohmann
The Cambridge Handbook of Generative Syntax, edited by Marcel den Dikken
The Cambridge Handbook of Communication Disorders, edited by Louise Cummings
The Cambridge Handbook of Stylistics, edited by Peter Stockwell and Sara Whiteley
The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology, edited by N.J. Enfield, Paul Kockelman and Jack Sidnell
The Cambridge Handbook of English Corpus Linguistics, edited by Douglas Biber and Randi Reppen
The Cambridge Handbook of Bilingual Processing, edited by John W. Schwieter
The Cambridge Handbook of Learner Corpus Research, edited by Sylviane Granger, Gaëtanelle Gilquin, and Fanny Meunier
The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Multicompetence, edited by Li Wei and Vivian Cook
The Cambridge Handbook of English Historical Linguistics, edited by Merja Kytö and Päivi Pahta
The Cambridge Handbook of Formal Semantics, edited by Maria Aloni and Paul Dekker
The Cambridge Handbook of Morphology, edited by Andrew Hippisley and Greg Stump
The Cambridge Handbook of Historical Syntax, edited by Adam Ledgeway and Ian Roberts
The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Typology, edited by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon
The Cambridge Handbook of Areal Linguistics, edited by Raymond Hickey
The Cambridge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics, edited by Barbara Dancygier
The Cambridge Handbook of Japanese Linguistics, edited by Yoko Hasegawa
The Cambridge Handbook of Spanish Linguistics, edited by Kimberly L. Geeslin

The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics

Edited by
H. Ekkehard Wolff



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108417983

DOI: 10.1017/9781108283991

© Cambridge University Press 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Wolff, Ekkehard, editor.

Title: The Cambridge handbook of African linguistics / edited by H. Ekkehard Wolff.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018012835 | ISBN 9781108417983 (hardback : alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: African languages. | Linguistics—Africa.

Classification: LCC PL8005 .C36 2018 | DDC 496—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018012835>

ISBN 978-1-108-41798-3 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
<i>List of Maps</i>	xi
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xii
<i>Preface</i>	xvi
<i>General Introduction</i>	xix
<i>List of Abbreviations and Acronyms</i>	xxiv
Introduction	1
1 African Linguistics: Conceptions and Scope <i>H. Ekkehard Wolff</i>	3
Part I Short Regional Histories of African Linguistics	31
2 African Linguistics in Europe <i>Roland Kießling, Nina Pawlak, Alexander Zheltov, and Arvi Hurskainen</i>	33
3 African Linguistics in North and in So-Called Francophone Africa <i>Abderrahman el Aissati, Yamina El Kirat El Allame, and Philip Ngessimo Mathe Mutaka</i>	59
4 African Linguistics in North-Eastern and So-Called Anglophone Africa <i>Marie-Claude Simeone-Senelle, Wolbert G. C. Smidt, Ronny Meyer, Angelika Jakobi, Amani Lusekelo, Bruce Connell, and Akinbiyi Akinlabi</i>	73
5 African Linguistics in So-Called Lusophone and Hispanophone Africa and in Southern Africa <i>Anne-Maria Fehn, Sonja Bosch, and Inge Kosch</i>	98
6 African Linguistics in the Americas, Asia, and Australia <i>G. Tucker Childs, Margarida Petter, Shigeki Kaji, Sun Xiaomeng, Yang Chul-Joon, and John Hajek</i>	115

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
	Part II Comparative and Descriptive African Linguistics	137
	7 Comparative African Linguistics <i>Gerrit J. Dimmendaal</i>	139
	8 A Typological and Areal Perspective of African Languages <i>Bernd Heine</i>	166
	9 Niger-Congo Linguistic Features and Typology <i>Larry M. Hyman, Nicholas Rolle, Hannah Sande, Emily Clem, Peter S. E. Jenks, Florian Lionnet, John Merrill, and Nicholas Baier</i>	191
	10 Afroasiatic Linguistic Features and Typologies <i>Ronny Meyer and H. Ekkehard Wolff</i>	246
	11 Linguistic Features and Typologies in Languages Commonly Referred to as ‘Nilo-Saharan’ <i>Gerrit J. Dimmendaal, Colleen Ahland, Angelika Jakobi, and Constance Kutsch Lojenga</i>	326
	12 Linguistic Features and Typologies in Languages Commonly Referred to as ‘Khoisan’ <i>Alena Witzlack-Makarevich and Hiroshi Nakagawa</i>	382
	Part III African Languages in Cultures and Societies	417
	13 Sociocultural and Political Settings of Language in Africa <i>Alamin Mazrui</i>	419
	14 Into and Out of Africa: The Sociolinguistics of European and Asian Languages in Africa and of the African Diaspora <i>Rajend Mesthrie</i>	442
	15 Language Endangerment and Language Documentation in Africa <i>Friederike Lüpke</i>	468
	16 Situated Language Use in Africa <i>Sigurd D’hondt</i>	491
	17 Special-Purpose Registers of Language in Africa <i>Alice Mitchell and Ayu’nwi N. Neba</i>	513
	18 African Languages in Urban Contexts <i>Andrea Hollington and Nico Nassenstein</i>	535
	19 African Languages and Mobile Communication: Between Constraint and Creativity <i>Ana Deumert, Ivan Panović, Dorothy Agyepong, and David Barasa</i>	555
	Part IV Applied Perspectives in African Linguistics	575
	20 Multilingualism and Education in Africa <i>Kathleen Heugh</i>	577
	21 Intellectualization of African Languages: Past, Present, and Future <i>Russell H. Kaschula and Dion Nkomo</i>	601
	22 African Languages and Human Language Technologies <i>Justus C. Roux and H. Steve Ndinga-Koumba-Binza</i>	623
	<i>References</i>	645
	<i>Index</i>	782

