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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, Betɛn, 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 né 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), Gbaya (Gbaya-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...
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>front</th>
<th>back</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>u uː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-close</td>
<td>e eː</td>
<td>o oː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-open</td>
<td>ɛ ɛː</td>
<td>ɔ ɔː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open</td>
<td>a aː</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: vowel phonemes

The (near-)minimal pairs in (1) illustrate that vowel length is contrastive.
(1) a. /i/ vs. /iː/ dʒì° ‘be’ dʒìː ‘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/ ɲɔ́ ‘snake’ ɲɔ́ː ‘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’ > pʰiʃ’é ‘kidney’
*n-bèdì (9) ‘front’ > pʰèl ‘in front’
*n-kákà (9/10) ‘pangolin’ > kʰà ‘pangolin’
*n-gáŋgà (1/2, 9/10) ‘medicine man’ > kʰàː ‘medicine man’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>labial</th>
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<th>palatal</th>
<th>velar</th>
<th>labial-velar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oral stops</td>
<td>p b t d tʃ dʒ k g kʰ pʰ gʰ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ aspirated</td>
<td>pʰ tʰ tʃʰ kʰ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>fricatives</td>
<td>f (v) h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ aspirated</td>
<td>h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>nasals</td>
<td>m n ɲ ŋ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prenasalised stops</td>
<td>mb nd ɲdʒ ŋg ŋmɡb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>approximants</td>
<td>l y</td>
<td>w</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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 /f/: i-fílò ~ i-vílò
‘darkness’, kì-vèklà ~ kì-fèklà ‘statuette’. The prenasalised labial-velar stop also has a marginal distribution, as it is found in two stems only: ñmgbèngá ‘fishing net’ 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’, ūgàtì ‘refusal’) and before a /t/ in -dùgtàà ‘get tired’.

(3) a. gwɔ̀ mbɔ́ ‘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 [-tándrɛ̀] ‘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-ðí ~ i-ðʃí ‘bait’, tilà ~ tʃilà ‘lion’). Likewise, there is a free variation between alveolar and palatal nasals before /i/ (nkɔ̀ ~ nʃkɔ̀ ‘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 màñò ‘child’.

(4) mɔ̀m pʰàâm
    mɔ̀-ɔ̀nɔ́ h-pʰàâm
    1-child CON-1.man
    ‘boy’ or ‘the man’s child’

(5) àpʰtí ñmgbó‘ndò
    à-pʰtí h-n-gbóndò́

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 ɨ 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 ɨ 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. |pʰɪkí bùláàwɛ̀| → pʰɪk bùláàwɛ̀° ‘many kidneys’
   |à-yékɪ bùláàwɛ̀| → àyékɪ bùláàwɛ̀° ‘many teachers’
   |i-kààmɔ̀ bùláàwɛ̀| → i̊kààm bùláàwɛ̀° ‘to love very much’

b. |i-tààkɔ̀ bùláàwɛ̀| → itààk(i) bùláàwɛ̀° ‘to take much’

c. |ǹ-bɔ̀ ɔ̀ʃɔ̀ bùláàwɛ̀| → m ̀bɔ̀ ɔ̀ʃ(ù) bùláàwɛ̀° ‘much misfortune’
   |pʰyààwɔ́ bùláàwɛ̀| → pʰyààw(ù) bùláàwɛ̀° ‘much blood’

d. |i-dàámbɔ́ L bùláàwɛ̀| → ìdàámb bùláàwɛ̀° ~ ìdàámbú bùláàwɛ̀° ‘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 té
   tʰààl dʒì tɛ̀ tʰ
   1.grandchild be there
   ‘The grandchild is over there.’

(8) tʃìlɔ̀ dʒì té (~tʃil dʒi té)
   tʃìlɔ̀ dʒì tɛ̀ tʰ
   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.kì.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’, ì-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 (Cₙw) and word-final codas (Cₜw). 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-pèkpéki ‘end’.

\(^2\) The only exception in our lexical database is the verb stem ʃwíjɛ̀° ‘leave’.
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: ṣilbà ‘cooking pot’, tèndbò ‘spider’ and -dùtàà ‘become tired.’ The first two of these can be respectively explained as a borrowing (< English silver) and a historical compound, cf. *-tanda ‘spider, spider’s web’ and PB *-bòbì ‘spider’ (Bastin et al. 2002). Whenever the voiceless affricate /ʧ/ occurs outside of O₁ position, it is followed by the vowel /ɛ/, for a reason that we do not know. The distribution of the velar nasal /ŋ/ is exceptional, because it does not occur in O₁ position, except in the verb stem ṣ̱wè̱głè ‘persist.’

