THE UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE I

UNIVERSITE DE YAOUNDE I

FACULTY OF ARTS LETTERS   DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN
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THE MMEN NOUN PHRASE

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
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By

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to:

- My dear parents: Bobe Joseph Bangha and
  Nawain Cecilia Ninying
- My beloved brothers: Mr Bangha Martin and
  Nsom Emmanuel

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Because no amount of potentials can permit any individual to singly h realise a work of this nature, I am therefore greatly indebted to the invaluable efforts of the following persons towards the realisation of this work..

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ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Adj.	Adjective
Ag.	Agent
Agr.	Agreement marker
Alt.	Alternative
Art.	Articulation
Asp.	Aspect
Ben.	Beneficiary
Conj.	Conjunction
Dem.	Demonstrative
Desc.	Description
Det.	Determiner
F. pron.	Focus pronoun
F.S.L.	Far from speaker and listener
Ind. Adj.	Indefinite adjective
Illus.	Illustration
Intro.	Introducer
It.	Item
Loc.	Location
M.	Measure
N.	Noun
n.cl.	Noun class
Neg.	Negation
N.L.	Near Listener
NP.	Noun phrase
NP1/N1	Subject noun phrase
NP2/N2	Object noun phrase or complement

NP 3/N3	Second object noun phrase or second complement
NS.	Near speaker
N.pron.	Neuter pronoun
Num.	Numeral
Ord. Num	Ordinal numeral
Prep.	Preposition
Pl.	Plural
Poss.	Possessive
Pron.	Pronoun
Pron 1	Subject personal pronoun
Pron 2	Object of verb or preposition pronoun
Pt.	Patient
Q. Adj.	Qualifying adjective
Rel.	Relative pronoun
S.	Sentence
Sg.	Singular
V	Verb
Vbe.	State verb
Vd.	Voiced
Vint.	Intransitive verb
Vl.	Voiceless
Vt.	Transitive verb
Vtt.	Ditransitive verb
:	Correlation
⟶	Realised as

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

In this introductory chapter, attention is focused on the objectives and significance of the study, the sociolinguistic situation of Mmen, linguistic classification, limitation of scope and the sound system of the language.

1.1   OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study is in line with the necessity today to give African languages in general and Cameroon languages in particular a written form. So far, the Mmen language, with its very small number of speakers has undergone description only in the domains of phonology and morphology to an extent. Because no attention has been given to the domain of syntax, this study then sets out to continue the description of Mmen by studying the noun phrase with the aim of identifying noun phrase types, the relational patterns or structure existing between head nouns and their modifiers in various noun phrase types.

1.2   SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Considering the low level of linguistic research in Mmen, this study will obviously advance research in the language. Given also that this language has not benefited from the growing wave of language development other Cameroonian languages have enjoyed, given also that Mmen, like any linguistic community possesses a rich cultural repository via its language, it is our hope that this study will put Mmen in the lamp-light like other developed languages.

Besides contributing its modest share to universal grammar, it is hoped that this work will:

a) Provide a base for the designing of primers to be used in the teaching and learning of the Mmen language either at adult level or in schools as advocated for in Ntebe (2000).

b) Lay a foundation for other research works in Mmen

c) Add more to general linguistic research archives by contributing to the process of describing unwritten Cameroonian languages.

d) Permit the Mmen community to read and write in their own language (literature, Bible, diary, news, etc).

1.3   LIMITATION OF SCOPE

In this work, we set out to describe the Mmen noun phrase. This description shall focus on the simple and complex noun phrases. Within the category of simple noun phrases, imperative, affirmative, adjectival, possessive, demonstrative numeral and non-numeral phrases amongst others shall be treated.

As concerns complex noun phrase types, appositional, serial, possessor, kinship, compound, colloquial, alternative, relative, illustrative and relative clauses shall be treated. Pronominal forms shall equally be handled given that they do represent or replace nominal phrases. Analysis of these nominal constructions shall follow the Case Grammar descriptive bi-parametric model to identify the structural and semantic identities of the various phrases.

1.4   SOCIOLINGUISTIC CONTEXT

Mmen is a fast growing strategic economic locality situated within Wum central sub Division, Menchum Division, in the North West Province of Cameroon. This economic locality is blessed in that important areas in

the province border it. In the South, there is the Boyo Divisional headquarters, Fundong. In the East, there is Wum, a divisional as well as a sub divisional head quarters. There is equally the popular lake Nyos in the North. Finally in the West, Bum and Mbizenaku close-up the Mmen frontiers (see maps pp 4, 12) Common geographical features in the area include vast landscape characterised by hills, rivers, valleys and a poor road network.

As concerns population density and settlement, Agha (1987:3) states that Mmen had a population of sixty thousand inhabitants by 1987. Today, the population of Mmen is estimated to be more than a hundred thousand inhabitants. This population is sparsely distributed into family units living in compounds. These compounds are constructed following both traditional and modern styles of building. Mud bricks are generally used with either the grass roof or the ordinary aluminium sheets. The following map shows the position of Mmen in Cameroon.

Fig I The position of Mmen in Menchum Division within Cameroon.
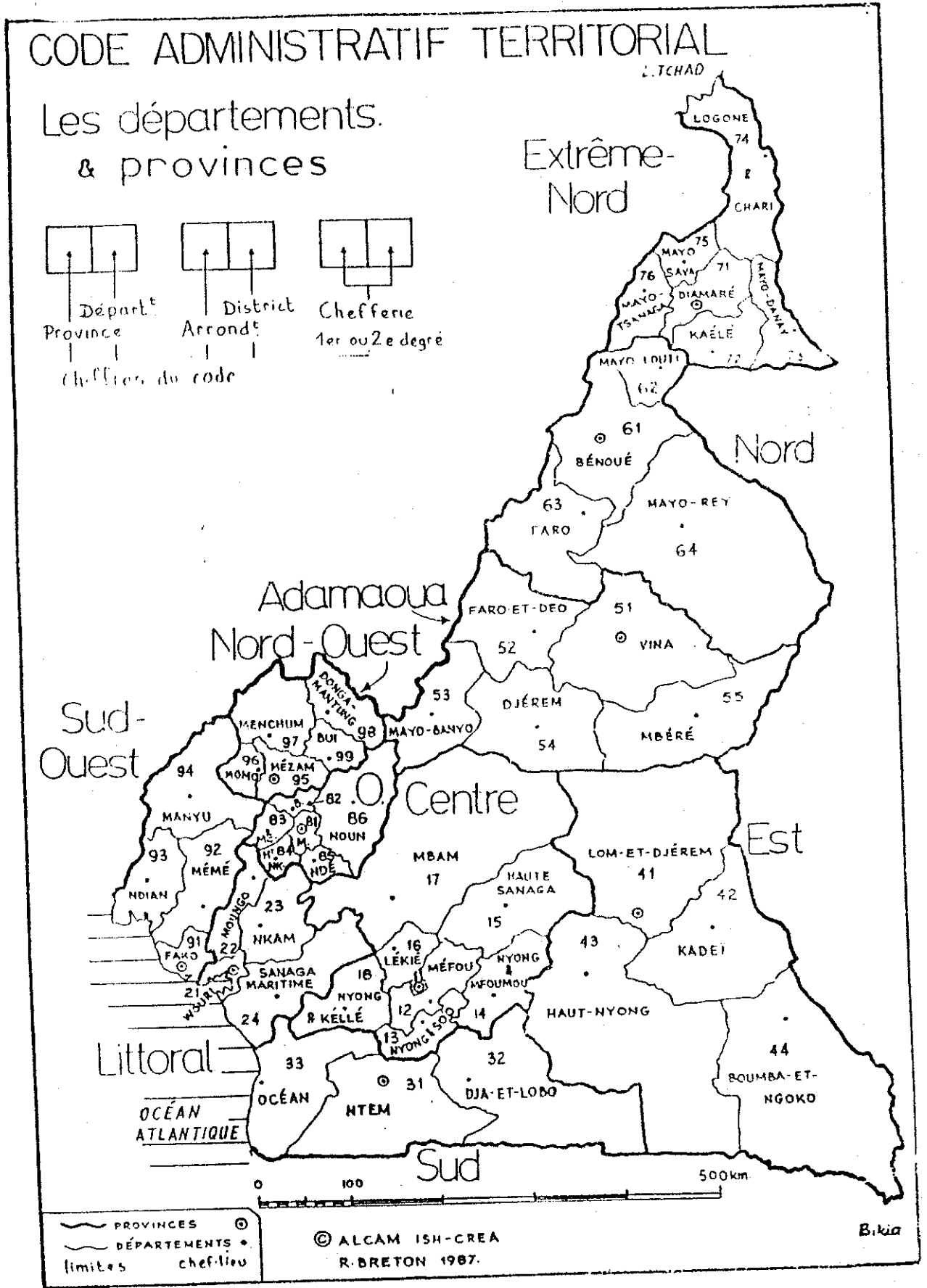
1.4.1 LEXICAL CONTINUUM IN MMEN

The notion of continuum in languages is defined by Downes (1984:28) as being the mutual intelligibility existing between adjacent speech communities. When we consider the linguistic relationship that the Mmen language shares with its immediate neighbouring languages, some similarity is noticed in the lexical domain. This lexical harmony, mentioned in Agha (1987:4) and partially treated in Agha-ah 1993:3) is common in Mmen and Aghem on the one hand and Mmen and Kom on the other. Before providing illustrations on lexical similarities existing between Mmen and Aghem as well as Kom, it is important to remark that Mmen shares a common linguistic boundary with the following languages and dialects: the Kuk and Nyos dialects in the North, the Bum and Mbizenaku dialects in the East, the Kom language in the South and the Aghem language in the West.

1.4.2 LEXICAL SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MMEN AND KOM

The following lexemes possess the same phonetic structure as well as meaning in Mmen and in Kom.

(1)		Mmen	Kom	Gloss
	a)	fə́ŋgwáŋ	fə́ŋgwáŋ	"salt"
	b)	fòìn	fòìn	"fon" (chief)
	c)	ŋgə́'	ŋgə́'	"trouble"
	d)	íkwá'tə̀	íkwá'tə̀	"thought"
	e)	àkás	àkás	"zinc"
	f)	mə̀və́l	mə̀və́l	"oil"
	g)	ísɔ́ŋ	ísɔ́ŋ	"tooth'

h)	íŋgɔ̀m	íŋgɔ̀m	"banana"
i)	íkvú	íkvú	"death"
j)	ndʒàŋ	ndʒàŋ	"song"
k)	ndɔ̀ŋ	ndɔ̀ŋ	"potato"
l)	ndɔ́ŋ	ndɔ́ŋ	"horn"

1.4.3 LEXICAL SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MMEN AND AGHEM

Aghem, coded 810 according to Dieu M. et Renaud (1983) and being a neighbouring language to Mmen shares some common lexical forms with Mmen. The following nouns have the same pronunciation and meaning in both languages.

(2)	Mmen	Aghem	Gloss
a)	mɔ̀'	mɔ̀'	"one"
b)	ɲám	ɲám	"animal"
c)	ɔ́tʃùm	ɔ́tʃùm	"drum"
d)	ākɔ́m	ākɔ́m	"crab"
c)	ílwô	ílwô	"bridge'
f)	ndʒɔ́ŋ	ɲdʒɔ́ŋ	"moon"
g)	ɔ́kām	ɔ̄kām	"a thousand"
h)	mùl	mùl	"a swelling"
i)	mû	mû	"water"
j)	ɔ́fɔ́ká'	ɔ́fɔ́ká'	"tree"

1.4.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Mmen people are usually referred to as Mmen or Bafmen people. Administratively, they are recognised as Bafmeng. The inhabitants of this region do welcome all the above appellations. Some of them prefer Mmen to Bafmen or Bafmeng.

According to information gathered from the field and confirmed by Agha-ah (1993:2), before the era of colonisation, the people of Mmen were known as "Mmen". The coming of Germans to Mmen before the First World War with interpreters from Bali initiated the change from "Mmen" to "Bafemeng". "Ba" meaning "people" (people of Mmen). Thus, the Bali vocabulary played a vital role in the modification of the name of this region. Given the historical and cultural attachment these people share with the name "Mmen", some wish to regain this cherished appellation.

The origin of Mmen can be traced from the series of migrations that brought the Kom, Isu, Bafut, Nyos and Kuk people to their present settlements. According to Nkwi and Warnier (1982), Mmen falls within the chap group. The Mmen people broke away from this group and moved through bushes passing through Oku, Achain, settling temporarily at Nde-Wum to later leave to the present Mmen. Etymologically, this movement or migration is referred to in the Mmen language as "Mweng" meaning" to wade ones way through the Bush". This explains how the people moved to finally settle in Mmen.

1.5 LINGUISTIC CLASSIFICATION

The Mmen language, coded 821 according to Dieu M. et Renaud (1983) is one of the Grassfield Bantu languages. This language belongs to the Niger-Kordofanian Phyllum and within the Niger-Congo sub phylum.

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Within the Grassfield Bantu languages, Mmen belongs to the Western Grassfields and to the Ring group in particular, which covers certain areas of Bui, Mezam, Donga-Mantung, Menchum Division and Boyo Divisions. The Ring group, being further divided into West, Centre, East and South languages has the Mmen language featuring as one of the Centre Ring languages with the code 821.