Figures

7.1	The subclassification of Semitic	<i>page</i> 149
7.2	NeighbourNet graph of Eastern Sudanic languages	163
9.1	Vowel sequences in Proto-Gbaya	208
10.1	Afroasiatic families	251
10.2	Proposed genetic classification of Chadic	257
10.3	Genetic classification of Cushitic	260
10.4	Genetic classification of Omotic	261
10.5	Genetic classification of Semitic	262
10.6	Genetic classification of Ethiosemitic	263
11.1	Nilo-Saharan subgroups	328
11.2	Koman subgrouping	333
11.3	The subclassification of Eastern Sudanic	357
12.1	Cluster constraints	392
12.2	Dorsal feature dispersion in the root template	396
12.3	Third person free pronouns and genders in Tsumkwe Jul'hoan	406
14.1	Idealized five-vowel system of L2 English East Africa	450
15.1	Schematic representation of language prototypes for three speakers	479
15.2	Schematic representation of the prototype emerging from the shared core of speakers	479
15.3	Schematic representation of the convergences and divergences between languages	480
15.4	Schematic representation of those inhabitants of Agnack who are iconized and erased from representing the village as 'Bainounk'	481
15.5	Graffiti in the grounds of an abandoned hotel in Kabrousse, Casamance	489

Tables

7.1 The classification of Afroasiatic by J. H. Greenberg and subsequent views	<i>page</i> 142
7.2 The classification of Khoisan by J. H. Greenberg and subsequent views	143
7.3 The classification of Niger-Congo by J. H. Greenberg and subsequent views	143
7.4 The classification of Nilo-Saharan by J. H. Greenberg and subsequent views	143
7.5 Linguistic isolates	144
7.6 Lexical cognates in some Bantu languages	146
7.7 Cognate sets in Bantu	147
7.8 Correspondence sets between four Bantu languages	147
7.9 Pronominal suffixes in Semitic	149
9.1 Coda consonants in Grassfields Bantu	193
9.2 Realization of C ₂ consonants in Ibibio	196
9.3 Properties of the prosodic stem in Kukuya	197
9.4 Some NC languages with prosodic stem-like asymmetries	198
9.5 Shekgalagari consonants	199
9.6 Glide hardening in Jukunoid	200
9.7 Williamson's featural analysis of Godié vowels	204
9.8 Degema ATR contrasts	205
9.9 Cishingini co-occurrence restrictions	207
9.10 Likelihood of nasal vowel counterparts to be absent	210
9.11 Proto-Bantu noun class prefixes	218
9.12 Joola Eegimaa and Temne noun class prefixes	219
9.13 Noni pronouns	223
9.14 Independent incorporative pronouns in Medumba	224
9.15 Possible Niger-Congo verb extensions	225
9.16 Comparison of past tenses in two dialects of Totela	228
9.17 Default subject affixes in Eleme	229
9.18 Tense marking in Efik	241
9.19 Niger-Congo features compared to other African stocks	244
10.1 Consonant system of Kabyle	272

10.2	Consonant system of Ahaggar Tuareg	272
10.3	Consonant system of WCh Standard Hausa	273
10.4	Consonant system of CCh Lamang	273
10.5	Diachronic types of noun plurals in Chadic	278
10.6	Sub-morphemic pronominal pluralizer in Chadic	285
10.7	Derivative prefixes in Berber	285
10.8	PNG marking with verbs in Berber	287
10.9	Imperative and adhortative marking with verbs in Berber	287
10.10	Preverbal PNG marking with verbs in WCh Hausa (Standard)	288
10.11	Postverbal person/number marking with verbs in CCh Lamang	288
10.12	Imperative and adhortative marking with verbs in WCh Hausa (Standard) and CCh Lamang	289
10.13	TAM marking in Berber Figuig: verb root *t-f- 'to enter'	290
10.14	TAM marking in WCh Hausa: verb stem (grade 3) <i>shigá</i> 'enter', verbal noun: <i>shigá-a</i> 'entering'	290
10.15	TAM marking in CCh Lamang: simple verb <i>kla</i> 'take', simple verbal noun: <i>kl-ò</i> 'taking'	290
10.16	The verbal complex in Berber	291
10.17	The verbal complex: linear ordering of functional slots in CCh Lamang	294
10.18	The verbal complex: linear ordering of functional slots in WCh Hausa	294
10.19	Consonant inventories for Proto-Cushitic, Omotic, and Geez	301
10.20	Geez person indexes	306
10.21	Inflection of main-clause verbs in Wolaitta	308
10.22	Common derivational morphemes	309
10.23	Ethiosemitic personal pronouns	322
10.24	Proto-Cushitic personal pronouns	323
10.25	Omotic possessive/basic pronouns	323
11.1	Songhay varieties	328
11.2	The consonant system of proto-Songhay	330
11.3	Phonemic consonants shared across Koman	334
11.4	Regular sound correspondences between B'aga and Koman	335
11.5	Reconstructed free pronouns in Gumuz plus Daats'ïin	335
11.6	Free pronouns in Kadallu	336
11.7	Free pronouns in proto-Koman	337
11.8	Deictic directionals in Koman and B'aga	339
11.9	Incorporated body part terms in B'aga and Koman	341
11.10	Relator nouns < Body part terms	341
11.11	The vowels of Mangbetu	344
11.12	The vowels of Mangbutu-Efe	344
11.13	The vowels of Avokaya, Logo, and Omi	345
11.14	Vowel harmony in Ngiti nouns	345
11.15	The vowels of Lendu-Dja	346
11.16	The vowels of Sara	347

