ЯЗЫКОЗНАНИЕ

A Description of Dzə (Jenjo) Nouns and Noun Phrases, an Adamawa Language of Northeastern Nigeria

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Dzə [jen] is an Adamawa language spoken in some parts of Taraba, Adamawa and Gombe states in Northeastern Nigeria. The study presented in the article syntactically describes nouns and noun phrases in Dzə. In an attempt to document Dzə and taking into consideration that Dzə is an under-investigated and under-documented language, the result will provide important data to typological research and to linguists working on Adamawa languages. The study adopts a descriptive research design in collecting, describing and analyzing the data. The data was obtained from fieldwork in December 2014, personal observations of daily conversations, introspection and the Dzə Bible. In the article, a brief overview of the phonology and tone of Dzə is provided. It also shows the different kinds of nouns, pronouns and noun phrases in Dzə; simple and complex noun phrases. The language is rich in pronouns, consisting of subject pronouns, object pronouns, reflexive pronouns, interrogative pronouns and possessive pronouns. As it is with most African languages, the elements that constitute a noun phrase occur after the head noun. These elements are articles, demonstratives, possessives, adjectives, numerals, quantifiers, genitive constructions (inalienable and alienable possessives) and relative clauses. This is a preliminary study of Dzə and it is open for further research and contributions.

Keywords: Dzə, nouns, noun phrases, Jenjo, Adamawa.

Introduction

Dzə [jen] is an Adamawa language spoken in some parts of Adamawa, Taraba and Gombe States, Northeastern Nigeria. The original name of the language is *Dzə* but it is widely known as Jenjo. It is a minority language that belongs to the poorly studied Adamawa languages. Its speakers are predominantly in Jen (their capital home), Karim-Lamido local government area of Taraba State. The number of Dzə speakers is also not yet known.

With this in mind, there is a need to describe the minority languages in Nigeria especially those of Northeastern Nigeria so as to prevent them from dying.

According T. Givón, nouns in any language includes words that express the most time-stable concepts, e.g. rock, tree, mountain, house etc [1, p. 51]. E. T. Payne further states that to determine whether any given word is a noun or not, one must first determine the morphosyntactic characteristics of prototypical nouns. Then the grammatical category of a questionable word can usually be determined according to how closely the word follows the morphosyntactic pattern of prototypical nouns [2, p. 33]. However, there will always be some truly ambiguous examples as well as words that function sometimes as a verb and sometimes as a noun depending on the context. There is also the issue of nominalization. For example, in Dzə '*i*' is a nominal marker which turns verb into noun lébí is 'sing' ilébí is 'singer'. Their idea is prescriptive rather than descriptive. On the other hand, A. Radford states that a noun phrase is a phrase whose head is a noun, for example a structure such as "*The king of Utopia*" is a noun phrase comprising the head noun "*king*", the complement "*of Utopia*" and its specifier (determiner) "*the*". Therefore, noun phrase is a phrase consisting of a noun and other dependents and the noun serving as the head of the phrase [3, p. 87]. This study describes the nouns and noun phrases in Dzə. The study adopts descriptive research design in collecting, describing and analyzing the data. The sections that follow describe the phonology, tone and noun phrases in Dzə.

The phonology of Dzə

Consonants

According to N. K. Othaniel, there are 33 consonant phonemes in Dzə language [4]. The consonant phonemes are symmetrical in terms of voicing. These consonant phonemes are shown in the table 1 below.

Table 1. **Dzə consonant sounds**

	bilabial	labio dental	alveolar	post alveolar	palatal	labio velar	velar	glottal
plosive	p b		t d		c ɟ	k͡p g͡b	k g	
affricate			t͡s d͡z	t͡ʃ d͡ʒ	ɲ		ŋ	
nasal	m̥ m		n					
fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ			ʍ	h
approximant			l		j j̊ ɥ ɥ̊	w		

Vowel

The vowel inventory of Dzə consists of nine distinct oral vowels, seven nasalized vowels and six breathy vowels (Table 2–4).

