LABIAL AND VELAR STOPS IN KANURI

Russell G. Schuh

Kanuri is a Nilo-Saharan language spoken in northeastern Nigeria and eastern Niger. Although Kanuri has written documents dating back at most 200 years, neighboring languages began borrowing words from Kanuri over 400 years ago, and these borrowed words retain pronunciations of sounds that Kanuri itself has changed. This paper will use data from the Ngizim language to stand in for "Middle Kanuri" and show how medial labial and velar obstruents have changed in Kanuri over the past 400-500 years. Medial velar obstruents have been deleted altogether and medial labials have been neutralized to /w/.

CHANGES IN OBSTRUENT VOICING IN BADE/NGIZIM

Russell G. Schuh

Bade, Ngizim, and Duwai are three Chadic languages spoken in northeastern Nigeria. These languages all have a three-way contrast between voiceless obstruents, voiced obstruents, and glottalized obstruents. However, in native words where the second syllable begins in a voiced obstruent, if the first syllable begins in a non-glottalized obstruent, Bade has only voiceless obstruents in the first syllable and Ngizim has only voiced. Comparative evidence from Duwai and other Chadic languages shows that Bade has undergone a DISSIMILATION change that devoices an obstruent when followed by a voiced obstruent in the next syllable whereas Ngizim has undergone an ASSIMILATION change that voices a voiceless obstruent when followed by a voiced obstruent in the next syllable.

INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION OF TOTALITY EXTENSION IN NGAMO

Russell G. Schuh

Ngamo is a Chadic language spoken in northeastern Nigeria. Ngamo has a verbal suffix traditionally called the "totality extension". This extension has several allomorphs, including /t/, /it/, lengthening of a vowel, and zero accompanied by a tonal change. This paper will propose that we reconstruct the totality extension as *t, with sound changes that took place in specific environments to account for the various allomorphs. At least some of these sound changes can be seen to apply more generally than to a specific morpheme.