Grimes (1984) in his classification of the Niger-Kordofanian languages, classifies the Mmen language in the Ring group as follows: fig. II.

```
┌──────────────────────┐
│  Niger-Kordofanian   │
└──────────────────────┘
           │
           ▼
   ┌────────────────┐
   │  Niger-Congo   │
   └────────────────┘
           │
           ▼
   ┌────────────────┐
   │ Benue - Congo  │
   └────────────────┘
           │
           ▼
     ┌────────────┐
     │  Bantoid   │
     └────────────┘
           │
           ▼
     ┌────────────┐
     │   Bantu    │
     └────────────┘
           │
           ▼
     ┌────────────┐
     │    Ring    │
     └────────────┘
           │
           ▼
     ┌────────────┐
     │   Mmen     │
     └────────────┘
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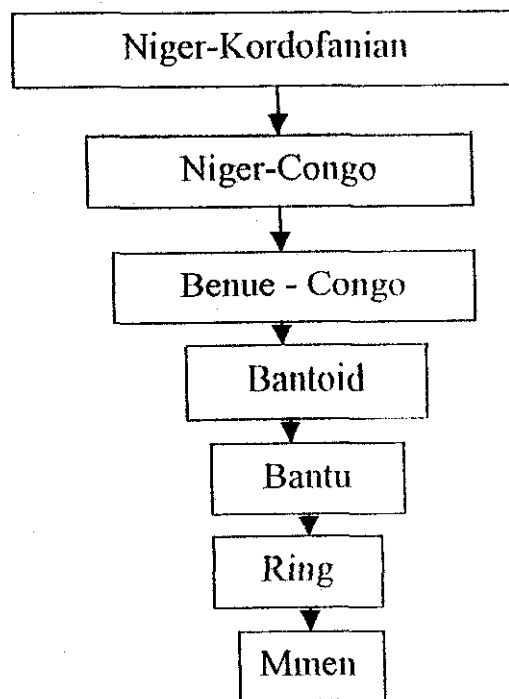
The following classification from Dieu M. and Renaud (1983) is better because it gives precise details about the Ring group of languages.

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Fig II(b) Classification of Mmen, one of the Centre-Ring Western Grassfield languages of the Bantu group, coded 821.
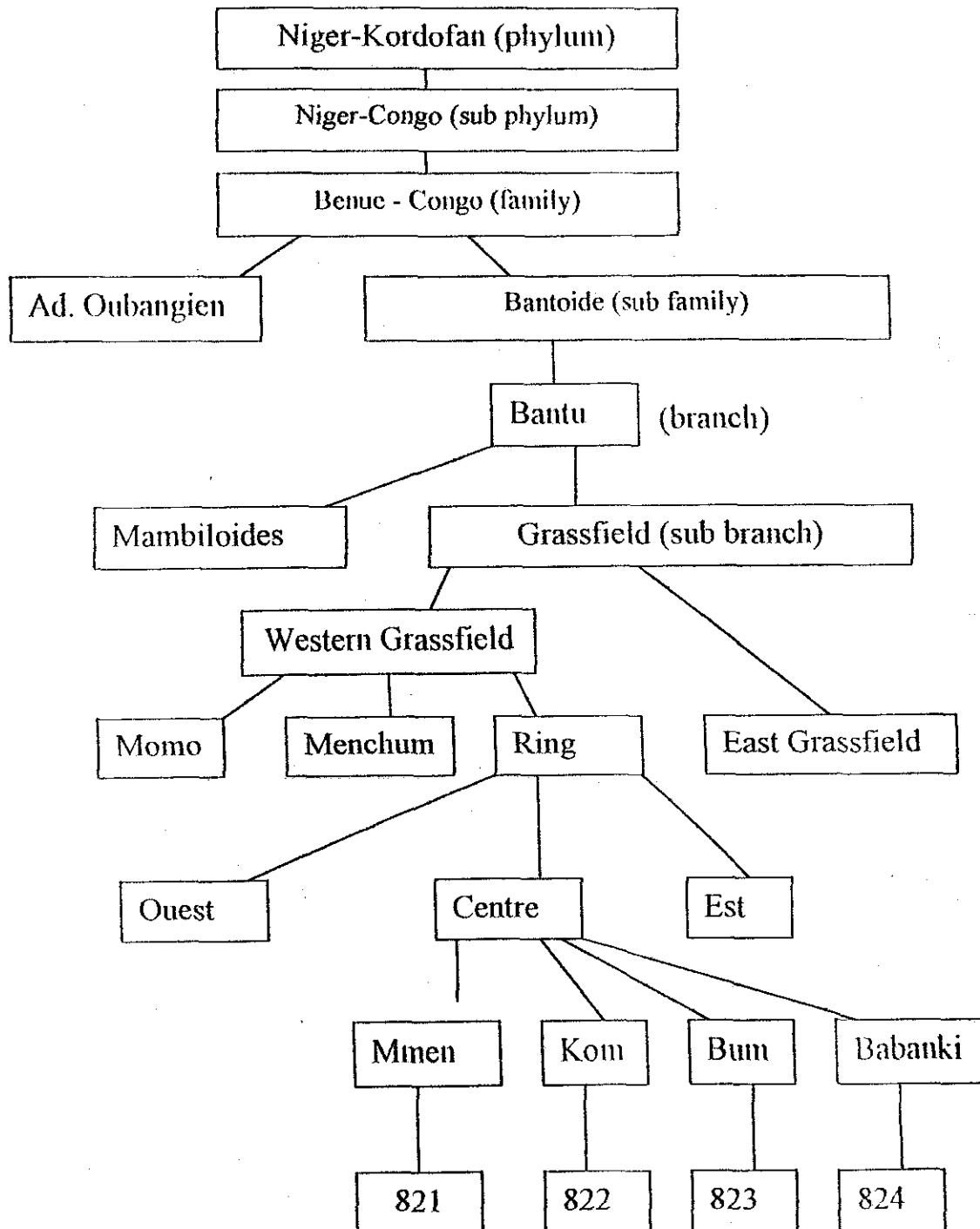
Source : Dieu M. and Renaud (1983)

Fig iii Mmen within the Cameroon Linguistic families and groups.

FAMILLES ET GROUPES LINGUISTIQUES AU CAMEROUN

Fig IV Mmen within the Cameroon Linguistic zones.

LES GRANDES
AIRES
LINGUISTIQUES
AFRICAINES

AFRO-ASIATIQUE
semitique
berbère
saharian NILO-SAHARIEN
ouest atlant. mande kordofan
kru voltaïque (gur) tchad soud. central coushitique
KWA NIGER-KORDOFAN adamawa-oubangui
bénoué-congo
Khoï-san

LES ZONES DU
CODE-LANGUES

ZONE 1-2
Echadique
ZONE 3
z.3
3
3
8

zone 3
adamaoua-
oubanguien
6

7
z.8
grassfield-
ouest
9
et
7 bantou
au
sens large
3 o zone 9
grassfield-est
tikari
z.7
bénoué-congo
non-bantou
zone 6
bantou
côtier
bafia
mbam
z.5
7
6
zone 4
bantou équatorial nord-est
4
6
SLAC.CAM.13
1983
6
3
3

0 1 2 3 4 5 cm   1/5 000 000

Fig V Mmen, Coded 821 among the national languages of Menchum
Division.

Langues nationales: Département de la MENCHUM
Menchum Division N.W.

kuteb
uuhum-gigi   703 702
701: jukun
NIGERIA   FURU-AWA
[887: busuu]
[888: bishu]
[889: bikya]   702
707: akum
708
beezen
876:
naki
DONGA-
MANTUNG

810: aghem
803: esimbi   878:
                         missong   879:
                                   koshin   885:
                         877: bu   mʊŋɔŋ
                         fungom   886:
wi-isu.   cʊŋ
              kumfutu   cha'
                                   823: bum
              kuk   nyos   875:
ushe idə   buccu
852:          WUM
modele   ◎   821:
ushaku bangue aghem mmen
892:          851: befang   mbizenaku
batomo okoman-   kuʔ
        jaŋ   ⊙ FUNDONG
MANYU beba'
                        822 · kom   BUI
912: bafut
                                   825

MOMO   MEZAM
                        0   5   10   20
                                      km

	département	arrondissement	district			langues	dialectes
limites	———	— — — —	··········		limites	———	———
chef-lieu	◎	⊙	●		désignation	aghem 810	kumfutu

Bikia

1.6   LITERATURE REVIEW

This section reviews works that have been produced on the Mmen language. Other related and relevant works will be introduced subsequently where necessary.

In Cameroon, much research has been done on National languages under the operational Research Project for the Teaching of Languages in Cameroon popularly known by its French acronym as PROPELCA. As far as Mmen is concerned, very little research has been done on this language.

In the domain of phonology, Mmen has benefited from the attention of Agha (1987) who, in "The Phonology of Mmen" has described the sound system of the language. According to her findings, twenty-eight consonants, eight vowels and five tones make up the phonetic system of the language (See section 1.8 for a list of these sounds).

In the domain of morphology, Agha-ah (1993) takes Mmen a step further in describing or studying nominal morphology in "The Noun Class System of Mmen". These works constitute so far, the scientific works produced on the language.

1.7   METHODOLOGY

This section describes how research data for this work was collected and analysed.

1.7.1 DATA COLLECTION

The data for this research was collected from both oral usages and documents in the English language before translating into Mmen. The data collection procedure consisted in obtaining the Mmen form of an utterance, providing its direct transnational equivalent in English, deriving its structural

description and providing its right semantic meaning. The noun phrases collected consisted of simple and complex noun phrases comprising head nouns and modifiers such as possessive adjectives, qualifying adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, numerals, pronouns, indefinite adjectives etc. The transcription system used in this study is that proposed in the <u>General Alphabet of Cameroon Languages.</u>

The data for this study was collected both in Mmen and in Yaounde (see references for informants). The Mmen data collection began in Yaounde and ended in Mmen for the following reasons:

- There was a necessity to cross-check the data collected in Yaounde.
- Mmen people were scarce in Yaounde. Some few were very proud to declare that they do not know their mother tongue.
- The few who were willing to play the role of informants were very busy with academics as well as daily survival.
- Equally, there was the necessity to obtain information on the sociolinguistic realities of the area of research.

The transcription and retranscription was done by the researcher. Many informants were used to obtain and verify the data. This was to assure data authenticity and to avoid possible linguistic idiosyncratic errors.

Besides our linguistic corpus, we used a questionnaire (see Appendix). This questionnaire permitted us to select our informants from the Mmen people whom we met. This questionnaire was out to verify the competence of given speakers with the Mmen language as well as with other neighbouring languages surrounding Mmen.

1.7.2 DATA ANALYSIS

After collecting the hundreds of nominal forms and phrases, they were grouped under two broad categories for easy analysis. These involved simple noun phrases and complex noun phrases. Having provided the direct transnational English equivalents of Mmen nominal phrases, a descriptive linguistic analysis was therefore provided; pointing out the various noun phrase components, types and structures. This approach was in respect to the method of bi parametric analysis provided by Case Grammar.

1.7.3 THEORETICAL FRAME WORK

This study employs the Case Grammar model as our main descriptive model. This descriptive model was introduced by Charles Fillmore and developed by Longacre and other linguists. Following this school of thought, a linguistic unit manifests not only surface structure relationship but also deep structure relationships. Hence, a satisfactory analysis of a sentence should be based on at least two parametres: a formal parametre taking into consideration the surface structure elements (as does traditional structuralist linguists) and a notional parametre which takes into consideration the deep structure relationships (as does generative linguists).

Citing Dubois et al (1973), Ogwana (1986) postulates that in Case Grammar, the initial sentence (ε) develops into a sequence made up of the modality (mod) and a proposition (prop), where the first constituent (mod) consists of negation, mood, tense etc while the second constituent (prop) comprises the verb and a series of arguments (nouns, c).

As concerns specific cases, Ogwana (op. cit) recognizes eight cases, which do feature in Mmen. (As illustrated in the following highlighted examples in section 1.7.4 below)

- Agent (Ag.)   - Instrument (Inst)

- Patient (pt)   - Locative recipient (Loc)

- Measure or Evaluation (M)   - Item (it)

- Beneficiary recepient (ben)   - description (desc)

1.7.4 DEFINITION AND INVENTORY OF CASES IN MMEN

(3) a)   **Agent (Ag).** This is the animate or the inanimate entity that acts or instigates a process.

NP.1:ag		Vintr
pwɔ	té	pwà
Dog	Asp.	bark

'The dog barked'

b) **Patient (pt)** It is the entity that undergoes the action expressed by the verb.

NP1: ag		Vtr	Np2:pt
vâ	nā	kɔ̂ŋ	**ndé**
child	Asp	like	house

'The child likes the house'

c)   **Measure or Evaluation (M).** This refers to the inanimate entity that expresses quantity, rate or evaluation expressed by the verb.

NP1:ag	Vtr		NP2:m		
vâ	kí	sɔ́	**pèŋ**	sɔ̀	**pὲ**
child	has	Asp.	Years	Agr.	Two

d) **Beneficiary Recipient (ben).** It is the entity, often animate, towards which the action expressed by the verb is directed.

NP1:ag		vtt	NP2:pt	Prep	NP3:ben.
wúɔ́	yúí	té	fù	fɔyénɔ́ sɔ̂	ndúmà véín
person	female	Asp	give	food to	man her

'The lady gave food to her husband'

e) **Locative beneficiary (loc)** This refers to the entity, often inanimate, which is associated with the location of the action or situation expressed by the verb.

NP1:ag	vtt	NP2:pt	Prep	NP 3: Loc
vâ	ndèm	sɔ̀'	í	wɔ̀s
child	put	bottle	in	fire

'The child has put the bottle in the fire'

f) **Item (it)** and **description (desc).** This concerns the case of the state verb 'be' 'ɣé' with which these two entities are used. Item is the subject entity, Description, on the other hand, is the object entity.

NP1;p it			vbe	NP2: desc	
_ǹ̈	vɔ́m	nɔ́	ɣé	yúí	fɔ̀ïn
mother	my	Asp	be	wife	fon

'My mother is a queen'

1.8   THE SOUND SYSTEM OF MMEN

This section reviews the various phonemic sounds in Mmen. In spite of the fact that phonology is not an integral part of this work, it is worthwhile reviewing this aspect to acquaint us with the sounds and tones to