Table 2. **Oral vowels**

	+ATR VOWELS			−ATR VOWELS			
	front	**central**	**back**	**front**	**central**	**back**	
close	i		u		ɨ		
mid					ə		
	e		o	ɛ		ɔ	
open					ɑ		

Table 3. **Nasalized vowels**

	front	**central**	**back**
close	ĩ	ɨ̃	ũ
mid		ə̃	
	ɛ̃		ɔ̃
open		ɑ̃	

Table 4. **Breathy vowels**

	front	**central**	**back**
close	i̤		ṳ
	e̤		o̤
mid		ə̤	
open		ɑ̤	

Tone

The Dzə language has contrastive three level tone: H, M, L. example: H: bí 'song', M: *bī̄* 'metal' L: bì 'word'. There are also two contrastive contour tones which are H/L, H/M, M/L, H/R, L/R, M/R.

Nouns and Pronouns

Nouns may be derived from verbs by using the nominalizer prefix −*i*. Most of the derived nouns refer to doer. See table 5 below. Detailed description of nominalisation is not relevant here. Here are the examples.

Table 5. **Nominalized Form**

Verb	Gloss	Nominalized form	Gloss
tenwá	announce	*i-tènwá*	announcer
tsə̀kì	mourn	*i-tsə̀kì*	mourner
dʒə̀wɛ́	travel	*i-dʒə̀wɛ́*	traveller
lé	sing	*i-lébí*	singer
ʤə̀	buy/sell	*i-ʤə̀-nìŋ*	buyer

The following section describes the different types of nouns in Dzə.

Proper Names (Nouns)

"proper names are nouns that are used to address and identify particular persons or culturally significant personages or places" [2, p. 39]. Examples of such nouns in Dzə are:

(1) a. Place: *Dzə* 'Jen', *Bwè, Nwàkə́, Tànkə,*'names of villages around Jen' *Miŋ Binuwe,* 'River Benue' *Miŋ Taraba* "River Taraba".

  b. Person: *Fillah* 'Fillah', *Filalo, Fijamilo, Kanmila* "these are all common names of Dzə people.

Count and Mass Nouns

Count nouns refer to things that can be counted and mass nouns refer to substances like water, sand, air and wood [2, p. 41]. The plural form of count nouns in Dzə are marked by the plural marker '*e*' examples are: *yè* 'chicken' *è-yè* 'chickens', *yɔ́* 'pig' *e-yɔ* 'pigs', *idzwa* 'dog' *e-idzwà* 'dogs', *pīsahú* 'school', *e-pīsahú* 'schools', *nìnpú* 'goat' *e-nìnpu* 'goats'. Examples of mass nouns are *nìŋmari* 'rice', *nìŋyì* beans, *mìŋ* water and *hywà* sand *kə́ntúŋ* 'sugar' *nywì* 'oil' *tʃúkwé* 'salt' and more below. The following comes either under the count nouns or mass nouns.

Common Nouns

General names of place, person and thing. They are not capitalised. Examples are:

(2) a. Place: *hywà* 'country' (Lit. land), *lòmwé* 'market', *kwə̀fi* 'church', *pīpinwà* 'place of worship', *pīpakú* 'mosque'.

  b. Person: *ivə̀* 'king', *klɔ* 'king maker' *ifi* 'person/human'.

  c. Thing: *niŋbiŋhu* 'animal', *nwàkə́və̀* 'clan' *vi* 'day', *də̀ró* 'book, *hú* 'grass', *kə́* 'tree'.

Concrete Nouns

Names of persons, places and things that are tangible with one or more of the senses.

(3) a. Person: *ìbwí* 'man', *ìjè* 'woman' *ìmwə̀* 'child', *ìŋə̀fi* 'elder' *ìtwè* 'owner/lord'.

  b. Place: *fə̀níŋ* 'farm', *pisahu* 'school'.

  c. Thing: *bì* 'metal', *mambiŋ* 'frog' *fjó* 'pocupine', *ʃì* 'crocodile', *lwēŋ* 'canopy'.