11.17	The consonants of Ngiti	347
11.18	Glottalized consonants in Ngiti	348
11.19	Independent pronouns in Ngiti	350
11.20	Subject pronouns in Ma'di	352
11.21	Coreference pronouns in Lendu and Ngiti	353
11.22	Coreference pronouns and referential demonstratives in Ngiti	354
11.23	The consonants of Alur	359
11.24	The widespread preposition <i>ki/ki</i>	364
11.25	Case markers in Northeastern Nilo-Saharan	368
11.26	Cognate case markers in Fur and Kunama	369
11.27	Pronominal enclitics or suffixes in Northeastern Nilo-Saharan	381
12.1	The five Khoisan lineages	385
12.2	Cross-Khoisan consonant chart for the root-onset	390
12.3	Cross-Khoisan vowel phonemes and distinctive features	394
12.4	Dorsal features in V_1 and V_2 of the Glui words (1) [jã] 'owner', (2) [ʔúú] 'send', and (3) [kʰóè] 'person'	395
12.5	Cross-Khoisan variation of V_1 in terms of distinctive features	395
17.1	Lexical items of an Ethiopian spirit possession language	520
17.2	Lexical items of the Bafut court variety	522
17.3	Lexical replacement strategies in avoidance registers	527
18.1	Urban language use in Harare, Zimbabwe	549
18.2	Phonological manipulation in Randuk: use of metathesis by Shamasha and mechanics	550
18.3	Semantic manipulations in Yarada K'wank'wa	550
18.4	Zimbabwean play language and youth language practices	551
19.1	Number of articles on Wikipedias in South African languages	559
22.1	The big seven group of African languages	629

Maps

7.1 Linguistic isolates	<i>page</i> 145
8.1 Phonological zones in Africa	183
9.1 Distribution of nasality	209
9.2 Number of surface contrastive tones in West African languages	214
10.1 Chadic languages	255
10.2 Chadic languages (insets)	256
11.1 The distribution of Nilo-Saharan languages	329
11.2 The distribution of B'aga and Koman languages	333
11.3 The distribution of Central Sudanic and Ubangian languages	351
11.4. The position of the verb in Eastern Sudanic languages and Kuliak	363
14.1 European Colonization of Africa in 1914	443
18.1 The architect René Schoentjes's suggested division of Léopoldville from 1932	539
18.2 Linguistic gravity of Kiswahili dialects in cities of eastern DR Congo	543

Contributors

Dorothy Agyepong Doctoral student, Linguistics Section, School of African and Gender Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Colleen Ahland SIL International, Dallas, TX, USA; Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, CA, USA

Akinbiyi Akinlabi Professor, Department of Linguistics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA

Nicholas Baier Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Linguistics, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

David Barasa Postdoctoral Researcher, Linguistics Section, School of African and Gender Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Sonja Bosch Professor, Department of African Languages, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa

G. Tucker Childs Professor and Chair, Department of Applied Linguistics, Portland State University, Portland, OR, USA

Emily Clem Doctoral student, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA

Bruce Connell Associate Professor, Linguistics and Language Studies Program, Glendon College, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada

Ana Deumert Professor, Linguistics Section, School of African and Gender Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Sigurd D'hondt Associate Professor, Research Collegium for Language in Changing Society (RECLAS), Department of Language and Communication

Studies & Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Gerrit J. Dimmendaal Professor, Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie, Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany

Abderrahman El Aissati Assistant Professor, Department of Culture Studies, Tilburg University, Tilburg, The Netherlands

Yamina El Kirat El Allame Professor and Vice-Dean for Research and Cooperation, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco

Anne-Maria Fehn Researcher, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena, Germany; Institut für Afrikanistik, Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Human Evolutionary Genetics Group, CIBIO/InBIO: Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, Vairão, Portugal

John Hajek Professor of Italian Studies and Director of the Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-cultural Communication (RUMACCC), School of Languages and Linguistics, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Bernd Heine Professor and Chair (emeritus), Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie, Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany

Kathleen Heugh Professor, Research Centre for Languages and Cultures, School of Communication, International Studies and Languages, University of South Australia, Magill, Australia

Andrea Hollington Researcher, Global South Studies Center, Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany

Arvi Hurskainen Professor (emeritus), Institute of World Cultures, Faculty of Humanities, Helsinki University, Helsinki, Finland

Larry M. Hyman Professor of Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA

Angelika Jakobi Senior Researcher (retired), Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie, Universität zu Köln, Cologne, Germany

Peter S. E. Jenks Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA

Shigeki Kaji Professor, Department of Sociology, Kyoto Sangyo University; Kyoto University (emeritus), Kyoto, Japan

Russell H. Kaschula Professor and NRF Research Chair for Intellectualisation of African Languages, Multilingualism and Education, African

Languages Studies Section, School of Languages and Literatures, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

Roland Kießling Professor, Afrikanistik, Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Inge Kosch Professor, Department of African Languages, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa

Constance Kutsch Lojenga Associate Professor (retired), Linguistics Centre, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands; Senior Linguistics Consultant, SIL International

Florian Lionnet Assistant Professor, Program in Linguistics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA

Friederike Lüpke Professor of Language Documentation and Description, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, SOAS, University of London, London, UK

