

**Publications from grant NSF 0553971  
Documenting Defaka [afn] and Nkoroo [nkx]**

**Ph.D Dissertations**

**(scheduled defense date: May 27, 2013, University of Port Harcourt)**

Obikudo, Ebitare. "A Grammatical description of Nkoroo" [Working title]

Essien, Inoma. "A Grammatical description of Defaka" [Working title]

**Books in preparation**

(1) *Nkoroo (Kirika) dictionary* [working title]. Approx. 2000-entry lexicon of Nkoroo. Kay Williamson Educational Foundation Series. Ruediger Publishers.

(2) *Defaka dictionary* [working title]. Approx. 1700-entry lexicon of Defaka.

(3) *A Grammar of Defaka* [working title]. Descriptive grammar of the Defaka language; manuscript in preparation.

**Published Papers**

Bennett, William, Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Bruce Connell (2012) "Two subject asymmetries in Defaka focus constructions". Proceedings of the 29th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 29), ed. Jaehoon Choi et al., Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. Pp. 294-302.

Connell, B., Wm. Bennett, I. Essien, E. Obikudo, A. Akinlabi, O-m. Ndimele. (2012) "Defaka and Ijo: A reassessment of the Ijoid relationship." Proceedings of the 6th World Congress of African Linguistics, Cologne, August 2009, Brenzinger, M and A.-M Fehn (eds). Cologne, Koppe, pp. 145-153.

Akinlabi, A. and O-M. Ndimele (2012). "Agbirigba: The birth of an Igboid Lect", in Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele (ed.) *Language, Literature & Communication in a Dynamic World: A Festschrift for Chinyere Ohiri-Aniche*. Port Harcourt, Nigeria: M & J Grand Orbit Communications Ltd. & Emhai Press.

Obikudo, Ebitare F. (2012) *The Nkoroo Pronominal System*. in Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele (ed.) *Language, Literature & Communication in a Dynamic World: A Festschrift for Chinyere Ohiri-Aniche*. Port Harcourt, Nigeria: M & J Grand Orbit Communications Ltd. & Emhai Press.

Akinlabi, A., B. Connell and E. Obikudo (2009). "The tone structure of Nkoroo nominal constructions", in *Language Development Beyond Borders: A Festschrift in honor of Prof. Dr. Dafydd Gibbon*. Ed. by Eno-Abasi Urua, Moses Ekpenyong and Firmin Ahoua. Ensel Publishers, Uyo. Pp. 447-466.

Connell, B. (2009) *Downstep*. In van Oostendorp, Marc, Colin J. Ewen, Elizabeth Hume & Keren Rice (eds.) *Companion to Phonology*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.

Connell, B. (2009). Language ecology and language endangerment: An instance from the Nigeria-Cameroon borderland. *Journal of West African Languages Vol 37:1*.

Akinlabi, A. and B. Connell (2008) "The Interaction of Linguistic Theory, Linguistic Description and Linguistic Documentation." Invited Keynote address.  
In O.-M. Ndimele, I. I. L. Udoh & O. Anyanwu (eds.) *Critical Issues in the study of Linguistics, Languages & Literatures in Nigeria: A festschrift for Conrad Max Benedict Brann*. Port Harcourt, Nigeria: M & J Grand Orbit Communications Ltd. & Emhai Press. Pp. 571-589.

Obikudo, Ebitare F. 2008. "On the reduction of the vowel harmony system in Nkoroo". *Journal of the Linguistic Association of Nigeria (JOLAN)*. Vol. 11:217 – 227.

### **Papers to appear**

Bennett Wm. G, A. Akinlabi, B. Connell, & I. Essien. Headedness in Defaka: Initial, final, or split? To appear in a volume edited by R. Blench & S. McGill (Eds). Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag. (Submitted June 2012.)

Connell, Bruce (forthcoming) Ijoid in Niger Congo. Towards Proto-Niger-Congo International Congress, Paris, Sept. 18-21, 2012; to be published in a separate volume.

Connell, Bruce (forthcoming) Colonialism and Language Endangerment in Africa. To be published in a volume edited by James Essegbey and Brent Henderson as the outcome of the symposium, African Responses to Language Endangerment. University of Florida, Gainesville. Dec 2-4, 2010.

Ebitare Obikudo. (to appear). "The reduction of the vowel harmony system of Nkoroo". A festschrift in honor of Professor Ben Elugbe. O-M, Ndimele, (ed.)

### **Papers in preparation for Publication**

Questions in Defaka and Nkoroo. To be submitted to *Journal of Phonetics*.

Further aspects of Defaka Phonetics. To be submitted to *Journal of West African Languages*.

