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VERBAL EXTENSIONS IN META'.

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Postgraduate Diploma "Maîtrise" in Linguistics

By

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DEDICATION

TO:

The Glory of God

The memory of my Parents, Dorothy Lem Che, and Peter Ambe Che who did not live long enough to reap the fruit of their countless efforts.

My sisters and brother for the financial and moral support rendered to bring me up and encourage me.

My husband, Ngwache Joseph, who has never stopped encouraging and praising me for my hard work.

My two children, Ryian and Noelrickson, for their understanding and cooperation.

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A work of this nature could not have been accomplished single handedly. As such, I owe profound gratitude to:

- God, who in His love and mercy has kept me alive and has given me the wisdom and knowledge to come out with a work of this nature.

- My Supervisor, Prof. Mutaka Ngessimo who, despite his other commitments, could read my work, advise and encourage me. I hereby use this opportunity to apologise for the unpunctuality in the course of this work. I really thank him for understanding. Words of appreciation also go especially to Dr. Tamanji Pius who greatly inspired me with words of encouragement. Also to the entire staff of the Linguistic Department, especially Dr. Mba Gabriel who proofread this work.

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-Dr. Spreda Klaus, who did not only provide me with the data for this work but also introduced me to the informants with whom I worked,

-My informants: (appendix 1).

-Those who corrected this work: Mr. Ndifor Simon,
Miss. Rosemary and Mrs. Kong Frida.

-Miss Gladys Numfor for her patience in typing and correcting this work.

May the entire above persons share in the pride of whatever is successful in this work and let me alone shoulder the responsibility for the flaws.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

a) Rules.

Dissim.	Dissimilation
Vd.Del.	Voiced Deletion
N-Del.	Nasal Deletion
Spr. Sol	Spreda's solution
Trun.	Truncation
Nal. assim	Nasal assimilation
Son. dissim	Sonorant dissimilation
V. length	Vowel lengthening.
Syn.	Syncope

b) Tones

/	=	High tone
\	=	Low tone
¯	=	Mid tone
∨	=	Rising tone
∧	=	Falling tone

c) Stress

ˈ ˌ

OTHERS

C	Consonant
V	Vowel
e.o	Each other
s.o.	Someone.
k.o.	Kind of
s.times	Several times
i.e	that is
#	Word boundary
(...)	parentheses
+	Morpheme boundary
~	alternates with
[....]	phonetic data
/..../	phonemic data
Ed(s)	Editor(s)
Ext(s)	Extension(s)
Fv	Final vowel
OCP	Obligatory Contour Principle.
Pfx	Prefix.
Redup	Reduplication
Rt	Root
TM(s)	Tense marker(s)
UR.	Underlying representation
PR.	Phonetic representation
α place	Place of articulation α
$\longrightarrow$	Becomes or is realised as
caus	causative
bk	back
hi	high

Son.	sonorant
nas.	Nasal
p.	page
No.	Number
s.th.	something
Dir.	Direction
Am.	Aspect marker
(eds)	edited
o.s	one's self
s.b	somebody
—	the same reference name
Prof	Professor
VL	voiceless
Vd	voiced
!	Exclamation mark
S.P.E	Sound patterns of English

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER THREE:

PHONOLOGICAL RULES ON VERB EXTENSIONS.

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND STUDY OF META'

INTRODUCTION:

Language as a whole and the Meta' language in particular is one of the most important aspects of the Meta' society. It reveals its culture which is its societal identity. The word 'Meta' designates the name of the ethnic group and at the same time the name of the language.

This chapter which serves as an introduction to this work is divided into four sections. Section one presents the Meta' people and their language. Section two deals with the previous studies done on this language. Section three gives the aim of this study and section four presents the theoretical framework and Methodology.

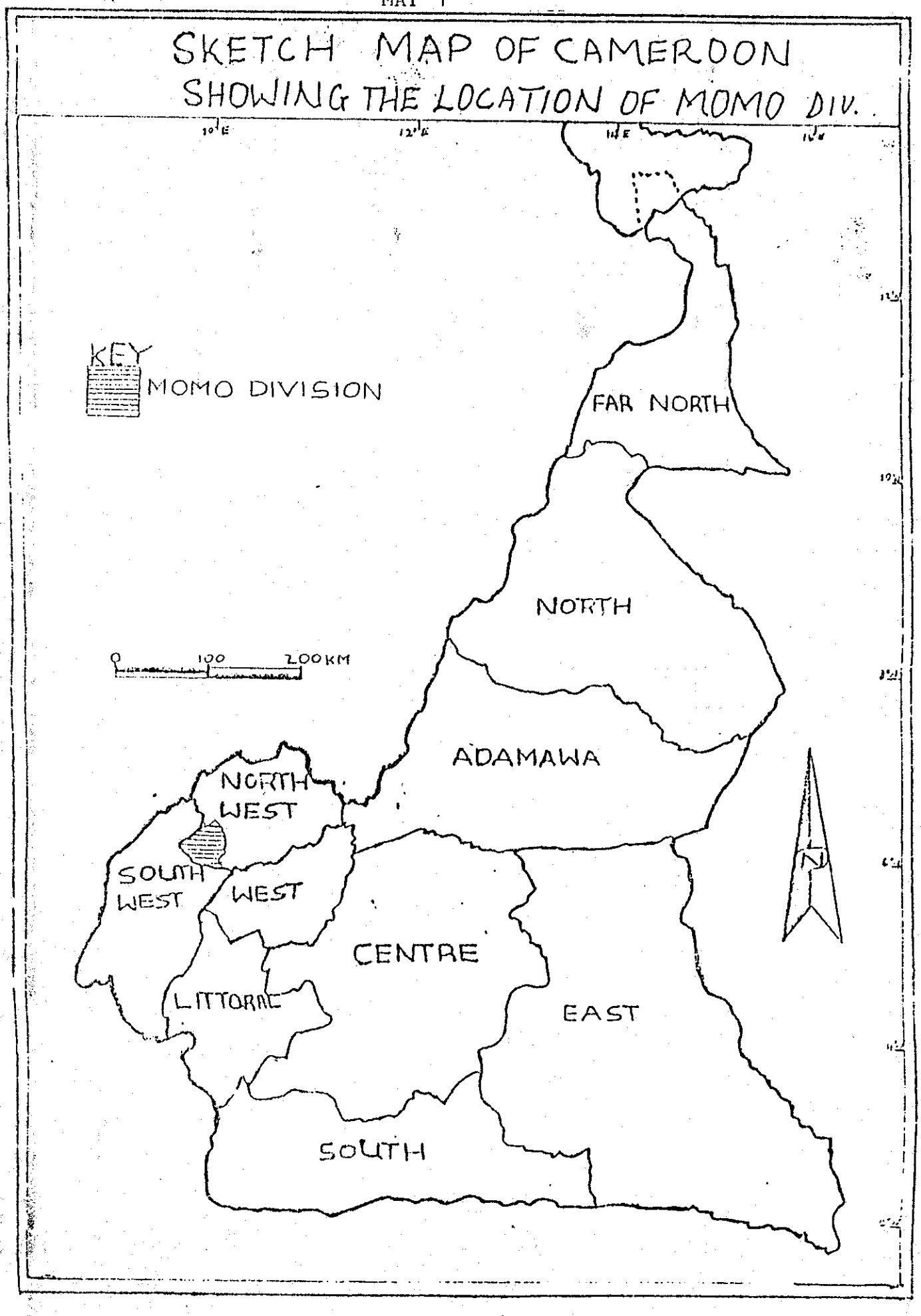
1.1. THE META' PEOPLE AND THEIR LANGUAGE

1.1.1. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION :

The Meta' people are today found in Momo Division in the North West Province of the Republic of Cameroon. The neighbouring divisions are Menchum Division in the North, Mezam Division in the East and Manyu Division in the South and West, as can be seen in the map of Momo Division. (map 2) These different divisions interact in trade, farming, education, health and other services. Their interactions are facilitated by the use of a language. Since they speak different languages, there is bound to be Linguistic interference. This interference accounts for the varieties of the Meta' language. For instance the Ngyen-mbo people in Meta' speak a variety of the Meta' language. They share a common boundary with the Mankon people. A number of words are cognates in these languages

(Meta', Mankon, and Ngyen-mbo) as shown in this example:

MAP 1



SOURCE: Adapted from, Atlas of the United Republic Cameroon (Paris: Edition Jeune Afrique, 1980), pp. 34-35.

Meta'	Mankon	Ngyen-mbo	gloss
tindi	tidʒim	tindʒi	'shift a bit'

/dʒ/ is not a sound in Meta'. It does exist in Ngyen–mbo because of the linguistic interference with the Mankon people. Another case is Njindom which shares a common boundary with Bafut. They also have a variety of Meta'. A comparative study has not been done in this work. This is because the work deals with the Meta' language only and a descriptive study of verbs in particular. Thus, it is not a comparative study of the Meta' dialects.

Furthermore, the Meta' people have a lot of touristic sites like the ABBI Fall, undulating topography for tourists. They equally have fertile soils, moderate temperatures, social amenities and development associations like MECUDA (The Meta' Cultural and Development Association) and the Meta' annual festival that have caused the influx of people who settled and acquired this language but who do not speak as indigenes. Thus, generating varieties through linguistic interference.

Considering the fact that this language varies form tribe to tribe, village to village, home to home and individual to individual, we are bound to have variations in structure and in form.

1.1.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Meta' is one of the five clans that make up the Widikum ethnic group. The others include: Moghamo, Ngemba or Mezam, Ngwaw, and Ngie. Each clan has its own local tradition which explains how the group dispersed, moved and finally settled in its present site. It has therefore given rise to varieties so as to match with their local traditions. Some of the Meta' clans include: NYEN, MBEMI, BESSI, ACHA, TUDIG, FUNAM ,TONEKU, and others as seen on the map of Meta' Clan. (Map 3).

The Meta' people also fought many wars in order to conquer the original occupants of their present land. They ousted them and occupied this area. Some were won over to become Meta' people. That is why some villages in Meta' land up till date still bear certain foreign names like 'Njindom' which can be literally translated as 'Nji' (over there) 'Ndom' stands for the name of the original occupants . We equally have 'Njinibi' meaning (over there)where the 'nibi' people were.

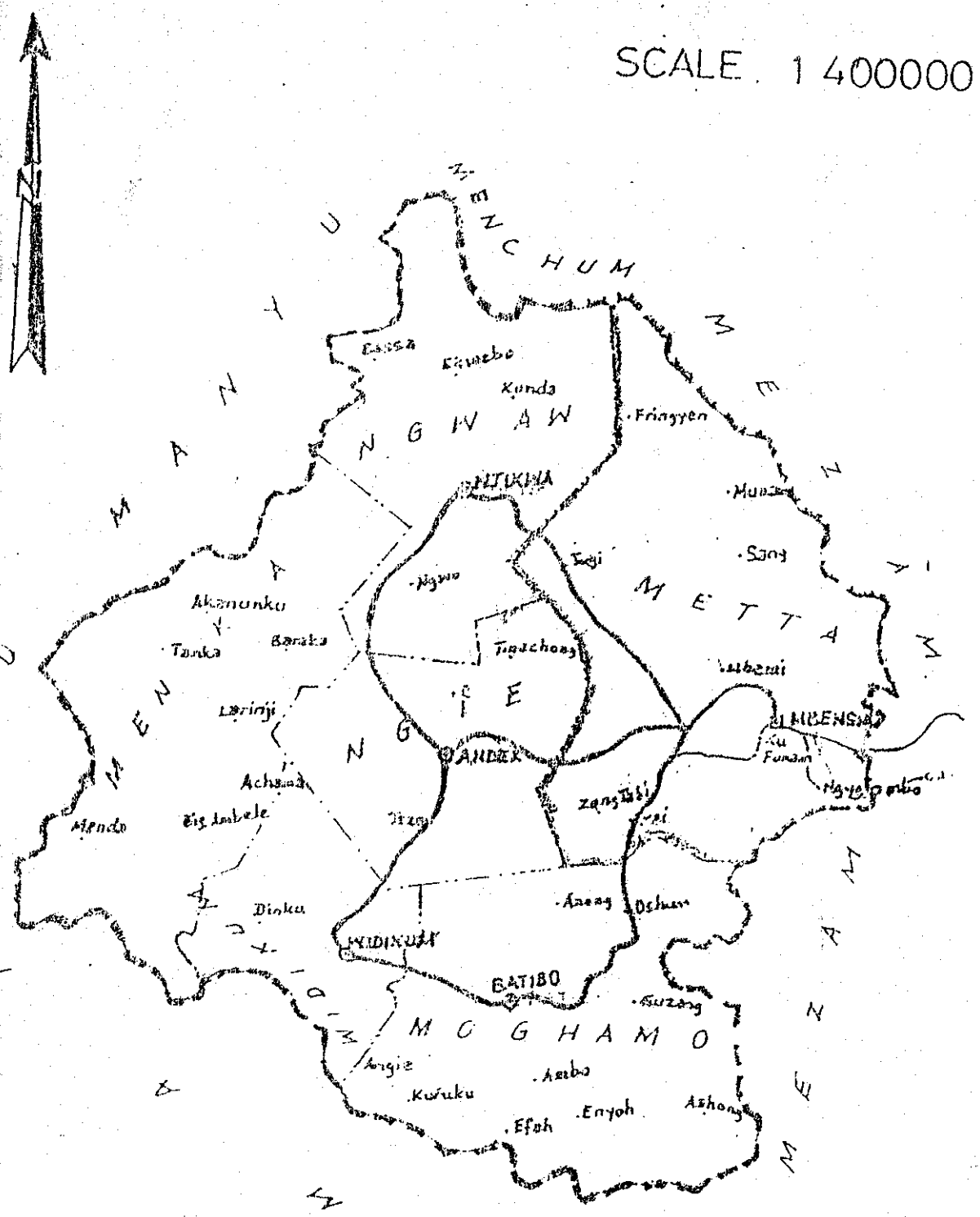
The warlike nature of the Meta' people forced upon the original occupants their language and culture. The original language influenced the acquisition of the Meta' language as the second language, thus, creating it varieties. This therefore explains why there are so many free variations in Meta'.

Modernity has not failed to play a role on this language. The invention of new items have not been left without a name in the Meta' language. Recent creations which are without names in the Meta' language have simply been described. An example includes an aeroplane which has simply been called 'mutunikaa' translated 'motor in the sky' thus enabling the evolution of the Meta' language.

MAP 2.

