

THE EXPRESSION OF
THE LOCATIVE SEMANTIC FUNCTION
IN (WESTERN) EJAGHAM

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*This study of locative expressions in Ejagham¹ is composed of two sections: a descriptive and a comparative section. The descriptive section includes discussions on nouns, adverbs, interrogatives, prepositions and verbs which express location. The comparative section underlines two important points 1) the correspondence between the noun ngùm 'places' and the Proto-Bantu *ku-(j)úma, and 2) correspondences between the adverbs and the interrogatives in Ejagham and locative agreements in Proto-Bantu.*

*Cette étude de l'expression de la localisation en ejagham se compose de deux sections: une section descriptive et une section comparative. La section descriptive inclut des discussions sur les noms, les adverbes, les interrogatifs, les prépositions et les verbes qui expriment la localisation. La section comparative souligne deux points importants: 1) la correspondance entre le nom ngùm 'endroits' et le proto-bantou *ku-(j)úma, et 2) des correspondances entre les adverbes et les interrogatifs en ejagham et les accords locatifs en proto-bantou.*

0. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to provide a comprehensive overview of the various ways in which the locative semantic notion is expressed in Ejagham, an Ekoid Bantu language of Cameroon and Nigeria, and to link the formal expression of location with certain Proto-Bantu forms as discussed in Meeussen (1967) and Grégoire (1975). The expression of the locative semantic function in Ejagham has already been discussed to some extent in Watters (1980) and (1981). In Watters (1980), the major concern was with identifying relics of the Proto-Bantu locative noun classes rather than with identifying any formal correlates of the locative semantic function in general. As such, only the locative adverbs were discussed. By

