

### LING 303 Assignment 3

Please email your assignment to Silke at [ksuweber@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ksuweber@ucalgary.ca) ideally in **Word** format (else in some other non-obscure word processing format, else **pdf**) by midnight of Monday, December 7. The file name of your assignment must be in the following format: ast#-lastname-preferredemailaddress, for example: ast2-smith-jsmith@shaw.ca.

Moore is a two-tone Gur language spoken in Burkina Faso. In the transcriptions below, high-toned syllables are marked by the acute; low-toned syllables are unmarked.

i. The language has a system of noun class suffixes marking singular and plural. Examples from the most productive classes are listed in (1). What principle underlies the alternation in suffixal tone?

(1)	<u>sg.</u>	<u>pl.</u>		<u>sg.</u>	<u>pl.</u>	
	kor-gó	kor-dó	'sack'	sá-ga	sá-se	'broom'
	ro-gó	ro-tó	'house'	wáj-ga	wám-se	'hollow'
	wób-go	wób-do	'elephant'	gob-ré	gwab-á	'left-hand'
	lán-go	lán-do	'hole'	tɔb-ré	tɔb-á	'ear'
	tɪ-gá	tɪ-sé	'tree'	kúg-ri	kúg-a	'stone'
	ke-gá	ke-sé	'green'	béd-re	béd-a	'big'

ii. Develop an analysis to account for the appearance of the raised exclamation mark in the data of (2). In the first paradigm the nouns *sá-ga* ('broom') and *kor-gó* ('sack') appear as complements to the verbs *zá* ('bring') and *ko* ('give'). The second paradigm consists of noun+adjective constructions. This construction has the peculiarity that the morphology does not generate a number suffix on the noun in Moore.

(2)	ko sága	'give a broom'	kor béda	'big sacks'
	ko korgó	'give a sack'	kor kegá	'green sack'
	zá sága	'bring a broom'	sá béda	'big brooms'
	zá kór'gó	'bring a sack'		

**iii.** In Moore a suffixal vowel is deleted when a word appears in the middle of the phrase. Examine the associative constructions in (3) and discuss the tonal effects produced by the deletion rule. Derive a couple of the phrases, explaining the steps involved.

(3)	néd-a	'man'	na-bá	'chief'
	néd korgó	'man's sack'	nab kór <sup>1</sup> gó	'chief's sack'
	néd <sup>1</sup> sága	'man's broom'	nab sága	'chief's broom'

**iv.** So far we have seen two tonal patterns for Moore nominals: low on the root and high on the suffix (e.g., kor-gó) and high on the root and low on the suffix (e.g., sá-ga). There is in fact an additional tonal pattern: a high appears on both the root and the suffix (4). But nominals with a low tone on both the root and the suffix are absent in Moore.

(4)	bíd-gó	bíd-gó	'sorrel'	bú-gá	bú-sé	'goat'
	mó-gó	mó-dó	'straw'	wám-dé	wám-á	'calabash'
	bá-gá	bá-sé	'dog'	rá-ré	ré-já	'day'

These nominals appear with a low tone when combined with a following adjective (5).

(5)	mo sanjó	'good straw'	ba béda	'big dogs'
	bɔ sanjó	'good goat'	wam kegá	'green calabash'

Develop an analysis to explain this alternation as well as the absence of nominals with a low on both the root and the suffix.