MAP OF MOMO DIVISION

SCALE 1 400000



KEY

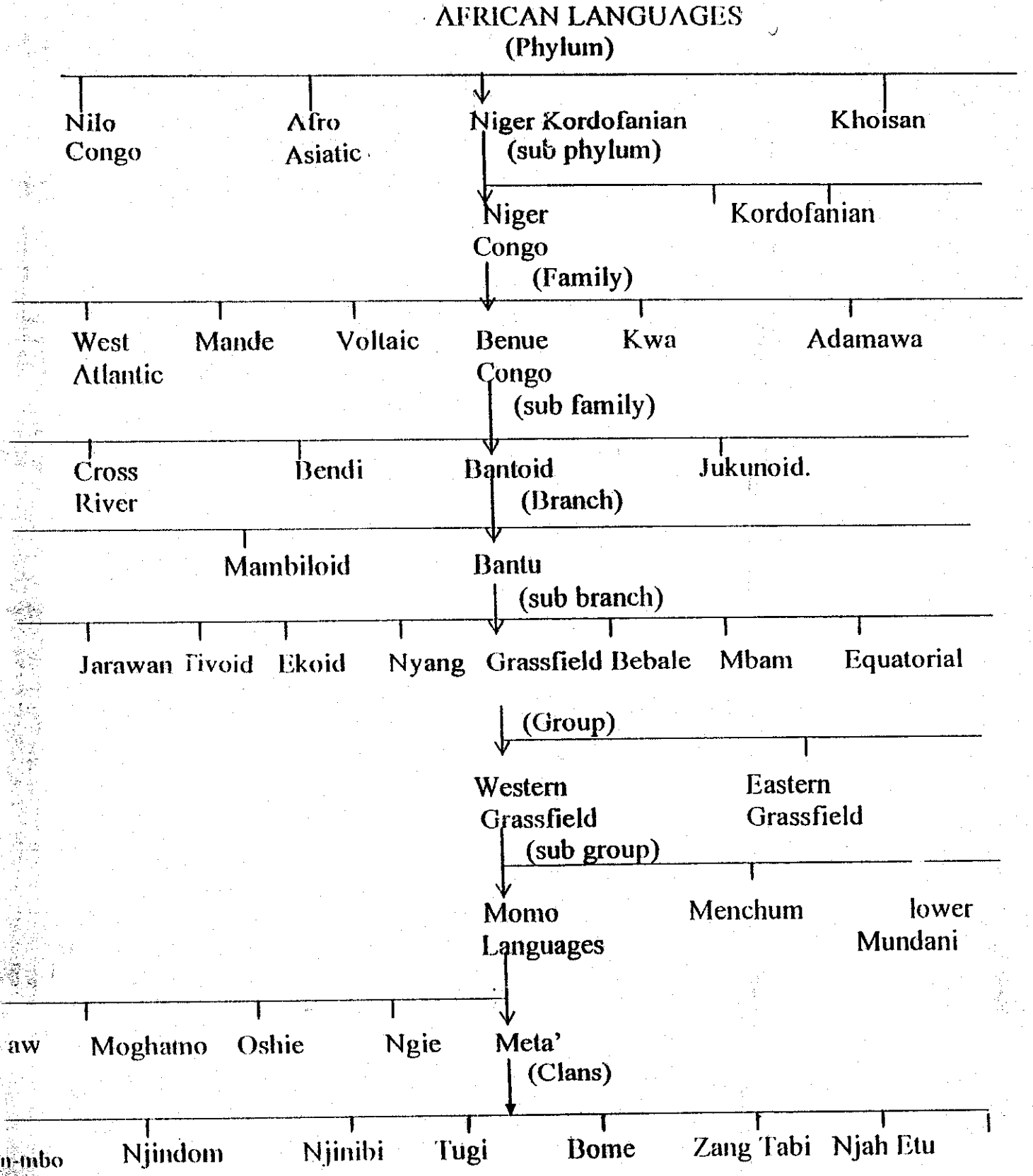
- Divisional Boundary .....
- Sub Divisional/Clan Boundaries .....
- Metta Clan Boundary .....
- Divisional Headquarter .....
- Administrative Headquarters .....
- Motorable Roads .....

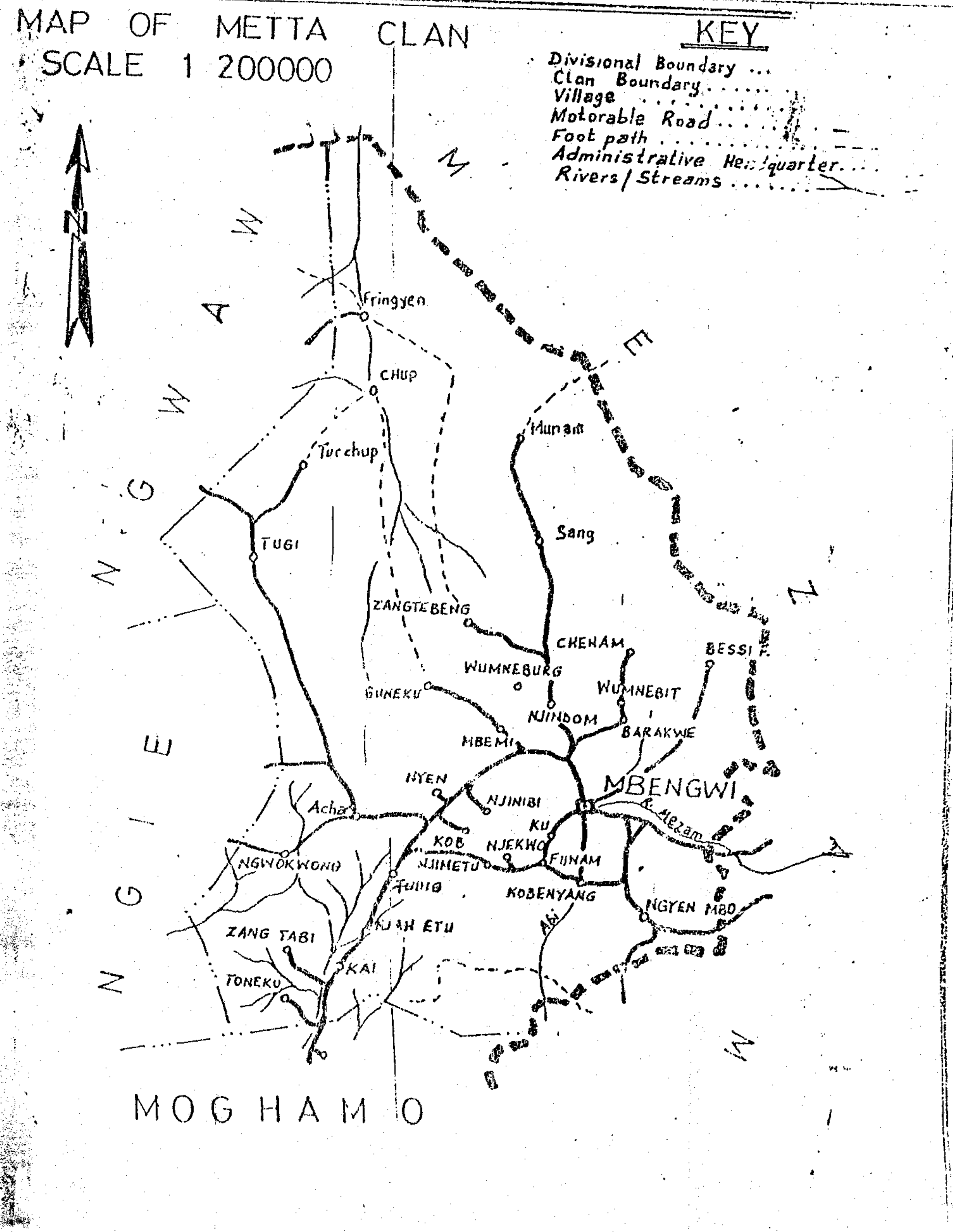
PRODUCED BY TINGOM FRANCIS, SURVEYS DEPT. MBENGWI-MOMO

1.1.3. CLASSIFICATION OF META'

In the classification of the Meta' language by ALCAM, (Alas Linguistique du Cameroun) (1983) Meta' falls under zone 8 which is in the North and West of North West province. It consists of the Bantu languages that are either Narrow Bantu (zone A of Guthrie (1967) or North East Grassfields (former Mbam-Nkam (1971). It includes Grassfield languages of Momo, Menchum and Ring groups. Although Williamson (1971:278) lists Meta' among the unclassified languages of the Mamfe Bantu group of Bantoid , Stallcup (1980) classifies Meta' as one of the Momo languages of Western Grassfields. In order to show the Phylum, the Family and the Branch to which this language belongs, Greenberg's (1966) genealogical classification of African Languages have been adapted and used with that of Stallcup (1980) to classify Meta'.

THE GENEALOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF META'



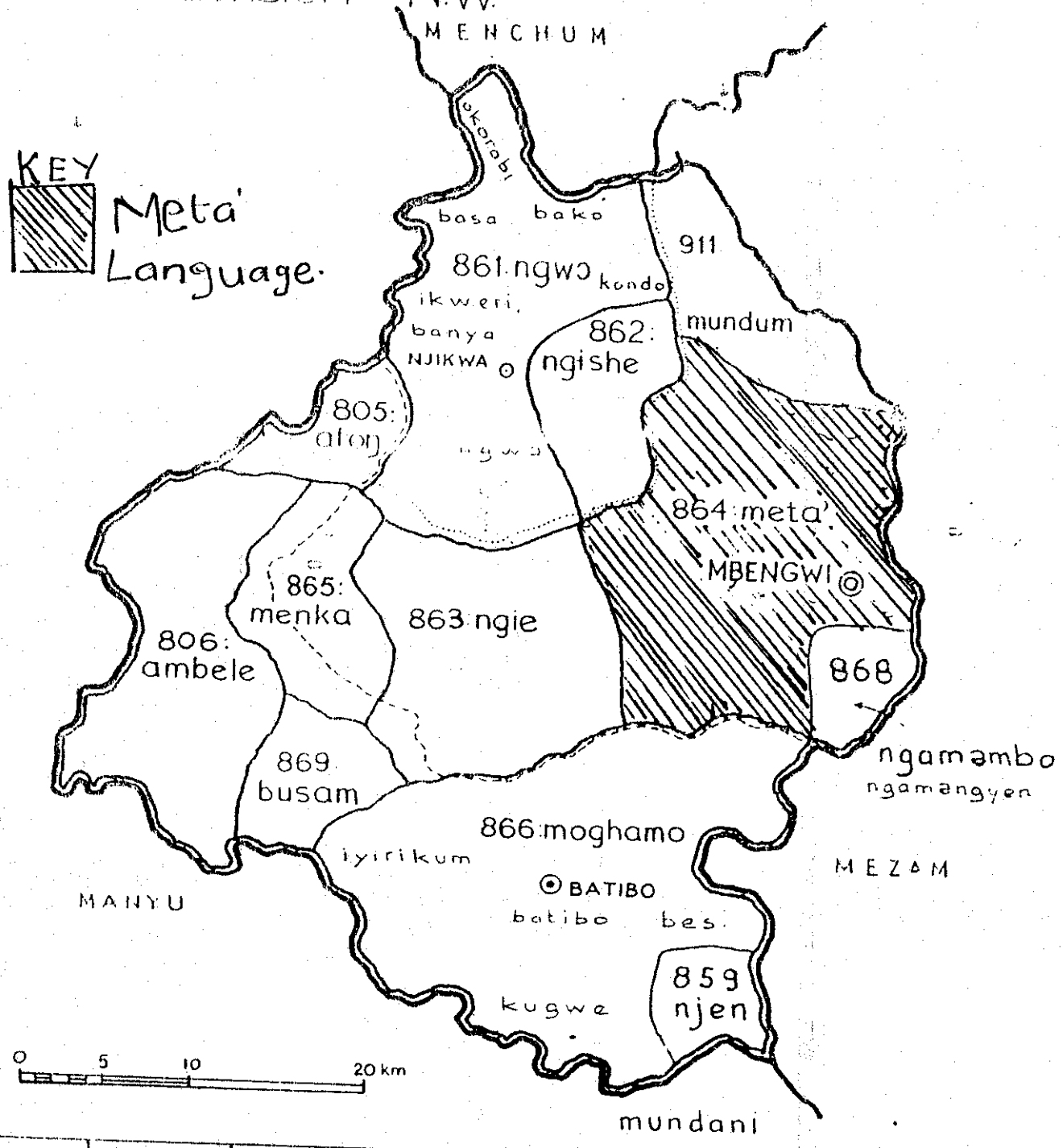

MAP OF METTA CLAN
SCALE 1 200000
KEY
Divisional Boundary ...
Clan Boundary......
Village
Motorable Road......
Foot path ....
Administrative Headquarter....
Rivers / Streams ....
N
NGWAW
MEZAM
NGIEMBOON
NGIE
MOGHAMO
Fringyen
CHUP
Tucchup
TUGI
Munam
Sang
ZANGTEBENG
CHENAM
BESSI
WUMNEBURG
WUMNEBIT
NJINDOM
BARAKWE
MBEMI
NYEN
NJINIBI
MBENGWI
Mezam
Acha
KU
KOB
NJEKWO
NGWOKWONG
FIINAM
KOBENYANG
NGYEN MBO
Abi
ZANG TABI
KAI
TONEKU

MAP 4.

MAP OF MOMO LANGUAGES SHOWING THE META' LANGUAGE.

Langues nationales: Département du MOMO

DIVISION N.W.



	département	arrondissement	district
limites	———	- - - - - - -	.....
chef-lieu	◎	⊙	⊙

	langues	dialectes
limites	———	
désignation	meta' 864	ngwɔ

Bikia·

1.2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Most of the work done on the Meta'language is by Spreda Klaus. He brought out *The Meta' English - Lexicon* in (1991) where he wrote words and sentences in the Meta' language and translated them. He also wrote *The Alphabet and orthography statement of Meta'* (1991). In it, he included rhymes and jokes for the Meta' people. He equally brought out the alphabet of the Meta' language which has been used in this work. He has an article "Notes on Markers of Parallelism in Meta'" (1994). In this article, he uses three particles of repetition to mark parallelism. These include 'yi, wuri, and bə'. He did not forget the preliminary stage of learning and wrote *Learning how to Read and Write Meta'* in several volumes. Most of these works are based on nouns and he does classify the nouns. Spreda Klaus (1991) wrote *The Phonology of Meta' (Menemo)* (using a structural approach). In it, he contrasts sounds bringing out those in complementary distribution that is, allophones of the same phoneme and also those of separate phonemes. He equally collected a few verbs and extensions where he noticed variations within the sounds. He attempted a solution that has been criticised in chapter three of this work.

Furthermore, he worked on *The Tonology of Meta'*(1986). It is written in German as is his thesis. He brought out the various tones of Meta'. Using tonological rules, he analysed the tones.

Again, Janice O, Spreda (1995), wrote *'The Initial and Final Adverbial Constituents in Meta'*. It is a narrative text. The above people immensely contributed to the translation of the Bible into the Meta' language.

Finally, there is also *The Meta' Rules and Universal Constraints in Phonological Theory* by Chen Mathew (1975) that Spreda (1991) used on phonology. The above works did not present to us a descriptive analysis of verbs and their extensions using the generative approach as in chapter three and the semantic approach in chapter four. This implies that verbs were not combined with different extensions in Meta'.

They did not also combine verbs with different extensions in Meta' to describe and give their various meanings which has been done in this work.

1.3. AIM OF THE WORK

The purpose of this study is to present how verbs and their extensions in the Meta' language have attained a reasonable degree of definability with respect to its phonology. The work is therefore intended to be a contribution to the search for evidence on the existence of phonemic and phonetic contrast in the phonology of the Meta' language. The verbs and their extensions constitute the major area of alternation.

The present investigation on these verbs hopes to offer a comprehensive and more principled analysis, based on the generative approach.

This work is also aimed at presenting a solution different from the one proposed in Spreda Klaus (1991) in that, it contains phonological rules of the Meta' language, systematically arranged to give the phonetic representation.

Furthermore, the work aims at segmenting verbs and their extensions, taking into consideration the structure, forms, and the semantic aspects.

The work also condenses verbal extensions and reduplication into a single meaning. That is, a reduplicated form and an extended form give the same meaning.

This work also shows us that verbal extensions in the Meta' language affect verb valence.

Finally, it aims at contributing immensely to the works done on this language and African languages as a whole. It seeks to provide data which can help in drawing conclusions on functions of African languages (Universal grammar).

1.4.THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY

1.4.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The approaches used in this work are the generative and semantic approaches unlike the structural approach on comparing and contrasting sounds by Klaus Spreda (1991).

The generative approach deals with the process of describing the verbs, analysing verb structures, alternating variables, generating phonological rules and systematically arranging these rules to give the phonetic representation of the verbs and their extensions. To prove the rules correct, the derivational method has been used to check them. Wrongly presented rules will therefore not lead us to the phonetic representation.

Lastly, we isolate the extensions to get their intrinsic meaning. After that, extensions are matched with verb roots to give their semantic functions. Verb roots are equally reduplicated to have a comparative study with extensions and finally the extensions are analysed to see their effects on verb valence.

1.4.2. METHODOLOGY

This project started with the collection of data. Spreda Klaus who has been working on this language for more than 25years gave part of the data and the rest of it was got from informants: Pa Kwati, a primary school teacher of the Meta' language, Mr. Takod, and Pa Ngwa. They are residents in the Meta' land and have been there for the past 20 years. Their mastery of the language is unquestionable. These studies were undertaken for a five-month period of actually living in the Meta' land and specifically at Njembeng. The English language was the main medium of communication. The informants gave direct translation from Meta' to English for the verbs and their extensions.

After collecting the data, the researcher then sat down to examine the verbs, segmenting them, identifying the verb root and their extensions, to note the variations. Particular attention was paid to verb roots when more than one extension is added to them. This then enabled the researcher to determine the underlying forms of verbs and to fully explain the phonological alternations involved in them, through rules using the generative approach.