Abstract Nouns

Names idea, feeling and quality. Examples:

(4) *sùkù* 'shame', *yìdí* ,'love', *nyìtə̀,* 'peace' *ywàbè* 'bitter', *pwátʃí* 'anger', *laĺi* 'happiness', *mwəhe* 'beauty', *ìbè* 'poverty'.

Compound Nouns

These are nouns that are formed by joining two simple nouns. Examples are:

(5) a. *ìfɨ + a + ìyé = ifɨaiye*   'female'
   b. *ìmwə̀ + ìbwí = imwəibwi*   'boy'
   c. *nɨ̀ŋ + tsɨ̀kù = nìŋtsiku*   'pillow'
   d. *nɨ̀ŋ + chɨ̀ + nɨ̀ŋ = nìŋchìnìŋ*   'wealth'
   e. *ìmwə̀+sahu =ìmwəsahu*   'student"
   f. *ìɲí +na+sɨ+nìŋ =ìɲinasɨ̄nìŋ*   'teacher'
   g. *nwà+kə́+və̀ =nwàkə́və̀*   'clan'

Pronouns

There are several pronouns in Dzə. Some occur as subject and others as object pronouns. The following are the examples of pronouns found in Dzə (Table 6, 7).

Table 6. **Subject pronoun**

Person	Singular	Plural
1ˢᵗ	*n* 'I'	*bɨ̀* 'we'
2ⁿᵈ	*à* 'you'	*bə̀* 'you'
3ʳᵈ	*ò* 'she/he'	*è* 'they/it'

Table 7. **Object pronoun**

Person	Singular	Plural
1ˢᵗ	*mì* 'me'	*bɨ̀* 'us'
2ⁿᵈ	*mə̀* 'you'	*bə̀* 'you'
3ʳᵈ	*wə̀* 'her/him'	*lə̀* 'them'

Possessive Pronoun

The possessive pronouns in Dzə are formed by adding a genitive marker *"a"* before the object pronoun (singular) and the possessive morpheme *"və́"* before an object pronoun (plural) (Table 8). Except for 3ʳᵈ person which is a subject pronoun.

Table 8. **Possessive Pronoun**

Person	Singular	Plural
1ˢᵗ	*ā̄ mì* 'mine'	*ā̄ və́ bɨ́* 'ours'
2ⁿᵈ	*ā̄ mə̀* 'yours'	*ā̄ və́ bə̀* 'yours'
3ʳᵈ	*ā̄ ó* 'hers/his'	*ā̄ və́ lə́* 'theirs'

Reflexive Pronoun

The reflexive pronouns in Dzə are formed by prefixing a morpheme *'ku'* which literally mean 'head' to the object pronouns. The 3rd person singular uses object pronoun *wə* when it comes to reflexive pronoun to when the prefix *'ku'* is attached. See the table 9 below.

Table 9. **Reflexive Pronoun**

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	*kú mi* 'myself'	*kú bɨ́* 'ourselves'
2nd	*kú mə̄* 'yourself'	*kú bə́* 'yourselves'
3rd	*kú wə́* 'her/himself'	*kú lə́* 'their selves'

Nouns and Pronouns as head of NP and their categories

It is universally known that nouns and pronouns form the head of a noun phrase. This no different with Dzə. Noun phrase usually occurs with other elements which include determiners, numerals, genitives, modifiers, relative clauses, noun classifiers and the head noun [2, p. 86].

(6) *o*   *wù*   *dò*
3.SUB   come   yesterday
'he came yesterday'.

(7) *e-ije*   *nɨ* *tsəvə* *sɨ* *lɨbènɨ*
PL-woman   DET marry LOC proud
'married women are proud'.