be used in this study. According to Agha (1987) and Agha-ah (1993) Mmen has twenty-seven consonants, nine vowel sounds and five tones.

CONSONANTS

The following twenty-seven consonant phonemes and their corresponding graphemes constitute the Mmen consonant system.

Phoneme	Grapheme	Mmen example	Gloss
(4) p	p	pàs	-calabash'
b	b	mbélé	-caterpillar'
m	m	mílú'	-wine'
bv	bv	bvéf	-ask'
pf	pf	ápfə	-convulsion'
f	f	fəkə'lə	-button'
v	v	váin	-child'
t	t	ntɔ̀in	-pot'
n	n	ndé	-house
d	d	ndúm	-husband'
s	s	súin	-lover'
z	z	āzəf	-broom'
tʃ	ch	ɔ́tʃùm	-drum'
l	l	mùl	'swelling'
ʂ	sh	`sǐ	'those'
ʒ	zh	ʒǐ	'that'

dʒ	j	ndʒɔ̀ŋ	'wine'
ɲ	ny	ɲám	'meat'
y	y	ɔ́fə̀yə̀lí	'earing'
k	k	íkɔ̂ŋ	'love'
g	g	ŋgɔ̀m	'banana'
ŋ	ŋ	ākáŋ	'pan'
ɣ	gh	ɔ́fə́ɣáŋ	'vein'
'	'	ɔ́fə́ká'	'tree'
w	w	íkwâ'	'thought'

Table 1.8.1 <u>Mmen consonant chart</u>

Place of art Manner of art	Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Prepalatal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal	Labiovelar
Stops vl	p		t			k	'	
Vd	b		d			g		
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ		
Fricative vl		f	s	ʃ				
vd		v	z	ʒ		ɣ		
Vl		pf	ts	tʃ				
Affricate vd		bv	dz	dʒ				
Lateral			l					
Glide					y			w

Adapted from Agha-ah (1993)

1.8.2 VOWELS

Mmen has nine vowels, which are subdivided into three front vowels, three central vowels and three back vowels. The following examples are illustrations of Mmen vowels.

(5)

Vowel	Mmen example	Gloss
i	ítsí	'hearth'
e	mmén	'mmen'
ɛ	ndɛ́	'house'
ɨ	mɜ̀sɨ́	'tears'
ə	ɔ́fɔ́kû	'belt'
a	ākás	'zinc'
u	túŋlɔ́	'car'
o	ɔ́lwô	'bridge'
ɔ	ɔ́tɔ́f	'intelligence'

Table 1.8.2 Mmen vowel chart

Place of art Manner of art	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɨ	u
Mid-high	e	ə	o
Mid-low	ɛ		ɔ
Low		a	

1.8.3 TONES

Like other African languages, Mmen is a tone language. Wiesemann et al (1994:51) provides the following definition and importance of tone in tonal languages.'

> Tone is the relative height of the voice while executing a
> sound. It is for this reason that the term "musical" is used
> for determining it. This musical height corresponds then to
> the variations that occur in the melodic curve while a
> phrase is being uttered. When the height of the voice has a
> distinctive function in the language at the lexical level and
> depending on the language, also at the grammatical level,
> it is a tonal language.

Considering this quotation, and given the following five tones (three level tones and two contour tones) that the Mmen language has, it can be concluded that Mmen is a tonal language. The following examples illustrate tones in Mmen.

(6)	Tone	feature	Mmen example	Gloss
	[ˊ]	High	ákɔ́m	'crab'
	[˗]	Mid	ākùmtɘ̀	'second'
	[ˋ]	Low	ndɔ̀ŋ	'potato'
	[ˇ]	rising	ǯĭ	'that'
	[ˆ]	falling	ɔ́mû	'water'

1.9 QUTLINE OF THE STUDY

This work has been divided into five main chapters with each chapter being constituted by sections and subsections.

Chapter one provides a general introduction to the work. This chapter handles amongst others, the objectives and significance of the study, the sociolinguistic situation, linguistic classification, methodology of work and the sound system of the language.

In chapter two, attention is focused on Noun morphology. within the study of noun morphology, focus is on noun formation processes as well as noun classes and gender classification.

In chapter three, we study simple noun phrase construction types with a special attention to unmodified and modified simple nominal phrases.

Chapter four is centred on complex noun phrase patterns such as serial, reduplicated, appositional, compound, colloquial, conjunctive, .., relative clauses etc.

In chapter five which is the conclusion, a summary of the key findings of the study is presented before some suggestions for further research.

1.9.1 SUMMARY

We have so far handled the significance, scope and objectives of this work. We have also presented the socio-linguistic situation of Mmen, our methodology of work as well as the phonemic system of Mmen. Contrary to the impression that this language is either a variety of the Kom or the Aghem language; Mmen is one of the Ring Grassfield Bantu languages. Chapter two will be centred on noun morphology in Mmen.

CHAPTER TWO

NOUN MORPHOLOGY

This chapter studies the morphology of the noun in Mmen. According to Mutaka and Tamanji (1995:122) nouns are formed in African languages by combining affixes (noun class or derivational) with nominal stems or roots. From this perspective, interest in this chapter will centre on the noun class system, gender and other noun formation processes that may be used to expand the nominal lexicon in the language.

2.1   THE NOUN CLASS SYSTEM

Unlike the English language in which nouns are grouped on semantic basis such as proper nouns, common nouns, abstract nouns etc, African languages, Mmen inclusive, form their nouns by combining various affixes (class or derivational) with nominal roots. According to Alexandre (1967:52) cited in Agha-ah (1993:27) precision is given on what noun classes are in the following translation.

> Noun classes are grammatical categories
>
> Concord affixes marked in Bantu languages by
>
> particular prefixes. The choice of these concord
>
> affixes, that is, the particular affixes of concorded
>
> words, is governed by noun classes.

The above definition of noun classes brings out the major characteristics common in noun classes such as being constituted by nominal affixes and concord. Before proceeding to a review of noun classes and related noun classification problems in Mmen, it is important examining briefly the criteria for determining Bantu languages.

2.1.1 CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING BANTU LANGUAGES

ALCAM (1983) provides a suitable classification of African languages (Bantu languages as well), which permits us to distinguish Bantu languages from other languages. Besides this classification, Guthrie (1948:11) cited in Agha-ah (op. cit) postulates the following criteria for determining Bantu languages.

PRINCIPAL CRITERIA

1) A system of grammatical genders, usually at least five with the following characteristics:

   a) The sign of gender being a prefix, by means of which words may be assorted into a number of classes varying roughly from ten to twenty.

   b) There is a regular association of pairs of classes to indicate the singular and plural of the genders. In addition to these two-class genders, there are also one-class genders where the prefix is sometimes similar to one of the plural prefixes.

   c) When a word has an independent prefix as the sign of its class, any other word, which is subordinate to it, has to agree with it as to class by means of a dependent prefix.

   d) There is no correlation of the gender with sex reference or with any other clearly defined idea.

2) A vocabulary, part of which can be related by fixed rules, to a set of hypothetical common roots.

SUBSIDIARY CRITERIA

3) A set of invariable cores, or radicals, from which almost all words are formed by an agglutinative process with the radicals having the following features:

a) They are composed of consonant-vowel-consonant.

b) When a grammatical suffix is attached to the radical a 'base' is formed on which words identifiable as verbals are built.

c) When a non-grammatical or lexical suffix is attached to the radical, a 'stem' is formed on which words identifiable as nominals are built. When a nominal belongs to a two-class gender the sounds and tones of the stem are the same in both classes.

d) A radical may be extended by an element found between it and the suffix. Such elements termed 'extensions' are composed either of vowel-consonant or of a single vowel.

e) The only case of a radical occurring without a prefix of any kind occurs in verbals used as interjections.

4) A balanced vowel system in the radicals consisting of one open vowel with an equal number of back and front vowels. It is worth noting that amongst the above two criteria, the latter rather seems a little complicated to be applied.

2.1.2 CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING NOUN CLASSES

Like in some Bantu languages, Mmen nouns are grouped into various classes established on the basis of the mentioned criteria. Noun prefixes constitute one of these criteria for grouping nouns into classes as suggested by Welmers (1973:159) in the following quotation.

... there are many languages and groups of languages in which affixes with noun stems constitute a major criterion for dividing nouns into a number of noun classes, which differ from each other in a variety of grammatical constructions.

According to Agha-ah (1993:28) nouns in Mmen belong to different classes with seven gender distinctions. Noun classification is made on the following basis.

(i)   The form of the prefix

(ii)   Gender

(iii)   Nouns and their concord affixes

(iv)   Semantic content

2.2   NOUN CLASSES

The Mmen noun consists of a prefix and a stem and nouns sharing common prefixes are grouped together and referred to as a class. Below are the thirteen different noun classes attested in Mmen.

2.2.1 NOUN CLASS 1

The majority of the nouns constituting this class are made up of personal nouns. Animate nouns too equally feature in this class as well as nouns of other semantic groupings. The main prefix of this class /ə-/ has three alternates depending on context of appearance as illustrated in the following data.

(7) a) ɔ́-pɣǎ   'father'

     b) ɔ́w-úó   'person'

     c) ɔ́v-úópɔ́mɔ́   'builder'

     d) ɔ́v-áín   'child'

     e) ɔ́v-ákú   'orphan'

From these examples, it is observed that the basic prefix /é-/ has various realisations in the following contexts.