The researcher further discovered that, the same extensions on different verbs give different meanings, thus the semantic function was introduced for the meanings. Reduplication was further seen to replace extensions in some cases and in others, extensions affected verb valences. The verbs were left at this level and not conjugated.

1.5. OUTLINE OF WORK

This work is divided into four chapters. Chapter one deals with the background study of Meta' which introduces the geo-historical situation as well as the linguistic classification of the Meta' language. It also reviews the previous works done on the language, the theoretical framework and methodology used and an outline of the entire work.

Chapter two and three treat the phonology of the verbs and their extensions. Chapter two presents the phonology of sound positions in Meta' taking into consideration the phonemic and prosodic sub-systems. Chapter three analyses the phonological rules on verb extensions giving the constituents of the verb structure. It further analyses the alternations underlying the verbs and the extensions using phonological rules. A derivation is given at the end to prove that the rules are correct.

Chapter four is reserved for the semantic functions of the verbs and their extensions. A comparative study of reduplication and verbal extensions was condensed to the same meaning. It also deals with the effects of these extensions on verb valence that is, changing the verb to transitive or intransitive with the addition of an extension.

The work closes with a general conclusion which presents a summary of the results of this project. It also gives information on the sections not yet treated in Meta' and what further researchers on this language could dwell on.

Finally, it provides the benefits of this work both to the Meta' people, to linguists, and to the world of African languages.

CHAPTER TWO

THE PHONOLOGY OF SOUND POSITIONS IN META'

11. INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the consonants, vowels, tones, and stress of the Meta' language. It analyses the various positions occupied by the sounds of this language. The analysis starts from the phonemic sub-systems which include consonants and vowels to the prosodic sub-system which includes tones and stress. This work is basically concerned with the phonemic sub-system.

11.1. THE PHONEMIC SUB-SYSTEM.

The phonemic sub-system of the Meta' language comprises 28 sounds: twenty consonants and eight vowels.

The twenty consonants of the Meta' language are found in the phonetic consonant chart of Meta'. They are arranged according to the manner and place of articulation, voiced and voiceless characteristics as seen below:

11.1.1. CONSONANTS

11.1.1. 1. PHONETIC CONSONANT CHART OF META'

Spreda Klaus (1991)

Place of Articulation:		Bilabials	Labio dentals	Dental alveolar	Palatal	velar	glottal
Manner of Articulation:							
Plosives	VL	P		t		k	ʔ
	Vd	b		d		g	
Affriccates	VL				c		
	Vd				j	gh	
Fricatives	VL		f	s			
	Vd		v	z			
Nasals	Vd	m		n		ŋ	
Approximant	Vd				y	w	
Trill	Vd			r			

11.1.2. SAMPLE WORDS OF CONSONANT POSITIONS

The position of Consonants can only be known by comparing and contrasting them. Sounds that are suspicious are contrasted and compared to know whether they are separate phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme.

11.1.2.1. WORD INITIAL POSITION.

11.1.2.1.1. PLOSIVES.

Plosives contrast word initially.

Examples:

(1) a) p/b

pèŋ 'remove s.th from the grip of s.th'

bèŋ 'turn s.th around'.

b) t/d

dèn ' step over'

tèn 'remain'

c) k/ɡ

kwèm 'smooth'

gwèm 'lift up with a lifter and let it turn over'

Plosives, word initially are in contrastive distribution. They are therefore separate phonemes represented as /p/ /b/ /t/ /d/ /k/ /g/.

The glottal sound is the only plosive that does not occur word initially. The reason is explained under the glottal stop. (11.1.3)

11.1.2.1.2. AFFRICATES

Affricates do not contrast word initially.

Examples:

[j]

(2) jwiniɨ 'crowded'

jū 'honey bee'

jɨ̄g 'eat'

jə̀ 'feed'

From the data collected /j/ is not highly used in the Meta' language. Only the words above have been seen with the /j/ sound. It occurs before the /w/ sound as the only affricate before a consonant.

/c/ is a voiceless affricate, and it occurs only word initially with root verbs. It is pronounced like the sound /tʃ/ as in Church as seen in Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English. By A.S. Hornby (1980). It is represented as /c/ in the Meta' language.

Examples:

[c]

(3) càb 'abuse'

cèd 'cut'

cōb 'donate'

cɔ̄b 'fight'

cù-ri 'steam food'

cà? 'search'

cōbri 'donate to'

cèb 'pinch'

cɔ́? 'pull out'

cɔ́?ri 'pull out a bit'

The two sounds /c/ and /j/ do not have a contrastive pair. They all occur word initially with root verbs. The difference comes in with /j/ which is seen before the consonant /w/. /j/ therefore occurs in an environment where /c/ does not occur.

This can be explained using this rule:

(a) $\begin{bmatrix} c \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} j \end{bmatrix} / \_\_ \begin{bmatrix} w \end{bmatrix}$

or

(b) $\begin{bmatrix} j \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} c \end{bmatrix} / \_\_ \begin{bmatrix} v \\ -high \end{bmatrix}$

We could have concluded this as a rule and could have chosen a preferred rule but there are no alternations. This implies that the forms seen in the verbs are just the orthography of the language.

11.1.2.1.3 FRICATIVES

Examples:

f/v

(4) fi 'wind around'

vî 'escape'

s/z

sàm 'divide'

zàm 'light'

Fricatives are contrastive word initially. They are separate phonemes represented as /f/ /v/ /s/ /z/

11.1.2.1.4. NASALS

Examples:

a) m/n

(5) mèd ' sip-' swallow in small quantities'

nèd ' smooth.'

b) n/ŋ

They do not contrast word initially. This is because the velar nasal /ŋ/ precedes the velar approximants /w/ in all its initial positions as seen below

ŋwèm' smile with closed lips'

ŋwèpɨ 'chew with the gums bit by bit'

ŋwî 'swing'

ŋwĩĩrɨ ' 'swing wavily '

Meanwhile the dental nasal occurs word initially with vowels and equally precedes the palatal approximant /y/ as seen below:.

n – before vowels

(c) nèb ' carry a bag on one's body'

nàm ' hide'

n- before /y/

(d) nyàànɨ 'very hostile'

nyèm ' pushdown'

nyĩĩrɨ ' perfect'

The two sounds are therefore allophones of the same phoneme at word initial position represented as :

(i) [n] ⟶ [ŋ] / — [w]

or

(ii) [ŋ] ⟶ [n] / — [y]

Rule (i) is preferred because /n/ precedes both vowels and consonants. It equally occurs in root verbs and extensions. It is therefore highly used.

11.1.2.1.5 APPROXIMANTS

Approximants contrast word initially

Examples:

y/w

(6) wèèrɨ ' help each other'

yèèrɨ ' wonder at'

They are separate phonemes represented as /y/ /w/.

11.1.2.1.6. GLOTTALS

ʔ/gh

The glottal stop does not occur word initially while the glottal affricate does occur at word initial position.

They are therefore allophones of the

same phoneme represented as:

v

$$\{gh\} \longrightarrow \{ʔ\} / \{\#\} \_ \qquad \text{(i)}$$

/gh/ becomes /ʔ/ word finally. Or

$$\{/ʔ/\} \longrightarrow \{gh\} / \_ \{\#\} \qquad \text{(ii)}$$

The glottal stop becomes an affricate word initially.

Rule (ii) is preferred because the glottal stop occurs both word medially and finally. Rule (i) is limited only to the initial position. Thus, the glottal stop occurs in more positions than the glottal affricate.

11.1.2.1.7. TRILL.

/r/

It does not occur word initially with root verbs except as a free variant with /l/ (see chapter III). It does occur with extensions both as a prefix and a suffix as below:

a) /ri/ As a prefix

Examples:

	verb	gloss	extension	gloss
(7)	bɔ̀ŋ	'good'	ribɔ̀ŋ	'bad'
	fĭ	'black'	'rifi	'white'
	ká	'indicate'	riká	'do not indicate'

b) /ɾɨ/ As a Suffix

Examples:

verb	gloss	extension	gloss
nwàg	'swallow'	nwàg-ɾɨ	'swallow a bit '
mɨ̀g	'measure'	mɨ̀g-ɾɨ	'measure comparatively '
		wèè-ɾɨ	'help each other'
		yèè-ɾɨ	'wonder at '

/r/ does not alternate as a prefix. It has highly been used in this work as a suffix (see chapter III and IV).

11.1.2.2.2. Word Medial and Word Final Positions.

Consonants alternate word medially as will be seen in chapter III. Only voiced sounds occur word finally in the Meta' language.

There is an exception of voiceless plosive word finally. This is the glottal voiceless stop.

11.1.3. THE VOICELESS GLOTTAL STOP

In the Meta' language, the glottal voiceless stop behaves differently from the other voiceless sounds. This is because it is found word medially and word finally. Its word medial position is not as a result of a phonological rule as the other voiceless stops. It behaves like a voiced sound.

Examples:

a) **Glottal Stop Before Vowels**

	Verb	gloss
(8)	swɨ̰ʔɨ̰	' descend'
	béʔé	' cut off'

b) Glottal Stop Before Consonants

	Verb	**gloss**
b)	cɔ̀ʔri	' pull out a bit'
	cîʔri	' cover to shade from'

When the glottal sound occurs before a consonant word medially, it is mostly an extension. These extensions are those with the cv form

Secondly the glottal stop is found word finally. as the only voiceless stop in this position.

c) Glottal Stop Word Finally.

Examples:

Verb	**gloss**
tàʔ	'open'
cɔ́ʔ	'pull out'
bùʔ	'hit'
bìʔ	'calm'
cìʔ	'churn'

Above all, the glottal stop occurs before a nasal extension. This is equally exceptional because in this language nasals that begin extensions occur only after a nasal or vowel sound(s)

d) Nasal Extension After Glottal Sound

Examples:

verb	**gloss**
kùʔni	'join hands'
bàʔni	'clear off'
bùʔni	'break into smaller pieces'

e) Nasal Extension After Nasals

Verb	**gloss**
kúmni	'chase '
màŋni	'grip several objects'
sèmni	'misshaped'

f) Nasal Extension After Vowels

Verb	**gloss**
nyààni	'very harsh'
mèèni	'learn'
wààni	'a bit rough '

However, there are attempted explanations to why the glottal stop behaves differently.

Firstly, its lonely nature. The glottal stop does not have a voiced counterpart like the other stops. In Meta', only voiced sounds are found word finally. Since there is no voiced counterpart, it therefore has a dual function. It takes the place of the voiced sound and occurs word finally.

The glottal stop deletes vowels that occur after it when receiving an extension. This can be explained using the evolutionary aspect of the language, that is, from a diachronic point of view. Most of the pronunciations with the vowel after the glottal sound are still used by the ageing population. This implies that the last vowel has just been erased by modernity. The eventual erasure of the last vowel leaves the glottal sound word finally.

g) **Examples:**

Verb	**gloss**
zwɨ̌ʔɨ	'fumigate'
zwɨʔ	'fumigate'
búʔu	'break'
búʔ	'break '

Though the language accepts both forms, the last vowel obligatorily deletes when an extension is added to it.

h) **Examples:**

Verb	**gloss**
swɨ̀ʔɨ	'descend'
swɨ̌ʔrɨ	'descend a bit'
búʔu	'break'
búʔrɨ	'break into pieces'

11.1.4. VOWELS

Meta' has eight vowels. The description of these vowels is based on the position of the tongue, the shape of the lips and the relative tension of the vowels.

The vowels may be high, low, or back depending on the position of the tongue. It may be round or unrounded depending on the shape of the lips.

1.1.4.1 THE VOWEL CHART OF META'

BY SPREDA KLAUS (1991)

	- Rounded	- Rounded	+ Rounded
High	i	ɨ	u
	e		o
mid		ə	ɔ
low		ɑ	

11.1.5. SAMPLE WORDS OF VOWEL POSITIONS

11.1.5.1. Word Medial and Final Positions .

Examples:

		verbs	gloss
	a) i/e		
		tí	'pledge'
(9)		té	'stand s-th on s-th.'
	b) ɨ/ə		
		kɨ̀m	'choke'
		kə̀m	'cook'
	c) a/ə		
		càb	'funnel'
		cə̀b	' pinch off s.th with the fingernails'
	d) u/o		
		kùn	'touch'
		kòd	'tie'

e) o/ɔ

cōb	'donate'
cɔ̄b	'quarrel'

f) i/ɨ

zwî	'die'
zwɨ̂	'dirty'

g) e/ə

zə̀ŋ	'clean'
zèŋ	'turn'

h) ɨ/e

fé	'fan a fire'
fɨ	'wind around'

i) i/a

cì?	'stir'
cà?	'search'

j) u/i

zù	'hear'
zɨ̌	'put'

k) u/a

wùd	'shake'
wàd	'cut'

All the vowels of the Meta' language are contrastive. This implies that they are all separate phonemes. They do not occur word initially. They are evenly distributed word medially and word finally. Vowels that begin verbs act as prefixes, that is, with an additional meaning.

11.1.5.2. WORD INITIALLY

Vowels word initially are always prefixes.

11.1.5.2.1. /ɨ/ AS A PREFIX

/ɨ/ as a prefix, adds the infinitive function of the verb.

Examples:

(10)	infinitive	gloss	verb	gloss
a)	ɨ - jɨ̂g	'to eat'	jɨ̂g	' eat'
	ɨ - fà?	'to work'	fà?	' work'
	ɨ - cū	'to pound'	cū	' pound '
	ɨ - zéb	' to peel plantains'	zéb	'peel plantains'
	ɨ - tú	'to be blunt'	tú	'blunt'
	ɨ - bɔ̄	'to fear'	bɔ̄	'fear'
	ɨ - sàn	'to split'	sàn	'split'

Another highly used vowel is the mid central vowel. When it precedes a verb, it changes the verb to a noun. Below are some infinitive verbs that become nouns with the presence of /ə/ sound.

11.1.5.2.2. /ə/AS A PREFIX.

Examples:

	Verb	**gloss**
b)	ɨ - jə̀	'to feed'
	ə - jə̀	'feeder'
	ɨ - cə̀?	'to search'
	ə- cə̀?	'researcher'

ɨ- dàn 'to train'

ə- dàn 'trainer'

The above central vowel /ə/ is also a tense marker. It marks the continuous tense when it occurs word finally after the root verb. It also marks an exclamation in the same position. The differences will only be known contextually.

11.1.5.2.3. /ə/ AS TENSE MARKER.

Examples:

c)	verb	gloss	cont. tense	gloss
	jɨg	'eat'	jɨkà	'eating'
	búʔ	'break down'	búʔà	breaking down'
	sùŋ	'pull'	sùŋá	'pulling'
	sàn	'split'	sàná	'splitting'
	bèd	'beat'	bèrá	'striking'

11.1.5.2.4. /ə/BEFORE AN EXCLAMATION MARKER

(d)	verb	gloss	exclamation
	tùm	'shoot'	tùmá!
	búʔ	'break down'	búʔà!
	jɨg	'eat'	jɨgà!
	cèb	'pinch'	cèbà!
	kòndɨ	'serve out'	kòndá!

11.1.6. THE PHONEMIC CONTRAST BETWEEN LONG AND SHORT VOWELS

There is a phonemic contrast between long and short vowels. This implies that a double vowel gives a different meaning from a single vowel. One very important point to note here is that some of these vowels do not occur as long word finally with root verbs. They become long with the addition of a suffix or an extension.

The existence of long vowels in the Meta language is explained with the use of the minimal pairs below. This implies that the long vowel gives a different meaning. When long vowels are contrastive, they occur between consonants in root verbs. An extension added to it will not change the vowel length.

