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Kwakum (A91)

Elisabeth Njantcho & Mark Van de Velde

1 INTRODUCTION

Kwakum (A91, ISO 639-3 kwu, glottocode kwak1266) is a cluster of Bantu language varieties spoken in the East Province of Cameroon. Ethnologue distinguishes four dialects: Baki, Beten, Til and Kwakum, which is the focus of this description. There is a high degree of intelligibility between Kwakum and Til, whereas dialectal variation is stronger between Kwakum, Baki and Beten. The Kwakum variety discussed in this chapter is spoken in the Doume sub-division. It is referred to by its speakers as Kwàkúm. The speakers’ folk etymology for the language name is kwày nè kúm ‘generosity and fame/prosperity’. According to a 2013 census by Elecam, the Kwàkúm dialect has about 7000 native speakers, whose villages are spread around the Doume sub-division (Grand Sibita, Petit Sibita, Grand Paki, Petit Paki, Mendim, Loumbou, Kempong, Kobila, etc.).

Kwakum communities share borders with communities speaking Makaa (Bantu A83), Pol (Bantu A92), Gbayà (Gbayà-Ngbaka-Manza) and Baka (Ubangi). Moreover, Kwakum speaking settlements typically have immigrant communities speaking Kako (Bantu A93) and/or languages from the Grassfields area and northern Cameroon. In this multilingual setting, Kwakum is mainly used in informal or traditional settings (family, market, cultural ceremonies, etc.), while communication in formal contexts (administration, school, etc.) is

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mostly in French. In addition to these two languages, many Kwakum speakers also speak Ewondo (Bantu A72), Kakɔ (Bantu A91) and/or Gbaya.

The data used for the grammatical analyses in this chapter were collected by the first author between 2013 and 2017 from Kwakum speakers living in Grand Sibita. We rely on elicited materials as well as on a corpus of recorded and transcribed spontaneous speech (narrative and procedural texts, speeches, etc.). The only existing descriptive work on the language is the grammar sketch written by Belliard (2005, 2007), whose focus was an ethnomusicological study of the Kwakum people.

Kwakum is in many ways typologically unusual for a Bantu language. In order to characterise the structure of the language within the available space limits, we had to concentrate heavily on the morphology and the tone system. The morphological sections do contain quite a lot of syntactic information. A more thorough analysis of the syntax and segmental phonology of Kwakum will be provided in the doctoral dissertation of Njantcho (forthcoming).

2 Phonology

2.1 Vowels

Kwakum has a seven-vowel system with contrastive vowel length. The (mid-)open vowels are much more frequent than the (mid-)close vowels in stems.

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<tr>
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<td>mid-close</td>
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<td>mid-open</td>
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<td>open</td>
<td>a a:</td>
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</table>

Table 1: vowel phonemes

The (near-)minimal pairs in (1) illustrate that vowel length is contrastive.
(1)  a. /i/ vs. /iː/  djì° ‘be’  djìː ‘excrement’
    b. /u/ vs. /uː/  i-búʃè ‘ash’  bùʃè ‘gather’
    c. /e/ vs. /eː/  kè ‘what’  i-kèː ‘egg’
    d. /o/ vs. /oː/  lò ‘grow’  lòː ‘shoot’
    e. /ɛ/ vs. /ɛː/  ì-ʃɛ̀ ‘raffia’  ì-ʃɛ́ː ‘sand’
    f. /ɔ/ vs. /ɔː/  ñɔ́ ‘snake’  ñɔ́ː ‘hip bone’
    g. /a/ vs. /aː/  bà ‘cut up’  bàː ‘kola nut’

2.2 Consonants

Kwakum has twenty-eight consonant phonemes, including a series of aspirated stops and a series of prenasalised stops. The aspirated stops are reflexes of historical NC clusters, of which the initial N tends to be a class 9/10 prefix that has dropped (2).

(2) *n-pígò (9/10) ‘kidney’  >  phíkí ‘kidney’
    *n-bèdì (9) ‘front’  >  phèl ‘in front’
    *n-kákà (9/10) ‘pangolin’  >  kàː ‘pangolin’
    *n-gáŋgà (1/2, 9/10) ‘medicine man’  >  kàː ‘medicine man’

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>velar</th>
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<td>ηg</td>
<td>ñmjg³⁶⁶</td>
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<td>l</td>
<td>y</td>
<td></td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 2: Consonant phonemes.

In our lexical database, the voiced labio-dental fricative is rare. When it occurs before a front vowel, it is in free variation with its voiceless counterpart /v/: i-.GetSize(10); ~ i-vîlîb
‘darkness’, ki-vèklà ~ ki-fèklà ‘statuette’. The prenasalised labial-velar stop also has a marginal distribution, as it is found in two stems only: ñmgbéngá ‘fishing’ and ñmgbàŋ ‘crow’. The borrowing hàmà ‘hammer’ is the only word that contains an [h], which we did not include in the phoneme inventory. The voiced velar stop /g/ occurs either in front of /w/ (36 occurrences) or a (mid-) close back vowel (8 occurrences) (3). Furthermore, /g/ is found before an open vowel in one stem (-ŋ̀gàànɔ̀ ‘refuse, deny’, ŋgàtì ‘refusal’) and before a /t/ in -dùgtàà ‘get tired’.

(3)  
   a. gwɔ̀mbɔ́ ‘chase’  
   b. gùʃlɛ̀ ‘pluck’

The lateral approximant /l/ is optionally realised as a trill [r] in nine words in our lexical database. In each case, it is preceded by an alveolar obstruent /nd/ or /t/ and followed by a mid-open vowel: -fítlɔ̀ [fítrɔ̀] ‘night’, -fìndlɛ̀ [fìndrɛ̀] ‘candle’ and -tándlɛ̀ [tândrɛ̀] ‘attach’, or a low vowel -dʒàndlàà [dʒàndràà] ‘move (millipede)’ and -ʃàndlàà [ʃàndràà] ‘urine’.

Voiceless stops are in free variation with affricates whenever they occur before /i/ (i-di ~ i-dʒi ‘bait’, tilà ~ tʃilà ‘lion’). Likewise, there is a free variation between alveolar and palatal nasals before /i/ (nikɔ̀ ~ nikɔ̀ ‘bend’).

2.3 Morphophonology

Nasals assimilate to a following consonant in place of articulation if a morpheme boundary separates the two consonants. In example (4) assimilation takes place after the deletion of the last vowel of mɔ̀nɔ̀ ‘child’.

(4)  
   mɔ̀m p⁴hààm  
   mɔ̀-nɔ̀  ᵐ-p⁴hààm  
   1-child  CON-1.man  
   ‘boy’ or ‘the man’s child’

(5)  
   àp⁴i ñmgbó‘ndɔ̀  
   à-p⁴i ᵐ-n-gbóndɔ̀

4
Dogs are barking.

In non-prepausal context, there is a high tendency for some words ending in /i/, /u/, /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ to drop their final vowel (6a). Once deletion takes place, the epenthetic vowels i~ɨ or u are optionally inserted after obstruents. Their choice is determined by the roundness feature of the preceding vowel: i~ɨ occurs after an unrounded vowel (6b), while u is required when preceded by a rounded vowel or the glide /w/ (6c). Both can occur after /(m)b/ in free variation, whatever the roundness of the vowel that precedes it (6d).

(6)  a. |pʰi̯kʰ bʊl̥áawɛ̀| → pʰik bʊl̥áawɛ̀° 'many kidneys'
|à-yékɪ̀ bʊl̥áawɛ̀| → àyékɪ̀ bʊl̥áawɛ̀° 'many teachers'
|i-kààmɔ̀ bʊl̥áawɛ̀| → ikààm bʊl̥áawɛ̀° 'to love very much'

b. |i-tààkɔ̀ bʊl̥áawɛ̀| → itààk(i) bʊl̥áawɛ̀° 'to take much'

c. |à-bɔ̀ɔ̀ʃɔ̀ bʊl̥áawɛ̀| → mbɔ̀ɔʃ(ù) bʊl̥áawɛ̀° 'much misfortune'
|pʰyààwɔ́ bʊl̥áawɛ̀| → pʰyààw(ù) bʊl̥áawɛ̀° 'much blood'

d. |i-dàámbɔ́ bʊl̥áawɛ̀| → idàámb bʊl̥áawɛ̀° idàámbù bʊl̥áawɛ̀° 'to cook much'

This morphophonological process is conditioned by various parameters, such as syllable structure, grammatical category and tone of the final vowel. For instance, the deletion of final /ɔ/ can occur in nominal stems with an initial heavy syllable like tʰààlɔ̀ 'grandchild' (7), but /ɔ/ cannot drop if the noun stem has an initial light syllable, as in tʃìlɔ̀ 'gorilla' (8). Verbs, in contrast, allow the deletion of final /ɔ/ irrespective of their syllable structure (9).

(7)  tʰààl dʒì tɛ́
 tʰààlɔ̀ dʒì tɛ̀
1.grandchild be there
'The grandchild is over there.'

(8)  tʃìlɔ̀ dʒì tɛ́
 (*tʃìl dʒì tɛ́)
 tʃìlɔ̀ dʒì tɛ̀
1.gorilla be there
'The gorilla is over there.'
2.4 Phonotactics

The syllable nucleus can be a vowel, a nasal or the lateral /l/. Only syllables with a vocalic nucleus can have a coda. Syllables with a nucleus /l/ can have an onset, as in à.yè.kÍ.kòò ‘he taught’. There is no straightforward way to identify syllable boundaries where two consonants succeed each other. We decided to assume a complex onset only in those cases where a succession of consonants can occur in utterance initial position. Defined this way, complex onsets always consist of a consonant followed by /w/ or /y/. If the glide is /w/, the initial consonant has to be velar.2 The syllable types attested in the Kwakum lexicon are V, N, CV(ː), CGV(ː), CV(ː)C, CGV(ː)C and CL. The rule of non-prepausal vowel deletion described in Section 2.3 gives rise to complex codas with successions of obstruents, as in /bǎkʃɛ́/ → [bǎkʃ] ‘keep!’, /pùʃkɔ́/ → [pùʃk] ‘error’ or /fóktɛ̀/ → [fókt] ‘listen carefully’.