/ɔ́-/ before consonant

/ɔ́w-/ before rounded vowels

/ɔ́v-/ before unrounded vowels

This prefix /ɔ́-/ in Mmen corresponds to the proto-ring prefix /ú-/.

2.2.2 NOUN CLASS 2

In the above noun class, most of the nouns are personal nouns as well as animate nouns. This is the corresponding plural class of class I nouns. The basic class I noun prefix initial /ɔ́-/ is maintained but rendered in its plural prefix as /ɔ́ɣɔ́-/ as exemplified below:

(8) a) ɔ́ɣɔ́-pɣǎ   'fathers'

     b) ɔ́ɣ-ɔ́   'people'

     c) ɔ́ɣɔ́-pɔ́mɔ́   'builders'

     d) ɔ́ɣ-ɔ́ín   'children'

     e) ɔ́ɣ-ákú   'orphans'

From the above examples, it is noticed that the basic prefix for class 2 nouns is altered depending on its environment of occurrence. In an environment where /ɔ́ɣɔ́-/ is followed either by a rounded or an unrounded vowel, a

vowel deletion (schwa deletion) takes place at morpheme boundary as in examples (b) and (e). Secondly, where the prefix /ɔ́ɣɔ́-/ is followed by a diphthong /ái/ of a stem, this diphthong changes to /ɔ́í/ as in (d) above.

The basic prefix of class 2 nouns /ɔ́ɣɔ́-/ corresponds to the proto-ring prefix /bá-/.

2.2.3 NOUN CLASS 3

The nouns constituting class 3 are mostly names of objects as well as inanimate things. The basic prefix for this noun class is /ɔ́-/. Examples of class 3 nouns are:

(9) a) ɔ́-kāf   'armpit'
    b) ɔ́-ŋkām   'a thousand'
    c) ɔ́-kʰíŋ   'peace plant'
    d) ɔ́-sá'   'case'
    e) ɔ́-túm   'message'

The corresponding proto-ring prefix for class 3 is /ú-/

2.2.4 NOUN CLASS 4

Like class 3 nouns, class 4 nouns are mostly made up of names of objects and inanimates. The only difference is that class 4 nouns are the plural nouns of class 3. The prefix of these nouns is /ɔ́sɔ́-/. The following nouns are some illustrative examples of class 4 nouns.

(10) a) ɔ́sɔ́-kāf   'armpits'
     b) ɔ́sɔ́-ŋkām   'thousands'
     c) ɔ́sɔ́-kʰíŋ   'peace -plants'
     d) ɔ́sɔ́-sá'   'cases'

e)   ɔ́sɔ́-túm   'messages'

The class 4 basic prefix /ɔ́sɔ́-/ corresponds to the proto-ring prefix / i-/.

2.2.5 NOUN CLASS 5

The nouns in class 5 designate miscellaneous objects as well as augments. The prefix for this class alternates between /á-/ and /í-/ depending on the environment of occurrence. The nouns in this class can be classified into three categories as in the following examples.

<u>Class 5a: Nouns with plurals in class 6</u>

(11) a)   á-fû   'farm'

b)   á-kû   'forest'

c)   á-kûm   'juju'

d)   í-fú   'medicine'

e)   í-kʸú   'bed'

<u>Class 5 b. Nouns with plurals in class 13</u>

(12) a)   í-záʃ   'illness'

b)   í-píŋ   'dance'

c)   í-tɔ́ʃ   'intelligence'

d)   í-fú   'leaf'

e)   í-ʃí   'grave'

<u>Class 5c. Nouns without plurals</u>

(13) a)   í-tsɔ̂ʃ   'beauty'

b)   í-tʃɔ́ŋ   'theft'
c)   í-ʒá   'madness'
d)   í-sáŋnê   'happiness'
e)   í-wúl   'rain'

From the above data, it is realized that the prefix /á-/ appears before stems beginning with /f/ and /k/ while /í-/ appears before stems beginning with /k/, /f/,/w/, /t/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, and /s/. The corresponding proto-ring prefix for this noun class is /í-/.

2.2.6 NOUN CLASS 6

The basic prefix for this class of nouns is /ní-/. In this class, nouns can be classified under two groups.

Class 6 (1) Nouns with singulars in class 5

(14) a)   ní-fû'   'farms'

b)   ní-kú   'forests'

c)   ní-kúm   'jujus'

d)   ní-fú   'medicines'

e)   ní-k^{y}ú   'beds'

Class 6 (2) Nouns with singulars in class 19

(15) a)   ní-lám   'nets'

b)   ní-kâ'   'trees'

c)   ní-tám   'fruits'

d)   ní-nôŋ   'birds'

e)   ní-yâm   'mats'

The above data shows /ní-/ appearing before consonants that share the same articulatory features with /ní-/. This makes one to feel that/m-/ a schwa being a weak vowel must have been deleted after /ní-/, but it is probably due

to the fact that /m/ is a tone bearing consonant. The corresponding proto-ring prefix for this class is /mɔ́-/

NOUN CLASS 6   a

This class of nouns shares the same concord and nominal features with class 6 nouns. The only difference is that these are mass nouns. Its basic prefix is /m̩-/. Nouns in this class include:

(16) a)   m̩-kâîn   'gun-powder'

b)   m̩-yî̩ŋ   'breast-milk'

c)   m̩-tsɔ́l   'pus'

d)   m̩-dɔ́m   'blood'

e)   m̩-tʃi   'soil'

The corresponding proto-ring prefix for class 6a nouns is /mɔ́-/. It is noticed that the schwa must have been deleted in the Mmen class 6 (a) prefixes.

2.2.7 NOUN CLASS 7

The basic prefix for class 7 nouns is /á-/. Some of the nouns making up class 7 nouns are:

(17) a)   á-kwàlà   'prostitute'

b)   á-wú   'hand'

c)   á-kás   'zinc' (sg)

d)   á-wámnè   'cross'

e)   á-ɣâ   'faeces' (sg)

Although the prefix of this class is identical to that of class 5 nouns, the collocation of nouns in these two classes with adjectives, numerals and

possessives reveal different concord elements, Agha-ah (1993:48). The corresponding proto-ring prefix for this class is /ki-/.

2.2.8 NOUN CLASS 8

The prefix for nouns in this class has two alternates /í-/ and /ɔ́-/. Some nouns in this class include:

(18) a) í-kwàlà   'prostitutes'

b) í-kwás   'zinc' (pl)

c) í-ɣâ   'faeces' (pl)

d) í-wámnè   'crosses'

e) í-ʒɔ̀'   'mushrooms'

This is the plural class for class 7 nouns. It is not easy accounting for the alternation observed in this class between /í-/ and /ɔ́-/. According to Agha-ah (op. cit) a vowel reduction process must have occurred with (e) and (f) while in the others it is yet to take place. The corresponding proto-ring prefix for the above class is /bí-/.

2.2.9 NOUN CLASS 9

Class 9 nouns are made up of names and other inanimates. The prefix for this class is /N-/ The following are some of the nouns making up this noun class.

(19) a) ní-bélé   'caterpillar'

b) ń-dɔ́ŋ   'horn'

c)	ǹ-dɔ́ŋ	'potato'
d)	ŋ̀-gɔ̀in	'beautiful girl'
e)	ŋ̀-gàm	'week'

From the data above, we notice the change of the homorganic nasal /N-/ to /ḿ-/, /ń-/ and /ŋ́-/ depending on its environment of occurrence. This is due to the process of homorganic nasal assimilation. Equally, the tone of the prefix becomes high when it precedes a high tone. The prefix /N-/ corresponds to the proto-ring prefix /N-/.

2.2.10 NOUN CLASS 10

This is the plural class for class 9 nouns. The basic prefix for this class is /ɔ́sɔ́-/. This prefix is attached to the class 9 prefix in addition to the stem of the noun. The examples below will illustrate this.

(20) a)	ɔ́sɔ́-ḿ-bélé	'caterpillars'
b)	ɔ́sɔ́-ń-dɔ́ŋ	'horns'
c)	ɔ́sɔ́-ǹ-dɔ̀ŋ	'potatoes'
d)	ɔ́sɔ́-ŋ̀-gɔ̀in	'beautiful girls'
e)	ɔ́sɔ́-ŋ̀-gàm	'weeks'

Although the above noun class prefix is identical with that of class 4, it is distinct in that the plural for class 9 is attached to a homorganic nasal where as the class 4 prefix is not attached to any plural prefix.

2.2.11   NOUN CLASS 13

The prefix for noun class 13 is /ɔ́tɔ́-/. Some of the nouns making up the above class include:

(22) a)   ɔ́tɔ́-pɔ̂ŋ   'jaw'

    b)   ɔ́tɔ́-ʒáf   'illnesses'

    c)   ɔ́tɔ́-tɔ́f   'intelligence (pl.)'

    d)   ɔ́tɔ́-píŋ   'dances'

    e)   ɔ́tɔ́-fú   'leaves'

The proto-ring prefix for class 13 nouns is /tɔ́-/. This noun class is the plural class for class 5b nouns.

2.2.12   NOUN CLASS 19

The basic prefix for class 19 is /ɔ́fɔ́-/. Nouns making up this class include:

(23) a)   ɔ́fɔ́-làm   'net'

    b)   ɔ́fɔ́-kâ   'tree'

    c)   ɔ́fɔ́-tám   'fruit'

    d)   ɔ́fɔ́-nɔ̂ŋ   'mat'

    e)   ɔ́fɔ́-ɣâm   'mat'

Nouns in this class form their plurals in noun class 6 (2). The corresponding proto-ring prefix for this class is /fɔ́-/. The different prefixes for the various noun classes have been summarized in the following recapitulative table.

Table 2.2 Summary table of the Mmen noun class system

Noun class	Proto-Ring prefix	Mmen prefix	Mmen example	Gloss
1	ú-	ɔ́-,ɔ́w- ,ɔ́v-	ɔ́-pwā pé ɔ́v-áín ɔ́w-úl	'father' 'child' 'person'
2	bá-	ɔ́ɣɔ́-	ɔ́ɣ-ɔ́ín ɔ́ɣɔ́-pɔ́mɔ́	'children' 'builders'
3	ú-	ɔ́-	ɔ́-sá' ɔ́-túm	'case' 'message'
4	í-	ɔ́sɔ́-	ɔ́sɔ́-sá' ɔ́sɔ́-túm	'cases' 'message'
5a 5b 5c	í-	á-í-	á-fû á-kú í-pɔ̂ŋ í-ʒáf í-ʒá' í-tsɔ́ŋ	'bush' 'forest' 'jaw' 'illness' 'madness' 'theft'
6	á-	ḿ-	ḿ-fû ḿ-kú	'bushes' 'forests'
7	kí-	á-	á-kás á-wú	'zinc' 'hand'
8	bí-	í-, ɔ́-	í-kwás	'zinc' (pl)

			ɔ́-wú	'hands'
9	ń-,ø-	ń-	ń-dɔ̀ŋ	'potato'
			ń-dɔ́ŋ	'horn'
10	sí-	ɔ́sɔ́-	ɔ́sɔ́-ń-dɔ́ŋ	'horns'
			ɔ́sɔ́-ń-dɔ̀ŋ	'potatoes'
13	tɔ́-	ɔ́tɔ́-	ɔ́tɔ́-pɔ̂ŋ	'jaws'
			ɔ́tɔ́-túf	'intelligence (pl)
19	fɔ́-	ɔ́fɔ́-	ɔ́fɔ́-tám	'fruit'
			ɔ́fɔ́-ɣâm	'mat'

Source: Adapted from Agha-ah (1993)

2.3 NOUN CLASSES AND GENDER

2.3.1 GENDER AND SEMANTIC CONTENT

In establishing gender in Mmen, the affixes as well as semantic content of various nouns are taken into consideration. Some class pairs show consistency in terms of semantic content while others do not.

1/2   consists of kinship nouns

3/4   consists of mostly mixed nouns

5/6   contains mostly mixed nouns

6a   is made up of mass nouns

7/8   contains mostly mixed nouns

9/10   is made up of mostly mixed nouns

5/13   consists of augmentatives

19/6   contains diminutives

2.3.2 DOUBLE AND SINGLE CLASS GENDERS

As concerns double and single class genders, Walters (1980:111) cited in Agha-ah (1983:71) says.

> Many nouns are members of two classes, one to mark the singular and the other to mark the plural. Some nouns, however, belong to one class. Many of these are mass nouns, collective nouns or abstract nouns. Pairings of two classes are here referred to as "double class genders" while the others are referred to as "single class gender".

In Mmen there are 7 double class genders and two single class genders. The following table shows double and single class genders in Mmen.

Table 2.3.2 Double and single class genders in Mmen

