Documenting multilingual practices in the Lower Fungom region of Cameroon

Jeff Good
jcgood@buffalo.edu
University at Buffalo
Project website: http://buffalo.edu/~jcgood/lowfungom.html

As my father told me, we were from Fang side, even in Bam side there were many of us. When you people are cooperating you speak one language, if you speak one language you cooperate. As a group of relatives moves, the brothers may decide to split each choosing a different place to stay. This is what happened to us… Each family attached itself to a village and therefore had to speak the general language used there. For example, we Bambiam attached ourselves to Bikwom and hence had to adopt their language… Missing:
—Malpa Buu-Amos

Language documentation is the creation, annotation, preservation and dissemination of transparent records of a language — Woodbury (2011:159)

- Canonical output: Annotated recordings of an undocumentated language
- Typically oral, in unison, emphasizing a view of “language” as a bounded ancestral code
- Shaped by constraints of current technology

There is freedom in the choice of code. Are you of these codes “ancestral”?

Multilingual repertoires in Lower Fungom

LEGEND

Footpath
Motorable road
Ring Road
River
Uninhabited

Yemne-Kimbi
Mungban [mi]
Kuster [kid]
Fang [faki]
Ajambo [muc]

Mixed community

Mlingam
Mundabb
Mufu
Munjang
Kashin
Buq
Neg
Makal
Noma
Makal
Zhoa


30 km
10 km

Nyos
Subum

Nigerian Republic
Cameroon

NGA
MUFU
MUDI
BUU
MISSON
BUU (M)
MISSON (M)

TERM

MUFU/BUU (F)
BUU (M)
MISSON (M)

head úfi ifi ifi ifi
eye dəsi dəsi dəsi dəsi
tongue kίntu kίntu kίntu kίntu
mouth kίfi kίfi kίfi kίfi
nose nəya ìyä ìyä ìyä
hand ìtswá ìtswá ìtswá ìtswá
body ìgá Hollywood ìgá ìgá ìgá
leg ìká ìká ìká ìká
shoulder ìgmá ìgmá ìgmá ìgmá
jaw kίώnì wá kίώnì kίώnì kίώnì

Aligning reported competence with another measure by eliciting multilingual repertoires

Work done by Angela Nsem Tem, University of Yaoundé

Developing a result to support multilingual and longitudinal documentation

Work done in collaboration with Ning Ding and Jan Chomicki, University at Buffalo

Factors promoting multilingual competence

• Similarity
• Degree of competence you use it (e.g. prayers, songs, etc.)
• Degree of competence you use it?
• Number of languages
• Number of lects
• Degree of competence

4.5 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
Washington, DC, 7–10 January 2016

This work was supported by the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Department of Linguistics, the University of Buffalo, the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office and Humanities Institute, and grants awarded under the NSF–NEH Documenting Endangered Languages Program with the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme. I especially like to thank Pierpaolo Di Carlo for his guidance to this work underlying the paper.

There is freedom in the choice of code. Are you of these codes “ancestral”? Language documentation is the creation, annotation, preservation and dissemination of transparent records of a language — Woodbury (2011:159)

- Canonical output: Annotated recordings of an undocumentated language
- Typically oral, in unison, emphasizing a view of “language” as a bounded ancestral code
- Shaped by constraints of current technology

There is freedom in the choice of code. Are you of these codes “ancestral”? Language documentation is the creation, annotation, preservation and dissemination of transparent records of a language — Woodbury (2011:159)

- Canonical output: Annotated recordings of an undocumentated language
- Typically oral, in unison, emphasizing a view of “language” as a bounded ancestral code
- Shaped by constraints of current technology

There is freedom in the choice of code. Are you of these codes “ancestral”?