Only four words on a total of 1900 in our lexical database have a closed syllable with a long vowel, viz. gbùːŋlɛ̀ ‘plough, turn the soil’, i-tǎːn ‘five’, mùːŋlɛ̀ ‘uproot’ and pʰàâm ‘man, male person’.

As is typical in the north-western Bantu languages, the distribution of consonant phonemes over stems is heavily skewed. Table 3 shows that the occurrence of half of the consonants is restricted to the onset of stem-initial syllables (O₁). Restrictions on the possible occurrence of consonants become stronger when we move to onsets of non-stem initial syllables (O₂), non word-final codas (C_{NWF}) and word-final codas (C_{WF}). Note that whenever the succession of symbols <kp> occurs outside of stem initial position, it is the orthographic representation of a succession of /k/ and /p/, as found in a small number of reduplicated stems, such as kì-pèkpèkì ‘end’.

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2 The only exception in our lexical database is the verb stem ñwìjì́ ‘leave’.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant Phonemes</th>
<th>$O_1$</th>
<th>$O_2$</th>
<th>$C_{\text{row}}$</th>
<th>$C_{\text{wf}}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$C^o, \tilde{kp}, \tilde{gb}, f, v, b, d, g, \phi_3, \eta$</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\tilde{tj}, \eta\phi_3, \eta g$</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$p, t, k, \tilde{s}, \text{mb, nd}$</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$m, n, \eta, l, y, w$</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Phonotactic distribution of consonant phonemes

On a total of 911 occurrences, there are three exceptions to the generalisation that voiced stops are restricted to stem-initial onsets: $\tilde{f}i\tilde{h}b\tilde{a}$ ‘cooking pot’, $\tilde{t}e\tilde{n}d\tilde{b}\tilde{d}$ ‘spider’ and -$\tilde{d}u\tilde{g}t\tilde{a}\tilde{d}$ ‘become tired.’ The first two of these can be respectively explained as a borrowing (< English silver) and a historical compound, cf. $\ast$-$t\tilde{a}n\tilde{d}a$ ‘spider, spider’s web’ and PB $\ast$-$b\tilde{\text{b}}\tilde{\text{b}}\tilde{\text{i}}$ ‘spider’ (Bastin et al. 2002). Whenever the voiceless affricate /$\tilde{t}f/$ occurs outside of $O_1$ position, it is followed by the vowel /$\varepsilon$/, for a reason that we do not know. The distribution of the velar nasal /$\eta$/ is exceptional, because it does not occur in $O_1$ position, except in the verb stem $g\tilde{w}e\tilde{g}\tilde{\text{l}}\tilde{\text{e}}$ ‘persist.’

In reduplicated stems, the base forms a prosodic stem: $p\tilde{e} \sim b\tilde{e}l\tilde{\text{a}}$ ‘seed’ (cf. $-b\tilde{e}l\tilde{\text{a}}$ ‘plant, sow’), $p\tilde{a} \sim b\tilde{a}m$ ‘disapproval’ (cf. $i-b\tilde{\text{a}}\text{m}\tilde{s}$ ‘reprimand’). The prosodic status of the reduplicant is somewhat ambiguous. If the base starts in a voiced oral stop, it is devoiced in the reduplicant, arguably because voiced stops are restricted to stem-initial position. However, labial-velar stops are allowed in $O_1$ position of the reduplicant, as in $kp\tilde{a} \sim kp\tilde{a}t\tilde{t}\tilde{i}$ ‘scissors’, although they too are normally restricted to stem-initial position.³

The mid-close vowels are absent from final open syllables of polysyllabic stems. The few exceptions to this generalisation mostly involve borrowings, reduplicated stems or the Past 3 suffix -$k\tilde{d}\tilde{d}$.

³ A possible explanation for this is that the voiceless labial-velar stop /$kp$/ is not restricted to stem-initial position, but that it simply has not been found elsewhere in our lexicon due to its low lexical frequency.
2.5 Tone

Syllables can be realised with a low (à), a high (á), a falling (â) a rising (ǎ), or a downstepped high (‘á) tone. In utterance final position, low tones can be realised low-falling (à) or level low (à°) (10). In certain contexts, utterance final downstepped high tones can be alternatively realised as level lows and vice versa. In our current analysis, the tone bearing unit (TBU) is the mora and there is a three way underlying opposition between low, high and zero. Underlying tones can be floating or attached to a TBU. In underlying representations, floating low and high tones are respectively represented by the superscript letters \textsuperscript{L} and \textsuperscript{H} (10a) and toneless TBUs are represented by means of the absence of a tone mark (10b). Example (10) also illustrates the fact that the level realisation of utterance final low tones is due to a following floating high.

(10) a. |ŋgwɔ̀ \textsuperscript{H}ɔ̀| \rightarrow ŋgwɔ̀ ɔ̀ ‘brain’ (level low realisation)
   b. |f̟o| \rightarrow f̟òò ‘fish sp.’ (low-falling realisation)
   c. |bùpà| \rightarrow bùpà ‘animal’ (low-falling realisation)

On top of lexical tones, Kwakum also has a low boundary tone \textsuperscript{L%} that can be optionally inserted at the beginning of every utterance.

A floating tone attaches to the first TBU to its right, whose underlying tone it delinks (11a). If it finds a succession of two TBUs of which the second is toneless, it links to both of them (11b).

(11) a. \textsuperscript{H}kù \rightarrow kú \rightarrow [kú] ‘of the hole’
   b. \textsuperscript{L%}tʃòó w-ɛ́ \rightarrow tʃòɔ\textsuperscript{H}wɛ́ \rightarrow [ʧòò wɛ́] ‘that iron’

Kwakum has a rule of rightward tone spreading across word boundaries. Spreading tones behave the same as floating tones in the way they attach (12).

(12) a. pú kɔ̀ ndù \rightarrow pú kɔ́ ndù ‘the girl’s misfortune’
   b. kɔ̀ ndù w-ɛ́ mɔò mɛ̀ -ʃé \rightarrow kɔ̀ ndù wɛ̀ mɔò mɛ̀ şé ‘that girl who came’
Tone spreading also takes place from prefixes to stems (13a), except in words that are in utterance final position (13b). Example (13b) also illustrates the fact that tones link to a following TBU if it is structurally toneless, which is why kiléwɔ́ surfaces with two high tones in isolation.

(13) a. kìlɛ̀ wààmbɔ́
    kì-lɛ̀ w-ààmbɔ́
    7-baby PP₁-1SG.POSS
    ‘my baby’

b. kìlɛ́ ‘baby’

There are three contexts in which the attachment of a tone to a following TBU is blocked. The first is that a low tone cannot delink a following high if the latter is the last tone of an utterance. Compare the tone on the demonstrative wɛ́ in example (12b) to that in (14).

(14) kɔ̀ ndù w-ɛ́ → kìndù wé ‘that girl’ *kɔ̀ndù wɛ̀

The second is the failure of a low tone to attach to a following high tone if the latter is immediately followed by a low tone within the same word.4 In (15), spreading of the final low tone of tààkɔ̀ is blocked by the floating low that follows the linked high of fɛ̀n ‘handles’. The same floating low prevents the linked high from spreading to the right, so that the initial low of bùláàwɛ̀ ‘many, much, lots’ is preserved.

(15) |ì-tààkɔ̀ fɛ̀n bùláàwɛ́| → ìtààk(i) fɛ̀n bùláàwɛ̀° ‘to take many handles’

The third context in which tonal attachment is blocked is the mirror image of the second one: a floating or spreading high cannot attach to a following TBU with a low tone when the latter is itself followed by a high tone. However, an extra condition for blocking high tone attachment is that the LH contour must occur in a verb stem (16a) or it must occur within one syllable and the high part should not be floating (16b).

(16) a. |ndóm dʒɔ̀ʃɛ́ kòò yɛ́| → ndóm dʒɔ̀ʃɛ̀ kòò yɛ̀° ‘the husband hid it’

4 The only exception attested so far is the numeral mɛ̀l ‘one’, of which the high can be replaced by a preceding low.
b. \[|^{11}\text{-kɔ̀ndè}| \rightarrow \text{kɔ̀ndè} \text{ ‘of the fish sp.’} \]

Finally, there are some morphemes, including agreement prefixes, that have fixed tones and are (optionally?) impervious to tone spreading.

Kwakum also has a number of rules of downstepping. First, downstepping takes place on the second high in a succession of two high tones in case of an intervening floating low. This floating low may be the result of delinking due to an incoming high from the left. In (17), the floating high tone of the connective relator attaches to the first TBU of \(mòtú\ ‘head’,\) of which it delinks the low tone, which subsequently attaches to the following high. Instead of delinking this high, it combines with it to create a downstepped high.

(17) \[|^{11}\text{-mòtú}| \rightarrow \text{mó}^{\downarrow}\text{tù} \text{ ‘of the head’} \]

In (18), the high of \(fèn\ ‘handle’\) cannot spread, because it is blocked by the final floating low of this noun. Since this low is trapped in between two highs, it creates downstep.

(18) \[|fèn^{1}\text{-wè}| \rightarrow \text{fèn}^{\downarrow}\text{wè} \text{ ‘that handle’} \]

No downstep formation takes place in (19) for reasons that we have already explained. The connective high links to the first TBU of \(fùkè\ ‘mouse’\) of which it delinks the low tone. This delinked low cannot attach to the following high, because it is itself followed by a low within the same word.