```
1————————————2
3————————————4
*5————————————6
          ×       *6a
7————×————8
9——×————10
19          13
```
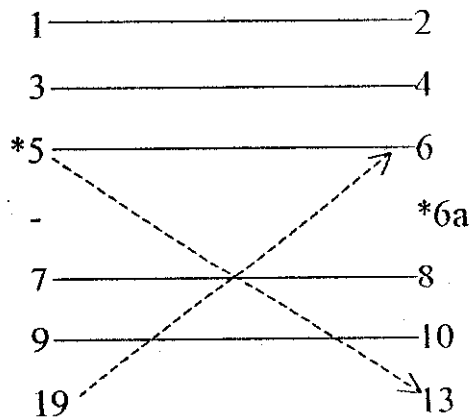
The classes marked with asterisks are single class genders.

2.4 NOUN FORMATION PROCESSES

Besides the process of combining affixes to stems to obtain nouns, Mmen equally enriches its nominal lexicon through a number of processes.

These include borrowing or loans, lexical adaptation of loans, derivation, compounding and partial reduplication.

2.4.1 BORROWING

The expansion of the nominal lexicon in Mmen makes good use of the linguistic process of borrowing. Some of the borrowed lexemes come from neighbouring languages like Kom and Aghem which in return borrow from Mmen. According to Downes (1984:28) this is known in other words as the process of lexical continuum(as earlier discussed in PP 5,6. of this work).

2.4.1.1 LOANS FROM ENGLISH

(24)

Mmen	Gloss	English transcription
tsítsà	' teacher'	/ titʃə/
tsɔ̂s	'church'	/ tʃʌtʃ/
pìèsɔ̀	'pears'	/ pɛəs/
mótù	'motor'	/ məutə/
tèlèvìʃòn	'television'	/ tɛlɛviʃn/
méyɔ̀	'mayo'	/ meə r/

2.4.1.2 LOAN FROM FRENCH

(25) āfʃióŋ   'avion ' (plane)

2.4.2 LOAN ADAPTATION

Some loan words generally undergo morphological and phonological adaptation in order to conform to the target language structure and meaning. This process of adaptation can be classified under three categories.

2.4.2.1 PROTHESIS

Prothesis involves the introduction of new sounds at word-initial position as illustrated in the following examples.

(26) a)   kàtàkìs   /kætəkis/   'cathechist'

b)   kátìlìsə   /kæθlik/   'catholics'

c)   kút   /kəʊt/   'coat'

2.4.2.2 EPENTHESIS

Epenthesis involves the insertion of vowels to break consonant clusters as illustrated in the following loan adaptations.

(27) a)   fə láwà sə   /flaʊəʳ/   ' flowers'

b)   fə lá wà   /flaʊəʳ/   ' flour'

2.4.2.3 ECHOIC WORDS

These are onomatopoetic words according to Tambi and Alobwede (1979:77). Such words are coined arbitrarily by imitating a given sound. A good example is

(28)   fətìm tìm   'motor bike'

2.4.3 DERIVATION

Some nouns are formed by adding affixes to nominal bases. From this process, nouns are derived from verbs by adding noun class affixes to given verb roots. The following are examples illustrating nouns derived from verbs.

(29) a) ɔ́ túm   ' message'   sɔ́ túm   ' to send'

    b) ɔ́ ɣé pɔ́mɔ́ 'builders'   sɔ́ pɔ́m 'to build'

    c) ɔ́sɔ́ tsí nɔ̀ 'behaviour'   sɔ́ tsí 'to stay'

2.4.4 COMPOUNDING

Compounding involves the combination of two nominal forms forming a single new word. According to Meeussen (1967:95) cited in Ngangoum (2002:28) the essential features of a compound noun consist of two stems treated as one. The following are some examples of compound nouns in Mmen.

(30) a)   ɔ́tsí   vɔ̀sí   b)   vãín   ndúmà

        place   fire   child   man

        'fire-side'   ' boy'

    c)   vãìn   yúí   d)   pyà   pέ

        child   female   owner   compound

        'girl'   'father'

2.4.5 PARTIAL REDUPLICATION

Partial reduplication in noun phrases in Mmen takes place with the process of lexical clipping. According to Tambi and Alobwede (1979) clipping in lexicology involves the shortening of lexical forms of words

without any influence on its meaning. This partial reduplication takes place in kinship phrases where 'vain' child is doubled. Below are some examples illustrating partial reduplication.

(31) a)   vâ   vâîn   ɤésènï

       child   child   our

      ' Our grand son / grand daughter'

b)   vâ   vâîn   ndúmà   vé

     child   child   male   your

      'Your grand son'

2.5   SUMMARY

The Mmen noun is formed by combining affixes to nominal stems. This is done respecting various noun classes which have specific prefixes (plural as well as singular). Other linguistic processes equally intervene besides affixation when it comes to obtaining the nominal lexicon. These include loans, adaptation, derivation, compounding and partial reduplication.

CHAPTER THREE

THE SIMPLE NOUN PHRASE CONSTRUCTION

This chapter is concerned with the description of the Mmen simple noun phrase in its possible structures. Essono (2000) defines the simple noun phrase as being a nominal phrase syntagme with a zero constituent. In this light, our attention will be centred on simple nominal phrases, the simple modified noun phrase structures and simple pronominal constructions.

3.1   THE NOUN PHRASE

The noun phrase is a nominal group made up of either a noun only, a noun and its modifiers or determiners or a noun substitute. This definition is highlighted in Tambi and Alobwede (1979:32).

> A noun phrase consists of a single noun or a noun
> substitute or a cluster of words having a noun as the head
> word in the group. The other words which may be
> determiners, adjectives, adverbs or even nouns are
> normally called determiners.

In the same light, Dubois et al (1973:340) cited in Tongo (1993:65) see the noun phrase as. A syntagme constituted by a noun... eventually preceded by a determiner... article, demonstrative etc.

3.1.1   SINGLE NOUNS AS IMPERATIVE SUBJECT

Imperative utterances in Mmen, like in most languages, require a single noun when it concerns requesting the attention of an addressee.
These imperative single nominal phrases are common when it comes to a speaker calling a listener or a listener responding in affirmative to a very

dignified personality. Their NP structures are NP ⟶ N .The following examples will illustrate the above statement.

(32)   SPEAKER - LISTENER IMPERATIVE CALLS

                         N

a) Speaker :   Ngóŋ!

                     Ngong

                         N

b) Listener :   Chia!

(33) POLITE AFFIRMATIVES

                         N

a) Fon: Chia!

                         N

b) Addressee: mbὲ!

                  Your highness!

                         N

c) Christian / respectful wife: bô!

                     Lord!

In (b), tradition and culture obliges any subject to address or answer to the fon 'mbὲ' and not by his name. or by a 'yes'.

In (c), as the Christian addresses his or her creator 'bô' 'lord' the respectful wife equally owes the same respect to the husband.

3.1.2   SINGLE NOUNS AS SUBJECTS

Single nouns may take the subject position in sentences. The structure of such sentences will be   S ⟶ N1 + V + (N2) as in the following examples.

	N1		V
(34) a)	pwɔ̀	té	pwà
	dog	Asp	barked

'The dog barked'

b)   N1 +   V +   N2

wúɔ̀pɔ́mə́   ŋkɔ̀ŋ   nï vɔ́m

builder   like   mother my

'The builder likes my mother'

c)   N1 (pron)   V   N2

í   pɛ́'lə̀   ə̀fə̀kə̀

He   sell   agr chair

'He is selling a chair'

3.1.3   SINGLE NOUNS AS VERB OBJECTS

Like in other languages, Mmen single nouns do function as verb objects. Sentences with these nominal objects have the structure:

S → N 1 + V + N 2 as illustrated in the following

Examples.

(35) a)   N 1   poss.   V   N2

 nï   vɔ́m   pɛ́'lə̀   mángòlo sɔ̀

Mother   my   sell   mangoes

'My mother is selling mangoes'

b)   N1   V   N2

vâin   kí   ïʒâm

child   has   exam

'The   child   has   examination'

c)

N1		V	N2	(prep)	N3
mɔ́yn	bá	fù	wɔ̂n	sɔ́	pvùsɔ̀
Children	Asp	give	grass	to	goats

"The Children gave grass to goats'

3.1.4 SINGLE NOUNS AS OBJECTS OF PREPOSITIONS

In some sentences, single nouns follow prepositions in second object positions. Such sentences have the structure S ⟶N1 + V + N2 + (NP3). The following examples will illustrate such cases

(36) a)

N1		V	N2	(Prep)	N3
pwàpé	vá	fù	nû	sɔ̂	wùɔ̀pɔ́mɔ́
Father	Asp	give	water	to	builder

'Father gave water to the builder'

b)

N1	Poss	V	N2	(Prep)	N3	
tsíɔ̀'	vɔ́m	vá	fù	tôs	sɔ̂ nǐ	vɔ́m
father	my	Asp	give	torch	to mother	my

'My father gave a torch to my mother'

c)

N1		V	prep	N2	
níŋ fɔ́ téín fɔ́	vá	másè	á tû	fɔkà	
Bird the	Asp	Perch	on top	tree	

"The bird has perched on the tree'

3.2 MODIFIERS IN THE SIMPLE NP

The word adjective is defined as a word that names a quality or that defines or limits a noun. These adjectives play a modifying role when they

are combined with nouns to form nominal phrases. According to Peck (1995:92)

> Modifier constituents follow or precede the noun head and
> are expounded by adjectives. Modifiers with their
> adjectives add meaning to the noun in the noun head.
> They narrow down the range of reference and add picture-
> detail and speaker evaluation.

These adjectives are classified into a number of categories in African languages.

3.2.1   TYPES OF ADJECTIVES

According to Mutaka and Tamanji (2000) adjectives in African languages can be classified under three broad categories. These categories include pure adjectives, verbal adjectives and nominal adjectives. As far as the Mmen language is concerned, it will be prudent handling only two broad categories of adjectives in the language: pure adjectives and derived adjectives.

3.2.1.1   PURE ADJECTIVES

According to Nkemnji (1995:135) cited in Ngangoum (2002:68), pure adjectives are "those lexical items that are specified in lexicon as belonging to the category of adjectives". Like in Mpumpuŋ and some African languages, pure adjectives are very limited in Mmen. Only the forms presented in example (37) below show the characteristics of pure adjectives. These adjectives express quality. They are post- posed to the nouns they modify.

(37) a) N   Adj

      ndɛ́   tsùŋ

      House   good

      'Good   house

b)   N   Adj

      ndɛ́sɔ́   tsûŋsə̀

      House Agr. Good Agr.

      'Good   houses'

c)   N   Poss.   Adj.

      ndúmà   ʒə́m   fɛ́

      husband   my   new

      My   new   husband

d)   N   Poss   Adj

      ɔ́sɔ́ńdúm   ʒə́msɔ́   fɛ́sɔ́

      Agr Husband   my Agr. New Agr.

      'My new husband'

There is number and class agreement between pure adjectives and the nouns they modify.

3.2.1.2 DERIVED ADJECTIVES

Derived adjectives are adjectives formed from either verbal or nominal roots. In such adjectives, nominal or verbal roots are combined with concordial affixes which function as derivational affixes of the same noun class to modify their preceding nouns. Below are illustrations.

a) N   Adj.

ɔ́kwáŋ   ə̀féfə̀

Plate Agr. White

White   plates

The adjective féfê' is derived from state verb 'féfe' "to be white"

b)   N   Adj

ákáŋ   àpáŋɔ́

Plate   Agr. red

A   red   plate

The adjective páŋɔ́ is derived from the state verb 'ípáŋ' "to be red"

As concerns the use of adjectives they can be used in two ways. This can either be predicatively or attributively according to Radford (1997) cited in Ngangoum (2000:66).

3.2.2 PREDICATIVE ADJECTIVES

Predicative adjectives are post-posed to the nouns they modify. They are mostly linked to the head noun by a copula verb. Such sentences take the structure. S ——►N1 + Poss Dem + V + Qual.

The following examples illustrate adjectives used predicatively.

(39) a)N1   Poss   Dem   V.   Qual.

váïn   vɔ́m   vèïn   γé   páŋà

Child   my   this   be   red

'This my child is light in complexion'

b)   N1   N2   V   QualAdj

yúi   pwà pé   γé   tγá

| wife | father of | compound | be | powerful/ strong |

'Father's wife is powerful'

c) | NI | Poss | V | Q.Adj |

| móin | véin | γé | tyá |

| Children | his | be | strong |

'His children are strong'

Predicative adjectives do not agree in class and number with the preceding head nouns.

3.2.2.1   ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVES

Attributive adjectives contrast with predicative adjectives. They modify a following noun according to Radford (op. cit). In most cases, Mmen attributive nominal adjective phrases have the adjectives post-posed to the nouns they modify. These following examples are illustrations of attributive nominal adjective phrases.

(40) a) | N | Adj. |

| ɔɲúŋ | ïfɔmɔ́ |

| hair | black |

'Black hair'

b) | N | Adj |

| ɔɲúŋ sɔ̀ | fɔmɔ́sɔ́ |

| hair Agr. | Black Agr. |

'Black hairs'

3.3   SIMPLE NOUN PHRASE MODIFIERS

In this section, focus is on nominals modified by possessive adjectives, qualifying adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, quantifiers and numerals.

3.3.1 POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE NOUN PHRASE

Possession, belonging or assertion of ownership within the noun phrase is expressed when the head noun combines with a possessive adjective. The following examples illustrate possessive adjective noun phrases.

(41) a)   N   Poss

ɔváin   āvéin

child   · Agr.his

'His child'

b)   N   Poss

ɔkɔ'   āɣésènì

Ladder   Agr.Our

'Our ladder'

c)   N   Poss

ɔtɔŋgwáŋ   āfãinfɔ

salt   Agr.Your

'Your   salt'

d)   N   Poss

ɔsɔndʒɔŋ   sɔ   véinsɔ

Agr. Month Agr. his Agr.

'His months'

In such constructions, possessive adjective roots do agree in noun class, number and person with the preceding head nouns they modify. In case the head noun is moved to the final position of the phrases, then either an approximate elliptical noun phrase will be obtained or a meaningless phrase will result as illustrated in the following examples.

	Poss	adj	N
(42) a) *	ɔ́véín		vâìn
	His		child
	His child		

	Poss.	adj	conj.	N
	ɔ́véín		ɔ̄	vâìn
	his		and	child
	"He and the child'			

	Poss.Adj	N
b) *	ɔ́γésènï	ɔ́kɔ́'
	We	ladder

	Poss.adj.	N
	ɔ́γésènï	ɔ̂kɔ́'
	"we and a ladder'	

	Poss.adj	N
c) *	āʃâìnʃɔ́	ɔ́ʃɔ́ŋgwáŋ
	Your	salt

The above phrases with asterisks are ungrammatical because the word order of the phrases has been changed. In these phrases, the conjunctive element is absent in (a, b), then agreement problem is posed given that it is always adjectives agreeing in class, number and person with preceding nouns and not the reverse. The following table reviews some basic Mmen possessive adjective roots, (noun classes 1,3,4,5,6) from the first person singular to the third person plural.

Table 3.2.1 <u>Basic Mmen Possessive adjective roots</u>.

NOUN CLASSES AND POSS. ROOTS					
Poss.Adj	1	3	4	5	6
My	- ém	- ém	- ém (fé)	- ém - (-)	- ém -
Your (sg)	- ê	- ê /- é- é	- ê (ɪn)	- ê	- é - é
His/her	ø/āvéín	ø/āvéín	ø/āvéín	véín vé	-ɔ́ véíń -ɔ́
Our	- ásè	áɣésènï	(fɔ́) ɣésènï(fɔ́)	f(ɔ́)ɣésènï(fɔ́)	ā- ásé
Your (pl)	-âïn-âïn	-âïn-e	-âïn- e	-âïn-é	-ɔ́-âïn-é
Their	- áïn	ɣénàʒé	-a ɣénà	(fɔ́)ɣénà(fɔ́)	(sɔ́)ɣénà(sɔ́)

The blank spaces in the above table require concordial initial consonants such as ɣ, v, f, ʒ according to the noun class in use for combination.

3.3.2   QUALIFYING ADJECTIVE NOUN PHRASES

Peck (1995:92) citing Vendler (1968) treats the above adjectives as quality adjectives or quality modifiers. These adjectives give quality to the nouns they modify. In Mmen, these adjectives are post-posed to the nouns they qualify. The result simple noun phrase has the structure NP ⟶ N + Q.Adj. The following examples are illustrations of qualifying adjective NPs.