Examples :

(11)	**Verb**	**gloss**
	bèn	'open'
	bèèn	'disgrace'
	yèn	'travel'
	yèèn	'increased'
	bèni	'agree'
	bèèni	'follow'

11.1.6.1. WORDS WITH LONG VOWELS BECAUSE OF AN EXTENSION.

a)	**verb**	**gloss**
	bà	'carry on the back'
	bù	'confuse '
	di	'pity'
	fé	'fan a fire'

fi	'twist'
gù	'fall'
kwè	'slip down'
nyà	'hostile'
tɔ̀	'sharp'

b)

Extension	gloss
bàànɨ	'cross'
bùùrɨ	'totally confused'
dìirɨ	'pity for'
fèèrɨ	'fan a fire repeatedly'
fìinɨ	'twist out of shape'
gùùrɨ	'totally fall down'
kwèèrɨ	'slip off from'
nyààrɨ	'harsh'
nyàànɨ	'shower'
tɔ̀ɔ̀rɨ	'very sharp'

In the above examples, these long vowels are equally testified by the fact that a short vowel becomes a long vowel when an extension is added to it. (See chapter III vowel lengthening rule).

11.2. THE PROSODIC SUB-SYSTEM

The prosodic sub-system includes tones and stress markers.

11.2.1. TONES

As a Western Grassfield Bantu language, one expects Meta' to be highly tonal. A purely scientific work of this nature cannot be successfully

analyzed without the use of tone marks. The Meta' language without tones will make most words ambiguous. In fact, phonetically, four different levels of tones and six contour tones are recognized.

Meta' has discrete levels of pitch with corresponding phonetic tones which are variants

The tones in Meta' include:

/	high
\	low
¯	mid
v	rising
^	falling

The following words carry the above tones respectively.

jú	'bee (honey)'
tòŋ	'umbilical cord'
tõʔ	'cup'
tɨ̃ŋgáŋ	'k.o.lizard'
pâʔ	'cloud'

The above tones are contrastive in the following words:

Infinitive

13)	**verb**	**gloss**
a)	i̱-té	'to stand s.th. somewhere'
	i̱ - tē	'to kick, ship, sting'
	i̱ - tè	'to slip'
b)	i̱ - gwé	'to reverse'
	i̱ - gwē	'to pick'
	i̱ - gwè	'to fail to give'

The contrasting nature of the above tones makes them separate tonemes.

11.2.2. STRESS

Stress according to Spreda Klaus (1995) is the prominence of one syllable as compared to neighboring syllables by means of higher pressure of the air stream. It is not contrastive in Meta'. It is however useful in distinguishing between stressed and unstressed syllables. Since certain tonal rules can best be formulated by recourse to this distinction. The initial syllable of each root has phonetic stress. All affix syllables and non initial root syllables are unstressed. In the following examples, Stress is marked [l] but will generally be left unmarked outside this section.

Examples:

(14) tə́ˈbinə 'prospective dancer'

ghaˈbrɨ 'divide'

need more examples.
is it the 2nd syll. that is stressed
or the first one?

CHAPTER THREE

PHONOLOGICAL RULES ON VERB EXTENSIONS

111. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, we will analyze the verbs and their extensions using phonological rules. These rules will be applied following the variations that crucially occur with verbs and their extensions. The rules will be systematically arranged, and their derivations analyzed at the end.

111.1. VERB.

A verb according to Voeltz (1977) is an action word that tells what a person or thing does or experiences. But since all verbs are not action words, Webster Dictionary (1987) defines a verb as "a word belonging to that part of speech that characteristically is the grammatical center of a predicate and which expresses an act, occurrences or mood of being..."

From the above definition, the predicate cannot exist without the verb. The verb is the center of the predicate. If the predicate has just one element, it must be the verb. Verbs therefore can exist in isolation as seen below:

In English

1) The boy ate

Subject predicate

In Meta'

mə̂ jĩg

I eat

Subject predicate

wɨ è cɔ̄b

He Tm fight

He fought

Subject predicate.

A single word in the Meta 'language like in the English language, can make a sentence. This is evident in situations of command. The difference is that in the Meta'language, the Central vowel sound /ə/ appears word finally when it is a command.

As a simple verb

2 a)	**verb**	**gloss**
	jɨ̄g	'eat'
	tùm	'shoot'
	wɔ̀b	'hook'

As a Command

b)	**Verb**	**gloss**
	jɨ̄gè!	'eat!'
	tùmè!	'shoot!'
	wɔ̀bè!	'hook!'

111.2. META' VERB STRUCTURE

The Meta' language expresses verbs in isolation and in combination with other morphemes. These verbs are canonical in their forms, enabling the description of the structures in this language. The verb root together with

The verbal extensions make up the verb stem. The verb stem forms the nucleus of the verb and it can take a number of prefixes and suffixes. Verbs of this language can be seen with the following structures:

(3) -C V-

-C V V-

-C V C V-

-C V V C V-

-C C V-

-C C V C-

The above structures shall be used to describe the positions of sounds in the Meta' language.

111.3. TYPES OF ROOTS AND EXTENSIONS

The verb structure of the Meta' language is necessary for a work of this nature because of the phonological patterns that crucially occur within words. Different forms of verbs bring different structural changes. The structural changes brought about by extensions in this language and their semantic implications are the main point of focus in this work.

The verbs will be sub-classified on the basis of their final sounds. Through classification, what is idiosyncratic can be distinguished from what is systematic. We will then propose phonological rules to account for the systematic changes.

111.3.1. THE – C V – STRUCTURE.

Verbs that appear in this structure contrast most of the consonants word initially. These include:

	Verb	gloss
(4)	t/d	
	ti	'pledge'
	di	'cry'
	k/g	
	kù	'be guilty'
	gù	'mend a hole '
	f/v	
	fi	'wind around '
	vi	escape

The other consonants will be contrasted in the C V C structures of verb roots

111.3.2. THE – C V V – STRUCTURE

This structure is mostly realized with the addition of a vowel as an extended Morpheme.

This vowel is mostly the central vowel /ə/. It is always a tense marker.

Verbs in this structure are exemplified below:

	Verb	gloss	extension	gloss
(5)	bě	'pass through'	bēə	'Translucent'
	tɔ̄	'carve'	tɔ̄ə	'carved '

tɬ	'cook'	tɬè	'cooked '
zŭ	'listen'	zùè	'listened'

111.3.3. THE - C V C – STRUCTURE

The CVC structures are the most common verb roots. The final sound is always a voiced sound. They will be sub-classified on the basis of the final consonants as they show different behaviours. The only exception in this environment is the voiceless glottal stop / ʔ /which occurs word finally as has been explained in (II.1.3.).

By comparing and contrasting the sounds, the phonological processes underlying the verbs and their extensions will be deduced and analyzed. Their analysis will stem from their features.

111.3.3.1. PLOSIVES.

They contrast word initially in root verbs as seen in chapter 11.

Examples:

		Verb	**Gloss**
(6)	P/b		
		pèŋ	'remove'
		bèŋ	'sour'
	t/d		
		tèn	'remain'
		dèn	'step over.'

k/g

kùd 'chew '

gùd 'wrong '

Plosives contrast word medially with the next structure.

111.3.4. THE – CVCV - STRUCTURE

This structure is always when an extension has been added to the -CVC - or –CV- structures. This implies that the extension can either be a vowel or a CV that might have undergone some phonological changes.

Word Medial Contrast.

Examples:

(7)	**Verb**	**Gloss**
p/b		
	cəbə́	'pinching with the fingernails'
	cəpə́	'pinching a bit with fingernails'
t/d		
	kòdé	'tying'
	kòtə́	'tying lightly but many times'
k/g		
	jɨ́kə̀	'eating a bit'
	jɨgə̀	'eating'

The phonological processes underlying the above verbs will be analyzed later in this chapter.

Word Final Position.

Plosives do not contrast word finally. This is because voiceless sounds do not appear word finally in this language. The extensions that occur after plosives include:- /bɨ/ /dɨ/ /gɨ/ /rɨ/ /ə/

There is an assimilation process here with the consonants as seen below:

(8) /bɨ/ appears after /b/_____ word finally.

/dɨ/ appears after /d/ _____ word finally.

/gɨ/ appears after /g/ _____ word finally.

The examples below explain the above process.

CVC+CV ⟶ CVCV

Examples:

	verb		**gloss**
(9)	cəb + bɨ	⟶	cəpɨ 'pinch a bit'
	pinch EXT		
	kɔb + bɨ	⟶	kɔpɨ 'provoke fighting'
	tease EXT		
	bəb + bɨ	⟶	bəpɨ 'protect with'
	protect EXT		
	kùd + dɨ	⟶	kùtɨ 'sift'

chew EXT

kòd + di ——————→ kòtí 'tie lightly but many times'

tie EXT

mèd + di ——————→ mètí 'swallow in small quantities'

swallow EXT

jíg + gi ——————→ jíkì 'eat a bit'

eat EXT

kòg + gi ——————→ kɔ̀kì 'tear s.o's throat repeatedly'

tear s.o's EXT

throat

síg + gi ——————→ síkì 'cut with'

cut EXT

From the above structures we realize the following alternants

bəb	~	bəp-i
cəb	~	cəp-i
kɔb	~	kɔp-i
kùd	~	kùt-i
kòd	~	kòt-i

mèd	~	mèt-i
jɨg	~	jɨk-i
kɔ̀g	~	kɔ̀k-i
sɨ̂g	~	sɨ̂k-i

111.4. PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES

The alternations of the Meta' language will be analyzed using the following phonological rules:

111.4.1. DISSIMILATION

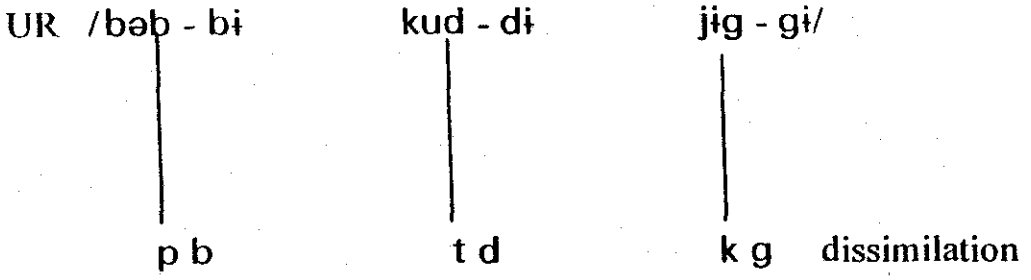
In analyzing the data collected, a geminate aspect from a consonant cluster is realized. This is very unusual in this language and is not in the phonetic representation. It is therefore systematic. We draw our solution from the O.C.P (obligatory contour principle) constraint that "identical melodic segments cannot be adjacent within a morpheme" McCarthy (1986). what I am suggesting is that the consonant cluster of identical consonants becomes dissimilated. This implies that;

b-b ⟶ p,b

d-d ⟶ t,d

g-g ⟶ k,g.

This can be represented as follows:



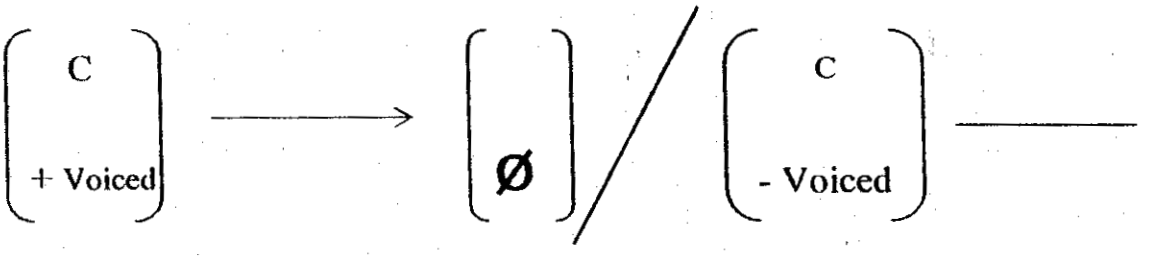
The natural process of voiced sounds word finally can not bind here because of the addition of an identical extension. There for the word final voiced sound becomes voiceless.

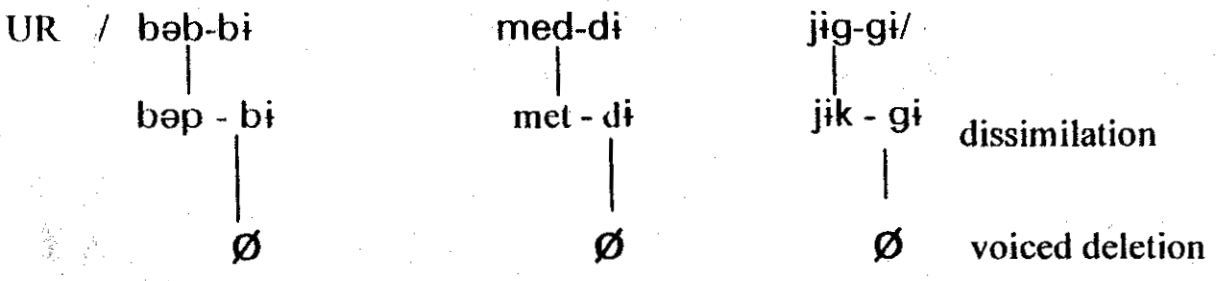
The dissimilation process has not taken us to the phonetic representation. There is still a voiced consonant deletion process.

111.4.2. DELETION.

A consonant becomes deleted when it is preceded by another consonant – voiced.

Rule





P R (bàpi mèti jîki)

III.4.2.2 ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO THE ABOVE RULE WHICH IS NOT PREFERRED (REDUCTION)

Another solution to these identical clusters would have been a reduction process as in Kisseberth and Kenstowicz (1979) where identical clusters are reduced to their voiceless counterparts.

[bb, dd, gg] ⟶ [p, t, k] Reduction.

The voiceless stops are derived from an underlying cluster of voiced stops. This solution is correct but the dissimilation process is preferable. This is because there is another dissimilation process with the dental nasal as will be seen later.

This therefore binds with the Maximal Application Principle which states that "rules tend to shift into the order which allows their fullest utilization in the grammar." If the reduction process is used in the nasal cluster, it will not apply because, the rule states that identical clusters are reduced to the voiceless counterparts. The nasal has not been reduced to a voiceless nasal. It is therefore a solution but not a preferable one.

111.4.2.2. SPREDA'S SOLUTION THAT COULD NOT WORK.

A different solution to this same problem is given in Spreda Klaus's work on structural phonology (1991). He adopted his solution from Kenstowicz (1971) whereby voiceless sounds are the basic sounds while voiced sounds are as a result of phonological processes.

He came out with four rules to account for the above alternations.

Rule one

Stops are unreleased before a pause.

jɨkɨ̆ ~ jɨg

sòpɨ~ sòb

UR /sop-i sop jɨk jɨk - ɨ/

b g

PR [sòpɨ sòb jíg jɨ́kɨ̀]

He took /ɪi/ as the basic morpheme and considers /t/- /d/ -and /r/ to be in complementary distribution. Phonetically /-ɪi/ after roots ending in /ʔ/ and vowel - /ɨ/ after roots ending in /p/ /t/ /k/.

He took from The Standard Generative Phonology an elegant solution to treat the root final unreleased stops as underlying representation.

Rule Two

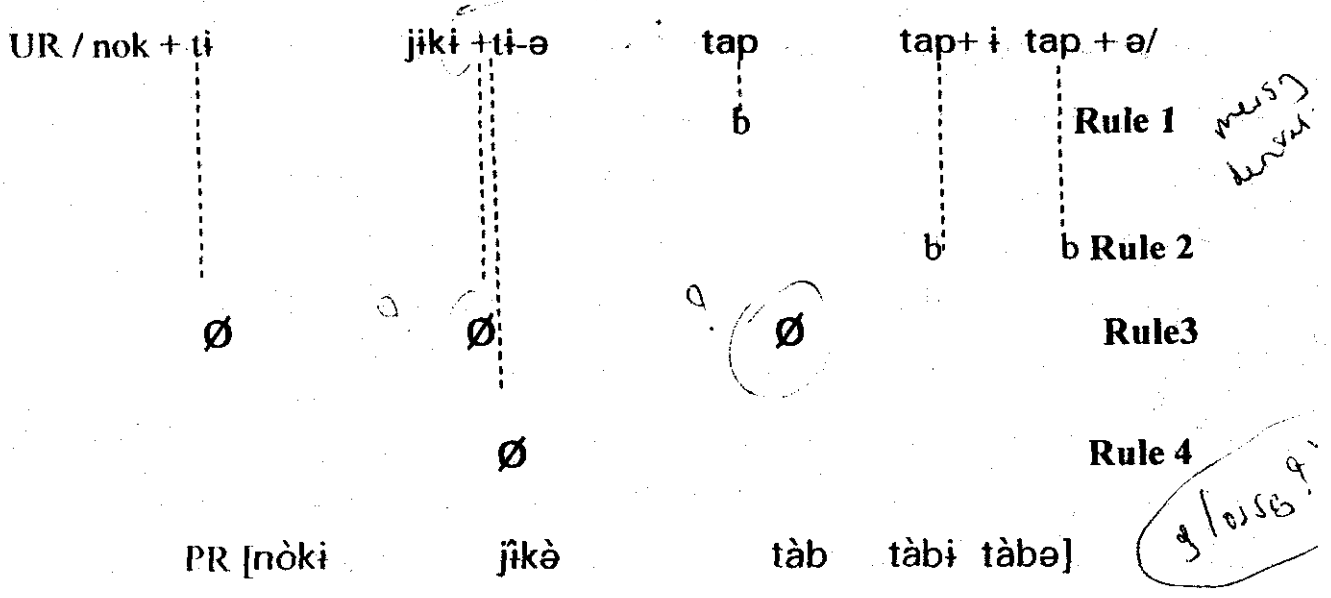
Voiceless consonants except /ʔ/ become voiced word medially.

