Foreword

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The 42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics was held on June 10-12, 2011 at the University of Maryland, with sponsorship from the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL), the Department of Linguistics, and the School of Languages Literatures and Cultures (SLLC). We would like to acknowledge the material and intellectual support from these units, as well as the assistance of several students, faculty, and staff members at Maryland who contributed to the success of ACAL 42, including Amira Allen, Dustin Chacón, Gregory K. Iverson, Linda Murphy Marshall, Naho Orita, Sherrita Rose, and Alexander Williams.

The two and a half day conference, whose theme was 'African Languages in Context', featured four invited plenary presentations—Samuel G. Obeng's "Textuality, contextuality, and intertextuality in African political text and talk", David Odden's "Aspects of Llogoori tone", Vicki Carstens's "Left/right asymmetries and the design of grammar", and Enoch O. Aboh's "Lexical and functional categories in Gbe and beyond"—and over 100 presentations from the many subdisciplines of African linguistics, representing languages from all over the continent. The present proceedings contain 27 of the best papers from the conference.

Each of the papers submitted to this volume received two reviews and in some cases additional comments from the managing editor. We would like to thank the many reviewers who have contributed to the success of this volume for their time and thoughtful comments: Rose-Juliet Anyanwu, Mark Baker, Will Bennett, Lee Bickmore, Robert Botne, Claudia Brugman, Adams Bodomo, Eyamba Bokamba, Leston Buell, Vicki Carstens, Rod Casali, Rebecca Cover, Stuart Davis, Michael Diercks, Franca Ferrari, Jeff Good, Claire Halpert, Fatima Hamlaoui, Jeffrey Heath, Brent Henderson, Grover Hudson, Larry M. Hyman, Yoonjun Kang, Said Khamis, Ruth Kramer, Michael Maxwell, Fiona Mclaughlin, Michael Meeuwis, Eyo Mensah, Steven Moran, Joanna Nichols, David Odden, Seth Ofori, Mary Paster, Mary Pearce, Annie Railland, Kristina Riedel, Sharon Rose, Philip Rudd, Bridget Samuels, Ron Schaefer, Patricia Schneider-Zioga, Russell Schuh, Frank Seidel, Ron Simango, Keith Snider, Katrina Daly Thompson, Eno-Abasi Urua, Jenneke van der Wal, Alexandre Williams, and Ekkehard Wolff. Although we have endeavored to give each paper a rigorous review, we have followed Cascadilla's instructions to leave responsibility for proofreading with the authors in the interest of timely publication.

Like the conference itself, diverse subfields of African linguistics and African languages are represented in the proceedings. The 27 papers in this volume begin with a series of articles in phonology. These include two articles on 'metatony'—Larry M. Hyman and Florian Lionnet's "Metatony in Abo (Bankon), A42" and Emmanuel-Moselly Makasso's "Metatony in Basaa"—and two articles on aspects of tone in Medumba (Bamileke): "Downstep and Contour Formation in Medumba: A Prosodic Account" by Nick Danis, Jonathan Barnes, and Catherine O'Connor, and "Tonal Merger in Medumba (Bamileke) Nouns" by Kathryn Franich, Catherine O'Connor, and Jonathan Barnes. A fifth study of the prosodic properties of Cameroonian languages is found next in Jesse Lovegren's "Stem-Initial Prominence in Mungbam", before the phonological properties of two languages of Benin are discussed in Virginia Beavon-Ham's "Consonant-Tone Interaction in Saxwe" and Deborah Morton's "[ATR] Harmony in an Eleven Vowel Language: The Case of Anii". Timothy M. Stirtz's "Polar Tone of Laarim, a Surmic Language of Sudan" is next, followed by two papers of a more phonetic nature: Michael Cahill's "Polar Question Intonation in Kɔnni" and Ọlanikẹ Ọla Orie's "Two Cases of Adaptation Mismatches in Yoruba Loan Phonology".

The volume transitions from phonology to syntax with two papers focusing on different aspects of phonology-syntax interaction: Juvénal Ndayiragije, Emmanuel Nikiema, and Parth Bhatt's "The Augment in Kirundi: When Syntax Meets Phonology" and Laura J. Downing's contribution "On the (Non-) Congruence of Focus and Prominence in Tumbuka". An unusual type of inversion construction is the focus of Jochen Zeller's "Instrument Inversion in Zulu", while Bebwa Isingoma explores "Triadic Constructions in Rutooro". We turn to languages of Ethiopia in the next two syntax papers—Keffyalew Gebregziabher's "The Alienable-Inalienable Asymmetry: Evidence from Tigrinya" and Chloé Darmon's "Light Verb Constructions in Xamtanga and in the Ethiopian Linguistic Area"—before traversing the continent again in Jonathan Allen Brindle and Samuel Awinkene Atintono's "A Comparative Study of Topological Relation Markers in Two Gur Languages: Gurenɛ and Chakali".

The next several papers explore various topics in tense, aspect, and modality: Thera Marie Crane's "Completion and Dissociation in Totela Tense and Aspect", Timothy Leffel's "Modality and Future Reference in Masalit", Gbegble Nada's "Modality in Ewe: A Functional Exploration of Epistemic Adverbs", Willie U. Willie and Mfon E. Udoinyang's "The Missing Component in Ibibio Linguistic Time", and Ronald P. Schaefer and Francis O. Egbokhare's "Emai Separation Verbs and Telicity".

The volume concludes with four papers of a sociolinguistic nature, broadly construed—Gabriele Sommer and Abel Lupapula's "Comparing Address Forms and Systems: Some Examples from Bantu", Clarissa Vierke's "Mafumbo: Considering the Functions of Metaphorical Speech in Swahili Contexts", Eyamba G. Bokamba's "A Polylectal Grammar of Lingála and Its Theoretical Implications", and Bienvenu Sene Mongaba's "The Use of Lingála in the Teaching of Chemistry in DR Congo: A Socio-terminological Approach"—and our lone paper in computational linguistics, Berthold Crysmann's contribution "HaG — A Computational Grammar of Hausa".

These proceedings are dedicated to the memory of Alexandre Kimenyi, who passed away shortly after ACAL 41, where he had presented a paper on Kinyarwanda tone. We are pleased to honor Kimenyi with the moving eulogy that David Covin agreed to publish here and the memorial statement that we invited Eyamba G. Bokamba and Juvénal Ndayiragije to write. We offer these statements and the papers of this volume as a tribute to Kimenyi's life, accomplishments, and legacy.

Selected Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics: African Languages in Context

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Cascadilla Proceedings Project   Somerville, MA   2012