In reduplicated stems, the base forms a prosodic stem: pè ~ bèlà ‘seed’ (cf. -bèlɔ̀ ‘plant, sow’), pà ~ bàm ‘disapproval’ (cf. i-bàà’mɔ̀ ‘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 O₁ position of the reduplicant, as in kpà ~ kpà́tì ‘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 -kòò.

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 (ã) 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 \(^L\) and \(^H\) (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 \(^H\)| → ŋgwɔ̀° ‘brain’ (level low realisation)
    b. |ʃòò| → ʃòò ‘fish sp.’ (low-falling realisation)
    c. |bùpà| → bùpà ‘animal’ (low-falling realisation)

On top of lexical tones, Kwakum also has a low boundary tone \(^L%\) 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. \(^H\)-kù → kú \(^L\) → [kú] ‘of the hole’
    b. \(^L%\)ʃòò w-ɛ́ → ʃòò \(^H\)wɛ́ → [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 kɔ̀ndù → pú kɔ́ndù ‘the girl’s misfortune’
    b. kɔ̀ndù w-ɛ́ mùò mě́-fɛ́ → kɔ̀ndù wɛ́ mùò mɛ́fɛ́ ‘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 kiléwó surfaces with two high tones in isolation.

(13) a. kiléwó wààmbó
   kí-léwó w-ààmbó
   7-baby PP1-1SG.POSS
   ‘my baby’

b. kiléwó ‘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 kɔ̀ ndù wɛ́

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.² In (15), spreading of the final low tone of tààkɔ̀ is blocked by the floating low that follows the linked high of féñ⁴ ‘handles’. The same floating low prevents the linked high from spreading to the right, so that the initial low of bùláàwɛ̀⁴ ‘many, much, lots’ is preserved.

(15) |itààkɔ̀ féñ¹ bùláàwɛ²| → itààk(i) féñ 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 yɛ̀| → ndóm dʒɔ̀ʃɛ́ kòò yɛ̀ ‘the husband hid it’

² The only exception attested so far is the numeral mɔ́tù⁴ ‘one’, of which the high can be replaced by a preceding low.
b. \(|^{\text{II}}-\text{kɔ́ndɛ́}| \rightarrow \text{kɔ́ndɛ́} \) ‘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.

\[(17) \quad |^{\text{II}}-\text{mòtú}| \rightarrow \text{mó}^{4}\text{tí} ‘of the head’\]

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.

\[(18) \quad |\text{fèn}^{1}\text{wè}| \rightarrow \text{fèn}^{4}\text{wè} ‘that handle’\]

No downstep formation takes place in (19) for reasons that we have already explained. The connective high links to the first TBU of \(fûkè \) ‘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.

\[(19) \quad |^{\text{II}}-\text{fûkè}^{5}| \rightarrow \text{fûkè} ‘of the mouse sp.’\]

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 \( ‘dûtì’.\) 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.

\[5\text{ The first downstep in (20), on } 'gwí, is due to the low tone of the 3SG subject prefix } à- \text{ that was delinked from its TBU by the preceding floating } ^{11}.\]
(20) áŋ’gwí ‘dúŋẹ́
H-à-n-gwí dúŋẹ́
PRS-3SG-PRS-die morning
‘It dies in the morning.’

(21) a. |ʃúlyɛ́| → ʃúlyɛ́ ‘smoke’
b. |ʃúlyɛ́ nè bètə̀| → ʃúlyɛ́ nè bètə̀ ‘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| → ʤíkì ‘river’ (*ʤí kì)

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 bùlåàwɛ| → nè ʃúlyɛ́ bùlåàwɛ° ‘with much smoke’
b. |nè ʤíkì bùlåàwɛ| → nè ʤíkì bùlåàwɛ° ‘with many rivers’
c. |nè ʃólɔ́ bùlåàwɛ| → nè ʃólɔ́ bùlåàwɛ° ‘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
pʰòŋgò ‘maize’ pʰòŋgò ‘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 \textsuperscript{1}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 ‘nàá\textsuperscript{1}', interrogative ‘fè ‘where’ and the near-speaker demonstrative ‘nè\textsuperscript{1}e’.

\begin{equation}
\text{\textsuperscript{11}H-à-n-kèè ‘nàá\textsuperscript{1}/ àŋkèé nàá ‘He says that...’}
\end{equation}