Rule Three

Voiceless stops (except) /ʔ/ are deleted following a consonant.

Rule Four

/ɨ/ preceding /ə/ is deleted.



The derivation from the rules above proves to us that rule two blocks the functioning of rule three and vice versa. This is because words like /tàbə́/ and /tàpə́/ contrast and the rules above cannot explain why.

Spreda (1991) saw this and called it a bleeding rule as proposed in Kiparsky (1971). Arguments which counteracted this point on bleeding were raised and in S.P.E, it was proposed that the Simultaneous Application Principle governs how rules apply given that the rules' Structural description is satisfied at more than one point in the input string.

To apply a rule, the entire string is first scanned for segments that satisfy the environmental constraints of the rule. After all such segments have been identified in the string the changes required by the rule are applied simultaneously. Following the Simultaneous Application Principle, Kisseberth (1973 , draws the conclusion that the solution of one of these problems if correct will be a solution for the other. Thus Spreda's solution is not correct because one solution has not given the solution to the other.

Plosives word finally also precede the extension /rɨ/ and /ə/. In this case, there is a double consonant but not identical. Thus the dissimilation

process is tuled out. No other phonological process occurs in this environment when /ɾi/ is preceded by a plosive. The only difference comes in with the /d/ sound that cannot precede the /r/ sound. This is because /r/ is a free variant to /t/ as will be explained under free variation. Only /b/ and /g/ sounds realise the /ɾi/ phonetically as seen below:

/ɾi/ after the plosive /b/

Examples:

	Verb	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
(10)	fib	'twist'	fib-ɾi	'lie'
	kɔ̀b	'knock '	kɔ̀b-ɾi	'knock down'
	bùb	'swell'	bùb-ɾi	'cause to swell'

/ɾi/ after the plosive /g/

Examples:

	verb	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
(11)	nwàg	'swallow'	nwàg-ɾi	'only swallow'
	mɨ̀g	'measure'	mɨ̀g-ɾi	'measure comparatively'
			tɨ̀g-ɾi	'stumble '

111.4.3. TRUNCATION

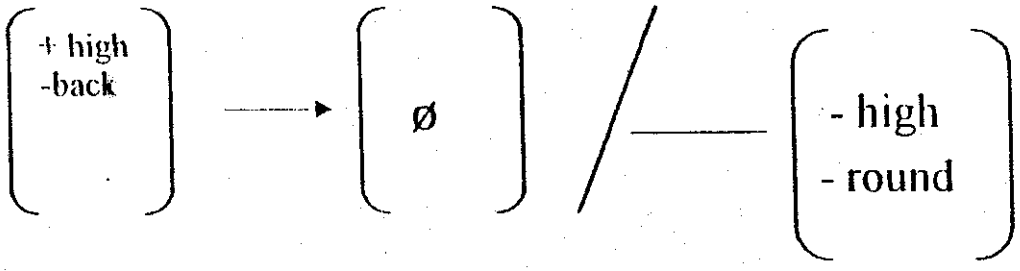
There are some alternations with vowels which can be explained using a phonological rule which is truncation. This is when the extension /ə/ is preceded by the vowel /i/ at morpheme boundary as part of an extension.

We notice the deletion of the /ɨ/ sound and this form of deletion is termed Truncation. It is the deletion of a vowel that precedes another vowel at Morpheme boundary as an extended morpheme

THEREFORE

Λ high vowel becomes deleted when it precedes a mid central vowel.

[ɨ] ⟶ [ø] /- [ə] (Truncation)



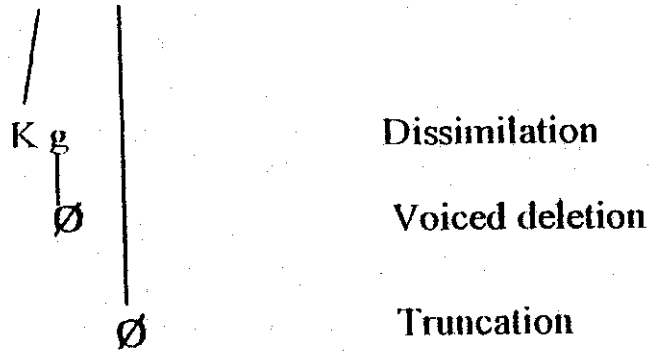
ALTERNANTS

jɨkɨ - à ~ jɨkà

càp-ɨ -à ~ càpá

sòp - ɨ- à ~ sòpá

UR / jɨg - gɨ - ə j ɨg-ə/



PR (jɨkà ʃjɨgà)

-cvccv- structures.

After the –CVC- and –CVCV- structures, we have the –CVCCV- which is equally as a result of an extension. This is mostly with the

/ɾi/ and /ni/ extensions

CVC + CV ⟶ CVCCV

PLOSIVES

Examples:

	Verb	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
(12)	fib	'twist'	fíb-ɾi	'lie'
	kɔ̀b	'serve'	kɔ̀b -ɾi	'serve out '
	bùb	' swell'	bùb - ɾi	'cause to swell'
	bèg	'turn'	bèg -ɾi	'evade '

The /ɾi/ extension is preceded by plosives and vowels while the /ni/ extension is preceded by nasals and vowels.

111.4.4 NASALS

They are mostly in the CVC forms. They equally precede the extensions /bi/, /di/, and /gi/ with the nasals /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/ respectively.

111.4.4.1. NASAL ASSIMILATION

/m/ ghàm + bi ⟶ ghàmbi 'talk secretly'

(13) talk + Ext

kɔ̀m + bi ⟶ kɔ̀mbi 'scratch with'

'scratch+ Ext

zùm + bi ⟶ zùmbi 'pierce several times'

pierce + Ext

The above examples end with the bilabial nasal /m/ and precede the extension /bi/.

/n/

(14) tìn + di ⟶ tìndi 'shift a bit'

push Ext

kòn + di ⟶ kòndi 'serve out'

serve + Ext

kòn + di ⟶ kòndi 'think very well'

think + Ext

The dental nasal precedes the extension that begins with a dental Plosive

/ŋ/ ⟶

(15) sùŋ + gi sùŋgi ' pull from a point'

pull Ext

tɔŋ + gi ⟶ tòŋgi 'call a bit'

call Ext

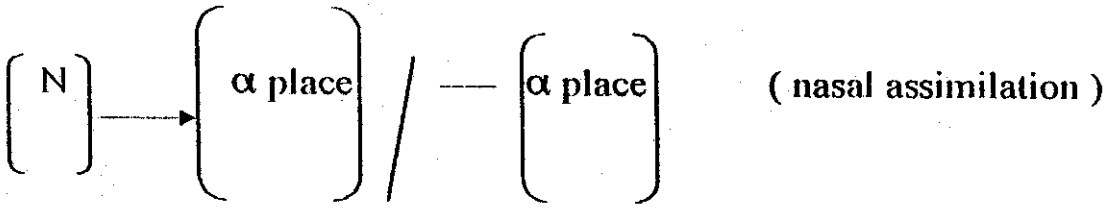
zèŋ + gi ⟶ zèŋgi 'clean a bit'

clean Ext

The above extensions /bi/

/di?

and /gi/, exhibit the same assimilation process with their nasal sounds. This assimilation process is idiosyncratic and is explained in Kisseberth (1971) as "the initial consonant of a suffix assimilates the point of articulation of the preceding nasal sound"; thus the sounds /mb/ /nd/ /ŋg/.



(nasal assimilation)

The Extension /ni/

The extension/ni/ is preceded by nasals and vowels. It is also preceded by the exceptional glottal stop. This implies that Nasals assimilate Nasal extensions as seen below:

/m/

(16) kòm + ni ⟶ kòmni 'peel s. th carelessly'

peel + Ext

tòm + ni ⟶ tòmni 'jump randomly'

jump + Ext

ghàm + ni ⟶ ghàmni 'talk at random (like a mad man)'.

/ŋ/

(17) sùŋ + ni ⟶ sùŋni 'struggle over s.th'

pull + Ext

bèŋ + ni ⟶ bèŋ ni ' turn each other over and over'

turn + ext

kyèŋ + ni ⟶ kyèŋ ni 'shoot randomly'

shoot + Ext

The behaviour of the /ni/ extension when it meets the dental nasal word finally is different. This is because the verb and the extension result to

a consonant cluster which does not exist in this language. Phonetically a single nasal is realized as seen below:

/n/ bèn + ni ⟶ bèni 'admit'

(17) agree +Ext

bìn + ni ⟶ bìni 'dance a bit'

dance + Ext

fin + ni ⟶ fini 'blacken'

black + Ext

111.4.5. SONORANT DISSIMILATION

Since nasals are sonorants,we notice a sonorant cluster which warrants a phonological rule. It is therefore another dissimilation process. The rule is a sonorant dissimilation rule represented as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} n,n \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} n \end{bmatrix}$$ (Sonorant Dissimilation.)

A sonorant cluster is dissimilated into a single sonorant.

Deletion

An alternative solution is n-deletion. This implies that;

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} ø \end{bmatrix} / \_\_ \begin{bmatrix} n \end{bmatrix}$$

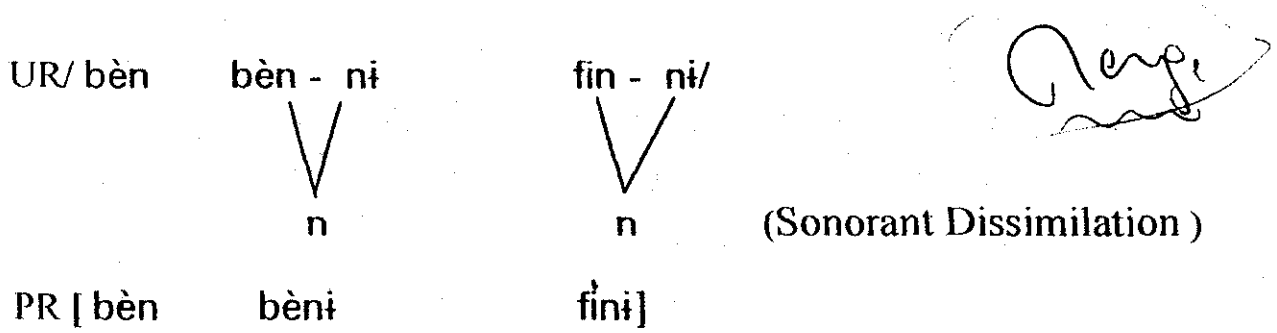
This is a solution but not a preferred one because we already have a dissimilation process with plosives. Scanning through the language and viewing the identical clusters as before we still consider it dissimilation.

Alternants

bèn - nɨ- bènɨ

fǐn - nɨ - fǐnɨ

bǐn - nɨ- bǐnɨ



111.4.6. VOWEL LENGTHENING

Verbs with vowels word finally receive the extensions /rɨ/ and /nɨ/ as –CV- extension and /ə/ as a -V – extension.

Examples:

(19) CV+CV ⟶ CVVCV.

fù + nɨ ⟶ fùùnɨ 'resemble each other '

resemble + EXT

fè + rɨ ⟶ fèèrɨ 'fan a fire repeatedly'

fan a fire + EXT

bù + rɨ ⟶ bùùrɨ 'totally confused'

confuse + EXT

kwé + rɨ ⟶ kwéérɨ 'slip down from'

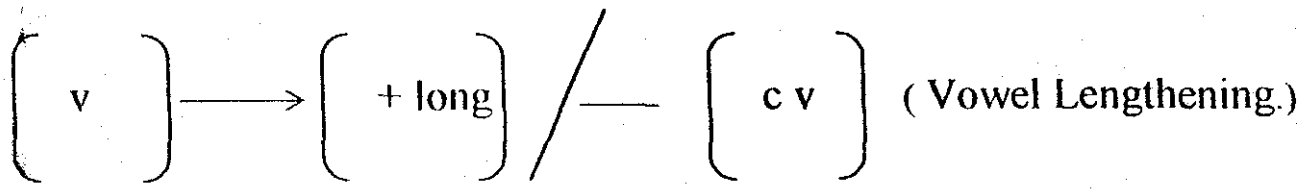
slip down + EXT

nyà + nɨ ⟶ nyàànɨ 'very hostile'

hostile + EXT.

There is a lengthening process in the vowels with the addition of the extension. A short vowel becomes a long vowel before an extension which is CV.

Kisseberth (1973) explains a similar process as lengthening and gives a rule as follows:



UR / fu - ni fe - ri nya - ri /

u u e e a a (Vowel Lengthening.)

PR [fùùrɨ fèèrɨ nyààrɨ]

The lengthened vowel carries the tone of the preceding vowel and thus lengthens with the tone.

111.4.7. SYNCOPE

Still on vowels, verb roots that have a glottal stop before the last vowel do not realize the vowel when an extension is added to it.