Amani Lusekelo Senior Lecturer, Department of Languages and Literature, University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Alamin Mazrui Professor, African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA

John Merrill PhD, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA

Rajend Mesthrie Professor and NRF Research Chair in Migration, Language and Social Change, Linguistics Section, School of African and Gender Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Ronny Meyer Maître de conférences (Amharique), Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), and Langage, Langues et Cultures d'Afrique (LLACAN), Paris, France; formerly Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Alice Mitchell Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

Philip Ngessimo Mathe Mutaka Professor of Linguistics, University of Yaoundé I, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Hiroshi Nakagawa Professor, School of Language and Culture Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo, Japan

Nico Nassenstein Assistant Professor, Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany

H. Steve Ndinga-Koumba-Binza Lecturer, Department of Language Education, University of the Western Cape, Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa

Ayu'nwi N. Neba Head of Division Teaching and Teaching Staff,
 Department of Linguistics, University of Buea, Buea, Cameroon

Dion Nkomo Associate Professor of African Languages Studies, African
 Languages Studies Section, School of Languages and Literatures, Rhodes
 University, Grahamstown, South Africa

Ivan Panović Assistant Professor, Linguistics and Multilingual Studies,
 School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Nina Pawlak Professor, Department of African Languages and Cultures,
 University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Margarida Petter Professor, Department of Linguistics, Universidade de
 São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Nicholas Rolle Postdoctoral Fellow, Program in Linguistics, Princeton
 University, Princeton, NJ

Justus C. Roux Professor (emeritus), Extraordinary Professor, Department
 of Afrikaans and Dutch, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Hannah Sande Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, Georgetown
 University, Washington, DC, USA

Marie-Claude Simeone-Senelle Directrice de Recherche (emerita), Lan-
 gage, Langues et Cultures d'Afrique (LLACAN), CNRS, INALCO, Université
 Sorbonne Paris Cité, Villejuif, Paris, France

Wolbert G. C. Smidt Director of 'Ethiomap', Forschungszentrum Gotha,
 Universität Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany; PhD advisor and teacher in the PhD
 programme 'History and Cultural Studies', Mekelle University, Mekelle,
 Ethiopia

Sun Xiaomeng Professor, School of Asian and African Studies, Beijing
 Foreign Studies University, Beijing, P. R. China

Alena Witzlack-Makarevich Assistant Professor, Linguistics Department,
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

H. Ekkehard Wolff Professor and Chair (emeritus) of African Linguistics,
 Institut für Afrikastudien, Universität Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

Yang Chul-Joon Humanites Korea (HK) Research Professor, Institute of
 African Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Yongin, South
 Korea

Alexander Zheltov Professor and Chair/Head of the Department,
 Department of African Studies/Department of African Ethnography, St.
 Petersburg State University/Museum of Ethnography and Anthropology,
 St. Petersburg, Russia

Preface

African linguistics has come of age as a separate academic discipline that, about 130 years after its inception in predominantly German-speaking academia, and 25 years after establishing the international conference series of the World Congress of African Linguistics, had not yet seen the publication of a comprehensive and solitary ‘handbook’ of its own. Therefore, in October 2015, Helen Barton of Cambridge University Press approached the editor with the proposal to design and compile such a volume for their prestigious Cambridge Handbooks in Language and Linguistics series. Beginning in November 2015, the editor finally assembled 55 experts who represent a remarkable mix of generations, professional experiences, genders, current affiliations, and origins. The task was to sketch out the history, the state of the art, and promising perspectives of African linguistics in the early 21st century and to reflect on past and current research priorities and recent changes of paradigm. The authors completed their chapter manuscripts between November 2016 and November 2017.

The African linguistics community had long deplored the scarcity of foundational literature for their field. With only few exceptions, representatives of the first and second generations of Africanists between 1885 and 1970 did not record their thoughts on the theoretical or methodological, not to speak of political and ideological, foundations of their concerns with languages in Africa, apart from individual cases subscribing to national colonial projects. There were hardly any publications before the 1980s, which would describe in greater detail the emergence of African linguistics as an autonomous academic discipline, or outline its specific research methodology and priorities. A notable exception is volume 7 of *Current Trends in Linguistics (Linguistics in Sub-Saharan Africa)* of 1971. The *Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics* fills a gap and adds – with a rather wide focus – to the dynamically growing literature on African languages and on language issues in Africa, which, however, tend to have rather narrowly focused perspectives.

Researchers working in the field increasingly realized that the peoples speaking African languages in situ remain in dire need of academic guidance, which would give science-based input to postcolonial linguistic, educational, and sociocultural planning. As editor, I wanted to ensure that a ‘handbook’ of African linguistics worth its title not only broadly covered descriptive, typological, and historical-comparative issues of individual languages or groups of languages but also reflected the manifold ramifications of language into matters of cultural, social, political, and economic life in Africa and followed these ramifications across the divides of generations and genders, rural and urban communities, educated ‘elites’ and under-educated ‘masses’, and reflected the differences between indigenous African and other languages. Such a broad approach not only reflects my own background in German-speaking *Afrikanistik*, but also mirrors the transdisciplinary programme of the World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL) since it was first convened in 1994. The structure of the present handbook does exactly this.

The handbook includes abridged regional histories of African linguistics, depicting its emergence towards the end of the 19th century as a ‘colonial science’ in Europe and following its global spread in the 20th and 21st centuries. In order to provide a fuller picture, it is accompanied by *A History of African Linguistics*, written by the same authors and published by Cambridge University Press, which contains more detailed and more fully referenced historical accounts.