```
        N 1        Q.Adj
(43) a)   ɔ́fɔ́kɔ̂ fɔ́    pɣɔ́ fɔ́
```

chair Agr.   Bad Agr

'A bad chair'

     N 1   Q.Adj
b)   áʒə́s   ā múá

     broom   Agr.Old
     "An old broom'

     N 1   Q.Adj
c)   ə́mə́ndʒî   mə̀ páŋə̂

     urine   Agr   red
     'Red urine'

     N 1   Q.Adj
d)   ɲúŋsə̄   fə́mə́sə́

     hair   Agr black Agr.
     'Black   hair'

Qualifying adjectives do agree in noun class and number with the preceding nouns they modify. When the head noun is moved from the initial phrase position to the final phrase position, an ungrammatical phrase will be produced as in the following examples.

          Q.adj.   N.
(44) a) * āmúá   áʒə́s

            Old   broom

     Q.adj.   N.
b)   * mə̀ páŋə̂ ə́mə́ndʒî

            Red   urine

	Q.adj.	N.
c) *	fɔ́mɔ́sɔ́	ɲúŋsɔ̀
	Black	hair

3.3.3 DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVE NOUN PHRASES

Demonstrative adjectives are equally known as demonstrative pronouns according to Peck (1995:92). These adjectives or pronouns, point out things which are either near speaker (NS), Near listener (NL) or far from speaker and listener (FSL). Demonstrative NPs take the structure;NP——▶N + Dem.Adj. The following examples illustrate demonstrative adjective noun phrases.

		N	Dem.
(45) a)	n.cl.1	ɔ́kfiyn	ʒéín
		Hill	this (NS)
		'This	hill'
		N	Dem.
b)	ncl.3	ɔ́fɔ́témá	fî
		Calabash	that (NL)
		"That calabash'	
		N	Dem.
c)	ncl4	mìsí	mǐ
		Tears	those (NL)
		N	Dem.
d)	ncl5	ɔ́wɔ́s	vǐî
		Gun	that (FSL)
		That	gun

	N	Dem.
e) ncl6	ɔ́tɔ́ fɔ̂in	tíî
	Agr.fon	those (FSL)
	Those	fons

There is noun class and number agreement between demonstrative adjective forms and the preceding nouns. In case the head noun is moved from the initial phrase position to the phrase final position, an ungrammatical phrase will be produced. The following are some ungrammatical examples having the phrase structure NP ——▸ Dem + N.

	Dem	N
(46) a) *	ʒĉin	ɔ́kfïyn
	This	hill

	Dem.	N
b) *	vîî	ɔ́wɔ̂s
	That	gun

	Dem.	N
c) *	mï	mïsí
	Those	tears

The following table presents representative Mmen demonstrative adjective roots from noun classes 1,3 to 6. Other noun classes manifest the same demonstrative base.

Table 3.3.3 Basic Mmen demonstrative adjective roots

Noun class	NS	NL	FSL
1	- éín	-ǐ	-ǐi
3	- énà	-ǐ	-ǐi
4	- énà	-ǐ	-ǐi
5	- énà	-ǐ	-ǐi
6	ɔ́tɔ́-éín tɔ́ ɔ́sɔ́ -éín sɔ́	ɔ́tɔ́-éí tǐ ɔ́sɔ́ - éín sǐ	ɔ́tɔ́ -éín tǐi ɔ́sɔ́ -éín sǐi

The blank spaces require concordial initial consonants such as f, m, t, v, ʒ depending on the class of preceding noun, which the adjective modifies.

3.3.4 NON-NUMERAL QUANTIFIER NOUN PHRASES

Non-numeral quantifiers are better known in English as indefinite adjectives. According to Radford (1997) a quantifier is a type of determiner that denotes quantity. Such a category of quantifiers gives a vague and an unprecise number of the nominal elements described. Indefinite adjectives are post-posed to the nouns they determine. The structure NP —► N + ind. Adj is produced when they combine with noun forms. The following examples illustrate non-numeral quantifier noun phrases.

	N	ind. Adj
(47) a) kɔ́m 'all'	ɔ́wú	kɔ́m
	hands	all
	'All	hands'

			N	ind. Adj.
b)	tété	'few'	ówú	tété
			hands	few
			'few	hands'

			N	ind. Adj
c)	sétsè sà	'several'	ndé	sétsè sà
			house	several
			'Several	houses'

			N	ind. Adj
d)	sà mɔ'sɔ́	'some'	ndé	sà mɔ' sɔ́
			house	some
			'Some	houses'

Indefinite adjectives do not agree either in class or number with the preceding nouns they determine. Where the head noun is moved to the phrase final position, an ungrammatical phrase is produced as in the following examples.

		Ind.adj.	N
(48) a)		* tété	ówú
		'Few	hands'
		ind.adj.	N
b)	*	sétsèsà	ndé
		Several Agr	house
		'Several	houses'

		ind.adj.	N
c)	*	kɔ́m	ɔ́wú
		'All	hands'

3.3.5 NOUNS MODIFIED BY NUMERALS

Numerals are words, figures or signs standing for numbers or a number. Like in other languages, Mmen numerals are further sub divided into cardinal and ordinal numerals.

3.3.5.1 CARDINAL NUMERALS

Cardinal numerals are the most important or chief among numbers in terms of frequency of usage. Mmen cardinal numbers have both simple and complex cardinals.

(48) Simple cardinals:

mɔ̀'	'one'
pɛ̀	'two'
tál	'three'
kǐà	'four'
tâin	'five'
túfá	'six'
sèmbê	'seven'
fámá	'eight'
púlámɔ̀'	'nine'
ïyə́m	'ten'
ɔ́və̀	one hundred
ŋkám	one thousand

Complex cardinals: This group of numerals is formed following the addition method of combination. In such numerals, a conjunctive element links the pair of numerals as can be seen in the examples below.

(50) ìyɔ́m ʒǐ mɔ̀' 'eleven'

Ten with one

ìyɔ́m ʒǐ pè twelve'

Ten with two

ìyɔ́m pè ʒǐ mɔ̀' 'twenty-one'

Ten two with one

Distinct cardinal numerals range from one 'mɔ̀" to ten 'ìyɔ́m'. Two exceptional unique numbers exist after ten 'ìyɔ́m'. These are one hundred and one thousand ŋkám. The rest are complex cardinals formed through the addition of one number with another. These examples illustrate the use of cardinal numbers with nouns.

N	Num.
(51)a) váín	mɔ̀'
child	one
'One	child'

N	Num
b) ɔ́mɔ́ín	ɔ̄pè
children	Agr two
'Two	children

	N	Num.
c)	ńdɛ́ sɔ̄	pɛ̀
	house Agr	two
	'Two	houses'

	N	Num.
d)	ɔ́mɔ́tsí	m̄pɛ̀
	chairs	two
	'Two	chairs

	N	Num
e)	ɔ́fɔ́tsí fɔ̄	mɔ̀'
	chair Agr.	One

There is number and class agreement between cardinal numerals and the preceding nouns they determine. The linear structure for cardinal numeral noun phrases is NP ⟶ N + Num. Where this structure is altered, that is, when the head noun is moved away from its initial NP position, an ungrammatical phrase is produced. The following examples are illustrations of altered numeral NPs.

		Num	N
(52) a)	*	m̄pɛ̀	ɔ́mɔ́tsí
		'Two	chairs'

		Num	N
b)	*	sɔ̄ pɛ̀	ndɛ́
		'Two	house'

Num.   N

c) * ʦɔ̃ mɔ'   ɔ́fɔ̃tsí

    'One   chair'

3.3.5.2   ORDINAL NUMERALS

Ordinal numerals are used in relation to positional importance in classification. In Mmen, like in some Bantu languages, the first, the second and the last positions are given distinct or unique ordinal numbers. These numbers differ from cardinal numbers. The following examples are distinct ordinal numerals.

(53)   äsí   'first'

        ākùmtɔ̀   'second'

        āŋgɔ'sɔ̀   'last'

The other ordinals are simply cardinal numerals linked by the ordinal numeral prefix 'ā-'. The following are examples illustrating derived ordinals from cardinal numerals.

(54)   ā tál   'the third'

        ā kïa   'the fourth'

        ā táin   the fifth'

        ā túfá   'the sixth'

        ā sèmbê   'the seventh'

        ā fámá   'the eighth'

Like cardinals, ordinal numerals are always post-posed to the nouns they modify. Noun phrases modified by ordinals take the structure NP ➤ N + ord. Num the following examples illustrate nouns modified by ordinal numerals.

      N   ord.Num

(55) a)   ɔ́ váɪ́n āsí   āsí   ā   váín

        Child   first   front/eyes   child

   ' The first   child'   The child's front/eyes.

        N   ord.Num

b)   ńdúm   ā tâin

        husband   five

        'The fifth husband'

        N   ord.Num

c)   ɔ́fɔ́témá fāsí fɔ́

        calabash   Agr. First Agr.

        'The first calabash'

        N   Ord.Num.

d)   ńdúm   āsí

        husband   first

        'The first husband

Exceptionally, 'second' and 'last' require a reverse in phrase structure. In such cases, the right structure is ord.Num. + NP1 as illustrated in the following examples.

      Ord.Num.   N   N   Num

(56) a)   ākùmtə̀ ā ndúm   ndúm ākùmtə̀....

        second   Agr. Husband   husband   second

        'The second husband'   The husband of the second...

	ord. Num		N1		
b)	ākùmtɜ̀	ā	yúí	yui	ākùmtɜ̀.....
	second	Agr.	Wife	wife	second
	The	second	wife	wife of the second...	

	ord.Num		N		
c)	áŋgɔ'sɜ̀	ā	váín	váín	āŋgɔ'sɜ̀
	last	Agr	child	child	of last
	The	last	child	'The child of the last...'..	

	ord.Num		N		
d)	áŋgɔ'sɜ̀	ā	yúí	yúl	āŋgɔ'sɜ̀
	last	Agr	wife	wife	last
	The	last	wife'	'wife of the last....'	

For the ordinals 'second' ākùmtɜ̀ and last āŋgɔ̀sɜ̀, the phrase structure is reversed: ord .Num. + NP1 where this structure is disrespected, an elliptical phrase results, giving quite a different meaning and often incomplete.

Ordinal numerals share class agreement with the nouns they modify.

3.4 PRONOMINAL PHRASES

According to Wiesemann et al (1984:70), pronouns are words used in reference or used to represent a participant already mentioned in speech.

Dubois et al (1973:395) confirms this definition by seeing pronouns as:

> ... Words that are used as replacements for co-referential
> terms and as substitutes to terms already used in the
> sentence (anaphoric usage) or to represent a participant in

an act of communication, a human being or an object

taking part in a speech act (deictic usage).

The above two definitions suggest that pronouns are words used in place of nominal forms. As such, pronouns have no intrinsic descriptive content, thus, they are functors. Concerning pronominal phrases, our concern below, given the vastness of pronouns, is limited to personal pronouns such as subject pronouns, object of verb and preposition pronouns, focused pronouns, reflexive pronouns and possessive pronouns.

3.4.1 PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Like in the Mpumpuŋ language, Ngangoum (op.cit) Mmen personal pronouns function as subject personal pronouns, object of verb personal pronouns, focus personal pronouns and reflexive pronouns.

3.4.1.1 SUBJECT PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Mmen subject personal pronouns have three singular and three plural pronominal forms. The following table presents Mmen subject pronouns.

Table 3.4.1.1   Mmen subject personal pronouns

Person	Singular	Plural
1	mɔ́ 'I'	ɣés 'we'
2	wù 'you'	ɔ́wú 'you'
3	ɔ́ 'He/she'	ɣéná 'They'

Below are examples illustrating Mmen subject personal pronouns in use from the first person singular to the third person plural.

(57) a)

Pron 1	v	N2		art.
mɔ́	ʒì	fɣó	yí	téín
I	ate	things	eat	the
'I	have	caten	the	food'

	Pron 1	v	N2
b)	wù	pɛ́	ndē
	you	build	house
	You	are	building a house

	Pron 1	v	N2
c)	ɔ́	fɛ́	àflìón
	He	see	aeroplane
	'He	is	looking at an aeroplane'

	Pron. 1		v	N 2
d)	ɔ́	vɔ̄	fɛ̀	'radio'
	she	Agr	seen	radio
	'She	has	seen	a radio'

	Pron. 1		v	N2
e)	ɣɛ́s	ɔ̄	mú	wine/nílú'
	we	Agr.	Drink	wine/beer
	'We	are	drinking wine'

	pron 1	v	N2
f)	ɔ́wú	mú	sǐká
	They	smoke	cigarette
	'They are smoking cigarettes'

Pron. 1   v   N2

g)   ɣéná   fɔ́l   án̈ɔ̀s sə̀

         They   work onion Agr.

         'They   grow onions'

3.4.1.2   OBJECT OF VERB PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Like subject pronouns, Mmen object pronouns of verb have three singular and three plural pronouns which appear generally in the object position in utterances.   In other words, such pronouns follow verbs in sentences.   The table below presents Mmen object of verb personal pronouns.

Table 3.4.1.2   Mmen object of verb personal pronouns

Person	Singular	Plural
1	mə̀ 'me'	ɣésə̀n̈ 'us'
2	wù 'you'	ə̀wù 'you'
3	véin 'him/her'	ɣéná 'them'

Object personal pronouns, functioning as complements are generally separated from the subject noun or subject pronoun by a verb.   Such utterances take the structure S ⟶ Pron 1 + V + Pron 2 + (N3) as illustrated by the following examples involving the first person singular to the third person plural.

         Pron I   V   Pron 2

(58)a) wù   ɔ̄   fɛ́   mə̀

         you   Agr. See   me

         'You have seen me'

Pron 1		V	Pron 2
b)	mə́	má	fé	wù
I	Agr/ASP	see	you

'I have seen you'

Pron 1		V	Pron 2	N3
c)	ɣéná	nɔ̄	fú	véín	tèlèvíʃòn
They	ASP	give	him	television

'The / have given him a television'

Pron 1		V	Pron2	N3
d)	ɔ́nɔ́		fú	véín	ké
He	ASP.		give	her money

Pron 1		V	Pron 2
e)	ɣéná	nɔ̄	fé	ɣésɘ̀nǐ
They	ASP	see	us

'The are seeing us'

N 1		V	Pron 2
f)	tʃítʃà	ɔ̄ʒá'lə́		ɘ̀wù
teacher	ASP.	teaching	you

'The teacher is teaching you'

Pron 1		V	Pron 2
g)	wù	nɔ̄	fé	ɣéná
He	ASP	see	them

'He has seen them'

Though we notice some similarities between object pronouns and subject pronouns, the former have a complement function while the latter play the subject role.

3.4.1.3   OBJECT OF PREPOSITION PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Mmen object personal pronouns functioning as complements of prepositions have the same forms as object of verb personal pronouns. The only difference is that these pronouns are immediately preceded by prepositions before verbs and subject nouns or subject pronouns. Such phrases take the structure S⟶ NP 1 (Pron 1) + V + Prep + Pron 2

Mmen object of preposition pronouns are displayed on Table 3.4.1.2. The following examples illustrate object of preposition pronoun structures from the first person singular to the third person plural.

	Pron 1		V	Prep.	Pron 2
(59)a)	wù	ɔ́	wàŋnɔ̀	sɔ̀	mɔ̀
	you	ASP	speak	to	me
	'You		have spoken	to	me'

	Pron 1		V	Prep	Pron 2
b)	ɣɛ́s	ɔ́	wàŋnɔ̀	sɔ̀	wù
	we	ASP.	Speak	to	you
	'We	have	spoken	to	you'

	Pron 1		V	Prep	Pron 2
c)	wù	ɔ́	wàŋnɔ̀	sɔ̀	véín
	you	ASP	speak	to	him/her
	'You	have	spoken	to	him/her'

	NP 1	V	Prep	Pron 2
d)	pwà-pé	wáŋ nə̀	sə̂	ɣésə̀nï
	father of compound		speak to us	

'father is speaking to us'

	Pron 1	V	Prep.	Pron 2
e)	ɣés ɔ́	wàŋ nə̀	sə̂	ə̀wù
	we ASP	speak	to	you

'we have spoken to you'

	NP 1	V	Prep	Pron 2
f)	tʃitʃà ɔ́	wàŋnə̀	sə̂	ɣéná
	teacher ASP speak		to	them

'The teacher has spoken to them'.

The preceding analysis show that object of verb pronouns precede verbs while object of preposition pronouns precede prepositions

Clefting permits a speaker to use pronouns as well as other nominal forms in a focused manner. This focused pronominal usage in utterances serves to lay emphasis. Both personal pronouns and nominal forms can be made emphatic by placing them at phrase or sentence initial positions. At phrase or sentence initial positions, nouns retain their forms. In a language like Mpumpuŋ, Ngangoum (2002:42) observes a change in pronominal forms where certain focused pronouns take distinct forms. In Mmen, the situation is different. In Mmen, focus pronouns are not different from object of verb personal pronouns. Such pronominal structures consist of a neuter pronoun followed by a state verb, then a focus pronoun followed by a relative pronoun etc. (a clefted structure). For a table of focused pronouns,

see Table 3.4.1.2. The following examples illustrate Mmen focused pronominal sentences (from the first person singular to the third person plural).

	N.Pron1	Vbe	F.Pron	Rel	Pron3		V
(60)a)	à	ní	mə̀	ké	γénáɔ́		fè
	It	is	me	that	they	ASP	saw

'They have seen me (it is me they have seen)'

	N.Pron 1	vbe	F.pron	rel	pron3	V
b)	à	ní	wù	kɛ́	γénáɔ́	fè
	It	is	you(sg)	that	they ASP	saw

'They have seen you / It is you they have seen'

	N.Pron 1	vbe	F.Pron	rel	Pron	V
c)	à	ní	véɨ́n	kɛ́	γésɔ́	fè
	It	is	him/her	that	we	ASP	saw

'It is you that we have seen / we have seen you'

	N.Pron	vbe	f.pron	rel	pron3	V
d)	à	ní	véin	kɛ̣́	γés ɔ́ fè
	It	is	you (pl)	that	we Asp saw

"It is you that we have seen / we have seen you'

The rest of focused pronouns are all object pronouns used in the focus position. The linear structure produced by such utterances gives. S → N. pron 1 + vbe + F. Pron + rel + pron 3 + V as observed in the examples above.

3.4.1.5 REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

Reflexive pronouns are used with contains verbs or in certain constructions to indicate that the action expressed by the verb 'falls back' on the subject or the performer(s). In reflexive constructions, the reflexive and the subject pronouns refer to the same person(s). In mmen, reflexive pronouns have a basic root ' ŋgéŋ ' 'self ' which is added to the corresponding possessive adjective base of the grammatical person in question. The following table presents Mmen reflexive pronouns.

Table 3.4.1.5 Mmen reflexive pronouns

Person	Singular	Plural
1	ŋgéŋʒə́m	ŋgéŋsə́yésə̀nìsə́
2	ŋgéŋʒê	ŋgéŋsə́ʒê sə̀
3	ŋgéŋāvéín	ŋgéŋsə̀ rénă sə̀

The following examples illustrate Mmen reflexive pronouns in use from the first person singular to the third person plural.