Examples:

	Verb	gloss	extension	gloss
(20)	swɨ̌ʔɨ	'descend'	swɨ̌ʔ-rɨ	'descend a bit'
	zwèʔè	' breathe	zwèʔ-rɨ	'breathe a bit'
	kùʔù	'fit'	kùʔ-nɨ	'fit the same'
	càʔà	'greet'	càʔ-nɨ	'greet each other'

The above process can be explained using the syncope rule.

$$\begin{bmatrix} V \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \emptyset \end{bmatrix} / \_\_ \begin{bmatrix} (C)V \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{(Syncope)}$$

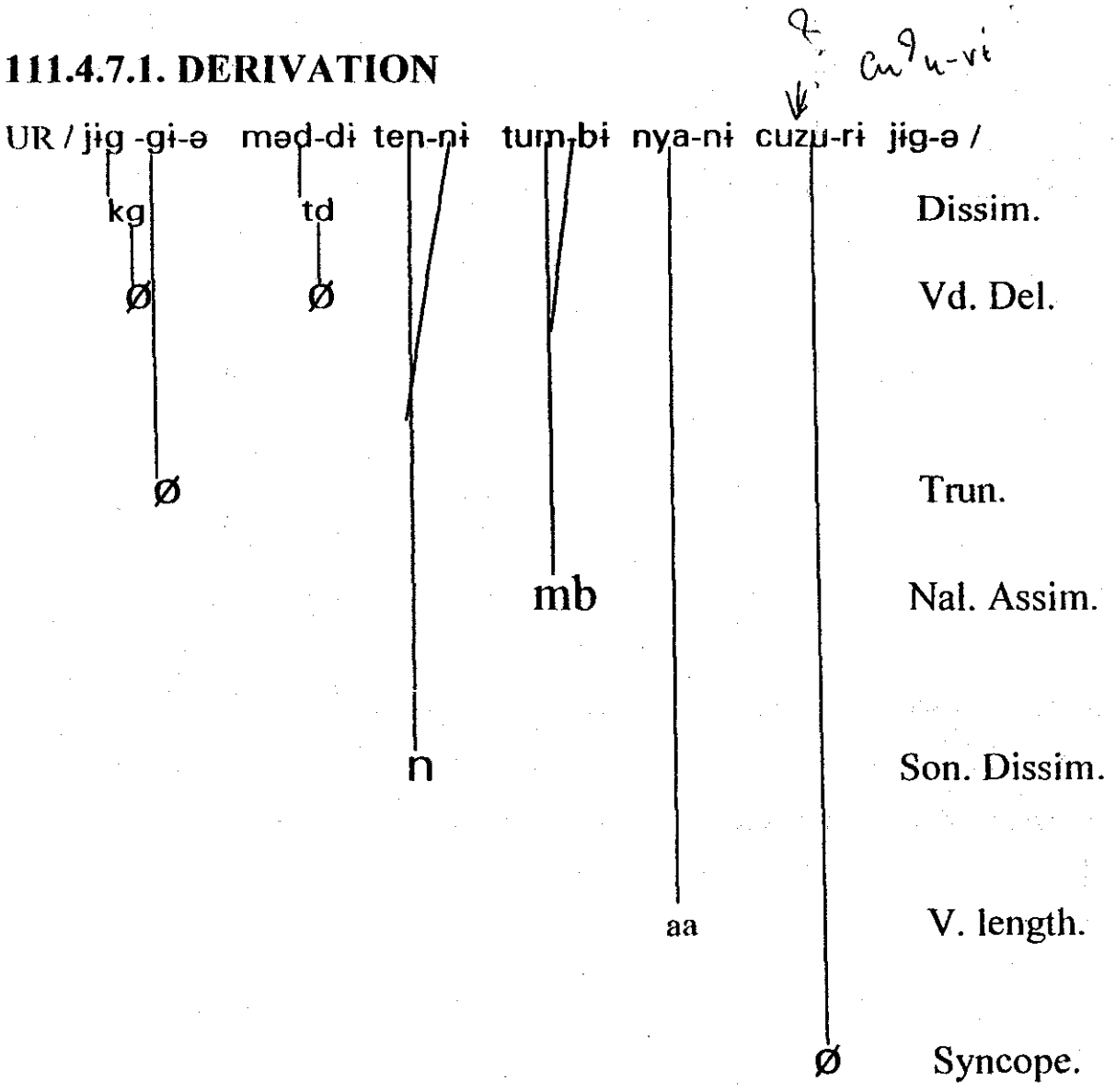
A vowel becomes deleted after a consonant at the morpheme boundary before an extension. The extension can either be a CV or V structure.

Alternants

swɨ̀ʔí	~	swɨ̀ʔ-rɨ
zwèʔ-rɨ́	~	zwèʔ- rə́
kùʔú	~	kúʔ - rɨ́
càʔa	~	càʔ-rɨ́

UR / swɨ̀ʔɨ- ə	swɨ̀ʔ - rɨ	kuʔ-rɨ-ə	caʔ-rɨ-ə /	
Ø		Ø	Ø	(Syncope)
PR [swɨ̀ʔ é	swɨ̀ʔrɨ̂	kùʔrə́	càʔrə́]	

111.4.7.1. DERIVATION



PR [jɨ̀kə̀ mə̀tɨ̀ tə̀nɨ̀ tùmbɨ̀ nyə̀ə̀nɨ̀ cùʔrɨ̀ jɨ̂gə̀]

111.4.8. REDUPLICATION

Apart from the phonological processes in verb root, changes also occur in this language on verbs as a result of reduplication.

Reduplication according to Tamanji and Mutaka (1995) is when some strings of a word... a consonant, a vowel, a syllable, two syllables, a stem, a whole word... may be repeated to provide some particular meaning to the word.

The reduplicated word might also have an idiosyncratic meaning. It is therefore a morphophonological process where words are formed by doubling part or an entire word. Thus, it is both partial and complete.

111.4.8.1. PARTIAL REDUPLICATION

a) Single Syllable Reduplication.

Examples:

(21) ɨ- tàn 'to delay'

ɨ-sù? 'to stammer'

ɨ-tɔ̀? 'to distinguish'

ɨ- sɔ̀ 'to leave the house early in the morning'

Reduplicated Form.

ɨ-tàn tàn 'to over delay'.

ɨ-sùsù? 'to be a stammerer'.

ɨ-tɔ̀tɔ̀? 'to distinguish very well'.

ɨ-sɔ̄sɔ̄ 'greeting in the morning'.

A single syllable Reduplication is when only one syllable of the verb is reduplicated. At times the reduplication may only add more meaning to a verb or change the class of the verb. The above - sùsù? stands for 'stammerer' as a noun. When / ɨ / is added as a prefix, it gives the verb form and / ə/ as a prefix makes it a noun.

Stem Reduplication

Examples:

(22) ɨ- nwàgrɨ 'to shine'.

ɨ- sòpɨ 'to cut'.

Reduplicated Forms

inwàgrɨ nwàgrɨ 'to shine a lot'.

ɨsòpɨ sòpɨ 'to cut short'.

111.4.9. FREE VARIATIONS

This is when two sounds contrast positionally without a corresponding change in meaning. Their environments must be identical and only the sounds make a difference in the word without a corresponding difference in meaning. The Meta' language has free variations both with consonants and vowels as will be seen below:

d ⟶ t (rule)

t ⟶ r (free variation)

Examples:

t/r

(23) kwèd ⟶ kwètɨ ⟶ kwèrɨ ' Pluck grains several times'.

Pluck grains

njwàd ⟶ njwàtɨ ⟶ njwàrá 'soft and watery'.

Soft and watery

mèd ⟶ mètɨ ⟶ mèrɨ 'swallow in small quantities'

swallow

rɨfɨ ⟶ tɨfɨ 'white'

bèrɨ ⟶ bètɨ 'own'

fèrɨ ⟶ fètɨ 'gather together'

k/g

kyèpá ⟶ gyèpá 'stingy'

e/i

yè ⟶ yî ' wonder '

ee/ii

yèèrɨ ⟶ yîirɨ 'wonder at'

Because of the free variant nature between /t/ and /r/ Spreda Klaus in his work of phonology (1991) places them as in complementary distribution taking /r/ to be underlying, /d/ as a free variant.

Spreda's conclusion is suspicious because there are rules enabling /dd/⟶ /td/⟶ /t/ not as a result of a free variant

Also /r/ occurs in the environment where /t/ also occurs and not in the environment where /d/ occurs.

Again /r/ occurs in the environment where /d/ has already become /t/. It does not occur word finally as /d/ does. /r/ does not occur word initially except when it is replacing /t/ or as an extension as a prefix, suffix or as a preposition. The /r/ does not occur as a free variant with /d/, neither in complementary distribution with /d/ . Yoe giving examples to show this !!!

111.4.10. GLIDING

111.4.10.1. THE -CCVC- AND –CCV- STRUCTURES

Finally the CCVC and CCV verb roots occur as a glide which is unpredictable. This is because they do not alternate with other forms

a) -CCVC-STRUCTURE.

Examples:

	Verb	**gloss**
(24)	kwèm	'smooth'

Kyèm	'slaughter'
ŋwēb	'chew'
twàn	'shorten '
zwèm	'raise '

The reason for naming it a glide is because no other two consonants occur in this environment. Therefore /w/ and /y/ have been considered glides which are not underlying.

b) -CCV- STRUCTURE .

Verb	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
swí	'poke'	swíírí	'poke repeatedly'
ŋwí	'swing'	ŋwíírí	'swing in a wavy manner'
kwè	'slip down'	kwèèrí	'slip down from'
kyí	'carry'	kyíirí	'carry in the arms'
nyà	'hostile'	nyàànì	'very hostile'

The –CCV- forms behave just like the –CV- forms. They precede extensions and lengthen the vowel before the extension. Since two different vowels do not occur in root verbs, the verbs are forced to have a glide.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE SEMANTIC FUNCTIONS OF VERBAL EXTENSIONS

V.0. INTRODUCTION

Verbal extensions according to Hedinger (1997) are non-category changing derivational suffixes attached directly to verb roots. The resultant forms are still verbs though sometimes with an apparently unrelated or only vaguely related meaning. Longacre (1976) adds that extensions are not only derivational suffixes but also inflectional suffixes. Another linguist, David Odden (1993), defines a verb extension as a term used by Bantuists to refer to a morpheme attached to a Bantu verb stem, thereby modifying the meaning of the verb. In the case of Meta', it does not only modify the meaning, but it equally maintains it in some verbs. Verb extensions in Meta' are made up of prefixes and suffixes. There are no infixes. In general the verbs include a verb root and an affix. Some affixes serve to differentiate the paradigm forms of variable words containing a common root, others recur in the formation of a large number of different root morphemes.

All words contain a root morpheme. Monomorphemic words comprise a root. Affixes generally tend to be shorter than roots. The verb root together with the verbal extensions in this language fall under two groups, those which have contextual variants with a clearly definable meaning and those without contextual variants.

V.1. SEGMENTATION OF ROOTS AND SUFFIXES

Segmentation of roots and suffixes is indeed straightforward as there are both the root occurring without a suffix and the suffix which has a typical meaning when added. At times the meaning cannot be separated though the suffix is always very clear as with other verbs. The extension, its forms and functions will be analysed as follows:

The extensions that exist in the Meta' language include /bɨ/ /dɨ/ /gɨ/ /rɨ/ /nɨ/ /ɨ/ and /ə/

V.2. EXTENSIONS AND THEIR MEANINGS.

In Isolation these extensions have the foliowing meanings:

/bɨ/	'with' (instrumental)
/dɨ/	'repeated action'
/gɨ/	'reciprocal'
/nɨ/	'at random'
/rɨ/	'from ' (separative)
/ɨ/	'infinitive marker '
/ə/	'class marker '

V.3. FUNCTIONS OF EXTENSIONS

The functions of extensions vary from verb to verb. A single verb can carry more than one extension and a single extension can equally carry more than one meaning as will be seen below:

V.3.1. THE EXTENSION /bɨ/

The morpheme /bɨ/ expresses an involvement in the Meta' language. It can be literally translated as 'with'; it gives an impression that some other thing has to be used. This main usage of /bɨ/ morpheme is termed instrumental

V.3.1.1. INSTRUMENTAL FUNCTION

The instrumental suffix generally modifies the meaning of a verb so as to imply that the action is done with an instrument of some kind. This function in Grassfields Bantu languages is expressed by a preposition. When

added to a verb, the instrumental suffix necessitates the introduction of an instrumental object.

Longacre (1976) defines Instrument as an inanimate entity or body part which an animate agent intentionally uses to accomplish an action or to instigate a process.

Examples:

(1)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	bɔ̀m	'cover'	bɔ̀m-bɨ̂	'cover with'
	tɔ̀b	'mix'	tɔ̀p-ɨ̀	'mix with'
	ŋwɛ̀m	'smile'	ŋwɛ̀m-bɨ̀	'smile with'
	kɛ̀m	'carry'	kɛ̀m-bɨ̂'	'carry with care'

Apart from /bi/ being an instrumental function, other functions are derived from it when combined with different verb roots. These include: Causative, Reciprocal, repetition, diminutivisation, separative, applicative, prolongation of action, and formal functions as follows:

V.3.1.2. CAUSATIVE

The causative form of extensions by George Cardona (1978) refers to the goal object of the act; and another referring to the agent of this act. Mutaka and Tamanji (1995) use causative as having the effect of changing monovalent verbs (verbs that take a single argument) to bivalent verbs. Thus causative is to cause or to make somebody to do something to become something different.

Examples:

(2)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	pàm	'flatten'	pàm-bɨ	'make s.th. flat.'
	kwèm	'smooth'	kwèm-bɨ	'make s.th. smooth.'
	wù̀m	'feel sick'	wù̀m-bɨ	'cause to be sick.'

V.3.1.3. SEPARATIVE

It implies a state whereby one thing or person leaves a place or another thing. It indicates that it was previously together and then moves apart thus leaving from one area to another. By Mutaka and Tamanji (1995) a separative verbal suffix expresses the meaning of an object coming from a certain source, being separated from another with which it formally had a relationship.

Examples:

(3)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	kɔ̀m	'clean'	kɔ̀m-bɨ	'clean off (plantain)'
	nə̀m	'hide'	nə̀m-bɨ	'hide s.o. from'
	wàb	'cut'	wàp-ɨ	'cut from'

V.3.1.4. APPLICATIVE OR BENEFACTIVE OR DATIVE.

The applicative indicates that the action or the state described is for the benefit or on behalf of somebody else. The notion of applicative is expressed through the use of a preposition in this language as the gloss shows.

Examples:

(4)

verb	gloss	extension	gloss
sòb	'cut'	sòp-î	'cut to pieces'
wùb	'crave'	wup-î	'craving for'
ghàb	'divide'	ghàp-î	'divide to'

V.3.1.5. RECIPROCAL FUNCTION

This indicates that there is more than one agent, with each being also the goal of the action of the other agent(s). Reciprocal in this work is known by Longacre (1976) as "experiencer" and by MBA (1999) in his article 'Verbal Extensions in Kom" as reflective. Longacre defines it as one reaching to his environment, the one thus affected by someone else's activities. The physical state or location is not necessarily changed but in which he experiences someone else's violence, affection.

Examples:

(5)

Verbs	gloss	extensions	gloss
ghàm	'talk'	ghàm-bî	'gossip'
tàm	'deceive'	tàm-bî	'deceive each other'
kɔ̄b	'tease'	kòp- î	'provoke fighting'

V.3.1.6. PROLONGATION OF ACTION.

This is when an action is done over and over. The normal time for this action to be done once must be repeated. This repetition is done in Meta' with the following words:-

Examples:

(6)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss.**
	sìm	'frighten'	sìm-bɨ̂	'frightened over and over'
	ŋwə̀b	'chew'	ŋwə̀p-ɨ̂	'chew with gums over and over'

V.3.1.7. REPETITION

It is doing something more than one time .It should be the same thing that is done several times or in several places or by several people. These verbs are mostly action verbs. The repetitive aspect has the effect of modifying the meaning of the relevant verb by indicating that the action inherent in the verb can be repeated or done by several people at the same time .This suffix thus has the meanings 'several times', time and again ,'one after the other'

Examples:

(7)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss.**
	tùm	'shoot '	tùm-bɨ̂	'shoot several times'
	sòm	'hit'	sòm- bɨ̂	'hit s.times on the ground'
	sim̀	'pin'	sìm-bɨ̂	'pin several sticks several times

V.3.1.8. FORMAL

The last type to be treated are the formal suffixes.

These include those suffixes which do not exist in base verb. They exist only in their extended forms.

Examples:

Extension	**gloss.**
bēp-i̱	'dodge'
cēp-i̱	'communicate by the talking drum'.

The above definitions will be used with the following examples. Any additional information of the following extensions will be included below:

V.3.2. THE EXTENSION /di̱/

The extension /di̱/ in isolation represent repetition but when combined with different verbs it has several functions as will be seen below:

V.3.2.1. REPETITION .

The morpheme /di̱/ in the Meta' language represents the word 'again' in English; as an isolated morpheme it actually indicates a repeated action as the repetition function as has been explained above.

Examples:

(9)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss.**
	wùd	'shake'	wùt-i̱	'shake repeatedly'
	kùn	'touch'	kùn-di̱	'touch again'
	kɔ̄n	'reason'	kɔ̄n-di̱	'reason again'
	sàn	'split'	sàn-di̱	'split repeatedly'

Apart from this main function, it exhibits different functions when combined with different verbs. These functions include:

'Verbal Extensions in Kom'. He refers to this situation as diminutivisation. This is actually showing smallness or remarkably small quantity.

Examples:

(10)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	kòn	'serve'	kòn-dɨ	'serve a bit'
	kàn	'tired'	kàn-dɨ	'a bit tired'
	kòd	'tie'	kòt-ɨ	'tie a bit'
	gād	'move'	gāt-ɨ	'move part of the body'
	ghàd	'pour'	ghàt-ɨ	'pour out a bit'

V.3.2.3. CAUSATIVE FUNCTION.

Examples:

(11)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	nèd	'smooth'	nèt-ɨ	'make smooth'
	tàn	'late'	tàn-dɨ	'cause lateness'
	bèd	'beat'	bèt-ɨ	'cause to beat'

V.3.2.4. SEPARATING FUNCTION.