The editor expresses his gratitude to Cambridge University Press, in particular to Helen Barton and all members of the team. We had just finalized production of my book *Language and Development in Africa: Perceptions, Ideologies and Challenges* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) when Helen approached me with the idea of compiling *The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics*. She accepted my proposal to have a sister volume, *A History of African Linguistics*, published in a parallel manner, in order not to overload the handbook with important hitherto unavailable information on the various regional histories of African linguistics, as was admonished by one anonymous reviewer of the original proposal with good reason. I am grateful for her confidence in me to shoulder the double project, and for the continuous and efficient support from her and by her team.

I am deeply grateful to all contributors for their professional and focused cooperation, and their concern about observing necessary deadlines. Most authors and co-authors delivered within a time span of twelve to less than eighteen months from the time they accepted the invitation, some continuously improving their chapters in professional dialogue with the editor and colleagues, occasionally comparing notes with authors of other chapters in the project. I was happy to see that many authors followed the editor’s advice to team up with co-authors in order to secure a both topically and geographically wide representation. In fact, geographic author representation ranges from Canada and Finland in the North to Australia, Brazil, and South Africa in the South, from the West Coast of

the United States, via several European countries and Israel, to Russia, China, South Korea, and Japan in the East. It also involves good representation of the African sub-regions: from Rabat, Morocco, in North Africa, via Addis Ababa and Mekelle, Ethiopia, in North-Eastern Africa, Buea and Yaoundé, Cameroon, in West and Central Africa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in East Africa, to Pretoria, Grahamstown, and Cape Town in South Africa. Fortunately, there were only very few withdrawals by prospective contributors, for suddenly emerging unfavourable personal circumstances; none of these withdrawals was critical because other excellent authors took over on rather short notice, yet delaying the completion of the whole book manuscript for several months. However, we lost two originally planned chapters, one on language policies and planning and one on the early history of standardization and literacy development of African languages; both issues are dealt with in other chapters, even though not with the originally planned depth and detail.

Finally, I am very grateful to both Helsingin Yliopisto (in particular the Department of World Cultures) in Helsinki, Finland, and to Rhodes University (in particular the Faculty of Humanities and the School of Languages and Literatures) in Grahamstown, South Africa, which each hosted me for periods of five to six months during preparation stages of this handbook. My Visiting Professorship in Helsinki (2016–2017) was co-sponsored by the DAAD Johann Gottfried Herder Program, and my stay in Grahamstown (2017–2018) was made possible by Rhodes University under a Hugh Le May Fellowship with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. All this support is gratefully acknowledged. Back at Rhodes, after an earlier six-month research visit in 2014–2015 under the DAAD Johann Gottfried Herder Program, I enjoyed the privilege of a congenial and stimulating academic environment, sharing with my local colleagues a focus on and passion for the intellectualization and re-empowerment of African languages.

General Introduction

The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics presents retrospective as well as prospective views on the scientific study of African languages on the one hand, and of language in Africa on the other. These are two fundamentally different but related perspectives, which both lie at the core of African linguistics as an autonomous academic discipline. A team of 55 expert authors stemming from or working in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe came together in order to compile the present volume. Primary focus is on the more than 2,000 African languages, which together amount to almost one-third of all living languages on our planet. This focus covers various perspectives on how these languages can be analysed and described, grouped and classified, and on how they have influenced each other in geographical neighbourhood over time through language contact/multilingualism – all this on the basis of established and theory-guided scientific methods and procedures. Additionally, the book also looks at other languages, namely those that were brought to Africa, as much as at language varieties that emerged within Africa, in historical times. Further, this handbook deals with aspects of language use in various cultures and societies in Africa. It addresses issues of language ideologies and attitudes, and describes how these weigh in on views of language(s) in Africa among professionals and in a wider public, both within and outside of Africa.

This handbook updates its outstanding predecessor *Linguistics in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Vol. 7 of *Current Trends in Linguistics*, ed. Thomas A. Sebeok) of 1971, and complements pre-existing introductory volumes to the study of African languages and linguistics, like, for instance, Pierre Alexandre, *Langues et langage en Afrique noire* (1967; translation: *An Introduction to Languages and Language in Africa*, 1972); Edgar A. Gregersen, *Language in Africa: An Introductory Survey* (1977); Bernd Heine, Thilo C. Schadeberg, and Ekkehard Wolff, *Die Sprachen Afrikas* (1981); Jean Perrot, Gabriel Manessy, and Albert Valdman, *Les langues dans le monde ancien et moderne* (2 vols., 1981);

Bernd Heine and Derek Nurse, *African Languages: An Introduction* (2000; translation: *Les langues africaines*, 2004); Ngessimo M. Mutaka and Pius Ngwa Tamanji, *An Introduction to African Linguistics* (2000); and G. Tucker Childs, *An Introduction to African Languages* (2003). As the present handbook neared completion, two other ambitious publications appeared in print: *The Routledge Handbook of African Linguistics* (2018, edited by Augustine Agwuele and Adams Bodomo), and *The Languages and Linguistics of Africa* (2018, edited by Tom Güldemann).

Evolution has made Africa the cradle of humanity and the home of human language. Here it evolved and diversified, and from here it spread across all inhabited continents. This alone makes African linguistics a field of prime relevance in the overall study of the history of humankind. Furthermore, and since times immemorial, Africa has been and is a hub of multilingualism, which has increasingly complex ramifications into practically all aspects of social, cultural, political, and economic life. Current research into aspects of (applied) African (socio)linguistics, therefore, opens new and in-depth perspectives on the nature of multilingualism in general as much as on its variant manifestations in territorial, sociocultural, individual, and institutional perspectives. These are likely to challenge the prevailing ‘Northern’ and Eurocentric ideological bias in public as much as in academic discourse on Africa and, more generally, on the Global South.