(19) \[|^{11}\text{-fùkè}| \rightarrow \text{fùkè} \text{ ‘of the mouse sp.’} \]

Downstepping also takes place where two TBUs that are linked to a high tone meet. When this happens across a morpheme boundary, downstep is always optionally possible, as shown by the second downstep in (20), the one on \(‘dùl’\.\) In contrast, within a morpheme two adjacent high TBUs lead to downstep of the second high only in prepausal position (21a). We have never heard clear cases of downstep of the high part of a falling tone.

\[\text{The first downstep in (20), on ‘gwì, is due to the low tone of the 3SG subject prefix à- that was delinked from its TBU by the preceding floating.}\]
(20) áŋ’gwí ‘dúŋɛ́

H-à-n-gwí    dúŋɛ́
PRS-3SG-PRS-die    morning
‘It dies in the morning.’

(21) a. |ʃúlyɛ́| → ʃú’lyɛ́ ‘smoke’
   b. |ʃúlyɛ́ nè bètɛ́ʔa| → ʃúlyɛ́ nè bètɛ́ʔa ‘smoke and fire’

The need for positing underlyingly toneless TBUs is demonstrated in three different ways in examples (22-23). First, the high tone nouns in (22) appear without downstep on the second syllable in prepausal position. This can be easily formalised by assigning an underlying High tone to their first TBU only, which surfaces on the next TBU as well.

(22) a. |ʃólɔ| → ʃólɔ́ ‘bench’ (*ʃó’lɔ́)
   b. |ʤíki| → ḗjíkí ‘river’ (*ʤí’kí)

Second, when the low tone of nè ‘with’ spreads onto the following TBU in (23a-b) and deletes its high tone, it links to all unattached TBUs. This is why the low links to one TBU in (23a) versus two TBUs in (23b). Third, in (23c), we see that the high of the first TBU of ʃólɔ́ ‘bench’ is protected by a its final floating low, meaning that there can be no intervening tone between them.

(23) a. |nè ʃúlyɛ́ bùlåwɛ́| → nè ʃúlyɛ́ bùlåawɛ́ ‘with much smoke’
   b. |nè ḗjíkí bùlåwɛ́| → nè ḗjíkí bùlåawɛ́ ‘with many rivers’
   c. |nè ʃólɔ́ bùlåwɛ́| → nè ʃólɔ́ bùlåawɛ́ ‘with many benches’

Finally, two tonal phenomena that cannot be represented in the basic description provided so far need to be mentioned. The first is that a number of syllables with an underlying low tone become rising when a high tone attaches to them (versus the expected high or falling pattern). This is the case of the past tense prefix àà- (Section 6.3.1), the first syllable of the stem of certain possessive pronouns (Section 4.4) and that of a number of nouns (24).

(24) base noun    after a connective H
   pʰɒŋgò ‘maize’    pʰɒŋgò ‘of the maize’
The second concerns a number of morphemes that change the final low tone of a preceding word to a high. This cannot be represented by means of an initial floating \( \ddot{h} \), because that would be supposed to attach to the right, rather than to the left. We will mark these morphemes with an initial upward arrow in their underlying representation. Examples are the complementiser \( \ddot{n}d\ddot{\text{à}} \), interrogative \( \ddot{f}\ddot{\text{e}} \) ‘where’ and the near-speaker demonstrative \( \ddot{n}\ddot{\text{e}} \).

(25) \( \ddot{\ddot{\text{h}}}\text{-à-n-kèè } \ddot{d}\ddot{\text{n}}\ddot{\text{à}} \text{/ } \ddot{\text{ángkèé nàá ‘He says that...’}} \)

3 Nouns

3.1 The syllable structure of noun stems

The majority of noun stems are disyllabic: sixty-three percent. Two thirds of the disyllabic stems have a CV.CV pattern. Twenty-eight percent of noun stems is monosyllabic, two thirds of which have a CVC pattern. Seven percent are trisyllabic, mostly of the CV.CV.CV type. These figures only contain consonant initial stems. The remaining two percent of noun stems begin in the vowel \( a \), which adds a syllable to the above patterns, giving rise to di-, tri- and quadrisyllabic stems.

3.2 Nominal classification

Kwakum has eight morphological classes, defined as sets of nouns that have the same nominal prefix. There are seven prefixes, \( m\dot{\text{ò}}, g\dot{\text{wò}}, k\dot{\text{i}}, \dot{i}, \dot{\text{à}}, \dot{n}, \dot{n} \) and the lack of a prefix, symbolised as \( \varnothing \). Three of these forms, viz. \( m\dot{\text{ò}}, \dot{n} \) and \( \varnothing \) are used exclusively to mark singular nouns. Three others, \( g\dot{\text{wò}}, \dot{n} \) and \( \dot{\text{à}} \), are restricted to marking plural nouns. The prefixes \( k\dot{i} \) and \( \dot{i} \) mark the singular of some nouns and the plural of others. Figure 1 is a somewhat simplified presentation of the singular-plural pairings in morphological classes.
Figure 1: Kwakum morphological classes.

Figure 1 excludes a small number of marginal patterns, such as ki-/ǹ- found only in the noun kibámbú / mbámbú ‘board/s’. Equally excluded from Figure 1 are the five nouns in our database with irregular singular-plural pairings, two of which are reflexes of PB class 5/6 nouns with a vowel-initial stem:ʤ-íʃ / m-íʃ ‘eye/s’ and dĩnɔ ( ~ i-dĩnɔ) / m- mĩnɔ ( ~ ǹ-dĩnɔ ~ kĩ-dĩnɔ) ‘name/s’. We did include pattern mò- / gwò- despite its very low number of members, because the three nouns it contains are important: mò-mɔ ‘person’, m-ɔɔnɔ ‘child’ and mó-myá ‘woman’.

The morphological class system shows a high degree of variability, in that many nouns can have alternative class prefixes, mostly in the plural, but sometimes also in the singular. During elicitation, speakers often say they do not know the plural of nouns that lack a class prefix in the singular, or they accept alternative plural forms (26).

(26) a. ∅-mɔ ~ i-mɔ ‘shed’ / m-mɔ ~ à-mɔ ‘sheds’
   b. ∅-kɔtú ‘bag’ / à-kɔtú ~ kĩ-kɔtú ‘bags’

Six percent of the nouns in our database begin in a syllabic nasal ǹ in the singular. This nasal is always preserved in the plural, therefore does not commute and should not be analysed as a morphological class marker according to our definition, even though historically it is certainly a class marker and synchronically it can be analysed as a derivational prefix in nouns that have a derivational relation with a verb (27). We will have more to say on this set of nouns when we discuss gender assignment.

(27) ∅-nlàkʃà / à-nlàkʃà ‘question/s’ < làkʃe ‘ask’
Finally, plural markers can be stacked (i.e. two plural markers) or additive (i.e. plural marker added to the singular marker). We find the optional stacked plural marking à-ǹ- in ten out of 155 nouns that have a singular in í- and a plural in ǹ- (28).

(28) í-fúm / jì-fúm ~ à-jì-fúm ‘bracelet/s’

Stacking is more generalised among younger speakers, who add an à before all other plural markers. Additive plural marking can be found in nine out of 136 nouns with a singular prefix kì- and a plural í-. These can have an alternative plural in à-, which is then added to the singular prefix kì- (29). Both phenomena point to a certain tendency for à- generalising as a plural marking.

(29) kì-bèkò / i-bèkò ~ à-kì-bèkò ‘shoulder/s’

Kwakum has five noun classes, defined as sets of nouns that trigger the same agreement pattern. Agreement in noun class is restricted to a relatively small set of adnominal modifiers, almost each of which has a separate paradigm of agreement markers, given in Table 4. These modifiers are possessive pronouns (I), demonstratives (I-V) and the connective relator (VI). For ease of reference, we have given the Kwakum noun classes a Bantu-style number, chosen somewhat arbitrarily (but see below for a partial justification). The agreement prefixes of the six paradigms will all be glossed as PP in this chapter. Nouns are assigned to noun classes on the basis of their morphological class and number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noun class #</th>
<th>morphological class &amp; number</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>mò-, n-, Ø-</td>
<td>w-</td>
<td>Ø-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>Ø-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>Ø-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>à-, gwò-, í- (PL)</td>
<td>y-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>Ø- ~ yí-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>í- (SG)</td>
<td>ly-</td>
<td>Ø- ~ lí-</td>
<td>lí- ~ yí-</td>
<td>Ø-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>Ø’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ǹ(-)</td>
<td>m-</td>
<td>mí-</td>
<td>mí-</td>
<td>mí-</td>
<td>mí-</td>
<td>Ø-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>kì-</td>
<td>tf-</td>
<td>tfí-</td>
<td>tfí-</td>
<td>tfí-</td>
<td>tfí-</td>
<td>Ø- ~ kì-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: paradigms of noun class agreement markers.
Class 6 has a subclass for the plural of five nouns, viz. \( i\-tọ́ / ǹ\-tọ́ \) ‘ear/s’, \( i\-lọ́ / ǹ\-lọ́ \) ‘intestin/s’, \( ǹ\-fěé \) ‘work’, \( i\-tú / ǹ\-tú \) ‘day/s’ and \( mbọ́ / ǹ\-mbọ́ \) ‘hand/s’, defined by the agreement prefix \( ǹ\- \) in paradigm VI (connectives). The brackets around the hyphen in \( ǹ\(-\) \) in the second column of Table 4 are meant to show that nouns that begin in a non-commuting syllabic nasal consonant in the singular tend to be assigned to class 6, as are the plural nouns that begin in \( ǹ\- \), where this nasal can be straightforwardly analysed as a class prefix, because it commutes with a different singular prefix. This could be used as an extra argument to recognise \( ǹ\- \) as a class marker in singular nouns anyway. However, a minority of thirteen percent of singular nouns that start in \( ǹ\- \) trigger agreement of class 1, as if they had no prefix. Singular \( ǹ\- \) is therefore somewhere in between a canonical class prefix and the initial syllable of a possibly derived stem.