Examples:

(12)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	cèd	'remove'	cèt-ɨ	'remove from'
	bèn	'open'	bèn-dɨ	'open from'

V.3.2.5. INSTRUMENTAL FUNCTION

Examples:

(13)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	bĩn	'tremble'	bĩn-dî	'tremble with'
	bèn	'agree'	bèn-dî	'agree with'

V.3.2.6. ABSENCE OF SEMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

Examples:

(14)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	bòd	'young'	bòt-i	'calm'
	cèd	'cut'	cèt-i	'proclaim'

V.3.2.7. NEUTRALISATION.

Examples:

(15)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	gwèn	'ridicule'	gwèn- di	'ridicule'
	ghán	'stroll'	ghán- dî	'stroll'
	dèn	'step over'	dèn-dî	'step over
	gùn	'bend'	gùn-di	'bend'

V3.3. EXTENSION /gi/.

This extension in isolation gives the impression of a reciprocal action. It tries to explain an action done by two or more people in almost the same way.

V.3.3.1. RECIPROCAL.

Examples:

(16)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	sʊ̀ŋ	'pull'	sʊ̀ŋ-gɨ̂	'pull from both ends'
	bèŋ	'help'	bèŋ-gɨ̂	'helping each other'
	zòŋ	'fight'	zòŋ-gɨ̂	'fighting with each other'
	kə̄ŋ	'turn'	kə̄ŋ-gɨ̂	'turning each other over and over'

V.3.3.2. DIMINUTIVISATION.

Examples:

(17)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	fàŋ	'fat'	fàŋ-gɨ̂	'a bit fat'
	bàŋ	'red'	bàŋ-gɨ	'a bit red'
	jɪ̄g	'eat'	jɪ̂k-ɨ̂	'eat a bit'

V.3.3.3. CAUSATIVE.

Examples:

(18)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	bɪ̌ŋ	'round '	bɪ̏ŋ-gɨ	'make balls'
	sàŋ	'dry'	sàŋ-gɨ̂	'make dry '
	zèŋ	'clean '	zèŋ-gɨ̂	'make clean '

V.3.3.5. ABSENCE OF SEMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

Examples:

(20)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	fàŋ	'fat '	fàŋ-gî	'file '
	bàŋ	'red '	bàŋ-gî	'mend '

V.3.3.4. NEUTRALISATION.

Examples;

(19)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	tāŋ	'count '	tāŋgî	'count '

V.3.4. THE EXTENSION /nɨ/

This extension is basically for the random function. It modifies a verb by adding three different meanings to it. These meanings are "on several parts", "randomly", and "roughly". When the suffix denotes randomness, it shows that the action is done irregularly. When it denotes several parts it implies involvement of more than one, and when it denotes 'roughly' it shows that the action is done without much care.

V.3.4.1. RANDOM.

Examples:

(21)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	fàŋ	'fat'	fàŋ-nî	'fat at random'
	tòŋ	'shout'	tòŋ-nî	'shout at random'
	cèŋ	'urinate'	cèŋ -nî	'urinate on several places'
	ghàm	'talk'	ghàm-nî	'talk at random'

dèŋ	'dribble'	dèŋ-nɨ	'dribble roughly'

V.3.4.2. RECIPROCAL

Examples:

(22)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	fù	'resemble'	fùù-nɨ	'resemble each other'
	bàn	'hate'	bàn-ɨ́	' hate each other'
	bēŋ	'turn'	bēŋ-nɨ̂	'turn each other '

V.3.4.3. ASSOCIATIVE.

The associative function by Longacre (1976) implies doing together or in company. This involves more than one thing. One must be coming or must come to meet the other one. In Meta' it includes associating to help someone.

Examples:

(23)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**Extension**	**gloss**
	kúʔ	'join'	kúʔ-nɨ̂	'join hands together'
	kām	'lead'	kām-nɨ̂	'lead some one'

V.3.4.4. INSTRUMENTAL.

Examples:

(24)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	bèn	'admit'	bèn-ɨ	'admit with'
	zèŋ	'clean'	zèŋ-nɨ̂	'clean with'
	búʔ	'break'	búʔnɨ	'break with'
	sɔ̄ŋ	'copulate'	sɔ̄ŋ-nɨ	'copulate with'

V.3.4.5. SEPARATIVE.

Examples:

(25)	verb	gloss	extension	gloss
	zwèm	'raise '	zwèm-nɨ	'raise from'
	cɔ̄ʔ	'borrow'	cɔ̄ʔ-nɨ	'borrow from'

V.3.4.6. CAUSATIVE.

Examples :

(26)	Verb	gloss	extension	gloss
	zîŋ	'clean'	zîŋ -nî	'make clean'
	wùm	'feel sick'	wùm-nɨ	'cause to feel sick'
	kwèn	'die'	kwèn-ɨ́	'cause to die'

V.3.4.7. ABSENCE OF SEMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

Examples:

(27)	Verb	gloss	extension	gloss
	fàŋ	'fat'	fàŋ-nî	'frighten'
	bàʔ	'weave'	bàʔ-nɨ	'block'

V.3.4.8. NEUTRALISATION.

Examples:

(28)	Verb	gloss	extension	gloss
	mà	'finish'	màànɨ	'finish'

V.3.5. THE EXTENSION /rɨ/

The morpheme /rɨ/ in the Meta' language stands for the preposition "from" It therefore plays the role of separation when added to some verb roots and other functions on different verb roots.

V.3.5.1. SEPARATIVE

Examples:

(29)	Verb	gloss	extension	gloss
	vɨ̂	'escape'	vɨ̂ɨ̂-rɨ̂	'escape form '
	fi	'select'	fɨ̂i-rɨ̂	'select from '
	kwè	'slip down'	kwèè-rɨ	'slip down from '
	cɨ̂ʔ	'shade'	cɨ̂ʔ-rɨ̂	'shade from '
	tòʔ	'translate'	tòʔ-rɨ̂	'translate from '

The lengthening of the vowel is as a result of the extension added to it. This binds with the vowel lengthening rule as seen in chapter three.

V.3.5.2. INSTRUMENTAL.

Examples:

(30)	verb	gloss	extension	gloss
	kyé	'scratch'	kyéé-rɨ	'scratch with'
	fúʔ	'cover'	fúʔ-rɨ̂	'cover with'
	mèʔ	'delay'	mèʔ-rɨ	'delay with'
	wɨ̂	'beat'	wɨ̂ɨ̂-rɨ̂	'beat with'

V.3.5.3. REPETITION

Examples:

(31)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	swí	'poke'	swíí-rí	'poke repeatedly'
	té	'sting '	téé-rí	'sting repeatedly'
	fé	'fan a fire '	féé-rí	'fan a fire repeatedly'
	tèʔ	'smash'	tèʔ-rî	'smash repeatedly'

V.3.5.4. RECIPROCAL.

Examples:

(32)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	wé	'help'	wéé-rí	'help each other'
	ghàʔ	'love '	ghàʔ-rí	'love each other'
	cɔ̄b	'quarrel'	cɔ̄b-rí	'quarrel with each other'
	cɔ́ʔ	'resemble'	cɔ́ʔ-rî	'resemble each other'

IV.3.5.5. DIMINUTIVISATION.

Examples:

(33)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	cèʔ	'laugh'	cèʔ rí	'laugh a bit'
	cɔ́ʔ	'pull out'	cɔ́ʔ-rí	'pull out a bit'
	kɔ́ʔ	'climb'	kɔ́ʔrí	'climb a bit'
	swîʔʔ	'descend'	swîʔrî	'descend a bit'
	kwî	'grow'	kwíí-rí	'grow a bit'

IV.3.5.6. APPLICATIVE.

Examples:

(34)	**Verb**	**gloss**	**Extension**	**gloss**
	dǐ	'cry'	dǐi-rɨ	'cry for'
	bî	'ask'	bǐi-rɨ	'ask for'

IV.3.5.7. ASSOCIATIVE

Examples:

(35)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	fè	gather	fèè-rɨ	'gather together'

IV.3.5.8. CAUSATIVE.

Examples:

(36)	**verb**	**gloss**	**extension**	**gloss**
	zwî	'kill'	zwǐi-rɨ̂	'cause to kill'
	tù	'blunt'	tùù-rɨ	'make blunt'
	bùb	'swell'	bùb-rɨ	'cause to swell'
	bàʔ	'clear'	bàʔ-rɨ̂	'make clear'

IV.3.6. THE EXTENSION/ɨ/.

This extension is a prefix. It occurs before all the verbs to mark the infinitive form of the verb. It marks both monosyllabic and disyllabic verbs.

IV.3.6.1. MONOSYLLABIC VERBS

Examples:

	infinitive	verb	gloss
(37)	ɨ̂ -	ɟig	'to eat'
	ɨ̌ -	tùm	'to shoot'
	ɨ̌ -	dàn	'to train'
	ɨ̌ -	jə̀	'to feed'
	ɨ̄ -	tɔ̀	'to carve'
	ɨ̂ -	bín	'to dance'
	ɨ̄ -	tē	'to kick'
	ɨ̄ -	cà?	'to search'
	ɨ̄ -	zòn	'to buy'
	ɨ̄ -	bà?	'to clear'

IV.3.6.2. DISYLLABIC VERBS.

Examples:

	infinitive	verb	gloss
(38)	ɨ̂ -	v̀iirɨ̀	'provoke'
	ɨ̂ -	zə́ŋə̀	'tilted'
	ɨ̂ -	swîrɨ̂	'poke repeatedly'

IV.3.6.3. PREPOSITION

/ ɨ̄ / is also a preposition. There are two forms differentiated by tones /ɨ̄/ with a level tone meaning 'to' directional and /ɨ́/ with a high tone meaning 'at' non directional.

Directional is when there is movement to the location denoted by the prepositional phrase below:

ɨ̄	ɨŋgā	ɨ̌	ɨfèti	wɔ̂	(into this meeting)
Dir	inside	Am	meeting	this	
into	this		meeting		

Non Directional form is used when there is no movement

ɨ̌	ɨŋgā	ɨ̌	ɨ̌fèti	wɔ̂	in this meeting
Dir	inside	Am	meeting	this	
Into	this		meeting		

It actually has many functions which have not been exploited in this work.

This is because most of the functions are dealing with nouns and this work is basically on verbs.

IV.3.7. THE EXTENSION /ə/.

The last extension to be analysed in this work is the mid central vowel extension which is mostly an aspect marker. It expresses the manner in which the action inherent in the relevant verb is experienced. It can occupy the initial and final position. When it occupies the initial position it marks the class of the word, generally the noun class. When it occupies the final position, it marks either the continuous tense of the verb or an exclamation in the use of the vowel.

IV.3.7.1. AS A CLASS MARKER.

Examples:

	Verb	**gloss**	**Noun**	**gloss**
(39)	ɨ + dàn	'to train'	ə +dàn-à	'trainer'

ɨ̄ + jə̄	'to feed'	è+ jə̄-è	'feeder'
ɨ̄ + tɔ̄	'to carve'	è + tɔ̄-è	'carver'

In the above examples the extensions act as a class marker

As ɨ stands for verbs, /ə/ stands for nouns

IV.3.7.2. /ə/ AS A TENSE MARKER.

Examples:

	verb	gloss	extension	gloss
(40)	jĩɨg	'eat'	jĩɨg-è	'eating '
	tɔ̀b	'pollute'	tɔ̀b-è	'polluting'
	tàd	'stir'	tàd-è	'stirring'
	tùm	'shoot'	tùm-è	'shooting'
	tàŋ	'count'	tàŋ-è	'counting'

In this case, it marks the continuous tense of the verbs. It can also mark the past tense. It now depends on the context in which it is found.

IV.3.7.3. /ə/ AS AN IMPERATIVE MARKER

Examples:

	verb	gloss	extension	gloss
(41)	jĩɨg	'eat'	jĩɨg-è!	'eat'!
	jə̄	'feed'	jə̄!	'feed'!
	tàŋ	'count'	tàŋ-è!	'count'!
	tùm	'shoot'	tùm-è!	'shoot'

The above verb extensions are those the researcher could discover with the verbs . This implies that extensions can also be found with Nouns or other parts of speech which have not been treated.

IV.3.8. VERB EXTENSIONS AND CHANGE IN VERB VALENCE

Verb extensions in Meta' do affect verb valence in sentence (i) and (ii) below. An original transitive verb when extended becomes an intransitive verb. The transitive verbs 'cɔʔ'becomes intransitive when the extension /rɨ/ is added to it, and 'tu' as an intransitive becomes transitive when the same extension is added to it.

Examples:

THE TRANSITIVE VERB 'cɔ̀ʔ' IN A SENTENCE.

IV.3.8.1. TRANSITIVE.

42) (i) kwati à cɔ̀ʔ ŋgywɨ zè.

kwati TM pullout dress the

Kwati pulled out the dress.

THE INTRANSITIVE VERB 'tu' IN A SENTENCE .

(ii) fɨbi fé àtù

knife the TM blunt

The knife is blunt.

IV.3.8.2. INTRANSITIVE.

In (i) the transitive verb becomes intransitive with the addition of an extension while intransitive becomes transitive in (ii) with the presence of an extension as seen below:

(i) ŋgywɨ zè à cɔ̀ʔrɨ

dress the TM pull out a bit

The dress was pulled out a bit.

(ii) wɨ à tùrɨ fɨbi fé

He TM make blunt knife the

He blunted the knife.

The above examples prove that verbal extensions in Meta' do affect the valence of the verb, that is, enabling an original transitive verb to become intransitive and vice versa. This can be done with the use of a morphological modification (suffix). The extensions are both analysed in a sentence and in isolation. There is a large number of transitive verbs morphologically related to intransitive "adjectival" verbs. These include:

Transitive

Examples:

(43)	**Verb**	**gloss**
	kwèm	'smooth'
	zwî	'die'

Intransitive

(44)	**Verb**	**gloss**
	kwèmnɨ	'make smooth or smooth'
	zwîirɨ	'kill or cause to die'

Most of these morphological patterns of formation by suffixation are productive in Meta'. These morphological causatives fall between the extremes of 'lexicalisation'. Extensions therefore change verb valence.

IV.3.9. REDUPLICATION AND VERBAL EXTENSIONS.

Reduplication as analysed in chapter III at times plays the same function as a Verbal Extension. This implies that some reduplicated verbs have the same meaning on a verb as the extended form of the verb.

Examples:

(45)

Verb	**gloss**
tàn	'delay'
tɔ̀	'sharp'

	Extension	**gloss**
(46)	tàndɨ	'over delay'
	tɔ̀ɔ̀rɨ	'very sharp'

Reduplicated form.

(47)	**Verb**	**gloss**
	tàntàn	'over delay'
	tɔ̀tɔ̀	'very sharp'

The above examples imply that reduplication at times represents extensions. Instead of reduplicating a verb, it can be extended to give the same meaning.

Extensions then are a major aspect in the Meta' language which could not be left unexploited given the important roles they play.

GENERAL CONCLUSION.

Throughout this work it has been seen that extensions affect verbs in Meta' phonologically, morphologically, and semantically.

Phonologically, phonemes are deduced and words are scanned for rules confirming certain systematic principles of combination operating on the constituent phonemes.

Morphologically, the internal structures of the verbs have been given. Morphemes are segmented into morphs making up the grammar of the language. These morphs have been analyzed with their corresponding verbs.

Semantically, the morphs have been explicitly given their meanings and functions.

To explicitly deal with the phonology of the Meta' language, the other parts of speech like the adjectives, nouns, adverbs could be treated. Verbs have only been analyzed in their extended forms. They have not been conjugated. Other aspects like valence and reduplication have just been treated in relation to verb extension. The phonology of reduplication has not been done. Morphology has been restricted only to the internal structure. Nothing has been done in the field of syntax.

Work has been done on the Tonology of this language but in German which cannot be read by the Meta' people and so it brings no help to them.

An improvement on the phonological and Tonological data already existing will help to show how the lexical phonology model works in Meta', this can be done with recur to the other parts of speech not yet analyzed.

It is our hope that this work will be of great value to linguists who want to work on the Meta' language. We cannot, however, say the work is exhaustive; as such, loopholes in it can be used as bases for further linguistic research.

