

Number and noun class in an Oti-Volta subbranch

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Nouns in Buli and Konni (Oti-Volta), two languages with an operational noun class system, display some unexpected morphological features. While they often carry the familiar cognate class morphemes that have been reconstructed for the Oti-Volta language family and beyond, the grammatical categorization remains covert in other cases and points to interesting relationships with number, individualization, and specification. Rather than indicating a full-fledged historical scenario of reconstruction, I will discuss some historical and grammatical aspects that may have contributed to the current shape of nouns.