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 \textit{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, \textit{mò-}, \textit{gwò-}, \textit{kì-}, \textit{i-}, \textit{à-}, \textit{ǹ-}, \textit{n-} and the lack of a prefix, symbolised as \textit{∅-}. Three of these forms, viz. \textit{mò-}, \textit{n-} and \textit{∅-} are used exclusively to mark singular nouns. Three others, \textit{gwò-}, \textit{ǹ-} and \textit{à-}, are restricted to marking plural nouns. The prefixes \textit{kì-} and \textit{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 kì-/ǹ- found only in the noun *kìbámbú / 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 diⁿɔ́ (~ i-diⁿɔ́) / m-míⁿɔ́ (~ǹ-diⁿɔ́) ‘name/s’. We did include pattern mò- / gwò- despite its very low number of members, because the three nouns it contains are important: mò-mɔ́ ‘person’, m-ɔ̀ɔ́nɔ́ ‘child’ and mò-myáá ‘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. ∅-mɔ̀ ~ i-mɔ̀ ‘shed’ / m̀-mɔ̀ ~ à-mɔ̀ ‘sheds’
    b. ∅-kótú ‘bag’ / à-kótú ~ ki-kótú ‘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) ∅-nlàkʃàà / à-nlàkʃàà ‘question/s’ < làkfè ‘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 ́- and a plural in ǹ- (28).

(28) ́-fúm / ̀-fúm ~ à-ǹ-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 ́- . 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 / ́-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-, ì- (PL)</td>
<td>y-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>Ø-~</td>
<td>yí-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>́- (SG)</td>
<td>ly-</td>
<td>Ø-~</td>
<td>If-</td>
<td>Ø-</td>
<td>yí-</td>
<td>Ø’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ñ(á)</td>
<td>m-</td>
<td>mí-</td>
<td>mí-</td>
<td>mí-</td>
<td>Ø-</td>
<td>ñ-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>kì-</td>
<td>tʃ-</td>
<td>tʃí-</td>
<td>tʃí-</td>
<td>tʃí-</td>
<td>tʃí-</td>
<td>Ø-~</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: paradigms of noun class agreement markers.
Class 6 has a subclass for the plural of five nouns, viz. ɨ-tɔ́ / ǹ-tɔ́ ‘ear/s’, ɨ-lɔ́ / ǹ-lɔ́ ‘intestin/s’, ɲ]-ʃɛ́ ɛ́ ‘work’, ɨ-tú / ǹ-tú ‘day/s’ and mbɔ́ / ǹ-mbɔ́ ‘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, ɨ- (SG) to PB class 5, kì- (SG) to PB class 7 and ɨ- (PL) to PB class 8. Many instances of Kwakum ǹ- correspond to PB class 6, as ǹ- marks the plural of nouns that take ɨ- in the singular and the near totality of nouns for liquids take ǹ-. The ǹ- prefix may be a reflex of the PB class 2 prefix bà- that generalised to become a default plural marker. The form gwò- that currently marks the plural of nouns that have the prefix mò- 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 ɨ- (30), sometimes also kì- (30b) or ǹ- (30c). Some nouns are derived from verbs through reduplication of the verb stem (31).

(30) a. ɨ-fɔ́ɔlɔ́ ‘peace, coolness’ < fɔ́ɔlɔ́ ‘be cool’
    b. kì-lɔ́ɔ ‘depth’ < lɔ́ɔ ‘be deep’
    c. ɲ]-dʒòòlàà ‘bath’ < dʒòòlàà ‘bathe’
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-dʒɔ̀ʃù ‘hiding place’ - dʒɔ̀ʃɛ̀ ‘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 ki- and the suffix –kà, on top of other formal changes.

(34) a. kì-pètkà ‘plug, lid < pètɔ̀ ‘close’
   b. kì-djàwùkà ‘key’ < djàtlɛ̀ ‘open’
   c. kì-tʃàlkà ‘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.
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. ám'bíwèè
   \(^{H^-}\text{n-}bíwɔ́-\text{ee}
   \text{PRS-3SG-PRS-beat-1SG}
   ‘He beats me.’

b. ámbèè ɲì
   \(^{H^-}\text{n-bèè} \quad ɲì
   \text{PRS-3SG-PRS-follow 1SG}
   ‘He follows me.’

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

(36)  

a. ɔ́m'bíwèè
   \(^{H^-}\text{n-bíwɔ́-ee}
   \text{PRS-2SG-PRS-beat-1SG}
   ‘You beat me.’

b. gwɛ́ ɋmbíwèè
   \(^{H^-}\text{gwɛ́} \quad n-bíwɔ́-ee
   \text{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. \(p^{h}\text{àâm }ňʃè^\ast\)
\(p^{h}\text{àâm }n^{H}\text{-n-ʃè}^H\)
1.man PRS-PRS-come
‘The man comes.’

b. \(ã^{h}\text{àâm (yɛ́-)}ňʃè^\ast\)
\(ã\text{p^{h}\text{àâm }yɛ́}^H\text{-n-ʃè}^H\)
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></th>
<th>1sg + 2sg</th>
<th>1sg + 3sg</th>
<th>2sg + 3sg</th>
<th>3sg + 3sg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg + 2sg</td>
<td>dįʃɔ́ ɔ́°</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1sg + 3sg</td>
<td></td>
<td>dįʃɛ́ ɛ́°</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg + 3sg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dįɲɛ́ ɛ́°</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3sg + 3sg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yáɲɛ́ ɛ́°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Dual number pronouns.

