

THE EXPRESSION OF LOCATION IN KOM

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This article attempts to analyse locative expression in Kom, a Bantu language of the Western Grassfields, from a synchronic point of view. However, I also attempt to link locative forms in Kom with the locative class in Proto-Bantu.

I treat successively: locative prepositions, the word for "place", locative adverbs of place, locative pronouns, locative concords and, finally, locative interrogatives.

Cet article se propose d'analyser l'expression de la localisation en kom, langue bantoue des Grassfields de l'Ouest, ceci d'un point de vue synchronique. Cependant j'essaie aussi de faire le lien entre les formes locatives du kom et les classes locatives du proto-bantou.

Je traite successivement des prépositions locatives, du mot pour "endroit", des locutions adverbiales de lieu, des pronoms locatifs, des accords locatifs et, enfin, des interrogatifs de lieu.

0. INTRODUCTION

This paper analyzes from a synchronic point of view the expression of location in Kom. An attempt is made to relate Kom locative forms to the forms of Proto-Bantu noun classes 16, 17 and 18 because, according to Grégoire (1975), classes 16, 17 and 18 constitute the principal tool by which location is expressed in Bantu languages.

Kom is one of the Ring languages spoken in Menchum Division in the North West Province of Cameroon. Other Ring languages include Aghem, Babanki, Lamnso, Oku. The Ring languages form a sub-group within Western Grassfields Bantu.

This paper is divided into six sections: section 1.0 deals with the structure and meaning of locative prepositional expressions in relation to nouns of different classes. Section 2.0 shows that

