Phasal Polarity in Ngiemboon

Eliane Kamdem, University of Bayreuth

The Ngiemboon (Bamileke, Grassfields Bantu) PhP paradigm consists of four items: ňdáʔ/láʔ “already”, ňé “still”, ňfůʔ…wó “no longer” and ňé tàʔ…wó “not yet”. In this talk, I will provide information about the semantic as well as formal features characterizing these PhP items. The discussions will include elements such as the relatedness in form of two of the four PhP items (ńé “still” and ňé tàʔ…wó “not yet”), the coding of the PhP items alike in both neutral and counter-expectation scenarios, the use of the “already” ňdáʔ/láʔ and “no longer” ňfůʔ…wó items to express early turning points, the derivation of PhP items/auxiliaries from verbs (e.g.: ňdáʔ/láʔ “already” originates from the verb ňdáʔ/láʔ “to spend the night”) and ability of these auxiliaries to keep some of their verbal properties and the characterization of the PhP paradigm in Ngiemboon as internally symmetric and externally partially symmetric.