```
        Pron1   V    Ref.Pron.
(61) a)  .mó    sû   ŋgéŋʒə̀m

         I    wash  self   my
         'I am bathing myself'
```

```
Pron1        V          Ref.pron
b) wû     náin nə̂      ŋgéŋʒê

   you    look Asp.    Self your
   'You are looking at yourself'
```

c). Pron1   V   Ref.Pron.

   ɔ́   sû   ·ŋgéŋ à véín

   She/he   washing   self   his/her

   'He/she is bathing him/herself'

   Pron1   V   Ref pron.

.d). ɣés   ə   yúí   ŋgéŋ só résənǐ só

   We   Agr. enjoy   self Agr. our Agr.

   'We are enjoying ourselves'

e). Pron.1   V   Ref pron.

   ɔ́wú   lɔ'sɔ̂   ŋgéŋ só ʒɛ́ sə

   you   deceive   Self Agr.Your Agr.

   ' You are deceiving yourselves'

Pron1   V   Ref. Pron.

   ɣéná   tsɔ̂mt ə   ŋgéŋ só réná sə

   They   help   self Agr.them Agr.

   'They are helping themselves'

There is number and class agreement between reflexive pronoun bases and possessive adjective bases. Reflexive pronoun constructions have the structure: S ——►Pron1 + v + Ref.Pron.   Reflexive pronouns always occupy the object position.

3.4.2   POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS.

Possesssive pronouns are used to replace a noun phrase containing a possessive adjective and particularly, whenever ownership needs to be

expressed according to Arragon(1986:92).Unlike in Mpumpuŋ where Ngangoum(2002:45)signals the presence of possessive determiners that precede possessive pronoun forms, Mmen shows just distinct possessive pronoun forms. The table below shows Mmen possessive pronouns.

Table 3.4.2. Mmen Possessive Pronouns.

Person	Singular		Plural	
1	ɣɔ́má	'mine'	Sésé	'ours'
2	ɣéɣé	'yours'	Sɔ́sɔ́	'yours'
3	ɣóɣó	'his'	ɣéná	'theirs

The following examples illustrate the above pronouns in use from the first person singular pronoun to the third person plural pronoun.

	N1	Dem	Vbe	Poss Pron.
(61) a)	yúi	ɣénà	nɔ̌	ɣɔ́má
	woman	these	be	mine
	'These	woman	are	mine'

	N1	Dem.	Vbe	posspron.
b)	wóín	ɣí	nɔ̌	ɣéɣé
	children	those	be	yours

'Those children are yours'

	N1	Dem.	Vbe	his/hers
c)	ŋ̩tòin	síi	nɔ̌	ɣóɣó
	pots	those	be	his/her

'Those pots are his/hers'

	N1	Dem.	Vbe	Poss.pron
d)	ndɛ́	sčin	nǒ	sɛ́sɛ́
	houses	these	be	ours
	'These	houses	are	ours'

	N1	Dem.	Vbe	Poss.pron
e)	pvɔ́	sǐ	nǒ	sɔ́sɔ́
	goats	those	be	yours
	'Those	goats	are	yours'

	N1	Dem.	V	Poss.pron		
f)	ŋká'	měin	ɔ́	mí	má	ɣéná
	word	this	be	Agr.	agr	theirs
	'This	wood	is	theirs		

Possessive pronouns agree in person, number and class with the preceding head nouns, taking the following structure in sentences: S ⟶ NP1 + Dem + V + Poss

3.5 SUMMARY

The simple noun phrase in Mmen may be constituted by a single noun, a pronoun alone, or a noun and a determiner or a modifier. As concerns single nouns, they can function as subjects, objects of verbs, and objects of prepositions. Within noun phrases, pronominal forms agree in class, person and number with the nouns they replace. The head nouns of simple noun phrases always occur at the phrase initial position while the determiners or modifiers follow. Finally, agreement features on determiners or modifiers are determined by the noun class and number of the preceding head noun. Indefinite adjectives in Mmen do not agree in class and number with preceding nouns.

CHAPTER FOUR

COMPLEX NOUN PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS

Essono (2000) defines the complex noun phase as being a syntagme with multiple constituents. In the same light, Yusuf (1992 :9) defines complex noun phrases as being head nouns containing within their clusters, sentential modifiers or conjunctions. These definitions underscore the idea that in such phrases there is an obligatory head noun with modifiers constituted by other nouns, determiners, modifiers or adjuncts. In this light, this chapter will be concerned Mmen complex noun phrase categories like serial noun phrase types, conjunctive noun phrase types, illustrative noun phrases and relative clauses.

4.1   SERIAL NOUN PHRASE TYPES

This group of noun phrase types lacks a link constituent like a conjunction. This group is constituted by a head noun and at least a single nominal form as its modifier or as its determiners. Under this category, we shall be handling possessor noun phrases, reduplicated noun phrases, appositional noun phrases, attributive noun phrases, kinship noun phrases, compound noun phrases as well as colloquial noun phrases.

4.1.1   POSSESSOR NOUN PHRASES

Unlike in English in which possessive nominal forms take either the clitic 's' or the relator 'of' Mmen head nouns are simply juxtaposed to their constituents indicating ownership or possession. Below are some examples of juxtaposed nominals making up possessor noun phrase clusters.

```
              N            N
(62) a)     ɔ́méyɔ̀       ɣúm

            Agr mayor     Wum

            "The mayor of Wum'


              N            N
     b)     ɔ́fɔ̀ìn        ŋmén

            Agr fon        Mmen

            'The fon of Mmen'

              N            N
     c)     ɔ́yúí         ntɔ̀'

            Agr woman  fondom

            "The fon's wife'

            Agr  N    Agr.  N  Agr
     d)     ɔ́  fɔ́  tsî   fɔ́   kî  fɔ́

                 chair        female

            'A lady's chair'
```

Possessor noun phrases as observed in the preceding examples may have a tonal relator and they agree in number and noun class. Such noun phrases take the linear structure:

NP ──── ►N + N+...

4.1.2 PARTIAL REDUPLICATED NOUN PHRASES

Mmen partial reduplicated noun phrases have an obligatory head noun, which is partially reduplicated followed by another noun(s) before a

modifier. Such noun phrases have the structure NP ⟶ N + N + (N) + (poss). The following examples illustrate reduplicated noun phrases.

	N	N	poss
(63) a)	vâ	vâĩn	vé
	child	child	your(sg)

'Your grandson/daughter

b)	N	N	N	poss.
	vâ	vâĩn	ndúmà	ɣésènĩ
	child	child	boy	our

' Our   grand son'

c)	N	N	N	poss
	vâ	vâĩn	yúí	áɣéná
	child	child	girl	their

'Their grand daughter'

In such partially reduplicated noun phrases, when 'child' is repeated in a syntactic construction, the first form is clipped or shortened while the following form takes its full form. It is worth mentioning that no other noun behaves as such.

4.1.3 APPOSITIONAL NOUN PHRASES

An appositional noun phrase consists of a head noun and an apposition constituent. In Mmen appositional noun phrases, the head noun comes first and is followed by the apposition taking the linear structure : NP►N + (prep) (Det.) + N + Pron. + N...

The following examples are some illustrations of appositional noun phrases in Mmen

(64) a) N Prep N Poss   N

    ńdúm só nï vóm   méyòr

    husband to mother my mayor

      ' My uncle, the mayor'

b)   N   Det N. Pron. N

    ófámásó   ʒì ì ʒúí

    Agr eightsAgr the it killer

     'AIDS, the killer disease'

c)   N N N   N

    óyúí pwà pé ŋercy

    Agr wife father compound Mercy

    ' The wife of father, Mercy / father's wife, Mercy

d) N N Q.Ad;

    ófé ókóín ɭɾíá

    Agr shoe hand long

    ' A spade, a long – handled one'

There is noun class and number agreement within the appositional noun phrase structure.

4.1.4 ATTRIBUTIVE NOUN PHRASES

An attributive noun phrase consists of a noun head constituent and an attributive constituent. The attributive noun in Mmen follows the main noun, with the attributive noun modifying the head noun. The following examples are some illustrations of attributive noun phrases.

```
           N    prep      N     N
(65) a)    ndέ   à       tsá   sèmén

           house for      block cement

           ' A brick house' / a cement-block house
```

```
             N     N            N
b)    ś párk mótòr     mà wúlśm

      αgr park motor    Agr air

      ' An airport'                              \
```

```
             N            N
c)    ś párk        àfĺiónśè

      αgr park       plane Agr.

