

KAY WILLIAMSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (KWEF)

Report to Trustees, June 2011 covering financial year 2010-2011

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Summary

1. The situation in Rivers State remains very bad, and no direct work is possible.
2. RefLex, a French government-funded African language database, has begun and data collected from KWEF projects is being fed into it.
3. From early February to March Roger Blench was in Nigeria, surveying West Kainji languages with Stuart McGill, and running workshops on dictionary preparation and continuing with current projects.
4. Roger Blench has attended a series of conferences to present the work of the Foundation and making available all the freshly-collected data on the KWEF website.
5. Support to publications is continuing and a dictionary of Ngwo has been published with KWEF support.
6. Laboratory equipment for fundamental phonetics was funded for TCNN, Jos

Single language intensive workshops

As in 2010, single language intensive workshops was undertaken in Nigeria. Dictionary and phonology workshops were conducted for the following languages;

<u>Language</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Mwaghavul	Jos	25 th February
Rigwe	Miango	27 th February
Mada	Jos	23-24 th February

Support to researchers

KWEF supported Stuart McGill of SOAS with funds for research in Nigeria.

Language survey

The main achievement of the fieldwork was the survey of Kainji languages, conducted in February 2011 in conjunction with Stuart MacGill. We were able to record the existence of at least three previously unknown languages and to record modern digital data on a variety of languages for which there is only older, unreliable material.

Languages Surveyed

Rop	9/2/11
Shen	13/2/11
Wəri-Gwamhyə-Mba	14-16/2/11
Tusəgəmuku	17/2/11
Tuwəgə	18/2/11
Wayan cluster languages	20-23/2/11

1 shows one of the last people to remember the Tuwaga language recording songs for the survey team. 2 shows the recording of the Shen language for the first time in nearly a century.

1. Recording songs from one of the last people to speak Tuwaga



2. Recording the Shen language for the first time in a century

Jos Linguistic Circle (JLC)

This has been one of our most successful initiatives. Since its inception in 2006, KWEF has supported meetings with hire of rooms and refreshments, and has been able to bring together a growing number of enthusiasts for Nigerian languages. Appendix I gives papers presented during this past year.

The ms. of the first volume of proceedings of the JLC is now ready for the publisher.



Publications

KWEF supports a series of local publications in Nigeria (or in Cameroun if the language is also spoken in Nigeria). Published and projected volumes are given in the Appendix.

The KWEF series has begun to attract outside scholars to publish in our series with external funds. Professor Anne Storch of the University of Köln has provided funds to publish the volume *Serial Pronoun Constructions West African Pronoun Systems and Pragmatics*. Edited by Gratien Atindogbé, Roger Blench & Anne Storch which has now gone to press.

Books to improve Nigerian library resources

Further purchases of books were made for Nigerian libraries and transmitted to them.

Equipment Supply

Laboratory equipment was funded for phonetic research for the Linguistics Programme of TCNN, Jos.

Conferences attended where work done under KWEF has been presented 2010-2011

Conferences make it possible to both present work done with KWEF funding and to distribute the flyer, and purchase books to improve Nigerian library resources.

The following conferences were attended to present the results of KWEF fieldwork between April 1st 2010 and March 31st, 2011.

Leiden, August 23-25, 2010. 40th Colloquium On African Languages And Linguistics.

University of Exeter, 16-19th September, 2010. Red Sea V: Navigated spaces, connected places. Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies.

Tokyo, 19-20th September, 2010. RIHN Sato Project International Archaeobotany Symposium. Role of Millets in the History of Human Society. Linguistic evidence for the domestication and spread of African millets. (3)

Universität Zu Köln, Institut Für Afrikanistik. October 24-26 2010, Loss and gain in grammar, with a special focus on Jukunoid and its close relatives: An International Workshop. Imperial grammar and grassroots categories: why we should

3. Presenting KWEF work in Japan



take what people say more seriously. Some examples from the Plateau languages of Central Nigeria.
Lyon, Université Lumière II, December 3 and 4, 2010 Language Isolates in Africa. Why is Africa so linguistically undiverse? The issue of substrates and isolates.
Paris, CNRS, 6-7th, December, 2010. Reflex Workshop.
Houston, March 11-12th. Thinking Across the African Past: Archaeological, Linguistic and Genetic Research on Precolonial African History. Presentation: Explorations in early Bantu maritime history on the West Coast of Africa.

Two talks were also given to the Jos Linguistic Circle in February 2011 and March 2010.

Powerpoints and papers associated with these talks are posted on the KWEF website.

Website

<http://www.rogerblench.info/KWEF/KW%20opening%20page.htm>

General conclusions

Focused visits to Nigeria and working with existing literacy groups has enabled me to collect a great deal of data in a short time. This is published on the KWEF website while awaiting completion for publication. With the agreement of the trustees, I will try and make visits to Nigeria twice a year, to continue work with my collaborators. I am presently attempting to get a permanent residence stamp to enable me to go in and out freely.

Accounts. Presented separately.

APPENDIX I

Publications in progress

International series

1. Kuteb grammar [published]
2. Mofu Dictionary [published]
3. Mambai grammar [in press]
4. Proceedings of the Jos Linguistic Circle, Volume I. [sent to press]

Further in the future

1. Berom dictionary
2. Mada dictionary
3. Tarok Dictionary
4. Muyang dictionary
5. The Rigwe language
6. Kuteb dictionary

Nigerian series

1. The Tarok language [printed]
2. Babanki dictionary [printed]
3. Ngwo dictionary [printed]
4. Basaa dictionary [ready for press]

APPENDIX II

Jos Linguistic Circle

Report of Meetings to Kay Williamson Educational Foundation

Summary: April 2010 – March 2011: Attendance 258 in 8 meetings so far.

Summary: January 2010 – December 2010: Attendance 235 in 8 meetings; ave 29.

Speakers and Titles back to February 2010

Feb 2011	Roger Blench “Recent research on Northwest Nigeria: New languages, unknown sounds”
Jan 2011	Andy Warren-Rothlin “The Linguistics of Bible Translation or Why did they make me learn Phonology?”
Nov 2010	Coleen Starwalt “Laboratory Phonology on Site: Hardware, Software and Application within the African Context” Or “Fancy Field Work Fun with Phonetics”
Oct 2010	David Crozier “The Central Kambari Noun Phrase”
Sep 2010	Matthew Harley ‘The interdental approximants of Bauchi-Guda’
Aug 2010	Steve Dettweiler “Where Tense is Not So Simple – A Study in C’Lela”
May 2010	David Crozier “Nyimatli Verb Morphophonology”
Apr 2010	Mark Gaddis “Fulfulde Ajami”
Mar 2010	Roger Blench “Understanding Ideophones in Nigerian and Cameroonian Languages”
Feb 2010	Stuart McGill “Language Documentation”

The organisers of the Jos Linguistic Circle wish to express their thanks to the Kay Williamson Educational Foundation for their interest and support for local linguistic meetings in the Jos area. The meetings serve students, researchers and development workers engaged in the study of linguistics and Nigerian languages. They provide a forum for presentation of work or research in progress and enable linguists and language development workers to engage in useful debate. Attendees include staff and students from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria Bible Translation Department; University of Jos (linguistics and mass communications departments); Nigeria Bible Translation Trust; Bible Society of Nigeria and others.

David Crozier, TCNN

ENGWO LEXICON

ENGWO – ENGLISH
ENGLISH – ENGWO



Julius A. EYOH