

Phasal Polarity in Ngiemboon

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The Ngiemboon (Bamileke, Grassfields Bantu) PhP paradigm consists of four items: $\dot{n}d\dot{a}^2/l\dot{a}^2$ "already", $n\dot{e}$ "still", $tf\dot{u}^2...w\dot{o}$ "no longer" and $n\dot{e}$ $t\dot{a}...w\dot{o}$ "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 ($n\dot{e}$ "still" and $n\dot{e}$ $t\dot{a}...w\dot{o}$ "not yet"), the coding of the PhP items alike in both neutral and counterexpectation scenarios, the use of the "already" $\dot{n}d\dot{a}^2/l\dot{a}^2$ and "no longer" $tf\dot{u}^2...w\dot{o}$ items to express early turning points, the derivation of PhP items/auxiliaries from verbs (e.g.: $\dot{n}d\dot{a}^2/l\dot{a}^2$ "already" originates from the verb $\dot{n}d\dot{a}^2/l\dot{a}^2$ "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.