Some of the Kwakum class markers are easily identified as cognate to the class markers of languages with a more typical Bantu noun class system. Among the morphological class markers, \( mò\- \) corresponds to PB class 1, \( i\- \) (SG) to PB class 5, \( kì\- \) (SG) to PB class 7 and \( i\- \) (PL) to PB class 8. Many instances of Kwakum \( ǹ\- \) correspond to PB class 6, as \( ǹ\- \) marks the plural of nouns that take \( i\- \) in the singular and the near totality of nouns for liquids take \( ǹ\- \). The \( â\- \) prefix may be a reflex of the PB class 2 prefix \( bà\- \) that generalised to become a default plural marker. The form \( gwọ\- \) that currently marks the plural of nouns that have the prefix \( mọ\- \) in the singular must be an innovation.

### 3.3 Derivation

Slightly more than seven percent of the nouns in our lexical database are clearly in a derivational relation with a verb. In many instances nouns are derived from verbs by the addition of a class prefix to the verb stem. This prefix is most often \( i\- \) (30), sometimes also \( kì\- \) (30b) or \( ǹ\- \) (30c). Some nouns are derived from verbs through reduplication of the verb stem (31).

(30) a. \( ì\-fọ́lọ́ \) ‘peace, coolness’ < \( fọ́lọ́ \) ‘be cool’
    b. \( kì\-lọ́jọ́ \) ‘depth’ < \( lọ́jọ́ \) ‘be deep’
    c. \( ǹ\-dʒọ̀lọ̀làà \) ‘bath’ < \( dʒọ̀lọ̀làà \) ‘bathe’
(31) a. pè – bèlà ‘seed’ < bèlɔ̀ ‘plant’
   b. pà – bám ‘disapproval’ < bàá’mɔ̀ ‘reprimand’
   c. kà – kàn° ‘story’ < kàŋɛ̀ ‘tell a story’

In the other types of derivational relations, there is no straightforward way to decide which is derived from which. Sometimes the addition of a prefix is accompanied by a change in the stem, which may be segmental (32a), tonal (32b) or both (32c). Sometimes, the noun does not have a prefix and the related verb and singular noun do not differ (33a) or only in the shape of their stem (33b).

(32) a. ì-dʒɔ̀ ʃù ‘hiding place’ - dʒɔ̀ ʃɛ̀ ‘hide’
   b. ì-yépyɛ́ ‘religion’ < yépyɛ́ ‘believe’
   c. ì-byàndʒí ‘disobedience’ < byàndʒɛ̀ ‘disobey’

(33) a. yéklɛ̀ ‘teacher’ - yéklɛ̀ ‘teach’
   b. tʃèw ‘game’ < tʃèwɔ̀ ‘play’

The only more or less regular derivational pattern we were able to identify thus far is the derivation of instrument nouns involving the prefix kì- and the suffix –kà, on top of other formal changes.

(34) a. kì-pètɔ̀ ‘plug, lid < pètɔ̀ ‘close’
   b. kì-djitɛ̀ ‘key’ < djitɛ̀ ‘open’
   c. kì-tʃàá ‘sharp weapon’ < tʃàá ‘be sharp, be fast’

4 PRONOUNS, ADNOMINAL MODIFIERS AND NOUN PHRASE STRUCTURE

4.1 Personal pronouns

Table 5 provides the paradigms of person markers in Kwakum. We distinguish between free forms (independent pronouns) and bound forms, analysing a person marker as an affix when its occurrence is restricted to immediate pre- or postverbal position. Some person/number combinations lack a subject and/or object affix and are therefore always represented by means of an independent pronoun. Kwakum does not have object prefixes.
Table 5: Person markers.

The first and second person singular object suffixes are restricted to verbs that lose their final vowel in non-prepausal position, i.e. they attach only to verb forms that end in a consonant (35a). Other verbs are followed by an independent pronoun (35b).

(35) a. ám⁴ḇíwéè
   \(^h\)-à-n-bíwọ̀-èè
   PRS-3SG-PRS-beat-1SG
   ‘He beats me.’

b. ámbèè ɲì
   \(^h\)-à-n-bèè ɲì
   PRS-3SG-PRS-follow 1SG
   ‘He follows me.’

The 2\(^{nd}\) person singular subject prefix \(.dict\) is in free variation with an independent pronoun (36).

(36) a. ʃm⁴bíwéè
   \(^h\)-ì-n-bíwọ̀-èè
   PRS-2SG-PRS-beat-1SG
   ‘You beat me.’

b. gwè ʹmbíwéè
   \(^h\)-gwè n-bíwọ̀-èè
   PRS-2SG PRS-beat-1SG
   ‘You beat me.’
In the presence of a nominal subject, the use of an additional subject marker is optional in the plural and ungrammatical in the singular (37). However, when the nominal subject is in focus, the verb always takes a subject marker.

(37) a.  
\[ p^{h} \text{àâm} \text{ ŋ́} \text{ʃè}^{*} \]  
\[ p^{h} \text{àâm} \text{ H-n-ʃè}^{H} \]  
1.man PRS-PRS-come  
‘The man comes.’

b.  
\[ \text{āp}^{h} \text{àâm} (yɛ́-ŋ́} \text{ʃè}^{*} \]  
\[ \text{à-p}^{h} \text{àâm} \text{ H-yɛ̀-n-ʃè}^{H} \]  
2-man PRS-3PL-PRS-come  
‘The men come.’

Kwakum also has a set of four dual number pronouns, presented in Table 6, which can take any position in the clause: subject (38a), primary object (38b), secondary object or prepositional complement (38c).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1sg + 2sg</th>
<th>díʃɔ̀ ɔ̀ H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg + 3sg</td>
<td>díʃɛ̀ H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg + 3sg</td>
<td>díɲɛ̀ H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3sg + 3sg</td>
<td>yáɲɛ̀ H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Dual number pronouns.

(38) a.  
\[ díʃɔ̀ ɔ̀ \text{mé}-dʒí \text{ támbyɛ́} \]  
\[ díʃɔ̀ ɔ̀ \text{ H-mè-dʒí} \text{ támbyɛ́} \]  
1SG + 2SG PST2-PST2-eat.PST2  good  
‘We (you and I) ate well.’

b.  
\[ p^{h} \text{àâm} \text{ mé}-dʒɛ́ \text{é} \text{ diʃɔ̀}^{*} \]  
\[ p^{h} \text{àâm} \text{ H-mè-dʒɛ́} \text{é} \text{ diʃɔ̀}^{H} \]  
1.man PST2-PST2-see.PST2 1SG + 2SG  
‘The man saw us (you and me).’

c.  
\[ p^{h} \text{àâm} \text{ mé}-ʃɛ́ \text{é} \text{ né diʃɔ̀}^{*} \]
Where a dual pronoun can be used, the corresponding plural pronoun can normally be used too (39b), as well as the two relevant singular pronouns linked by the preposition ńɛ̀ ‘and, with’ (39c).

(39) a. pʰàâm mɛ́ dʒɛ́ ńɛ̀ dʃɔ̀ 1.man PST2-PST2-work.PST2 with 1SG + 2SG ‘The man worked with us (you and me).’

b. pʰàâm mɛ́ dʒɛ́ ʃɛ́ pʰàâm 1.man PST2-PST2-see.PST2 1SG + 2SG ‘The man saw us (you and me).’

c. pʰàâm mɛ́ dʒɛ́ ɲí nɛ̀ ńɛ̀ gwɛ̀ 1.pʰàâm PST2-PST2-see.PST2 1SG with 2SG ‘The man saw you and me.’

4.2 Connectives

The connective construction is used to link two, typically nominal constituents. Because the dependency relations between these constituents are ambiguous in Kwakum, we will designate them by means of the neutral terms first relatum (R1) and second relatum (R2). The connective relator in Kwakum is an optional floating high tone prefixed to R2, as in (40), where the connective construction is used to express a possessive relation. The connective relator optionally agrees in gender with the head noun (41). Only two classes have a connective agreement prefix, viz. class 2 and class 7. Surprisingly, these agreement prefixes, respectively yì- and kì-, have a low tone.

There are some co-occurrence restrictions in topic constructions between anteposed topical pronouns and resumptive pronouns. Both cannot be dual pronouns, for instance.
Some of the adnominal modifiers discussed in the remainder of this section involve a connective relator.

4.3 The nominaliser-linker mòò / gwòòm

Kwakum has a marker mòò (pl. gwòòm) that originates in the noun mòmò ‘person’ and that is used as a nominaliser or a linker used to introduce adnominal modifiers. It is used to nominalise adnominal demonstratives, e.g. mòò ‘né ‘this one’ (see section 4.5 for demonstratives). Moreover, it can head R2 in connective constructions that express a possessive relation (optionally) (42) or an ordinal number (obligatorily) (43). The element that follows mòò takes the connective relator ‘-’, optionally if it is a number (43), obligatorily elsewhere, including in the expression of ‘first’ and ‘last’ (44). Mòò can itself optionally be linked to the preceding element by the connective prefix ‘-’.

