

Assignment 2 – Historical & Typological Issues

Due **March 17th by 11:59pm**

1. Develop the Typological/History Page(s)
2. By this point, you should be becoming familiar with what research is available for your language, how it is classified, and know at least a few languages that may be related in some way.
3. Considering your language in light of its classification, and status in the country it is spoken in, are there any issues that seem to define or identify your language. You do not need to post about this, but should develop, for yourself, an idea of the status of the language because this will inform the historical aspects as well. Ask yourself these questions:
 - a. Is your language characteristic of the family, or does it have significant outside influences?
 - b. Is your language a “macrolanguage”? Are there many dialects of your language?

Part I - Typology (*this should be its own page*)

1. Typology
 - a. What is typology?
 - b. Why is it useful?
 - c. Who is most famous for mass comparison & typological methods?
2. Digital typology
 - a. Briefly comment on how you think electronic resources have impacted the ability to do linguistic research on African languages
3. Typological Aspects of your language
 - a. Describe any typological characteristics of your language that are distinctive or often discussed.

Part 2- Historical (*this should also be its own page*)

4. Historical linguistics
 - a. What is historical linguistics?
 - i. Be sure to mention
 1. Greenberg
 2. Birth & renewal
 - b. What is its relevance to African languages?
5. Historical characteristics
 - a. Are there any elements in your language that can be traced to another language?
 - i. This may be difficult to find, but start by looking for any European language influences by searching for the name of your language & the name of any European languages
 - ii. Then search for nearby macrolanguages

- b. Grammaticalization?
 - i. Look at nearby macrolanguages – is there any characteristic that appears to be adopted from a macrolanguage?
 1. Adjectives
 2. Tense
6. If you have a Niger-Congo language, comment on SOV or SVO...
 - a. What is the controversy??
7. History
 - a. What is the fragmentation belt?
 - b. What side of the fragmentation belt is your language?
 - c. How is language used to reconstruct a people's history?
 - i. What are some problems with this?
 - d. Have there been any major historical events that have altered your language today?