(8) *e-ɨfɨ*   *nɨ* *tsə̀* *ìvə̀* *sɨ* *wù*
PL-person   DET crown king LOC come
'people that crown king are coming'.

(9) *mɨŋbə́* *nɨ* *dɨ* *pɨ* *vado* *nɨ* *dé* *e-və* *ihyənɨŋ*
flood DET take place last time DET destroyed PL-house many
'the flood that happened last time destroyed many houses'.

(10) *bɨ* *fɨ* *bá* *nɨ* *a* *wùka* *nɨ*
1SUB.PL slaughter goat DET 2.SUB come DET
'we slaughtered the goat you brought'.

Nominal Identification

The following are the nominals in Dzə that are identified based on syntactic criteria.

(11) a. *ʃə́*   *lê*   'that pot'
        pot   that

b. *ɥ̀ì* *mī* 'my brother'
 brother my

c. *pĩ́* *nɨ* 'this hoe'
 hoe this

d. *chilɨkə̀* *íihyanɨŋ* 'many fruits'
 fruit many

e. *və̀* *akã́* 'large house'
 house large

The lexical items appearing in the position where *fə̀* 'pot', *pĩ̀* 'hoe', *ɥ̀ì* 'brother', *və* 'house' etc are consider nominals other categories cannot substitute them.

Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogatives pronouns in Dzə are:

(12) *àkè* 'which'   *wə́*   'who'
  pwāné 'how much' *bàdé* 'what'
  bĕ 'where'

Simple Noun Phrase

Simple noun phrase is categorized by nouns and determiners such as articles, demonstratives, possessive pronouns, adjectives quantifiers (some, many, a few, each, and every) numerals. Demonstratives imply 'pointing to' or demonstrating [2, p. 103]. Consider the following.

Articles

There is only one type of article in Dzə and the definite articles. It is also used to mark agreement. Determiners can appear with both animate and inanimate, human and non-human entity. The definite article *de* can only be used when the noun has been mentioned before. And can occur both in the subject and object positions.

(13) *və̀ákã́* *de*
  city DET
  'the city'

(14) *bè* *de*
  rope DET
  'the rope'

Demonstratives

Demonstratives can occur any where in the noun phrase except the pre-head position. They counld be proximal, medial or distal.

(15) a. *kwə̀fi le᷈*   *e kwə̀fi   le᷈*
          church that   PL kwə̀fi   le᷈
          'that church'   'those churches'

      b. *kwə̀fi le᷈*   *pá*   *le᷈*   *e kwə̀fi*   *le᷈*   *pá*   *le᷈*
          church that   far   that   PL kwə̀fi   le᷈   far   that
          'that far church'   'those far churches'

      c. *kə́*   *nɨ̄*   *e*   *kə́*   *nɨ̄*
          tree   this   PL   tree   this
          'this tree'   'these trees'

      d. *bá*   *nɨ̄*   *pínɨ̀*   *e bá*   *nɨ̄*   *pínɨ̀*
          goat   this   near   PL goat   this   near
          'this goat here'   'these goats here'

Possessives

Possessives form parts of the determiners in Dzə noun phrase. They occur after the head noun in the phrase.

(16) *jɨ́*   *mɨ̄*   'my child'
      child   my
      jɨ́   *mə̄*   'your child'
      child   your
      jɨ́   *bɨ́*   'our child'
      child   our
      jɨ́   *lé*   'their child"
      child   their
      jɨ́   *wə̀*   'his/her child'
      child   his/her

Adjectives

(17) *ɲɨ́ɲɨ́*   *fyɛni*   'small heart'
      heart   small
      ɲɨ́ɲɨ́   *aká᷈*   'large heart'
      heart   large
      ɲɨ́ɲɨ́   *hili*   'beautiful heart'
      heart   beauty
      ɲɨ́ɲɨ́   *àpìkə́ŋ*   'good heart'
      heart   good
      kwílɨ   *ɲɨ́ɲɨ́*   'old heart"

old	heart	
bè	*kǔkǔ*	'short rope'
rope	short	
bè	*àfìlí*	'long rope'
rope	long	
bè	*mwílí*	'heavy rope'
rope	heavy	
bè	*jèfilən*	'light rope'
bè	*bwídzwədzwə*	'soft rope'
rope	soft	
bè	*àtsá*	'hard rope'
rope	hard	