(38) a. \(dįʃɔ́ ɔ́° \text{mɛ́dʒ́ tį́amb̄yê}^\ast\)
\(dįʃɔ́ ɔ́° \text{n^{H}-m̄ɛ̨-dʒ́}^H \text{tį́amb̄yê}\)
1SG + 2SG PST2-PST2-eat.PST2 good
‘We (you and I) ate well.’

b. \(p^{h}\text{àâm }n^{H}\text{-m̄ɛ-}dʒ̄́}^\ast\)
\(p^{h}\text{àâm }n^{H}\text{-m̄ɛ-}dʒ̄́}^H \text{dįʃɔ́ ɔ́°}\)
1.man PST2-PST2-see.PST2 1sg + 2sg
‘The man saw us (you and me).’

c. \(p^{h}\text{àâm m̄ɛ̨dʒ̄́}^\ast\) né dįʃɔ́ ɔ́°
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 nè ‘and, with’ (39c).6

(39)  a. pʰàâm mɛ́dʒɛ́ ðɛ̀  
    pʰàâm H-mɛ̀-dʒɛ́  ðɛ̀  
    1.man PST2-PST2-see.PST2  1SG + 2sg  
    ‘The man saw us.’

b. pʰàâm mɛ́dʒɛ́ ʃɛ́  
    pʰàâm H-mɛ̀-dʒɛ́ ʃɛ̀  
    1.man PST2-PST2-see.PST2  1PL  
    ‘The man saw us.’

c. pʰàâm mɛ́dʒɛ́ ɲí nè gwɛ̀  
    1.pʰàâm H-mɛ̀-dʒɛ́ ɲí nè gwɛ̀  
    1.man 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.

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6 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 mòmɔ́ ‘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 ʼH-, 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 ʼH-.

(42) bùpà mòò mòdnó
bùpà mòò ʼH-mò-ɔ̀nɔ́
1.animal NLNK.SG CON-1-child
‘the child’s animal’

(43) a. mòò ɓáà ńá ~ mòò ɓáà ‘the second one’
   b. mòdn mòò ɓáà á ~ mòdn mòò ɓáà
   mò-ɔ̀nɔ́ mòò ʼH-ɓáàmɔ́ mò-ɔ̀nɔ́mòò ɓáà
   1-child NLNK.SG CON-2-two 1-child NMLZ.SG 2-two
   ‘the second child’
The nominaliser-linker *mò̀* is also used to introduce relative clauses (see Section 7.3). Its current distribution strongly suggests that *mò̀* 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 *mò̀* 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural possessors have vowels that are identical to those of the agreement prefix, viz. /u/ in class 1 and /i/ elsewhere. Tonally, the 1_SG 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>wààmbó</td>
<td>ṭɔ́H</td>
<td>ṭɛ́H</td>
<td>ùʃ́u</td>
<td>ùnH</td>
<td>àaH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other classes</td>
<td>-ààmbóL</td>
<td>-ɔ́</td>
<td>-ɛ́L</td>
<td>-ʃʃ́L</td>
<td>ìnL</td>
<td>àá</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 tʃàá mbɔ̀
    ki-lɛ̀ wɔ̀ tʃ-àámbɔ̀
    7-baby PP,1SG.poss
b. kìlɛ̀ wɔ̀ wáàmbɔ̀
    ki-lɛ̀ wɔ̀ w-ààmbɔ̀
    7-baby PP,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-ɛ̀ ɛ̀ kòkù w-ɛ̀ ‘his/her maternal uncle’
    b. ɲótʃ-ɛ̀ ɛ̀ ɲótú 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 n (yì)díʃɔ̀
    gwɔ̀ ɔ̀ nɔ́ yì-H-díʃɔ̀
    2-child PP,2-con-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 gu-, 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 Ḟ- and their stem that of the adnominal form of classes 2-7.
Table 8: Independent possessive pronouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SG possessee</th>
<th>PL possessee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1sg</td>
<td>gwá ámbó</td>
<td>dʒá ámbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2sg</td>
<td>gwáó</td>
<td>dʒáó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3sg</td>
<td>gwéé</td>
<td>dʒéé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pl</td>
<td>gúʃú</td>
<td>dʒúʃú</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pl</td>
<td>gúń</td>
<td>dʒúń</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pl</td>
<td>gwáá</td>
<td>dʒáá</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (-ɔ́ɔ́ and -ɛ́ɛ́), 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 9: Demonstratives.

