

GTML Working Group Newsletter June 2007

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Congratulations and Welcome

We congratulate James Essegbey, University of Florida, Gainesville, on the award of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to continue work on the documentation and description of Nyagbo (Tutrugbu) [nyb] for the next two years. James is currently on fieldwork in Ghana till the end of July.

Mercy Lamptey is also in Ghana at the moment on extended fieldwork on Tegbɔ [tcd}. She is living in Tafi Mado until March 2008.

We warmly welcome Mark Dingemans, Max Planck Institute of Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, to the community of people working on the GTM languages. Mark is currently doing fieldwork on Siwu, staying in Akpafu Mpeasem. Mark was recently awarded a Max Planck Society Fellowship as a PhD Research Scholar. He will be in Ghana until the end of August. Actually Mark is not new to this group, since he was the one who designed and produced the poster for our International Workshop in Ho in July 2006.

Publication of 2006 Workshop Proceedings

I am very happy to announce that the Editor of the Journal of West African Languages, Dr Keir Hansford, is willing to publish the revised versions of the papers from the Ho workshop. As we said at the time Mary Esther Dakubu and myself will act as Guest Editors. We will coopt a French speaking colleague in due course. Attached to this message is the JWAL Notes to Contributors, which can be found also in the inside back cover of every issue.

All those who presented papers at the the Ho Workshop and would like to publish their papers are encouraged to prepare their manuscripts according to the JWAL instructions and send them to me. All papers will be reviewed by referees following JWAL procedures. Papers can be sent in any time from now. Submissions for this round of publication will close on **30th October 2007**, at the latest.

If you plan to contribute to this volume please drop me a line by the end of June so that we can plan and start lining up potential referees.

JWAL publishes articles in both English and French, so authors can feel free to submit their papers in either language.

Plans for Next Workshop 3rd -7th August 2008

We plan to have another workshop next year just after the 26th West African Languages Congress which will be held at the University of Education, Winneba from 27th July to 2nd August. We hope that as many people as possible will be able to make their way to Ghana for these events. We were hoping to secure some more funds through James Essegbey's NSF grant for this workshop. Unfortunately this was one part of the budget that was slashed. The funds we have at hand can cover board and lodge for all participants during the GTM workshop. Here is an outline of the envisaged workshop:

Saturday August 2nd : arrival at Workshop venue (Venue to be decided)

Sunday August 3rd, Monday August 4th, Tuesday August 5th Wednesday August 6th: Workshop activities

Thursday 7th August: Departure

The workshop activities will include:

- Paper presentations on any aspect of the documentation and description of GTM languages and their relatives (e.g. Guang)
- A durbar at Logba to launch a first dictionary and a collection of texts of Ikpana (Compiled and edited by Kofi Dorvlo and associates).
- A training session in lexicographic work for language workers from GTM communities and any others interested.

A call for papers and a more detailed time-table will be published in September/October 2007 Newsletter. For now we invite everyone to note the dates and to start thinking about possible presentations. Any suggestions on format and activities are welcome.

4. Material for the GTML website

Thanks once again to Roger Blench who is maintaining the webpages for GTM languages. We urge all colleagues to send material to Roger (r.blench@odi.org.uk). Roger has put some of the classics on these languages on the web. Some wordlists that have been found in the archives of the late John Stewart will also be put up shortly. The website can only be useful if we contribute our material to it. Handouts of presentations can also be deposited.

Any items of news that anyone would like to be included in the newsletter should be sent to me per e-mail.

I wish you all a great summer !!!!

Felix K. Ameka