      ' An airport / a park for planes'
```

```
       N          N
d)    ńdέ        tsśŋ

      house       'chong'
```

A house for 'chong' / a 'chong' house this term 'Chong' as used above is a popular authoritative Mmen dance group.

The structure for attributive noun phrases is NP——►N + N +(N). There is agreement in number and class between attributive adjectives and their preceding head nouns.

4.1.5 KINSHIP NOUN PHRASES

Kinship phrases are phrases that people use to refer to their relatives or to address their relatives. Some kinship nominals in Mmen take noun heads and other constituents having an accompanying noun when referring to certain relatives. The following are examples illustrating Kinship noun phrases in the language.

	N	Prep	N	Poss
(66) a)	ndúm	sɔ́	nï	vé
	husband	to	mother	your

'Your uncle'

	N	N	Poss
b)	Vâ	Vâin	Vɔ́m
	Child	child	my

' My   grand son / daughter'

	N	N	N
c)	yúí	pwà	pɛ́
	wife	father	compound

' Father's wife / wife of the father of the compound'

	N	N	N	Poss
d)	Vâin	pwá	pɛ́	Vé
	Child	father	compound	your

' Your cousin / the child of your father'

Kinship noun phrases have the linear structure NP -N +(prep) + N +(poss.)+

4.1.6 COMPOUND NOUN PHRASES

According to Peck (1999: 105) compound noun phrases are usually idiomatic combinations of nouns (or adjectives or verbs) whose meaning are often different from the sums of the meanings of the individual parts. Such noun phrases in Mmen consist of a head noun and at least another noun within its modifiers. The following examples illustrate cases of compound noun phrases in Mmen.

(67) a)

N	N	Poss
ńià	pέ	vɔ́m
mother	compound	my

' The mother of my compound / my wife'

b)

N	N	Poss
ɔ́pwà	pέ	vé
father	compound	your

' Your husband / the father of your compound'

c)

N N	N	Q	Adj.	Poss
û nĩ	vɔ́ ndúmà	vɔ́	ɣá'á	vɔ́m
child mother	Agr. man	Agr.	big	my

' My big brother / my elder brother'

d)

N	N		Q.Adj.	Poss
â nĩ	vɔ̄ yúí	və	tétê	vɔ́m
child mother	Agr woman	Agr.	small	my

' My younger sister / my junior sister'

The linear structure for compound noun phrases is NP ———► N + N +(N)+(Poss). These phrases equally share agreement features between the head noun and modifiers.

4.1.7 COLLOQUIAL NOUN PHRASES

Unlike in compound noun phrases where a combination of lexis gives a literary meaning different or more than the sums of the individual parts, colloquial noun phrases give a contextual meaning from the combination of the individual words. A colloquial noun phrase cluster has two different meanings – the literary meaning and the contextual or intended meaning. In Mmen, colloquial noun phrases are common in euphemistic utterances or phrases. The following examples are some illustrations of colloquial noun phrases in Mmen.

(68) a)   N   Prep   N

           misí   m ə̄   ndɛ́

           tears   of   house

'Family secrets/ * tears of the house' or dirty linen. This noun phrase stems from the proverb ' don't wash your dirty linen in public'

    b)   N   Prep   N   N

           iɤɔ́ŋ   á   túà   kṻ̈

           spear   for   head bed

           'Bride price (part)'

' bride price' is known as *'spear   of   the   top   of   the   bed'   .
This is the category of bride price that goes to the bride's brother given by the groom.

c)   N   N   prep   N

      ā kún   ā   kɣāŋ

      beans   for   whites

      ' rice'

d)   N   N   Prep   Q.   Adj.

      á ɣé   ɔ́sás   ɔ̄   pánɔ́

      Things   anuses   for   shining

      ' The bitter truth'   * 'Things of the shining anuses'.

Such colloquial noun phrases also exhibit the complex noun phrase structure : NP N ⌐(Prep)¬N⌐... The modifying features agree in number and class with the preceding head nouns they modify.

4.2 CONJUNCTIVE NOUN PHRASE TYPES

Conjunctive noun phrases consist of two or more conjunctive nominal heads all linked by a conjunct. The conjuncts link the nominal forms together functioning as connectors. For easy analyses, three main types of conjunctive noun phrases will be examined: Coordinate noun phrases, alternative nominal phrases and replacive noun phrases.

4.2.1 CO-ORDINATE NOUN PHRASES

Co-ordination is a grammatical relationship, which two terms share in a complex structure through the use of coordinators. Such noun phrase types consist of two or more nouns with one or more co-ordinate element such as by 'and' ɔ̄,' with' kɔ́sɔ̀ or ' in addition to ' sé pá'sí in Mmen. Below are some examples illustrating coordinate noun phrases.

(69) The 'ə '' and' conjunction.

a)   N   Conj.   N

        ńtòln   ə   ɣúsí

        pot   and   fire

                'A pot and fire'

b)   N   Conj. N

        ɔ́ trōsí sə̀   ə̄ ʃə̂t sə̀

     agr. trouser Agr and shirt Agr

        ' Trousers and shirts'

c)   N   N   Conj. N   N

        ɔ́ vâin   ndúmà   ə   vâin   yúi

     agr child   boy   and   child girl

                ' A boy and a girl'

(70)   The kə́sə̀ 'with' conjunctive noun phrases have the linear structure:

        NP⟶ N +(N) + Conj. + N + (N)....

a)   ndɔ̀ŋ   kə́sə̀   ŋgōm

        potato   with   banana

        'A potato with a banana'

b)   N   Conj.   N

        ŋgōm   kə́sə̀   ɣúsí

        banana   with   fire

                'Banana with fire'

c)   N   N   Conj. N   N   N

        ndέ fòin kə́sə̀ ndέ yúi   fòin

        house fon   with house wife fon

' The fon's house and the fon's wife's house'

The sɔ́ pá' sí 'in addition' conjunctive noun phrase. This conjunction requires at least three noun forms linked by two conjunctions. The linear structure for such phrases is:

NP N+ Conj + N + Conj. + Prep + P

(71)a) N	Conj.	N	Conj.	Prep	N
ndɔ̀ŋ	kɔ́sɔ̀	ñgōm	sí pá' sí	nɔ̄	ʃíŋ
potato	with	banana,	in addition	to	bag

' A potato with a banana, in addition to a bag'

b) | N | Conj. | N | Conj. | Prep | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ńtǒïn | ɔ̄ | ɤúsí | si pá' sí | nɔ̄ | mû |
| pot | and | fire | in addition | to | water |

' A pot and fire in addition to water'

c) | N | Conj. | N | Conj. | Prep | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ɔ́sɔ̀kúl | ɔ̀ | tʃɔ̂s | sí pá' sí | nɔ̄ | fìɔ̀l |
| school | and | church | in addition | to | field |

'A school and a church in addition to the field'

4.2.2 ALTERNATIVE NOUN PHRASES

Alternative noun phrases according to Peck (op .cit) are composed of two or more alternative noun heads separated by the conjunctions either...or, neither...nor etc. In Mmen such alternative phrases have the formula Alt.intro + Alt noun head+Alt link+Alt noun head. The following are some examples illustrating alternative phrases.

(72) The 'písē......ɔ̄' or either.......or' alternative phrases

	N	Alt.link	N
a)	písə̄	mbáin sə̄	ə̄	kásá
	either	nails Agr	or	zinc

'either nails or zinc'

	N	Alt.link	N
b)	písə̄	ŋká'	ə̄	fláwà sə̄
	either	trees	or	flowers

'Either trees or flowers'

(73) The 'neither...nor' á váin kà'àní...pì' alternative phrases

	Alt. Intro	N	Prep	N	Alt.link	N	Prep	N
a)	áváín kà'àní	ā kún	ā	kfāŋ	pì	ābáín	ā	kfāŋ
	neither	beans	for	white	nor	fufu	for	white

' Neither rice nor bread'

	Alt. Intro	N	N		N	
b)	á váin kà'àní	píé sə̄	mángòlə̀ sə̀	pì	mbámbà sə̀	
	neither	pear Agr	mango Agr	nor	guavas Agr	

'Neither pears, mangoes nor guavas'

4.2.3 REPLACIVE NOUN PHRASES

The replacive noun phrase substitutes one nominal entity for another. Such phrases are often used to deny a preceding assertion or to give

emphasis to the replacing entity. Mmen has ā vá tsî......āní » for « not....but » and ílù ' ā... (in the place of) for 'instead of' and rather than'. The following examples illustrate the above statements.

(74) The 'āvà tsî.....āní   « not...but » replacive phrases.

a)   neg.   N   N

     āvá tsî   mɔ̄ lú'   ání   wâin

     not   Agr beer   but   wine

          'Not beer but wine'

b)   neg   N   N

     ā va'tsî   ābáín   ání ɲām

     not   Agr fufu   but   meat / animal

          'Not fufu but meat'

(75) The ... llù'   ā.... (in the place of) 'instead of' or 'rather than ' noun

phrases'

     N   N

a)   mɔ̄lú'   ílù' ā   wâin

     bear   in place of wine

     'Beer instead of wine / beer rather than wine'

b)   N   N

     ɲám   ílù' ā   wâin

     meat   in place of wine

     'meat instead of wine / meat rather than wine

4.3 ILLUSTRATIVE NOUN PHRASES

Illustrative noun phrases are phrases comprising a noun head followed by one or more illustration(s). Such phrases are used to give details explanations making sure that the listener gets the details on the point of emphasis. Such noun phrases take the linear structure NP ——► N + (N) Illus + Conj. + N + N + Conj. + N

The following examples are some illustrations of illustrative noun phrases.

(76)a) N   N   ILLUTRATION   Conj. N   N   Conj.   N

     ndέ   ŋwa'lə̀   só   tɤā sə̀ kə̂   ENS, Polytech   ə́   ENAM

     house book Agr.big Agr. like ENS, Polytech and ENAM

     'Advance training schools like ENS, Polytech and ENAM'

b)   N   Illustration   Conj.   N   N Conj. N

     tə̄ndá' tíá tə́ pâ ndēmá   kə̂   Cameroon Gabon ə́ Chad

     countriess that they not grow like cameroon, Gabon and Chad

     'Third world countries like Cameroon, Gabon and Chad'

c)   N   illustration   Conj .N   N Conj. N

     tə̄ ndá'   tíá tə́ ndēmá kə ^Japan France ə́ America

     countries that they grow   like   Japan, France and America

     'Developed nations like Japan, France and America'

There is number and class agreement between the head noun and its following illustrative modifiers.

4.4 RELATIVE CLAUSES

Relative clauses equally make up complex nominal constructions. In such phrases, the nominal expression is followed by a relative pronoun, which introduces other modifiers of the head noun. In Mmen, such clauses have the structure NP——► N + (N) + (Poss) + rel. + V + (N)...

The following are some illustrative examples of Mmen relative clauses.

(77)a)

N	Poss	Rel	V	N
vãin	vɔ́m	vî	ʃû	wɔ́n
child	my	who	wash	skin

My child who is bathing

b)

N	N	Rel	V
vãin	fòin	vê	ʒέmā
child	my	who	singing

' The chief's child who is singing'

c)

N	Rel	V
íkún	vê mɔ̄	fέē
bed	which me	seeing

'The bed which I am seeing'

d)

N	Rel	V
ńtè'	ʒê mɔ̄	fέē
Village	which me	seeing

' The Village which I am seeing'

e)

N	Rel	V
ɣóín	ɣê mɔ̄	fɛ̧́ē
children	whom me	seeing

'The children whom I am seeing'

f) N   Rel   V

  ʏóìn   ʏέ   mɔ̄ fέέ

  children   whom me   seeing

  'Those children whom I am seeing.'

In the above examples, we notice that the relative clause consists of constituents like the head noun, the relative pronoun and a verb.

The relative pronoun always agrees with the head noun.

4.5   SUMMARY

We have seen that complex noun phrases can be constituted by combining or collocating other nominal forms, as well as modifies, with the head noun. This collocation must respect the languages syntactic structure. Word combination in order to form meaningful phrases constituted by determiners, prepositions and modifiers etc. For conjunctive noun phrases, conjunctions normally link the nominal forms together.

Agreement features involved in the determiners or modifiers are determined by the number and class of the preceding head nouns. For relative clauses, relative pronouns do agree with the preceding head nouns in number and class.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

This chapter summarises our key findings on this study and equally presents some suggestions for further research on this language.

5.1   SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Within the framework of making a step further in describing African languages, we set out in this study to describe the noun phrase in Mmen, one of the Grassfield Bantu languages spoken in the North West Province of Cameroon. In this study we tried to bring out the relational patterns which exist in noun phrase constituents as well as providing an account on the form of the Mmen noun phrase.. Using the structuralist biparametric descriptive model provided by Case Grammar, the different nominal constituents and structures were identified coming out with the following findings.

The simplest Mmen noun phrase is constituted by a single noun in imperative phrase structures.

An unmodified Mmen head noun can appear either at the subject position, or the object position of simple sentences.

Modified Mmen noun phrases possess either modifiers or other nouns following or preceding the head noun . In most Mmen noun phrases, the head noun appears at the initial phrase position. A reverse in such a structure produce (in most cases) meaningless phrases. The only exception to this rule concerns numeral phrases involving ā kùmtə̀ the second and ā ŋgɔ̀'sə̀ the last ordinal numeral where the numeral adjective precedes the head noun.

As concerns nominal forms, noun bases combine with affixes forming meaningful nouns. Besides this, other processes of nominal lexicon formation exist like borrowing, derivation, compounding, reduplication and clipping. Globally, speakers of Mmen range from those shying away from the language through those who mix Mmen arbitrarily with English to the real conservatives who are quite close to the language.

5.2 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.

In this study, we have provided a description of the Mmen noun phrase types and structural pattern giving a linguistic account on the processes of obtaining the noun in Mmen. Through this study, we don't claim to have exhausted the syntactic aspect of Mmen .It will be a great achievement to linguistic research if further studies can be carried out in the following domains.

Concerning the domain of syntax, a generative approach could be used to study the Mmen sentence, using this study as a stepping stone and coming out with the internal structure of sentences in the language.

Equally, morphological studies could be carried out either at the level of the noun or the verb.

Finally, a lexico-semantic study could equally be done in the language.

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KEY INFORMANTS

Name	Age	PROFESSION and base	Place of origin
Meh Joseph	28	Student, University of Yaounde I	mmen
Mathew Akain Muh	26	Student, ENS Yaounde	Mmen
Tufoin Eric Peleh	24	Student, ENS Yaounde	Mmen
Mr. Kema John	30	Teacher, KCH.S. Fundong	Mmen
Jumah Dickson	19	Student, G.S.S Mmen	Mmen
Mrs Ngam Comfort	38	Business lady in Mmen	Wum

APPENDIX : INFORMANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Sociolinguistic Questionnaire on the Usage of language(s).

1) INSTRUCTIONS : Fill in, tick or cross where necessary.

Name :...................................Sex...............Approx :Age.......

Profession......................Place/Institution...............................

Place of origin...

2) First (national language)................................ Others

(1)...............(2)...................(3)...................(4)...........

(3) Do you speak :

Mmen ☐ Kom ☐ Eng ☐ Bum ☐ Aghem ☐

Others (name them)..

(4) Do you Understand : Mmen ☐ Kom ☐ Eng ☐

Bum ☐ Aghem ☐

Others..............................

(5) Rank the above languages according to your frequency of usage of each.

(i)   (iv)

(ii)   (v)

(iii)   (vi)

(6) Give some words common or similar in Mmen and in any of these

languages.