(42) bùpà mòò módnó
    bùpà mòò ‘-módnó
    1.animal NLNK.SG CON-1-child
    ‘the child’s animal’

(43) a. mòò íbá́á ‘the second one’
    b. mò̀n móò íbá́á ‘the second child’
The nominaliser-linker *mòò* is also used to introduce relative clauses (see Section 7.3). Its current distribution strongly suggests that *mòò* was initially grammaticalised as a nominaliser of adnominal modifiers that were used in apposition to their head noun and subsequently reintegrated in the noun phrase, leading to the further evolution of *mòò* from nominaliser to linker in some of its uses. This is a common scenario in the Bantu languages, responsible for the typologically unusual word order patterns in the noun phrase structures of the family (see Section 5.3 in Van de Velde, this volume). In contrast, the origin of the Kwakum nominaliser-linker in a noun for ‘person’ is a departure from the much more common demonstrative origin of this element.

### 4.4 Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns follow the noun and take an agreement prefix of paradigm I (see Table 4). There are segmental and tonal differences between the stem of possessive pronouns that agree with class 1 controllers and the stem of those that agree with nouns from the other classes. Since these differences cannot be described by means of the synchronic rules of the language, we treat them as being suppletive. Segmentally, the stems for 1st and 2nd person plural possessors have vowels that are identical to those of the agreement prefix, viz. /u/ in class 1 and /i/ elsewhere. Tonally, the 1SG possessor stem of the classes 2-7 has a rising tone on its first syllable, the high part of which must historically originate in the high tone of their prefix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1sg</th>
<th>2sg</th>
<th>3sg</th>
<th>1pl</th>
<th>2pl</th>
<th>3pl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>class 1</td>
<td>wàâmbó</td>
<td>̀bòh</td>
<td>̀bêh</td>
<td>ụfụ</td>
<td>ụn̩</td>
<td>̀aah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other classes</td>
<td>-àâmbó̩</td>
<td>-ɔ̩</td>
<td>-ɛ̩</td>
<td>-ịị̩̩</td>
<td>ịn̩</td>
<td>̀a̩</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Possessive pronouns.
As shown in example (45), singular nouns can trigger agreement of their own class (45a) or of class 1 (45b), in free variation. Note that a high tone that links to the 1SG possessor pronoun of class 1 links to its first TBU (45b).

(45) a. kìlɛ̀  wɔ̀ tʃàámbɔ́
    ki-lɛ̀wɔ̀ tʃ-aámbɔ́\textsuperscript{1}
    7-baby pp\textsubscript{1-1SG.poss}

   b. kìlɛ̀  wààmbɔ́
    ki-lɛ̀wɔ̀ w-aàmbɔ́
    7-baby pp\textsubscript{1-1SG.POSS}
    ‘my baby’

Two nouns have an alternative inalienable possessive construction, in which the possessive modifier is merged with their stem. The inalienable construction is the most frequently used.

(46) a. kòtʃ-ɛ́  w-ɛ́ ‘his/her maternal uncle’

   b. ɲótʃ-ɛ̀  wɛ̀ ‘his/her body’

In order to express dual possessives, the noun is followed by a connective relator and a dual independent pronoun (47).

(47) gwɔ̀  ɔ̀ n (yì)díʃɔ̀
     gwɔ̀-ɔ́nɔ́ yì-\textsuperscript{1l}-díʃɔ̀
     2-child pp\textsubscript{1-1sg+2sg}
     ‘our children’

Independent possessive pronouns agree with their possessee in number, but not in noun class. In the singular they take the prefix \textit{gù}-, which may be a reflex of the Proto-Bantu class 17 marker, and the stem of the adnominal possessive pronouns of class 1. In the plural, their prefix is \textit{ʤ}- and their stem that of the adnominal form of classes 2-7.
4.5 Demonstratives

Kwakum has five series of demonstratives, one is used to identify referents as being close to the speaker (-nɛ́), two are used to identify referents as being close to the hearer (-ɔ́ and -ɛ́), one for items far from speaker and hearer (-kɛ́) and one for anaphoric use (-ɛ́). The difference in use between the two near-listener demonstratives is not clear yet. In elicited utterances they are interchangeable. The roman numbers in the headers of Table 9 refer to the paradigms of agreement prefixes provided in Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>near speaker (II)</th>
<th>near listener (III)</th>
<th>near listener (IV)</th>
<th>far (V)</th>
<th>anaphoric (I)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>'nɛ́</td>
<td>y-ɔ́</td>
<td>kɛ́</td>
<td>yí-kɛ́</td>
<td>(w-)ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>yí-nɛ́</td>
<td>y-ɔ́</td>
<td>y-ɛ́</td>
<td>yí-kɛ́</td>
<td>y-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>lí-nɛ́</td>
<td>ly-ɔ́ ~ y-ɔ́</td>
<td>kɛ́</td>
<td>yí-kɛ́</td>
<td>ly-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>mí-nɛ́</td>
<td>m-ɔ́</td>
<td>m-ɛ́</td>
<td>mí-kɛ́</td>
<td>m-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>tʃí-nɛ́</td>
<td>tʃ-ɔ́</td>
<td>tʃ-ɛ́</td>
<td>tʃí-kɛ́</td>
<td>tʃ-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9: Demonstratives.

4.6 Quantifiers

Numbers do not agree in class with the noun they quantify. Numbers from 1 to 5 have the formal characteristics of nouns and are assigned to morphological class kí- (SG) / í- (PL). Numbers from 6 to 10 do not have a class assignment.
Table 10: Adnominal numbers.

In cardinal adnominal use, numbers are postposed to the noun they modify (49-50). In this construction, the numeral nouns 2-5 are always in their plural form, but the quantified head noun can take either its singular or plural form (48), unless if they belong to morphological class *mò-/gwò-, in which case they have to be plural.

(48) a. ìtóó ìbááá
   ì-tóó1 ì-báá1
   5-house 2-two

b. ñtóó ìbááá
   ñ-tóó1 ì-báá1
   6-house 2-two
   ‘two houses’

(49) kìfyètì tówó
   ki-fyètí tówo
   7-tree six
   ‘six trees’

The nominal prefixes of numbers 2-5 have in common with agreement prefixes that they can optionally prevent a preceding high from attaching.

(50) kìfyètì ìbááá  ~  kìfyètì ìbááá
    ki-fyètí-báá1
    7-tree 2-two
    ‘two trees’
Numbers from 1 to 5 can also be the first relatum in a connective construction, in which case the resulting NP has a definite interpretation. The stem of number 2 is -bàlá in this construction (51).

(51) ìbàlá kífyètì
   i-bàlá h'-ki-fyètì
 2-two CON-7-tree
  ‘the two trees’

The numbers 2-5 can be used in the singular or in the plural, in free variation (52). When such an NP is extraposed in a topic construction, the resumptive subject pronoun is always in the plural, showing semantic agreement with the subject NP (the semantic head of which can be a singular noun) (53). The quantified noun too can be either in its singular or plural form, except, again if it belongs to morphological class mó-/gwò-.

(52) njádzéé ibálá yífyàl ~ kibálá kifyàl
    nì'-h'-àà-dzéé        i-bàlá yì'-h'-fyàl
   1SG-pst-PST2-see.PST2  2-two PP2-CON-1.daughter_in_law
  ‘I saw the two daughters-in-law.’

(53) kibálá kipʰàám wè yèpfè*
    ki-bàlá kì'-pʰàám        w-é        h'-yè'-n-fè'hl
   7-two PP7-CON-1.man       PP1,-ANAPH     PRS-3PL-PRS-come
  ‘As for those two men, they are coming.’

The number 1 is used to mean ‘the only’, with a prefix kì- in the singular and i- in the plural.

(54) a. kìmòt kífyàl
    kì-mòtìh        kì'-fyàl
   7-one PP7-CON-1.daughter_in_law
  ‘the only daughter-in-law’

b. imòt yìgwòñò
    i-mòtìh        yì'-gwò-ñò

There is a set of four quantifiers that have the same grammatical behaviour as the cardinal numbers, viz. $kì-pyàpyá$ ‘very little, very few’, $kì-p̃àáf̃jì$ ‘little, few’, $kòŋàáf̃jì$ ‘little’ and $ʧìndì$ ‘all’. The first two belong to class $kì-/ì-$, the other two have no class prefix, but trigger agreement of class 2. The special tonal behaviour of numbers 2-5 (optional blocking of H-attachment) does not apply to these quantifiers.

(55) a. Ṉiʧìk kípyàpyá
   6-water 7-little
   ‘a little water’

b. ìtàw ipayàpyá
   5-sheep 5-few
   ‘few sheep’

(56) a. àbùpà ʧìndí
   2-animal 2.all
   ‘all the animals’

b. ʧìndí yìbúpà
   2.all PP$_2$-CON-2-animal
   ‘All the animals’

(57) gwɔ̀n kòŋàáf̃jì
   2-child little
   ‘few children’

(58) pʰàäm médzí kípyàpyá kipōngò
When *ʧìndí* is used prenominally to mean ‘every’, it is not linked to the quantified noun by means of a connective relator

(59) ʧìndí bùpà dʒì nɛ̀ kùl àɲdʒí

2.every 1.animal COP with strength 3SG-CSC-eat.CSC

‘Every animal can eat.’

### 4.7 Qualifiers

Nominal qualification is particularly interesting in Kwakum, due to the wide range of constructions in this domain. From a lexical perspective, Kwakum qualifiers can be divided into those whose use is restricted to qualification (dedicated qualifiers), and those who are also used to refer (referring-qualifying nouns). The former group can be divided into a set of twelve underived qualifiers and an open class of derived qualifiers. Qualifiers are derived from verbs by means of one of three suffixes, shown in Table 11.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referring-qualifying</th>
<th>Jómtu ‘wise, wisdom’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated to qualification</td>
<td>Underived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Derived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11: Lexical types of qualifiers, with an example of each.

