

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY

MORO VERB MORPHOLOGY.

BY
TIMOTHY DAVID BARNARD

*A Linguistic Project Submitted To The Graduate School
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in Translation Studies*

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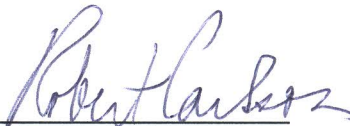
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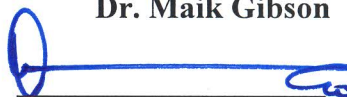
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July, 2008

Student's Declaration

MORO VERB MORPHOLOGY

I declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted to any other College or University for academic credit.

The views presented herein are not necessarily those of the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology or the Examiners.

(Signed)



Timothy David Barnard

July, 2008

ABSTRACT

This paper describes and analyses many features of both the inflectional and the derivational verb morphology of Moro, a Kordofanian language spoken in the Nuba Mountains of central Sudan. Chapter 1 provides a brief overview of the Moro people and language. Chapter 2 deals with inflectional morphology and focuses on tense and aspect. The complexity of Moro phonology is demonstrated, and the importance of grammatical tone is shown. Chapter 3 uses data from a word list to allow Moro derivational verb morphology to be explored. A probable medio-passive, anti-passive, reciprocal, causative and a benefactive are described. Finally, Chapter 4 looks at the vowel harmony system, drawing on insights from the previous chapters.

To the Moro community

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in interlinearised example sentences:

BEN	-	Benefactive
CON	-	Concord or noun class agreement marker
DIST	-	Distal
FUT	-	Future tense marker
HAB	-	Habitual aspect marker
IPFV	-	Imperfective aspect marker
ITT	-	Iterative
LOC	-	Locative
LOG	-	Logophoric pronoun
OBJ	-	Object marker
PASS	-	Passive voice
PFV	-	Perfective aspect marker
PST	-	Past tense marker
RECP	-	Reciprocal
REFL	-	Reflexive
?	-	Morpheme of unknown function (in morpheme description)
?	-	Semantically odd sentence (at the start of the Moro or English)
*	-	Grammatically incorrect sentence

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This paper describes the verbal morphology of Moro, a language of Sudan spoken in the Umdorein District of the Southern Kordofan Province (historically known as the Nuba Mountains). The first major section concerns inflectional operations including subject agreement with nouns and pronouns as well as tense and aspect marked both morphologically and using auxiliary verbs. The second section focuses on derivational operations and identifies a number of different valence adjusting operations. The final section analyses the system of vowel harmony in the light of the insights gained concerning the structure of the Moro verb.

It is unknown how many speakers of the language there are today. The Ethnologue gives a figure of 30,000 from 1982 (Gordon 2005), but since then civil war has resulted in the deaths or displacement of large numbers of Nuba people.

There are seven Moro dialects – Layenia, Tobəɟelda, Uləba, Lənəbwa, Ndërria, Ləmwarəŋ and Ləŋorəban (Blench 2005). The latter is the language of the New Testament, but this paper describes the Tobəɟelda dialect.

1.2 Kordofanian

Moro is a Kordofanian language that is classified in the Ethnologue as Niger-Congo, Kordofanian, Heiban, West-Central, Western. Figure 1 (overleaf) shows the location