In this handbook, expert authors treat African linguistics as being much more than just a geographically focused sub-field of modern linguistics. No doubt, African linguistics owes much of its theoretical and methodological foundations to developments in general and theoretical linguistics. Vice versa, however, it increasingly contributes challenging insights from the analysis of African language data to the testing and refinement of theoretical assumptions and methodological tools in general linguistics. More than that, African linguistics represents a unique field of studies that rests on, but also overcomes the limitations of, narrow and so-called hard-core linguistic approaches, with a wide interface to neighbouring social and cultural sciences.

On the one hand, African linguistics honours traditional approaches to language in terms of ideology-laden theoretical constructs like, for instance, ‘heritage language’, ‘mother tongue’ / ‘home language’, and ‘(ex-)colonial language’. Consequently, African linguistics works with two complementary approaches to the central object of study. Providing genuinely new empirical data, it delivers – at times monolectal – grammars for hitherto under- or totally undescribed languages, based on a thorough analysis of utterances from individual members of a speaker community. It also deals with both abstract and highly standardized reference systems, like in the case of established African ‘standard languages’. More recently, it explores dynamically changing actual language use in communities of practice, and does so under currently fashionable terms like ‘(trans-)

‘linguaging’ and linguistic ‘superdiversity’, thereby calling into question our received notions about ‘named languages’ and ‘multilingualism’.

On the other hand, African linguistics allows for various trans- and interdisciplinary perspectives, viewing languages as being essentially embedded in the cultures and societies of African peoples, with which they continuously entertain dynamic interaction. Since the times of the teaching and writing of one of its German founding fathers Diedrich Westermann (1875–1956), African linguistics (in German: *Afrikanistik*) entertains very close if not essential links with social and cultural anthropology (in German: *Völkerkunde*) and (oral) history, in addition to phonetics and both general descriptive and comparative linguistics. With this in mind some like to refer to Westermann’s legacy as having established some kind of ‘comprehensive African linguistics’ (in German: *Gesamtafrikanistik*) that reaches far beyond the scope of hard-core linguistics research on African languages.

Third, and in terms of applied science, African linguistics links *languages as resources* to the aspirations of their speakers in their quest to master their daily routines and to meet the social, cultural, political, and economic challenges of sustainable, including mental, decolonization and of what is sweepingly called ‘development’.

African linguistics, thereby and apart from individual language structures and genealogical classification into language families and branches, addresses the lingering effects of colonialism in terms of continued linguistic and cultural imperialism and the onslaught of globalization. These have a strong impact on language choice and language use by individuals and sociocultural groups of practice in Africa, shaking the foundations of so-called traditional cultures and societies, which entail constant adaptations of both patterns of language use and properties of the languages themselves. The present handbook reflects this broad approach to African linguistics, which may appear innovative to some readers but is quite familiar to others, depending on the reader’s academic socialization.

Obviously, no handbook can ever be complete with regard to coverage of all potentially interesting and relevant subject matters, the present one being no exception. Readers and reviewers are encouraged to identify gaps and shortcomings and do their best to compile complementary publications in order to create a fuller picture. The contributors and the editor of *The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics*, however, take pride in having cleared the ground and laid foundations, so to speak, for other expert authors to build and expand on the description of African linguistics worldwide.

In Part I, the handbook provides abridged surveys of where, since when, and how African linguistics became entrenched in academia on this planet, from the precolonial to the current postcolonial era. The historical overview includes not only the countries of the former Western European colonial powers, where African linguistics originally emerged as a ‘colonial

science' but also their neighbours in Eastern, Central, and Northern Europe, in addition to destiny countries of the transatlantic slave trade in the Americas, the former African colonies and current independent states themselves, and, of more recent vintage, places in Asia and Australia.

Part II constitutes the main body of the present handbook. It addresses the core issues of African linguistics, namely the descriptive analysis, comparison, history, and classification of African languages. Reflecting established mainstream lines of research, the handbook offers approaches to African languages within the framework of their partly proven and partly still hypothetical or contested genetic classification, that is, as members of language phyla and families based on the still valuable yet critically reviewed referential classification by Joseph H. Greenberg in his seminal work *The Languages of Africa* (1963). However, in their presentations, the authors share an innovative triple perspective on (a) cross-linguistic language typology and (b) the impact of language contact in terms of areal linguistic approaches, yet (c) not neglecting unilineal language history as reconstructed by classic comparative methods.

Part III enlarges the scope of the present handbook to encompass bird's-eye views on the overall linguistic situation in Africa, reflections on language ideologies and attitudes, and discussions of patterns of language use and the interdependencies of languages with ever-changing surrounding cultures, social norms, and practices in Africa. This includes a focus on the more recent and dynamically increasing impact of urbanization, digitalization, and mobile communication.

Part IV, rather selectively, addresses applied perspectives that link African linguistics to issues of societal transformation, cultural modernization, and economic development, through focusing on languages and multilingualism as resources for overcoming mass poverty, academic underperformance, and technological marginalization. Crucially, this involves language-in-education matters, language intellectualization and re-empowerment, and reaping benefits from human language technology.