The suffix -āwè’h most probably originates in a possessive form consisting of the Proto-Bantu connective stem *a* and a third person pronominal form. It is an instance of the possesssee-like qualifiers that are common in Northern Sub-Saharan Africa.
Qualifiers are similar to quantifiers in that they can be used in a variety of constructions, as illustrated for \textit{dètáàwɛ̀} ‘hard’, which is simply preposed in (60a), R2 in a connective construction in (60b) and R1 in a connective construction in (60c).

\begin{enumerate}
\item[(60)]
\begin{enumerate}
\item[dètáàwɛ̀ kídʒà]
\begin{verbatim}
dèt-áàwɛ̀ kì-dʒà
be.hard-ADJ 7-chair
\end{verbatim}
\end{enumerate}
\begin{enumerate}
\item[kídʒà kídétáàwɛ̀°]
\begin{verbatim}
kdʒà kl-kl-dét-áàwɛ̀
7-chair PP-CON-be.hard-ADJ
\end{verbatim}
\end{enumerate}
\begin{enumerate}
\item[dètáàwɛ̀ yìkífyètí]
\begin{verbatim}
dèt-áàwɛ̀ yì-fyètí
be.hard-ADJ PP-CON-7-tree
\end{verbatim}
\end{enumerate}
\end{enumerate}

The underived qualifier \textit{tàmbyɛ̀} ‘good’ is simply postposed to the semantic head in the singular (61a) and R2 in a connective construction in the plural (61b). It cannot occur in front of the semantic head. There is no space here for a full description of the morphosyntactic behaviour of qualifiers.

\begin{enumerate}
\item[(61)]
\begin{enumerate}
\item[kɔ̀ ndɛ̀ tàmbyɛ̀]
\begin{verbatim}
kɔ̀ ndɛ̀ tàmbyɛ̀
1.plantain in.good.condition
\end{verbatim}
\end{enumerate}
\begin{enumerate}
\item[àkɔ̀ ndɛ̀ yìtámbyɛ̀]
\begin{verbatim}
à-kɔ̀ ndɛ̀ yì-kl-támbyɛ̀
2-plantain PP-CON-in.good.condition
\end{verbatim}
\end{enumerate}
\end{enumerate}
The underived qualifier tàmbyè and the ones derived by means of the suffix -âàwèì can also be used as adverbs, whereas those derived by means of the suffix -ěŋ/-áŋ can be used as secondary predicates.

4.8 Agreement and word order in the noun phrase

Agreement in complex noun phrases is often determined by proximity, rather than syntactic structure or semantic scope. The demonstrative in (62), for instance, modifies the noun ñtóó ‘houses’, but agrees in noun class and number with the quantifier kipyàpyá ‘few, little’.

(62) ñtóó kipyàpyá ̣tʃé
ñ-tóó L kì-pyàpyá L tʃí-é
6-house 7-little pp₁-anaph
‘those (aforementioned) few houses’

Elsewhere, speakers volunteer agreement with either the head noun (63-64a), or the immediately preceding nominal form (63-64b).

(63) a. ñtóó ìbáà mítke
ñ-tóó L ì-báà H mít-ké L
6-house 2-two PP₂-DEM
‘those two houses’

b. ñtóó ìbáà yîtke
ñ-tóó L ì-báà H yî-ké L
6-house 2-two PP₂-DEM
‘those two houses’

(64) a. kìbàlá kíntóó màámbó
kì-bàlá kì-Í-ñ-tóó m-àámbó L
7-two PP₇-CON-6-house PP₁-LSG.POSS
‘my two houses’

b. kìbàlá kíntóó ʧ-àámbó
kì-bàlá kì-Í-ñ-tóó ʧ-àámbó L
Class 1 serves as a default agreement class for all singular controllers, which can optionally be used instead of the controller’s lexically determined agreement class. Occasionally, we have found examples of this default agreement with a plural controller too, mostly in noun phrases that contain a numeral.

Word order in complex noun phrases is schematised in (65). QUAL and QUANT are formal-functional notions, used for the quantifiers (including numbers) and qualifiers that are juxtaposed to the noun they modify, i.e. excluding the use of these lexemes in connective constructions.

(65)  
HN - {QUAL, QUANT, POSS, ANA, CON} - REL – DEM

The abbreviation HN stands for the head noun from a morphosyntactic point of view: the nominal element that is not used to modify any other element in the noun phrase. Needless to say, this is not necessarily the semantic head, which happens to come at the very end of the NP in (66).

(66)  
ìbàlá yídétáá tʃìndí wɛ̀ dʒó’wɔ́
ì-bàlá yì-dèt-áa  ʃìndí w-ɛ̀ɛ̀  dʒòwɔ́
2-two PP₂-CON-be.hard-ADJ CON-all PP₁-3SG.POSS CON-day
‘all his two difficult days’

5 ADPOSITIONS

Kwakum has six prepositions and three “ambipositions”. The latter are postposed with nominal complements and preposed with pronominal complements.

(67)  
a. prepositions
  nè ‘with, by’
  pɔ̃mbú ‘for’
  pɔ̃ɛ́ ‘in front of’
ʃǐmɔ́ ~ ʃǐm ‘behind’
lémɛ́ lémɛ́ ‘between’
pákláá ‘among’

b. ambipositions
ʃi³H ‘under’
kólL ~ kólL ‘on’?
téé ‘in’

Except for the comitative-instrumental-agentive preposition nè, they all originate from nouns in a connective construction, which is synchronically evidenced by the fact that they take possessive pronouns as pronominal complements, rather than personal pronouns. On their pronominal complements, they take the agreement pattern of the nouns from which they originate, which is in all cases class 1. However, the pronominal complements of the prepositions pɔ̃mbú ‘for’, pʰɛ̀lH ‘in front of’, kól ‘on’ and ʃǐmɔ́ ‘behind’ can alternatively have the y- prefix of class 2, in which case they do still have the tone pattern of possessives of class 1 (68).

(68) a. pɔ̃mb yɛ́ɛ́ ~ pɔ̃mb wɛ́ɛ́ ‘for him’
b. ʃǐm yɛ́ɛ́ ~ ʃǐmɔ́ wɛ́ɛ́ ‘behind him’

In order to disambiguate between the adpositional and the nominal use of these lexemes, the nominaliser-linker mòò can be used in the nominal use.

(69) pʰɛ̀l (móò) tóó
    pʰɛ̀lH   móò   h-i-tóóL
    1.front NLNK   CON-5-house
    ‘the front of the house’

The complements of all Kwakum adpositions are accessible to relativisation, but only nè can be stranded. The other adpositions require a resumptive pronoun.

7 The form kól is obligatory in prepositional use, i.e. with a pronominal complement.
6 VERBS

6.1 The structure of verb stems

Table 12 summarises the most frequent syllable structures of underived verb roots. As can be seen, ninety per cent of the verb stems are disyllabic, which is unusual for a Bantu language.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CV scheme</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CV.CV</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>bè.nò ‘deny’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVC.CV</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>yék.lè ‘teach’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVV.CV</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>bà.andò ‘peel’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV.CVV</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>dò.wáà ‘call’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVC.CVV</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>lük.làà ‘buzz’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV.CV</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ñì.’myé ‘wipe’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVV</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>bèè ‘follow’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12: The most common syllable schemes of underived verb stems.

Ten verb stems in our database of 614 verbs are trisyllabic. There is only one verb stem that ends in a consonant, viz. kèn ‘go’. There are strong phonotactic constraints on the last vowel of verb stems: /ɛ, ɔ, aa/ in disyllabic stems and /e, aa/ in trisyllabic stems.

6.2 Derivation

Kwakum has four verb-to-verb derivational suffixes. One is valency increasing (causative -ʃɛ̀), two are valency reducing (-yɛ̀ and reciprocal -àà) and one can be either (-lɛ̀).

These suffixes almost always attach to a base with CVC-shape, usually obtained by the addition of /y/ to CV roots and /ŋ/ to CVV roots or by deletion of the last vowel of CV(V)CV roots and the shortening of the vowel of their initial syllable if that happens to be

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8 The only examples we have in our lexical data base consist of CV verbs derived by means of -àà. We don’t know whether /j/ will also occur in coda position if the verb is derived with other suffixes.

9 Some exceptions include fáá ‘do’ and fée ‘work’ where the inserted consonant is /l/ (e.g. fáá ‘do’ → fáláà, ‘be done’; fée ‘work’ → féláà ‘be processed’) and džéé ‘see’ where it is /n/ (džéé ‘see’ → džèndàà ‘see each other’). These “inserted” consonants are most probably retentions of root consonants that have eroded in other contexts.
long. CVCV roots with an alveolar second consonant drop their last syllable and lengthen their first vowel in front of the suffix -ʃɛ̀. We have no examples of verbs derived from a trisyllabic root.

Verbs derived from roots that are not entirely low have a fixed tone pattern determined by the derivational suffix, as illustrated in (70). Entirely low roots remain low when a derivational affix is added.

(70) a. -ʃɛ̀: HL.L
   lífì ‘get black’ > líŋ-ʃɛ̀ ‘blacken’
   bělɔ̀ ‘be cooked’ > běè-ʃɛ̀ ‘cook’
   dʒààlɔ́ ‘give birth’ > dʒáà-ʃɛ̀ ‘deliver’

b. -lɛ̀: H.L
   běʃɛ́ ‘rise’ > běʃ-lɛ̀ ‘lift’

c. -àà: L.HL
   fɛ́ ‘give’ > fɛ̀ y-áà ‘receive’
   dʒɛ́ɛ́ ‘see’ > dʒɛ̀n-áà ‘see each other’
   bìwɔ́ ‘beat’ > bìw-áà ‘beat each other’

d. -yɛ̀: H.HL
   dʒààlɔ́ ‘give birth’ > dʒál-yɛ́ ‘be born’

There is only one verb in which the suffix -ʃɛ̀ is not clearly causative, viz. fèk-ʃɛ̀ ‘shake’ (< fèkɔ̀ ‘sieve’). Some typical causative examples are provided in (71).