Numerals

Numerals in Dzə like every other language are categorized into cardinal and ordinal. The cardinals start counting from one to five, it then changes numbering from six referring back to one. Six is 'sibling of one', seven is 'sibling of two' until the number ten. Eleven is referring back to ten which means 'ten sprang one, ten sprang two continue to fifteen. Reference is made to fifteen at sixteen which is fifteen sprang one continuous to twenty. From twenty upward to three hundred, reference is made to twenty. Thirty is twenty sprang ten, thirty-five is twenty sprang fifteen, forty is two twenties and that pattern continues. Example of cardinals are:

(18) a.

tsɨ̀ŋ	'one'
juŋ̃	'two'
tə́	'three'
ɲə̀	'four'
m̥mɨ̀	'five'
ẙī-tsɨ̀ŋ	'six'
ẙī-ju̅	'seven'
ẙī-tə̀	'eight'
ẙī-ɲə̄	'nine'
ẙə́	'ten'
ẙə́ dʒí tsíɲ	'eleven'
ẙə́ dʒí juŋ̃	'twelve'
ẙə̀ dʒí tə̀	'thirteen'
ẙə́ dʒí	'fourteen'
ɲə̀ lĩ̌	'fifteen'
lĭ dʒí tsíɲ	'sixteen'
lĭ dʒí juŋ̃	'seventeen'
lĭ dʒí tə́	'eighteen'
lĭ dʒí ɲə̀	'nineteen'
uŋ-tsúɲ	'twenty'

Their examples in noun phrase are as follows:

(19) b. *è-ìlə̀ŋ*   *bwatə́*
PL-calabash   three
'three calabashes'

     c. *è-ʃə́*   *bwaɲə́*
PL-pot   four
'four pots'

Ordinals in Dzə are dependent on the genitive marker '*a*' which is attached to the cardinal number except for the first and last which are '*nwatsí*'and '*tsítwə́*'. 'second' is *a̱júŋ* or *a̱nìŋ júŋ,* 'third' *a̱tə̀,* 'fourth' *a̱ɲə́* and 'fifth' *a̱m̩̀mì.*

(20) a. *jɨ́ a̱*   *nìŋ*   *júŋ*
child GEN   eye   two
'second child'

For *nwatsí* 'first', there is a lexical item *na* which literarily means 'hand' but *tsítwə́* 'last' does not have that. So we can have:

     b. *jɨ́*   *na*   *nwatsí*
child   hand   first
'first child'
     c. *jɨ́*   *tsítwə́*
child last

Quantifiers

Dzə quantifiers are parts of determiners in Dzə noun phrase and they occur after the head noun in a phrase. This study correponds with A. Lusekelo whose study in Nyakyusa noun phrase attests that determiners are post-nominal and is true for many other African languages [5, p. 306]. Consider:

	e-ɨjè	*tswə̀nɨ̂*	'few women'
(21)	PL woman	quant	
	e-ɨjè	*ìhyānìŋ*	'many women'
	PL woman	qaunt	

Other universal quantifiers are listed below:

(22) *kè*   'any/each'
       hɛ̂   'all'
       àkə́   'some'
       tsɨ́ŋ tsɨ́ŋ   'each'

Genitive constructions

A possessive noun phrase contains two elements; a possessor and a possessed item. Sometimes the possessor is referred to as the genitives [2, p. 104]. Like any other lan-

guage, the genitive constructions in Dzə have both inalienable and alienable possession. The inalienable juxtaposed two nouns to show possession (possessee possessor). While the alienable use the genitive morpheme *və* to show possession (possessee genitive marker possessor).