<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-ɔ́ɔ́</td>
<td>kɛ́</td>
<td>yí-kɛ́</td>
<td>(w-)ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>yí-nɛ́</td>
<td>y-ɔ́ɔ́</td>
<td>y-ɛ́</td>
<td>yí-kɛ́</td>
<td>y-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ly-nɛ́</td>
<td>ly-ɔ́ɔ́</td>
<td>ly-ɛ́</td>
<td>ly-kɛ́</td>
<td>ly-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>mí-nɛ́</td>
<td>m-ɔ́ɔ́</td>
<td>m-ɛ́</td>
<td>mí-kɛ́</td>
<td>m-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>tjí-nɛ́</td>
<td>tj-ɔ́ɔ́</td>
<td>tj-ɛ́</td>
<td>tjí-kɛ́</td>
<td>tj-ɛ́</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 kɪ- (SG) / i- (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 ìbáá
   ì-tóó i-báá
   5-house 2-two

   b. ñtóó ìbáá
   ñ-tóó i-báá
   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 ìbáá ~ kìfyètì ìbáá
   ki-fyètí-báá
   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) ʰ-i-bàlá ʰ-kífyètí
     ʰ-2-2pp-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 mo-/gwò-.

(52) ɲàádʒɛ́ ɛ́ ʰ-i-ibàlá yìfyâl ʰ-kíbàlá ʰ-kípʰàâm wɛ̀
     ʰ-1sg-pst-pst2-see.pst ʰ-2-two PP₂-CON-1.daughter_in_law ʰ-7-two PP₇-CON-1.man PP₁-ANAPH PRS-3PL-PRS-come
     ‘I saw the two daughters-in-law.’

(53) kìbàlá kìpʰàâm wɛ̀ ɲʃè°
     ʰ-kì-ibàlá ʰ-kìpʰ-àà-dʒɛ́ ʰ-w-ɛ̀ ʰ-n-ʃè ʰ-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. kì-mɔ́ t kífyâl
     ʰ-kì- mó- t ʰ-fyâl ʰ-kì- mó- t ʰ-fyâl
     ʰ-7-one PP₇-CON-1.daughter_in_law
     ‘the only daughter-in-law’

b. ʰ-i-mɔ́ t yìgwɔ́-ɔ́nɔ́
     ʰ-i-mɔ́ t ʰ-yìgwɔ́-ɔ́nɔ́
There is a set of four quantifiers that have the same grammatical behaviour as the cardinal numbers, viz. *ki-pyàpyá* ‘very little, very few’, *ki-ɲàá* ‘little, few’, *kòŋàáʃí* ‘little’ and *ʧìndí* ‘all’. The first two belong to class *ki-/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. ṃtʃìk ki-pyàpyá
    n-tʃìkí ki-pyàpyá
    6-water 7-little
    ‘a little water’

b. ìtàw  i-pyàpyá
    i-ɔ́tɔ́  i-pyàpyá
    5-sheep 5-few
    ‘few sheep’

(56) a. àbùpà tʃìndí
    à-bùpà  tʃìndí
    2-animal 2.all
    ‘all the animals’

b. tʃìndí yìbùpà
    tʃìndí yì-ì-bùpà
    2.all  pp₂-CON-2-animal
    ‘All the animals’

(57) gwɔ̀n kòŋàáʃí
    gwɔ̀-ɔ̀nɔ́ kòŋàáʃí
    2-child little
    ‘few children’

(58) pʰàám mɛ́ ʤí kípyàpyá kipõŋgɔ
pʰàâm h₁-mè-dʒí ki-pyàpyá l₁-ŋòŋ-gò
1.man PST2-PST2-eat.PST2 7-few PP₁-CON-maize

‘The man ate a small quantity of maize.’

When ṭfìndí is used prenominally to mean ‘every’, it is not linked to the quantified noun by means of a connective relator (59).

(59) ṭfìndí bùpà dʒí nɛ̀ kùl àndʒí
    tʃìɲdʒí dʒì nɛ̀ kùl à-n-dʒí
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>fómtu ‘wise, wisdom’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dedicated to qualification</td>
<td>underived təmbyè ‘good’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>derived</td>
<td>-áá dèt-áa ‘hard’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-áwè dèt-áwè ‘hard’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-èŋ/-åŋ dèt-èŋ ‘hard’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The suffix -áwè 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 possessee-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 *détááwɛ̀* ‘hard’, which is simply preposed in (60a), R2 in a connective construction in (60b) and R1 in a connective construction in (60c).