(71) líŋ-ʃɛ̀ ‘darken’ < líf ‘get dark’
púp-ʃɛ̀ ‘clean’ < púpɔ́ ‘recover’
ɲǐŋ-ʃɛ̀ ‘let in’ < ɲįŋlɛ̀ ‘enter’
dàà-ʃɛ̀ ‘put to bed (sp.)’ < dààlɔ́ ‘sleep’
dèè-ʃɛ̀ ‘strengthen’ < ðɛtɔ́ ‘be strong’

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10 The only exception in our database is dʒòòlàà ‘bathe (intr.)’ (cf. dʒòòlɛ̀ ‘bathe (tr.)’) where shortening of the initial long vowel fails to occur.
The suffix -lɛ̀ has a causative meaning in one verb, namely béʃ-lɛ̀ ‘lift’ (<béʃ ‘rise’). In dít-lɛ̀ ‘open’ (<dí ‘close’), it encodes reversal. Its function is decausative in tʃík-lɛ̀ ‘stay’ (<tʃík ‘stay’) and perhaps intensive or repetitive in bòm-lɛ̀ ‘hammer’ (<bòm ‘hammer’).

(72) ámbéʃ lì bàpà

Η-ά-n-béʃ-lè bùpà
PRS-3SG-PRS-rise-CAUS animal
‘He lifts up the animal.’

The suffix -àà can be used to derive reciprocal, reflexive, passive and/or decausative verbs. Some examples are provided in (73-74). In addition, in two verbs, -àà serves to express collective actions (dùlyàà ‘shout together’ < dúl ‘shout’ and kàw-àà ‘share among many people’ < kàwɔ ‘share’). The reciprocal meaning is often reinforced by the phrases yɛ̀ nɛ́ dʒɛ̀° ‘each other’ (SG, i.e. the subject and one other participant) and yà nɛ́ dʒà° ‘each other’ (PL, i.e. the subject and more than one other participants), while a pronoun preceded by a floating high tone and followed by tʃítʃɛ́ ‘oneself’ is used to specify a reflexive meaning. Example (74) shows that passive constructions with a verb derived by –àà can have an agentive complement flagged by means of the preposition nɛ̀.

(73) a. Reciprocal
dʒɛ̀n-àà ‘see each other’ < dʒɛ́ ‘see’
kàm-àà ‘love each other’ < kààmɔ̀ ‘love’
b. Reflexive
kèŋ-àà ‘shave’ (intr.) < kè ‘shave’ (tr.)
fiʃ-àà ‘cover oneself’ < fiʃɔ́ ‘cover’
c. Passive voice
bày-àà ‘be operated’ < bà ‘operate’
ʃá-àà ‘be done’ < ʃá ‘do’
kèk-àà ‘be circumcised’ < kèkɔ́ ‘circumcise’
màŋ-àà ‘be gathered’ < mà ‘gather (tr.)’
d. Decausative
màŋ-àà ‘gather (intr.)’ < mà ‘gather (tr.)’
bànd-àà ‘bend (intr.)’ < bàá‘ndó ‘bend (tr.)’
pándʒ-àà ‘scatter (intr.)’ < pándʒè ‘separate’

(74) àdɔ̀k ñmàŋàà nè pʰàâm
à-dɔ̀kɔ́ i%-n-màŋ-àà nè pʰàâm
2-mango PRS-PRS-gather-PASS with 1.man
‘The mangoes are gathered by the man’

Our lexical database contains four verbs derived by -yɛ̀.

(75) jàªn-yɛ̀ ‘split (intr.)’ < jàá‘nó ‘split (tr.)’
pém-ɔ́yɛ̀ ‘change (intr.)’ < pémlè ‘change (tr.)’
dʒàl-ɔ́yɛ̀ ‘be born’< dʒàá‘lɔ́ ‘give birth’
bòm-ɔ́yɛ̀ ‘burst (intr.)’< bòmɔ̀ ‘burst (tr.)’

We have found only one example of stacked derivational suffixes, viz. the verb bómʃáà ‘sell’ (< bɔ́ɔmɔ́ ‘buy’), which is formed by means of the suffixes -ʃɛ̀ and -àà.

Verbal derivation is not productive in Kwakum. Causation can be expressed by means of a complex sentence that has jàá ‘do’ as its main verb. The lexical verb occurs in a complement clause introduced by the complementiser ’nàá’ (76).

(76) àfɛ̀ ɛ́ jàá nàá ɔ̀ʃûm ìtóó
à-fɛ̀ ɛ́ jàá L ɔ̀-ʃúmɔ̀ L ì-tóó L
3SG-FUT1 do COMP 2SG-build.SBJV 5-house
‘He will make you build a house.’

Periphrastic passives are productively formed with a copula and a participial form of the verb derived by means of the suffix -ɛ́ŋ/-áŋ (see Section 4.6, table 11). As with derived passive verbs, the agent is introduced by the preposition nè.

(77) ìtóó dʒì ʃú mɛ́ŋ nè pʰàâm
ì-tóó H dʒì H ʃùm-ɛ́ŋ nè pʰàâm
5-house COP build-ADJ by man
‘The house is built by the man.’

There is no applicative derivation. Beneficiaries are dependent marked by means of the preposition ɔ̃mbú.

(78) áɲʃùm ìtóó ɔ̃mb ɔhàam wé

\[ ṭ-n-ʃùmɔ̀ \ i-tóó \ ɔ̃mbú \ ɔhàam \ w-é \]

PRS-3SG-PRS-work 5-house for man PP₁-ANAPH

‘He is building a house for the man.’

6.3 Inflection

6.3.1 Tense and aspect in the indicative mood

In the indicative mood, Kwakum distinguishes 15 tense-aspect combinations, summarised in Table 13. It has four past tenses, a present and three future tenses, as well as a distinction between perfective versus imperfective aspect. Past 1 and 2 are not distinguished in the imperfective.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>perfective</th>
<th>temporal reference</th>
<th>imperfective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past 4</td>
<td>remote</td>
<td>Past 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past 3</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td>Past 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past 2</td>
<td>today</td>
<td>Past 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past 1</td>
<td>immediate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>now</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future 1</td>
<td>immediate/today</td>
<td>Future 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future 2</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
<td>Future 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future 3</td>
<td>remote</td>
<td>Future 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13: temporal and aspectual distinctions

More research is needed on the exact use of the different past and future tenses. Basically, Past 4 is a remote past, Past 3 is typically used for events that took place the day before utterance time. Past 2 and Past 1 are today’s pasts, with Past 1 being used for events that
took place right before the time of utterance and Past 2 for earlier events. The distinctions in the future are similar.

Table 14 gives an overview of the verb forms that express the eight tenses in the perfective. By way of an example, the last column gives the surface representation of the inflected verb \(i\-dáá\-mbó\) ‘to cook’ in utterance final position, with a third person singular subject prefix \(á\-\). Verb forms that can only be used with nominal subjects are illustrated with the noun \(p\-háám\) ‘man’ in subject position.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Prefix/Clitic</th>
<th>Surface Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PST4</td>
<td>(SM-)STEM-me</td>
<td>àdámb(í)mé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PST3</td>
<td>(SM-)STEM kòò</td>
<td>àdàmb(í) kòò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PST2</td>
<td>(H)-mè-STEM</td>
<td>(p-háám) médáámbé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-(H)-àà-STEM</td>
<td>àádáámbé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PST1</td>
<td>mè-STEM</td>
<td>(p-háám) médáámbó (\sim) médáámbé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-àà-STEM</td>
<td>àádáámbó (\sim) àádáámbé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRS</td>
<td>(H)-(sm)-n-stem</td>
<td>ándáá-'mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT1</td>
<td>(SM-)fèé(-)STEM</td>
<td>àfèédáá-'mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(h)-sm-stem</td>
<td>àdáá-'mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT2</td>
<td>(SM-)fèó(-)H-STEM</td>
<td>àfèódáá-'mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT3</td>
<td>(SM-)fèó(-)ŋg(-)H-STEM</td>
<td>àfèóŋgèdáá-'mbó</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 14: Kwakum tenses (perfective forms)

The schemes in Table 14 show that tense is expressed by means of prefixes, suffixes and postverbal particles or clitics (in \(PST3\)) and that tense prefixes can be tonal morphemes. Past 2 and Past 1 have different tense prefixes depending on whether their subject is nominal or pronominal. An interesting feature of the initial floating high tone in the Present and Future 1 is that it is realised on the subject whenever it is pronominal, whether it is a prefix or an independent pronoun, as shown in (79), repeated from (36).

(79)  a.  \(5m\-bfwèè\)
      \(H\-\-n-bfwó\(-\)ee\)
      PRS-2SG-PRS-beat-1SG
      ‘You beat me.’
b. gwé ‘mbíwè
   \(^{\text{H}}\)-gwè n-bíwɛ̀-ɛɛ
   PRS-2SG PRS-beat-1SG
   ‘You beat me.’

Table 14 also shows that the future has as many formal distinctions as the past. Since we were not able to find any difference in the use of the two hodiernal future tense forms, we treat them as allostructs of Future 1. More research might identify a functional difference between both verb forms.

