

Tonology of Bangime Nouns

A PRELIMINARY STUDY: PLURAL FORMATION

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This study introduces the language Bangerime, or Bangime, into the literature through an examination of tonal processes associated with the formation of plurals. The purpose of this study is to a) determine the underlying tonal representations on nouns in the singular and plural form in Bangime, and b) offer evidence proving the existence of the phenomenon known as ‘tone polarity’. It is proposed that tone polarity is the cause of root-stem tonal alternations in the plural form. The language’s proposed classification as a rare isolate within the Niger-Congo language family leads to the discussion of marked processes not found among languages previously thought to be genetically related.