(60) a. dètááwɛ̀ kídʒà
det-ááwɛ̀H kí-dʒà
be.hard-ADJ 7-chair
‘a hard chair’
b. kídʒà kídétááwɛ̀°
kí-dʒà kí-IL-dét-ááwɛ̀H
7-chair PP-CON-be.hard-ADJ
‘a hard chair’
c. dètááwɛ̀ yìkfìyètí
det-ááwɛ̀H yì-IL-kì-fìyètí
be.hard-ADJ PP-CON-7-tree
‘hard trees’

The underived qualifier *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.

(61) a. kòndè tàmbyɛ̀
kòndè tàmbyɛ̀
1.plantain in.good.condition
‘a plantain in good condition’
b. àkòndè yìtàmbyɛ̀
à-kòndè yì-IL-tàmbyɛ̀
2-plantain PP-CON-in.good.condition
‘plantains in good condition’
The underived qualifier tàmbyè and the ones derived by means of the suffix -àwèɛ̀ can also be used as adverbs, whereas those derived by means of the suffix -éŋ/-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 ñtòó ‘houses’, but agrees in noun class and number with the quantifier kìpyàpyá ‘few, little’.

(62) ñtòó kìpyàpyá ʰté

ñ-tóó kì-pyàpyá ʰté
6-house 7-little pp7-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. ñtòó íbáà mí¹ké

ñ-tóó í-báà mí²
6-house 2-two PP2-DEM
‘those two houses’

b. ñtòó íbáà yí¹ké

ñ-tóó í-báà yí²
6-house 2-two PP2-DEM
‘those two houses’

(64) a. kìbàlá kìntòó màá⁴mbó

kì-bàlá kì-ì-ñ-tóó m-àámbó
7-two PP7-CON-6-house PP6-1SG.POSS
‘my two houses’

b. kìbàlá kìntòó ʧ-àá⁴mbó

kì-bàlá kì-ì-ñ-tóó ʧ-àámbó

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) \( HN \sim \{QUAL, QUANT, POSS, ANA, CON\} \sim REL \sim DEM \)

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 yìdétáá tʃìndí wɛ̀ dʒó́wɔ́
\( 2\)-two \( PP_2\)-CON-be.hard-ADJ CON-all \( PP_1\)-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’
pʰè̩ḷi ‘in front of’
ʃǐmɔ́ ~ ʃǐm ‘behind’
lémɛ́ lémɛ́ ‘between’
pákláá ‘among’
b. ambipositions
ʃiH ‘under’
kóóL ~ kólL ‘on’?
téé ‘in’

Except for the comitative-instrumental-agentive preposition nɛ̀, 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 pɔ̌mbuí ‘for’, pʰɛ̀lH ‘in front of’, kɔ́f ‘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. pɔ̌mb yɛ́ɛ́ ~ pɔ̌mb 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 mòò 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 nɛ̀ can be stranded. The other adpositions require a resumptive pronoun.

\[7 \text{ The form } kɔ́f \text{ is obligatory in prepositional use, i.e. with a pronominal complement.} \]
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.wàà ‘call’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVC.CVV</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>lùk.làà ‘buzz’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV.CV</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>fi.’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 /ɛ, 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 (-lè).

These suffixes almost always attach to a base with CVC-shape, usually obtained by the addition of /y/ to CV roots\(^8\) and /ŋ/ to CVV roots\(^9\) 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

---

\(^8\) 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 f dú ‘do’ and fiè ‘work’ where the inserted consonant is /i/ (e.g. fiè ‘do’ > ñèdùù, ‘be done’; fù ‘work’ > ñèdùù ‘be processed’) and ñè ‘see’ where it is /i/ (ñè ‘see’ > ñèñà ‘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 -fè. 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. -fè: HL.L
   lífì ‘get black’ > líŋ-fè ‘blacken’
   bélɔ́ ‘be cooked’ > béè-fè ‘cook’
   dʒàálɔ́ ‘give birth’ > dʒáà-fè ‘deliver’

   b. -lè: H.L
   béʃè ‘rise’ > béʃ-lè ‘lift’

   c. -àà: L.HL
   fè ‘give’ > féy-àà ‘receive’
   dʒéé ‘see’ > dʒèn-àà ‘see each other’
   bìwɔ́ ‘beat’ > bìw-àå ‘beat each other’

   d. -yè: H.Hl
   dʒàálɔ́ ‘give birth’ > dʒáàl-yè ‘be born’

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

(71) líŋ-fè ‘darken’ < líf ‘get dark’
   pùp-fè ‘clean’ < pú‘pó ‘recover’
   nìŋ-fè ‘let in’ < nìŋlè ‘enter’
   dàà-fè ‘put to bed (sp.)’ < dàáÌÓ ‘sleep’
   dèè-fè ‘strengthen’ < dètò ‘be strong’

---

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’ (<béfɛ́ ‘rise’). In dít-lɛ̀ ‘open’ (<dítɛ́ ‘close’), it encodes reversal. Its function is decausative in tʃík-lɛ̀ ‘stay’ (<tʃíkɔ́ ‘abandon, leave something’) and perhaps intensive or repetitive in bóm-lɛ̀ ‘hammer’ (<bómɔ̀ ‘break’).