Finally, the forms in the third column of Table 14 show that the verb stem in the past tenses differs tonally and segmentally from the basic allomorph \(dàá\)mbò found in the other tenses and in the infinitive. Every verb stem has three or four non-basic allomorphs. Their shape is predictable and determined by tense and mood, by the position of the verb in the utterance (final versus non-final), as well as by the tone, the syllable structure and the final segment of the basic allomorph. A full description of the patterns of allomorphy will be provided in the doctoral dissertation of the first author (Njantcho forthcoming). In Table 14, the use of a non-basic allomorph of the verb stem is signalled by curly underlining.

Tense suffixes are treated as part of the verb stem with respect to the application of fixed tone schemes in non-basic stem allomorphs. This observation justifies the distinction in morphological status of the post-stem tense marker between the Past 4 suffix -me and the Past 3 unbound morpheme (or clitic?) \(kòò\). The difference in their behaviour is illustrated in the verb forms in Table 15. In the second column, \(F\) is short for (utterance) final and \(NF\) for non-final. The third column contains the tone scheme of the non-basic allomorph of the verb stem. The examples in the last column have a 3SG subject prefix \(à\). The verb \(bà\) means ‘cut up’ and \(ʤɔ̀ʃɛ̀\) means ‘hide’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Conjugation</th>
<th>Tone scheme</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bà</td>
<td>PST4 F</td>
<td>LH</td>
<td>àbàmɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PST4 NF</td>
<td>(L^H)</td>
<td>àbàmɛ̀(^\text{H})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PST3</td>
<td>(L^H)</td>
<td>àbà kòò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ðʒʒɛ̀</td>
<td>PST4</td>
<td>LHH</td>
<td>àðʒʒɛ̀(^\text{m})ɛ́</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The verb ‘be’, whether used as a copula or to express existence or location, has a suppletive paradigm, with the stem ʤì (most probably cognate with ʤìlɔ̀ ‘stay, live’) in the Present indicative and ɓɛ́ in the other verb forms, including non-indicative moods.

Imperfective verb forms are construed by means of an auxiliary and the stem of the lexical verb, as shown in Table 16. The last column is again an example with the verb dàá‘mbó ‘cook’.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PST3</td>
<td>LH¹</td>
<td>àɗɔ́ʃɛ̀ kòò</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 15: The difference in morphological bonding between -me and kòò

Table 16: Kwakum tenses: Imperfective forms

Interestingly, past imperfective forms involve the Present tense stem ʤì" of the auxiliary ‘be’ with past tense morphology. In some TA-forms this stem has the reduced form ɓɛ́, suggesting that it is prosodically evolving towards affix status. In the Present tense, the
auxiliary $yò^{II}/ʤì^{II}$ is used when the verb is in focus, the $ʤì^{II}$-form being obligatory with nominal subjects. When the verb is not in focus, the auxiliary $yɔ̀kù^{II}$ is used. Imperfective forms in the future tenses involve a succession of two ‘be’ auxiliaries. The first one is inflected for tense and may take a pronominal or nominal subject. The second one is the Present tense stem preceded by a subject pronoun.

6.3.2 Non-indicative moods

The three non-indicative moods of Kwakum - Imperative, Subjunctive and Consecutive - all involve non-basic allomorphs of verb stems. The Imperative singular has no extra marking, except with CV-stems, where it takes the suffix $–kɛ́$ (81). The suffix of the Imperative plural is $-kín$ (82). Two verbs have a suppletive Imperative form (83).

(80) Imperative verb forms
   a. $CV$-kɛ́ ($SG$)
   b. stem ($sg$)
   c. $STEM$-kín ($PL$)

(81) bàkɛ́ bùpà
   bà-kɛ́ bùpà
   cut_up.IMP-2SG.IMP 1.meat
   ‘Cut up (SG) the meat!’

(82) bàkín bùpà
   bà-kín bùpà
   cut_up.IMP-2PL.IMP 1.meat
   ‘Cut up (PL) the meat!’

(83) a. $ʤì^{II}$ ‘eat’ $\rightarrow$ $ʤìkɛ́$ $\sim$ $ʤòkɛ́$ ‘Eat!’
    b. $ʃè^{II}$ ‘come’ $\rightarrow$ $ʃɔ̀kɔ́$ ‘Come!’

The Subjunctive mood is used in subordinate clauses and to express hortative modality (85). It is formed by means of a non-basic allomorph of the verb stem and a subject prefix (84).

(84) the Subjunctive verb form
The Consecutive mood is formed by means of the prefix *n-* and a non-basic allomorph of the verb stem (86).

(86) the Consecutive verb form

\((\text{SM-})n\text{-STEM}\)

It has a wide array of uses. In its consecutive use it functions as a relative tense form indicating that an event takes place after a previously mentioned event. Second, it can function as a general present, typically in proverbs (87). Third, it can be used in either or both the apodosis and the protasis of conditional clauses. Finally, it can be used in subordinate clauses instead of the Subjunctive.

(87) mòmyàà mbɛ́ tʰà kìbàpù

\(1^{\text{SG}}\)-mó-myaa \(N\)-bɛ́ tʰà ki-bàpù

1-woman CSC-COP.CSC CMP 7-horsefly

‘A woman is like a horsefly.’

6.3.3 Negation

The negative form of the verb *ʤì* ‘be’ is *fètɛ́-tée* (88).

(88) pèŋgɛ̀ fètɛ́ tʃàk bɔ́ʃ-ʃɛ́ŋ

pèŋgɛ̀ fètɛ́ tʃàkí bɔ́ʃ-ɛ́ŋ

1.money NEG.COP 1.thing be.bad-ADJ

‘Money is not a bad thing.’

In indicative verb forms, the negative marker is *wèè*. It originates in a third person singular possessive pronoun, a path of grammaticalisation that is not unusual in the Bantu languages.
(Devos and van der Auwera 2013). When the subject is a first person pronoun, the 1SG possessive pronoun wàá’mbò can be used as well and some speakers use the 2SG possessive pronoun wòɔ with 2SG subjects. In the present and future tenses the negative marker is in between the Tense marker(s) and the stem (89). In the past tenses it follows the stem of the conjugated verb immediately (90).

(89) àfɛ̀ɛ́-wɛ́ɛ́-dʒì ñàpù
à-fɛ̀-wɛ́-dʒì L-bùpà
3SG-FUT1-NEG-eat 1.meat
‘He will not eat meat.’

(90) àádʒìwɛ́-ñàpù
à-àà-dʒì-àà H-bùpà
3SG-PST2-PST2-eat.PST2-NEG 1.meat
‘She did not eat meat.’

In non-indicative moods, negation is marked by means of the marker bɛk (91).

(91) bɛ̃kdʒì ñàpù
bɛk-àà-dʒì L-bùpà
NEG-eat.2SG.IMP 1.meat
‘Don’t eat meat!’

7 CLAUSAL SYNTAX

7.1 Simple clauses

As in most Bantu languages, the subject precedes the verb and the object follows it. In clauses with two unmarked complements the Goal precedes the Theme (92), an order that can be optionally reversed if and only if the Theme is pronominal and the Goal a noun with human reference (93). Both the Theme and the Goal are accessible to relativisation, but only the Theme is accessible to passivisation.

(92) pʰàamm ðìfɛ ɔmɔn ãmàŋgɔlò
pʰàám ḿ-n-fɛ́ mɔ̀ ɔ̀ nɔ́ à-màngòlò

1.man PRS-PRS-give 1-child 2-mango

‘The man is giving the child mangoes’

(93) pʰàám rɪ-fɛ́ já mɔ̀nɔ́

pʰàám ḿ-n-fɛ́ jà mɔ̀nɔ́

1.man PRS-PRS-give 3PL 1-child

‘The man is giving them to the child.’

7.2 Questions

Polar questions are marked intonationally by a rising tone on the last syllable of the sentence. Information questions are formed by replacing the questioned constituent by an interrogative, such as kè ‘what, why’ or tà ‘who’, which remains in situ (94). Alternatively, interrogatives can occur in clause initial position in a focus construction.

(94) gwɛ́ ndàámbú kè?

 gwɛ̀ n-dàámbɔ́ kè 

PRS-2SG PRS-cook what

‘What are you cooking?’

7.3. Subordinate clauses

Subordinate clauses are optionally marked by means of the clause-final subordinator ji. Relative clauses can additionally be marked by means of a connective relator, which may or may not be preceded by the nominaliser-linker mòò/gwòòm (95a). The connective relator that introduces relative clauses is not an agreement target. Alternatively, relative clauses with a plural head noun can be introduced by the copula ḥì” (95b). Since both the subordinator and the relativiser are optional, relative clauses can be totally unmarked (96). All positions in the clause are accessible to relativisation.
(95) a. àpʰàâm (gwóòm) bá kóò bùpà (yí)
à-pʰàâm H-gwóòm H-bà H kòò bùpà yí L
2-man CON-NLNK.PL CON-cut_up.PST3 PST3 1.animal SUB

b. àpʰàâm dʒì bá kóò bùpà (yí)
à-pʰàâm H-dʒì H bà H kòò bùpà yí L
2-man COP cut_up.PST3 PST3 1.animal SUB
‘the men who cut up the meat’

(96) àpʰàâm bá kóò bùpà
à-pʰàâm bà H kòò bùpà
2-man cut_up.PST3 PST3 1.animal
‘the men who cut up the meat’ or ‘The men cut up the meat.’

Complement clauses are introduced by the complementiser ’nàá’, which has an initial í when introducing a clause functioning as subject.

(97) ínáá pùlɔ̀ mɛ́ nɔ́ búl-áàwɛ̀ (yí) ŋdélkáà nì
ínáá H-pùló H-mɛ̀ nɔ́ bùl-áàwɛ̀ H yí L n-délkáà nì
COMP 1.rain PST2-PST2-fall.PST2 be_numerous-ADJ SUB PRS-surpass ISG
‘It surprises me that it rained so abundantly.’

REFERENCES