Like presumably most if not all contributors to this volume and many more Africanist colleagues across the planet, the editor believes in a comprehensive approach to status, acquisition, corpus, and opportunity planning for languages in Africa. He believes in providing science-based assistance for designing and implementing mother-tongue-based multilingual language policies for education across the continent, which would serve the ultimate benefit of the peoples who speak African languages as first or second languages in their homes and workplaces. Unfortunately and to this day, African and non-African intellectuals outside professional linguistic circles, including the political elites, tend to neither listen to nor understand what we Africanists are trying to tell them. We do so in countless academic publications, via formal recommendations from within learned societies, and by resolutions emanating from high-class professional meetings, some of us willing to embrace language activism and

risking degradation from the ranks of ‘pure’ academia. But clearly, for the sustainable empowerment of Africa’s ‘human resources’ to become able to take into their own hands postcolonial social transformation, cultural modernization, and economic development, only adequate education will do the job. ‘Adequate education’ obviously involves effective multilingual communication competencies in both endoglossic and exoglossic languages, because only this will enable African learners to compete successfully – both locally among each other, but also globally with members of their age cohort across the planet. Only mother-tongue-based multilingual quality education will overcome individual limitations of the ‘linguistic jail’ (Ouane 2003) of the mother tongue and of sociocultural ‘underdevelopment’, and will finally turn Africa into a knowledge-producing continent on equal scale with other continents, rather than remaining only knowledge-consuming at the mercy of the ‘North’. The African as much as the global arena is characterized by almost ubiquitous multilingualism in the higher domains of 21st-century verbal communication and knowledge production. Africans from all walks of life must be enabled to not only survive in the prevailing postcolonial and largely underperforming educational systems, but come out on top of qualitatively optimized systems, and thus attain equal opportunities with age-mates in other parts of the world. Targeting this far-reaching goal and supporting the linguistic dimension of endeavours along the way lie at the heart of matters that this handbook is about, apart from introducing and describing African linguistics as a thriving academic discipline across the globe.

The Editor

Abbreviations and Acronyms

The abbreviations listed below are used across chapters in upper- or lower-case, often in small CAPITALS. Occasionally, the same abbreviation or symbol refers to different categories, or the same categories are represented by different abbreviations or symbols, in different chapters. The abbreviations and symbols are those originally used by the authors of the individual chapters.

. I	set I person markers (A and S) in Gwama
. II	set II person markers (O and S) in Gwama
[↓] H	downstepped high tone
*L	floating low tone
Ø	zero marked (unmarked)
#	boundary
1, 2, 3; 1/2/3	first, second, third person
1/2/3/4/5	agreement class in East and West !Xoon, Tsumkwe Jul'hoan
A	agent argument of transitive clause
A	aorist
AA	Afroasiatic
ABS	absolutive
ACALAN	African Academy of Languages
ACC	accusative
AD	preverbal particle <i>ad</i> 'non-realized' (Berber)
ADEA	Association for the Development of Education in Africa
ADJ	adjective; adjective-deriving formative
AFF	affirmative
AFLaT	African Language Technology
ALT-i	African Language Technology Initiative
ALUPEC	Alfabeto Unificado para a Escrita do Cabo-Verdiano
ALUSTP	Alfabeto Unificado para a Escrita das Línguas Nativas de S. Tomé e Príncipe
ANN	status annexus

ANTICAUS	anticausative
APPL	applicative
ASAFAS	Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies
ASC, ASSOC	associative (marker)
ASP	aspect
ASR	automatic speech recognition
AST	African Speech Technology
ATR	advanced tongue root
ATTR	attributor
AUX	auxiliary
BA	baccalaureus artium, bachelor of arts
BAKITA	National Swahili Council
BEN	benefactive
BFSU	Beijing Foreign Studies University
BLARK	Basic Language Resource Kit
BLR	Bantu Lexical Reconstructions
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
C	consonant
C, CG	common gender
CALL	Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics
CAR	Central African Republic
CAUS	causative
CC	geminate consonant
CF	clause focus
CF, CFG	centrifugal
CIBIO/InBIO	Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CL1	class 1 gender
CL2	class 2 gender
CLARIN	European Research Infrastructure for Language Resources and Technology
CLO	<i>Cahiers de Littérature Orale</i>
CMS	Church Missionary Society
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
CNST	construct state
CNT	continuous
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
COLL	collective
COM	comitative
COMP	complementizer
COP	copula
CPL	completive (aspect)
CPT	centripetal
CRLD	Centre for Research on Linguistic Diversity

CSIR	Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research
CTexT	Centre for Text Technology
CVB	converb
D, DECL	declarative
D1	proximal demonstrative
DAT	dative
DCL	declarative
DD1	deictic directional ‘ventive’
DD2	deictic directional ‘itive’
DEF	definite (marker)
DEL	Documenting Endangered Languages
DEM	demonstrative
DET	determiner
DH	digital humanities
DIA	Dictionnaire Interactif pour Jeunes Apprenants
DIR	directional
DIST	distal demonstrative
DO	direct object
DOBES	Documentation of Endangered Languages Program
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DST	distal
DSTR	distributive
DU	dual
EL	état libre
ELDP	Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Documentation Programme
EP	external possession
ERG	ergative
EXC	exclusive
F, Fm	feminine
F1	first formant
F1, F2, etc.	future tenses (F1 hodiernal (near)future)
F2	second formant
FAC, FACT	factitive, factative
FLAS	Foreign Language and Area Studies
FOC	focus
FUG	centrifugal
FUT	future
FV	inflectional final vowel
GALI	Gabonese Languages through Internet
GEN	genitive
GILLBT	Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation
GP	general possession
GR.1	grade 1 (Hausa)