(72) ámbéʃl bùpà
    'H-à-n-béʃl-lɛ̀ 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 (dùlyáà ‘shout together’ < dúlɛ́ ‘shout’ and kàw-àà ‘share among many people’ < kààwɔ́ ‘share’). The reciprocal meaning is often reinforced by the phrases yè né dʒɛ̀ ‘each other’ (SG, i.e. the subject and one other participant) and yà né 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 nè.

(73) a. Reciprocal
dʒɛ̀n-àà ‘see each other’ < dʒɛ́ɛ ‘see’
kàm-àà ‘love each other’ < kààmɔ́ ‘love’
b. Reflexive
kɛ̀ŋ-àà ‘shave’ (intr.) < kɛ̀ ‘shave’ (tr.)
fiʃ-àà ‘cover oneself’ < fiʃɔ́ ‘cover’
c. Passive voice
bày-àà ‘be operated’ < bà ‘operate’
ʃàl-àà ‘be done’ < ʃáá ‘do’
kèk-àà ‘be circumcised’ < kékɔ́ ‘circumcise’
màŋ-àà ‘be gathered’ < màà ‘gather (tr.)’
d. Decausative
màŋ-àà ‘gather (intr.)’ < màà ‘gather (tr.)’
bànd-áà ‘bend (intr.)’ < bàá‘ndó ‘bend (tr.)’
pàndz-áà ‘scatter (intr.)’ < pàndzè ‘separate’

(74) ãdɔ́k دافعãà nè pʰàâm
á-dɔ́k² ¹-n-màŋ-ãà 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) ŋá‘n-yɛ̀ ‘split (intr.)’ < ŋá‘nɔ̀ ‘split (tr.)’
péml-yɛ̀ ‘change (intr.)’ < pémlɛ̀ ‘change (tr.)’
dʒàá‘l-yɛ̀ ‘be born’ < dʒàá‘lɔ́ ‘give birth’
bòm-yɛ̀ ‘burst (intr.)’ < bòmɔ̀ ‘burst (tr.)’

We have found only one example of stacked derivational suffixes, viz. the verb bɔ́mʃáà ‘sell’ (< bɔ̀ɔ́ mɔ́ ‘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 ŋáá ‘do’ as its main verb. The lexical verb occurs in a complement clause introduced by the complementiser ɗàá (76).

(76) âfɛ̀ ŋáá nàá Segoe itóó
â-fɛ̀² ŋá³ ¹-nàá³ ³-sege³ i-tóó³
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) itóó dʒì jù‘mɛŋ nè pʰàâm
i-tóó³ dʒì² jù‘mɛŋ 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 \( \text{pɔ̌mbú} \).

\[
(78) \quad \text{ánjùm itóó pɔ̌mb pʰàâm wé}
\]

\[
\text{H-à-n-fùmò} \quad \text{i-tóó} \quad \text{pɔ̌mbú} \quad \text{pʰàâm} \quad \text{w-é}
\]

\[
\text{PRS-3SG-PRS-work 5-house for man PP₁-ANAPH}
\]

‘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>perfective</th>
<th>temporal reference</th>
<th>imperfective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past 4</td>
<td>remote</td>
<td>Past 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past 3</td>
<td>yesterday</td>
<td>Past 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past 2</td>
<td>today</td>
<td>Past 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past 1</td>
<td>immediate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>now</td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future 1</td>
<td>immediate/today</td>
<td>Future 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future 2</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
<td>Future 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future 3</td>
<td>remote</td>
<td>Future 3</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-dàá*mbó ‘to cook’ in utterance final position, with a third person singular subject prefix *à*.