Aspects of Nkoroo Phonetics. To be submitted to *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*.

The language ecology of Nkoroo Town in the Eastern Niger Delta. To be submitted to *Language and Society*.

"The Phonological Representation of Nasality in Defaka: evidence from compounding". To be submitted to *Journal of West African Languages*.

## **Conference Presentations**

### **2012**

The place of Ijoid in Niger-Congo: A review of the evidence. Seventh World Congress of African Linguistics. August 16-21, 2012. Buea, Cameroon. Bruce Connell, Akinbiyi Akinlabi and Will Bennett.

Non-compositional tones in Defaka Compounds. Seventh World Congress of African Linguistics. August 16-21, 2012. Buea, Cameroon. Bruce Connell, Akinbiyi Akinlabi and Will Bennett.

Bennett, William, Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Bruce Connell (2012) "Two subject asymmetries in Defaka focus constructions". 29th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 29).

### **2011**

Akinlabi, A., B. Connell, W. Bennett, I. Essien, E. Obikudo, and O-M. Ndimele. "Defaka [afn] and Nkoroo [nqx]: Two Endangered Nigerian Languages". Invited talk presented at the 2011 Mother Language Day, CCSU. February 2011.

Connell, Bruce, Akinbiyi Akinlabi and William Bennett. *Variation in the Acoustic Structure of Defaka Vowels*. Presented at the CUNY Phonology Forum: The Phonology of Endangered Languages; CUNY, New York. Jan. 12-14, 2011.

Bennett, William, Akinbiyi Akinlabi and Bruce Connell. "Word Order Patterns in Defaka". Presented at the 42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 42), June 2011, University of Maryland.

### **2010**

Connell, Bruce. *Colonialism and Language Endangerment in Africa*. Presented at the symposium, African Responses to Language Endangerment. University of Florida, Gainesville. Dec 2-4, 2010.

Obikudo Ebitare, Bruce Connell, Inoma Essien, Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele, and William Bennett. *The sociolinguistics setting of the Defaka and Nkoroo People*. Paper presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Linguistic Association of Nigeria, University of Port Harcourt, 29<sup>th</sup> November - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010.

Connell, Bruce, Akinbiyi Akinlabi, William Bennett, Johan Verhoeven & Meng Yang. *ATR and the structure of the Defaka vowel system*. Presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics, Leiden, the Netherlands, August 2010.

Connell, Bruce, Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Inoma Essien, Ebitare Obikudo and William Bennett. *Language Knowledge and Use in the Eastern Niger Delta*. Presented at the 41st Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Toronto. May 6-8, 2010.

Bennett, William. "Subject Asymmetries in Defaka Focus Constructions". Invited talk, CUNY Syntax Supper, May 2010, City University of New York.

Bennett, William G. "Subject Asymmetries in Defaka Focus Extraction". Syntax of the World's Languages IV. Lyon, September 2010.

## **2009**

Connell, Bruce, Will Bennett, Inoma Essien, Ebitare Obikudo, Ozo-mekuri Ndimele and Akinbiyi Akinlabi. *Defaka and Ijo: A reassessment of the Ijoid relationship*. 6th World Congress of African Linguistics. Köln. August 2009

Akinlabi, A., B. Connell & E. Obikudo. The tonal structure of Nkoroo nominal constructions. Presented at the 6th World Congress of African Linguistics. Köln. August 2009.

Connell, B. Phonetics and Phonology in Language Documentation. Presented to the UCL/SOAS Phonology Seminar, London. June 2009.

Connell, B., A. Akinlabi, Wm. Bennett, I. Essien, E. Obikudo, O-m. Ndimele. Realizational Differences between Questions and Statements in Defaka. Presented at the 40th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Urbana-Champaign, April 2009.

## **2008**

Ebitare Obikudo. "The reduction of the vowel harmony system of Nkoroo". Conference of the Linguistic Association of Nigeria held at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. November 2008.

A. Akinlabi, B. Connell, O-M. Ndimele, Wm. Bennett, I. Essien and O. Obikudo. "Documenting Defaka [afn] and Nkoroo [nkx]." Poster & PowerPoint Presentation: Summer School on Language Documentation. July 17 – July 26, 2008. Winneba, Ghana.

Bruce Connell and Akinbiyi Akinlabi. "Documenting Phonetics and Phonology." Invited Plenary: 26<sup>th</sup> West African Languages Congress, Winneba, Ghana. Monday July 17 – July 26, 2008.

Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Bruce Connell and Ebitare Obikudo. "The tone structure of Nkoroo nominal constructions." 26<sup>th</sup> West African Languages Congress, Winneba, Ghana. Tuesday July 29, 2008.