H	high tone
H	human
HAB	habitual
HLT	human language technology
HUFS	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
i/ii	tone class
IAI	International African Institute
ICT	information and communication technology
IDPH	ideophone
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge System
ILCAA	Research Institute for Asian and African Languages and Cultures
IMM	immediacy marker
IMP	imperative
INALCO	Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales
INC	inclusive
INDE	Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento da Educação
INDEF	indefinite (marker)
INE	Instituto Nacional de Estatística
INEAS	Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies
INF	infinitive
INFL	inflection
INS, INST	instrument(al)
INT	intensifier
INTR	intransitive
IO	indirect object
IPF, IPFV	imperfective
IRR	irrealis
ISCED	Instituto Superior de Ciências de Educação
ISE	Instituto Superior de Educação
ITER	iterative
ITR	intransitive
JALL	<i>Journal of African Languages and Linguistics</i>
JOLAN	<i>Journal of the Linguistic Association of Nigeria</i>
JUNCT	juncture
JUSS	jussive
JWAL	<i>Journal of West African Languages</i>
L	low tone
LACITO	Langues et Civilisations à Tradition Orale
LAN	Linguistic Association of Nigeria
LBT	Lutheran Bible Translators
LCRC	Language and Culture Research Centre
LLACAN	Language, Langues et Cultures d'Afrique
LLS	LexTorah Language series
LOC	locative

LOG	logophoric pronoun
LREC	Language Resources and Evaluation
M	midtone
M, Msc	masculine
MA	magister artium, master of arts
MaLEX	Malawi Lexicon Project
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MED	medial (distance)
MED	medial/middle voice
MID	middle
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MoI	medium of instruction
MPhil	magister philosophiae, master of philosophy
MT	machine translation system
MT	mother tongue
MuST	Multilingual Speech Technology
N	noun
N	nasal consonant
NARR	narrative
NC	Niger-Congo
NEG	negation
NELIMO	Núcleo de Estudos de Línguas Moçambicana
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NH	non-human
NINLAN	National Institute for Nigerian Languages
NLP	natural language processing
NLU	National Lexicography Unit
NOM	nominalizer (for verbs)
NOM	nominative
NON-DEF	non-definite
NPST	non-past
NRF	National Research Foundation
NTR	neutral
NTS	non-topical subject
NUFU	National Committee for Development-Related Research and Education (Nasjonalt Utvalg for Utviklingsrelatert Forskning og Utdanning)
NZ	nominalizer
O, OB, OBJ	object
OBL	oblique
OF	out-of-focus marker
OGL	Oxford Global Languages
OLAC	Open Language Archives Community
P	patient argument in transitive clause

P, PERS	person
P1, P2 etc.	past tenses (P1 immediate past, P3 distant past)
PanSALB	Pan-South African Language Board
PART	discourse particle
PASS	passive
PAST	past tense
PB	Proto-Bantu
PERF, PFV, PF	perfective
PhD	philosophiae doctor; doctor of philosophy
PL	plural
PL, PLA, PLUR	pluractional
PLAGR	plural agreement
PNC	Proto-Niger-Congo
PNG	person/number/gender
POSS	possessive
PossN	possessive noun
PossPro	possessive pronoun
PRED	predicative particle
PREP	preposition
PRES, PRS	present tense
PRO	pronoun
PROG	progressive
PROH	prohibitive
PROX	proximal
PST	past (tense)
PST1	recent past
PTCP	participle
Q	question (marker), interrogative
R	root
RCD	reductive-causative-downward
RCLT	Research Centre for Linguistic Typology
REAL	realis
REC	reciprocal
REC. PST	recent past
RED	reduplication
REL	relative (clause marker)
REM. PST	remote past
REV	reversive
RFL	reflexive
RMA	Language Resource Management Agency
RTR	retraction of the tongue root
S, SBJ, SU, SUBJ	subject
SADiLaR	South African Centre for Digital Language Resources
SAL	<i>Studies in African Linguistics</i>
SARChI	South African Research Chair Initiative

S-Aux-OVX	subject-auxiliary-object-verb-any other constituent
SCN	serial verb connective
SeLA	Scientific e-Lexicography for Africa
SELAF	Société d'Études Linguistiques et Anthropologiques de France
SEQ	sequential-conjunctive
SG	singular
SGL	singulative
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics
SLTU	Spoken Language Technologies for Under-resourced Languages
SM	subject marker
SNG	singular verb stem
SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies
SOV	subject-object-verb
SOVX	subject-object-verb-any other constituent
SSC	same subject converb
SSHRC	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
STAT	stative
SUNY	State University of New York
SUSO	Unified Orthography of a Unified Language called Shona
SVC	serial verb construction
SVO	subject-verb-object
SVOX	subject-verb-object-any other constituent
T	tense node
TAM	tense-aspect-mood (system)
TGG	transformation-generative grammar
TNS	tense
TOP	topicalization (marker)
TP	tense phrase
TQ	term question
TR	transitive
TTS	text to speech system
TUFS	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
TWB	Translators without Borders
UBS	United Bible Societies
UCB	University of California, Berkeley
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
UIL	UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPSID	UCLA Phonological Segment Inventory Database
UQAM	Université du Québec à Montréal
USC	University of Southern California

ĩ	nasal vowel
V	verb, predicate
V	vowel
VEN	venitive
VSO	verb-subject-object
VV	long vowel
WALS/SLAO	West African Linguistic Society/Société Linguistique de L'Afrique Occidentale
WOCAL	World Congress of African Linguistics
X	clausal complement