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APPENDIX 1

Names of informants	Profession	Information given	Place of birth Address
Klaus spreda	Researcher on Meta'	Part of the data and most of his works	German (PTTC) Mbengwi
Paa Kwati	Retired Teacher now Teaching Meta language	Data on Redupli cation and some verbs	Meta' (Bome)
Paa Ngwa	Primary school Teacher	Most of the verb extensions	Meta' (Njinibi)
Mr. Takod	Secretary for Meta' language committee	Most of the free variants and some verbs	Meta'(Njindom)
Nche Patience	Business woman	Verbs on Mankon	Mankon
Paa Neba	Retired cook	Verbs on Ngyen-mbo	Bafut (Ngyen-mob)
Dr. Ndasi	Teacher	History of Meta' and maps	Meta'(Ngyen-mbo)
Mrs Ndam	Housewife (old)	Pronunciation of verbs	Meta'(Ngyen-mbo)
Miss Lilian Tangang	Student (young)	Pronunciation of verbs	Meta' (Mbon)

Appendix II

The following is the data used in this work. It is arranged alphabetically. Most of the extensions and their respective meanings are in brackets. The main verb and it's own meaning is not in bracket

b Verb	gloss
bà	'carry on the back'
bàànɨ	'cross'
bāb	' trim with cutlass or scissors'
bām	' join, bind, mate (of animal) '
bɛ́ɪ̄ɛ̄	'cut off'
bèŋ	'turn s.th around, turn sour '
bɔ̄ŋ	'good'
bʊ̀ʔ(nɨ)	'hit; break (with)'
bìʔ	'calm'
baʔ(nɨ)	'clear off (make)'
bʊ́ʔ(nɨ)	'break (into smaller pieces)'
bʊ́ʔ(rɨ)	'break (into pieces)'
bʊ̀ʔə	'collapse, fall down
bɔ̄	'fear'
bèd	'beat'
bʊ̀ʊ̀(rɨ)	'confuse(totally) disturb'
bèn(dɨ)	'open (from)'
bèèn	'disgrace'
bèn (ɨ) (dɨ)	'agree (with) (admit)'
bèènɨ	'follow'
bê	'pass through'
bêb	'protect'
bêp (ɨ)	'protect' (with)
bɛ̄p-ɨ	'dodge'
bùb (rɨ)	'swell (make)'
bèk (ɨ)	'turn (e.o.over and over.)'
bèg (rɨ)	'evade'
bīn (ɨ)	'dance' (a bit)
bɔ̀m (bɨ)	'cover with'
bèd (ɨ)	'beat' (cause to beat)
bɪ̀n (dɨ)	'tremble (with)'
bɔ̀p (ɨ)	'young (calm)'
bàŋ (gɨ)	'red (a bit) mend'
bɪ́ŋ(gɨ)	'round (make balls)'
bàn(ɨ)	'hate (e.o)'
bɛ̄ŋ(nɨ)	'turn (e.o)'
bɪ́ɪ̄(rɨ)	'ask (for)'
c)	
càb	'funnel, abuse, shame'
cà̀b(rɨ)	'feed (chicken their first meal)'
cèd	'cut,remove wine from bush by stealing'
cèt(ɨ)	'remove (from), proclaim'
cə̀p (ɨ)	'rush, pinch off s.th; (with fingernails)'
cə̄pɨ	'communicate by talking drum, 'signal, shouting'
cɔ̄b	'fight, quarrel'
cɔ̄b (rɨ)	'celebrate, (beginning of harvest)'

cōb (rɨ) 'donate, contribute (for)'
cùrɨ 'steam food'
càʔà (rɨ) 'search, great (e.o)'
cɔ́ʔ(rɨ) 'pull out a bit'
cɔ́ʔ(rɨ) 'pull out, resemble (e.o)'
cìʔrɨ 'cover to shade from'
cìʔ 'churn'
cū 'pound'
cèb(ə) 'pinch(ing)'
cèp(ə) 'pinching (a bit)'
cèpɨ 'pinch a bit'
cèŋ(nɨ) 'urinate (on several parts)'
cɔ̀ŋ(nɨ) 'sex (with)'
cɔ̄ʔ (nɨ) 'borrow (from)'
cèʔ (rɨ) 'laugh (a bit)'

d)

dèn (dɨ) 'step (over)'
dàn (dɨ) 'train (trainer)'
dìì (rɨ) 'pity, mercy cry (for)'
dènɨ 'send'
dəŋ(nɨ) 'dribble(roughly)'
dèŋgɨ 'peep'
dí 'cry, weep, mourn'

f)

fèè(rɨ) 'fan a fire (repeatedly)'
fèɨ(rɨ) 'gather (together)'
fə 'whistle!'
fə(rɨ) 'blow (repeatedly)'
fɨ́ 'wind around'
fiɨ(nɨ) 'twist out of shape'
fɨ́ 'twist, bruise'
fɨ́b(rɨ) 'lie'
fìn 'black'
fíb 'twist'
fɨ̀nɨ 'blacken'
fū 'resemble'
fùùnɨ 'resemble each other'
fùm 'suffocate'
fùmnɨ 'suffocated'
fàʔ 'work'
fū(nɨ) 'resemble (e.o)'
fàŋ(gɨ) 'fat (a bit), file'
faŋ(nɨ) 'fat (at random) frighten'
fùʔrɨ 'cover with'

g)

gā̀d 'move, stir'
gàtɨ 'move one's self'
gù 'fall, guilty; mend a hole'
gùùrɨ 'fall down, fail totally'
gʊ̀n(dɨ) 'bend'
gwé 'reverse'
gwē 'pick'
gwè 'fail to give'
gwèm 'lift up with a lever and let it turn over'
gwèn(dɨ) 'ridicule'
gwem(nɨ) 'topple over and over'
gwèn(ɨ) 'sleep, climb (over)'
ghán(dɨ) 'stroll'
ghàd 'pour'
ghàtɨ 'pour out a bit'
ghàb(rɨ) 'divide, share (to)'
ghàb 'divide'
ghàʔ 'love, rejoice'
ghàʔrɨ 'love each other'

ghàm(nɨ) 'talk (at random)'
gham(bɨ) 'talk (secretly) gossip'
ghapɨ 'share to each other'

J)

jwinɨ 'crowded'
jɨ́g 'eat'
jə̀ 'feed'
jū 'honey'
jɨ́kɨ 'eat a bit'
jɨ́kə̀ 'eating a bit'
jɨ́gə̀ 'eating'

k)

kà 'indicate, magnify, glorify, salute'
kàà(rɨ) 'salute(each other)'
kām 'fence'
kāmnɨ 'lead s.o in a fence (e.g prison)'
kàn 'tired, weary'
kàn(dɨ) 'uneasy tired (a bit)'
kə̀m 'carry, cook'
kə̀mbɨ 'carry with care'
kə̀n 'cover, shelter, block'
kən (dɨ) 'drive (away)'
kɨ̀m 'choke'
kɨ̀mnɨ 'clotted'
kòd 'tie, bind'
kòtɨ 'tie lightly but many rounds'
kòn 'serve'
kòndɨ 'serve out a bit'
kɔ̀b 'knock down'
kɔ̀brɨ 'signal'
kùʔ (nɨ) 'join hands, fit (the same)'
kùn(dɨ) 'touch (again)'
kɔ̄n(dɨ) 'consider, think, reason (v.ery well)'
kùd 'chew'
kɔ̀g 'tear s.o's throat'
kɔ̀kɨ 'tear a bit'
kɔ̄b 'tease'
kɔ̀pɨ 'provoke fighting'
kûmnɨ 'chase'
kù 'be guilty'
kɔ̀m 'peel, clean'
kɔ̀m 'peel with, clean off'
kāŋ 'help'
kāŋgɨ 'help each other'
kwè(rɨ) 'slip down from'
kwèn(ɨ) 'die (cause to die)'
kwə̀m(nɨ) 'smooth (make)'
kwɨ́(rɨ) 'grow (a bit)'
kyé(rɨ) 'scratch (with)'
kyə̀m 'slaughter'
kyə̀ŋ(nɨ) 'shout (at random)'
kyə̀pə 'stingy'
kɔ̀ŋgɨ 'appease'
kɔ̀(rɨ) 'meet (up)'
kyɨ́ɨ́(rɨ) 'carry a baby in the arms'
kɔʔ (rɨ) 'climb (a bit)'
ḱyɔ̀kɨ 'click with the tongue'

m)

mā 'exhaust, finish'
māānɨ 'the last of s.thing, finish '
màŋ 'seize, grip'
màŋnɨ 'grip several objects'

mèd 'sip, swallow'
mèrɨ 'swallow in small quantities'
mə̀ 'describe'
mə̀ə̀nɨ 'learn'
mə̀d 'tame, train'
mɨ̀g 'measure, compare'
mɨ̀grɨ 'measure with, comparatively'
mè? 'delay'
mè?rɨ 'delay with'
nàm 'stir corn fufu'
nambɨ 'chew'

n)

nèb 'carry a bag on one's body, forget'
nèbə́ 'forgot'
nèpɨ 'kindle'
nèrɨ 'lick'
nə̀bə́ 'grind, to find paste'
nə̀ə̀rɨ 'amuse a baby'
nə̀m 'hide, sweet'
nə̀mbɨ 'hide s.o from. Shelter from'
nə̀tɨ 'make smooth'
nə̀d 'smooth'
nyə̀ 'hostile, harsh'
nyə̀ə̀(nɨ) 'harsh, rain lightly (very)'
nyə̀ə̀rɨ 'shower'
nyə̀m 'push down
nyə̀mbɨ 'push down gently'
nyɨ̀ 'shake'
nyɨ̀ɨ̀rɨ 'shake perfect'

ŋ

ŋwɛ̀m (bɨ) smile (with closed lips) (repeatedly)
ŋwə̄b 'chew'
ŋwə̀pɨ 'chew with the gums bit by bit over and over'
ŋwɨ́ 'swing'
ŋwɨ́ɨ́rɨ́ 'swing wavily'
nwàg-rɨ 'swallow a bit'

p

pàm (bɨ) 'flatten (make)'
pèŋ 'remove'
pèŋgɨ 'remove s.th from the grip of s.th'
pù̀tɨ 'file a lawsuit against s.b, summon'
pòmnɨɨ 'confuse'
pòmnə 'confused'

s

sə́n 'miss out'
sə̀mnɨ̀ 'loosen, melt'
sə̀n 'split,saw, divide'
sə̀n (dɨ) 'divide into pieces (repeatedly)'
sə̀ŋ (gɨ) 'dry out, spread out, (make) dry'
sèè(rɨ) 'tear off (to pieces)'
sə̀m 'desire, thirst, crave'
sə̀m bɨ 'gobble or eat hastily'
sə̀mnɨ 'mis.haped'
sɨ́ŋ 'shiver, press clothes'
sɨ̀m (bɨ) 'frighten, pin' (several times)

sɨ́ŋ gɨ 'erase'
sɨ́ g(ɨ) 'cut with (into) incise'
sɔ̀b (rɨ) 'cut (small) reduce'
sɔ̀m (bɨ) 'cut (with) (into) incise '
sɔ̀pɨ 'cut short, short'
sɔ̄ 'suck, leave the house early morning'
sɔ̄ɔ̄rɨ 'thrust'
sù? 'stammer'
sʊ̀ŋ(gɨ) 'pull (from) both ends'
sʊ̀ŋ(nɨ) 'pull over and over'
swé 'fill, wrap'
swérɨ 'wrap up'
swɨ́ɨ(rɨ) 'poke, unload (repeatedly'
swɨ́rɨ 'provoke to anger'
swɨ̀?(rɨ) 'descend (a bit)'

t

tàd 'stir'
tàtɨ 'stir a bit'
tàkɨ 'struggle, try, keep on'
tàm 'deceive'
tàmbɨ 'deceive s.o or e.o'
tàn 'tilt, delay, late'
tàndɨ 'delay a bit, cause lateness'
tāŋ 'count, dispute '
tāŋgɨ 'greedy'
tà? 'open, scatter'
tà?rɨ 'dig out'
tàntàn 'delay too much'
té 'stand s.th on s.th, sting, kick, slip'
té , tè
tèɲɨ 'shine, spared'
tèrɨ 'sting many times, setup, lay out'
tɛ́binə 'prospective dancer'
tɛ̀rɨ 'smarch repeatedly'
tɛ̀n 'remain, alive, survive'
tɨ́ 'pledge, give a daughter in marriage'
tɨ́ɨ́rɨ 'select form'
tɪ̀n 'push'
tɪ̀n(dɨ) 'shift a bit'
tɪ̀n 'tie'
tɪ̀ŋgeŋ 'k.o.lizard'
tɪ̀ 'cook'
tɪ̀grɨ 'stumble, stagger'
tɔmnɨ 'send, jump (at random)'
tɔ̀n 'refuse'
tɔ̀ ' sharp'
tɔ̀tɔ̀ 'very sharp'
tɔb 'pollute, mix'
tɔ̀m 'support, prop up '
tɔ̀n 'burn roast'
tɔ̀ŋ 'turn, sweet, crow of cock, call, umbilical cord'
tɔ̀ŋɲɨ 'call shout (at random)'
tɔ̀ŋ(gɨ) 'call a bit'
tɔ̀pɨ 'dilute, mix (with), liquids'
tʊ́ 'blunt, make'
tʊ́(rɨ) 'blunt a bit (make to swell)'
tʊ̀m 'shoot, crush, mangle'
twànə̀ 'shortened '
twànɨ 'shorten a bit'
tɔ̀? (rɨ) 'translate from'

tùmbɨ 'dash gift, shoot several times'
tùmə́ 'shortened'
tùmnɨ 'shorten abit'
twàŋə́ 'soured'
twèŋ 'sting bury'
twèŋə́ 'buried'

v

vɨ́ 'escape, harvest onrush rooms build, cure heal'
vɨ́rɨ́ 'provocative stubborn'
wà 'rough, woaves'
wàb(i) 'cut (from)'
wàànɨ 'a bit rough'
wàd 'cut,'
wè 'take turns, wise, help'
wèè(rɨ) 'help (e.o)'
wèm(nɨ) 'tie (loosely)'
wènɨ 'clever'
wí 'refund'
wɨ́rɨ 'answer, reply , refund (to)'
wɨ́rɨ 'whip, beat with'
wɨ̀(rɨ) 'he beat (with)'
wɔ̀b 'hook'
wɔ̀b(rɨ) 'hook (together) link'
wùpə́ 'fastened'
wùb 'close, shut, crave'
wùpɨ 'crave for'
wùm 'feel sick'
wùm (bɨ) '(cause to) feel sick'
wûn (dɨ) 'shake'
wùndə́ 'shaky, wobbly, unstable'
wùpə́ 'craving for long for'
wùd 'tremble shake'
wùtɨ 'tremble many times'

y

yɛ́, yì 'large'
yèènɨ 'enlarge'
yèn 'more, travel'
yèndɨ 'stroll'
yèɛ̄rɨ, yɨ̀ɨrɨ 'wonder, praise(at) (to)

z

zā 'yawn, induce, loosen, force'
zāānɨ 'separate'
zàm 'light'
zàm bɨ́ 'be very light'
za' 'probate, hunt'
zɛ́pɨ 'peel plantains several times warm up, very lightly'
zɛ́b 'peel plantains, warm up'
zèn 'strip bark of a tree'
zèŋ 'clean,bright,vaunt'
zèŋgɨ 'peel off, clean a bit'
zèŋnɨ 'make clean, make bright'
zèŋ 'turn'
zè? 'shout, cry, complain'
zè?rɨ 'lean s.th. against s.th.'
zɨn 'cork'
zɨ̀ 'put'
zù 'hear, understand'
zû 'listen'

zɔ̀ʔ	'paint'
zùùnɨ	'obey'
zwèmə	'raised'
zwèmnɨ	'raise from the dead'
zwèŋnɨ	'twine, string'
zwɨ̀ʔɨ	'fumigate'
zwɨ́(rɨ)	'die, kill (cause to die)'
zwɨ́	'dirty'
zùm(bɨ)	'pierce (several times)'
zwèʔè(rɨ)	'breath (a bit)'
zɔ̀ŋ (gɨ)	'fight (with e.o)'
zɨ̀ŋ (nɨ)	'clean (make)'
zòn	'buy'
zəŋə́	'tilted'