Verb forms that can only be used with nominal subjects are illustrated with the noun *pʰàám* ‘man’ in subject position.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Verb Stem</th>
<th>Surface Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PST4</td>
<td>(SM-)STEM-me</td>
<td>àdámb(ĩ)mé</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PST3</td>
<td>(SM-)STEM kòò</td>
<td>àdâmb(i) kòò</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PST2</td>
<td><em>H</em>-mè-STEM</td>
<td>pʰàám médáámbé</td>
<td>àádáámbé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-<em>H</em>-à-à-STEM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PST1</td>
<td>mè-STEM</td>
<td>pʰàám médáámbó ~ mèdáámbé</td>
<td>àádáámbó ~ àádáámbé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-à-à-STEM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRS</td>
<td><em>H</em>-(sm)-n-stem</td>
<td>ándáá*mbó</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT1</td>
<td>(SM-)fèé*-STEM</td>
<td>àfèédáá*mbó</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>h</em>-sm-stem</td>
<td>ádáá*mbó</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT2</td>
<td>(SM-)jɔɔ*-H*-STEM</td>
<td>àjɔɔdáá*mbó</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT3</td>
<td>(SM-)jɔɔ*-ŋgè-STEM</td>
<td>àjɔɔŋgédáá*mbó</td>
<td></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. ɔ́m*mbíwɛ́*H*-ɔ̀-n-bíwɔ́L-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 ṭàá’mè 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 -mè and the Past 3 unbound morpheme (or clitic?) kòö. 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 ḍɔ̀ʃɛ̀ 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>àbàmè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PST4 NF</td>
<td>L'H</td>
<td>àbàmè'H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PST3</td>
<td>L'H</td>
<td>àbà kòò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ḍɔ̀ʃɛ̀</td>
<td>PST4</td>
<td>LHH</td>
<td>àdɔ̀ʃɛ̀'mè</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 bɛ́ 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’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PST4</th>
<th>(SM-)ʤì/H/yì/H-mɛ STEM</th>
<th>àʤìmɛ̀ dàá‘mbó</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PST3</td>
<td>(SM-)ʤì/H/yì/H kòò STEM</td>
<td>àʤì kòò dàá‘mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PST1/2</td>
<td>H-mɛ̀-yì/H STEM</td>
<td>pʰàm méyi dàá‘mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM-H-àà-yì/H STEM</td>
<td>ààyì dàá‘mbó</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRS</td>
<td>(SM-)yòkù/H STEM</td>
<td>àyòkù dàá‘mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(SM-)ʤì/H/yì/H STEM</td>
<td>àyì dàá‘mbó</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT1</td>
<td>(SM-)fɛ̀-ɛ̀-bɛ SM-ʤì/H/yì/H STEM</td>
<td>àfɛ̀ɛ̀bɛ̀ àʤì dàá‘mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT2</td>
<td>(SM-)ʃɔ̀-ɛ̀-bɛ SM-ʤì/H/yì/H STEM</td>
<td>àʃɔ̀ɛ̀bɛ̀ àʤì dàá‘mbó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUT3</td>
<td>(SM-)ʃɔ̀-ŋɛ̀-ɛ̀-bɛ SM-ʤì/H/yì/H STEM</td>
<td>àʃɔ̀ŋɛ̀bɛ̀ àʤì dàá‘mbó</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 16: Kwakum tenses: Imperfective forms

Interestingly, past imperfective forms involve the Present tense stem ʤì/H of the auxiliary ‘be’ with past tense morphology. In some TA-forms this stem has the reduced form yì/H, suggesting that it is prosodically evolving towards affix status. In the Present tense, the
auxiliary \( yɔ̀kù / \text{ʤì} \) is used when the verb is not in focus, the \( \text{ʤì} \)-form being obligatory with nominal subjects. When the verb is in focus, the auxiliary \( yɔ̀kù / \text{ʤì} \) 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 \(-kɪ́n\) (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 ‘eat’ \( \rightarrow \) ʤìkɛ́ ‘Eat!’
b. ʃè ‘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

(sm-)*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

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

(88) pèŋgɛ̀ fètɛ́ tʃàk bɔ́ʃˈʃɛ́ŋ

‘Money is not a bad thing.’

In indicative verb forms, the negative marker is *wɛ́*. 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’mbɔ́* can be used as well and some speakers use the 2SG possessive pronoun *wɔ́ɔ* 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) \(\text{àfééwéédɔ́ bùpà} \)
\(\text{à-fếè̃-wè́è̃-dʒì́ bùpà} \)
3SG-FUT1-NEG-eat 1.meat
‘He will not eat meat.’

(90) \(\text{àádʒìwɛ́ bùpà} \)
\(\text{à-emoji-dʒì bùpà} \)
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 *bɛ̌k* (91).

(91) \(\text{bɛ̌kɔ́ dʒì bùpà} \)
\(\text{bɛ̌k-emoji bùpà} \)
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) \(\text{pʰàǎm ōfè máɔ́n ámángɔ́lɔ́} \)
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) gwè ndàámbú kè?

H-gwè n-dàámbù 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 jì. 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 ʤì’ (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.
Complement clauses are introduced by the complementiser ‘ṇàá’, which has an initial ḫ when introducing a clause functioning as subject.

‘It surprises me that it rained so abundantly.’

REFERENCES