Inalienable Possessive

(23) *nwa*   *Esther*   'Esther's mouth'
      mouth   Esther

      nɨŋ   *mí*   'my eye'
      eye   my

      nə   *mí*   'my mother'
      mothe   my

      ɣwá   *Midafi*   'Midafi's stomach'
      stomach   Midafi

      tʃúwì   *Midafi*   'Midafi's neck'
      neck   Midafi

      hɨwɨ̄   *Midafi*   'Midafi's brother/sister'
      brother   Midafi

The examples show the closeness between the possessee and the possessor. The possessees are not on their own but dependent on a larger entity or relation.

Alienable Possessee

Distance is created with the marker in between the possessees and the possessors.

(24) a. *èmwaìbwì*   *vɜ̀*   *Yeso*
          disciples   of   Jesus
      Jesus's disciples'

      b. *ìdzwa vɜ̀*   *Nlabefi*
          dog GEN   Nlabefi
      'Nlabefi's dog'

      c. *dɜ́ŋ*   *vɜ̀*   *Nlabefi*
          dance   GEN   Nlabefi
      'Nlabefi's dance'

Complex Noun Phrase

S. M. Dryer states that a complex noun phrase contains more complex modifiers such as genitive or possessive construction and relative clauses, as in English *London's mayor or the mayor of London* [6]. The examples of complex noun phrases in Dzə can be seen below.

(25) àpìkən   və   èìfɨ
     good   GEN   Pl-people
     'people's goodness/goodness of people

Adjectives are limited in Dzə. They have the ability to modify the head noun and they usually follow the noun. See the above examples.

(26) nìŋàbé   və   èìfɨ   fàngwá
     evil   gen   pl-people   world
     'evil of people of   world'

The head noun of the above example is *nìŋàbé* 'evil' while the prepositional phrase *və èìfɨ fàngwá* 'of people world is its complement.

Coordinative

Dzə allows noun phrases that are formed by coordinating two noun phrases. That is additive coordination is present in the nominal system. The examples are:

(27) a.   kwəŋ   bè   ntsɨlé
        tortoise   and   rabbit

      b.   ntsɨlé   dè   bè   nāndə́ŋ
        rabbit   DET   and   spider
        'the rabbit and spider'

The word *bi* 'and' is a coordinator. It conjoins the two noun phrases *ntsɨlé dè* 'the rabbit'and *nāndə́ŋ* 'spider' together. once the first NP contains the determiner *de*, the second NP do not need the definite article, sometimes there is no need of the definite article so long as it has been mentioned before in the conversation.

Relative construction

The relative marker *nɨ̄* is used in relative construction. Relative clauses in Dzə appear after the noun head in the phrase. The structure of the relative clause modifier is N. Rel.

(28) pɨ̀   nɨ   à   wàkə́   nɨ̀
     hoe   DEM   2SUB   break   DEM
     'the hoe that you broke'

(29) e-imwə   de   nɨ   ngəkə   keke   nwa   nɨhyā
     PL-children   DET   DEM   ride   bicycle mouth   road
     'the children who rode bicycles on the road'

(30) ò   bə́   è   klɔ̆   nɨ̄   nwə̀kə   mō   nɨ̄
     he   see   3PL   elder   which   hold   spear   DET
     'he saw the elder who held the spear'

(31)

ìmwəìjè	nī̄	kuɛ̌	və	nɨ	si	n	ywinɨŋ
lady	who	sat	home	DET	LOC	NPST	cooking

'lady who stayed home was cooking'

The word *nɨ* is a relative pronoun, demonstrative pronoun and a completive depending on the context it is used. These relative pronouns are used to link or connect the noun (nominal) with the rest of the clause or phrase.

Multiple NP extention

Other NP extention in Dzə noun phrase may contain adjectives and other elements. Adjectives modify the head noun and almost always follow the head noun.

(32)

də́ró	àhu	àpìkə́ŋ
book	new	nice

'a new nice book'

Adjectives can co-occur as post-modifiers in Dzə. If this two adjectives co-occur, it is ungrammatical for *àpìkə́ŋ* 'nice/good' to appear before *àhu* 'new'. *Àhu* 'new' will always occur first in a phrase like this. Other examples are:

(33)

ìjè	àmwílɨ	júmwəhe
woman	fat	beauty

'a fat beautiful woman'

(34)

ʃə́	nɨ	mwílɨ	kànkə́
pot	DEM	large	big

'that large big pot'

(35)

də̀ró	nī̄	tsɨ́ŋ	kahyɛ	nī̄
book	DEM	one	red	DEM

'this one red book'

In (35), whatever the arrangement of adjectives after the head noun *dəro* 'book', it is grammatical. But is more common to hear speakers place the *tsɨ́ŋ* 'one' before *kahyɛ* 'red'. See also example (36) below.

(36)

e-bá	lè	júŋ	kə̀bì	nī̄
PL-goat	DEM	two	black	DEM

'those two black goats'

(37)

kē̄	kəakulɨ	təngsə	kwə	de	nɨ
every	chair	in	room	DET	COMPL

'every chair in the room'.

The phrase in (37) shows how NP can be extended in Dzə with the qualifiers. The determiner *kē̄* 'every' precedes the head noun *kəakulɨ* 'chair' *kē̄* selects only count nouns in Dzə. This agrees with M. J. Rugemalira [7] where distributive determiners of this kind 'each and every' are pre-nominal. This is one of the rare circumstances in Dzə where determiner precedes the head noun in a noun phrase that contains prepositional phrase.

(38) *ke   e-kwi ibwi mì   afili amwilɨ nɨ   kɔ̀bi le   be   kabu kwakwali*
QUART PL-old man POSS tall fat   DET black DEM with leg *bow*

'each of those my five tall fat black men with bow legs'.

The plural can precede the adjective of age to show number agreement as in *e kwi ibwi* 'old men'. It means that adjectives can mark plurality in Dzə.

Conclusion

This study described the Dzə nouns and noun phrases. It demonstrated the different kinds of nouns and noun phrases. The elements that constitute noun phrase in Dzə ranges from determiners, possessives, demonstratives, numerals, and quantifiers. As expected, these elements are mostly post-modifiers. From the study, we understand that determiners are agreement markers in Dzə. This is just a preliminary study of the Dzə nouns and noun phrases. There is a lot that has not been looked into. There is a need for in-depth description of Dzə.

Abbreviations

1   — first person
2   — second person
3   — third person
ADJ   — adjective
COMPL — completive
DET   — determiner
DEM   — demonstrative
GEN   — genitive
LOC   — locatives
NPST   — non past
POSS   — possessive
PL   — plural
3SUB   — third person subject
S   — singular

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Существительное и именная группа в языке джен

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Язык джен относится к семье адамава и распространен в некоторых районах штатов Тараба, Адамава и Гомбе Северо-Восточной Нигерии. Рассматриваются существительные и именные группы в языке джен. Поскольку джен недостаточно изучен и описан, статья предоставляет важные данные для типологических исследований и для лингвистов, работающих с языками адамава. Данные были получены в результате полевых исследований в декабре 2014 г., личных разговоров, наблюдений и изучения Библии на языке джен. Представлены краткий очерк фонологии и тонов языка джен, а также различные типы существительных, местоимений, простых и сложных именных групп. В языке джен много местоимений: личные, объектные, возвратные, вопросительные и притяжательные. Как и в большинстве других африканских языков, элементы, которые составляют именную группу, стоят после основного существительного. К таким элементам относят артикли, указательные и притяжательные местоимения, прилагательные, числительные, генитивы (притяжательные и непритяжательные) и определительные придаточные предложения. Эта статья — предварительное исследование языка джен, которое открывает путь для его дальнейшего изучения.

Ключевые слова: джен, существительные, именные группы, адамава, дженджо.

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