

Centering pragmatic phenomena on the margins in African languages

Organisers: Felix K. Ameka, LUCL & Mark Dingemans, RU Nijmegen

f.k.ameka@hum.leidenuniv.nl; m.dingemans@let.ru.nl

In Pragmatics, as in Linguistics in general, various expressive devices that are indispensable in communication have been left on the margins as being non-conventional, non-lexical or non-verbal (Bolinger 1946). This includes a range of interjections, particles and conversational gestures (Ameka 1992a; Pillion et al. 2019) but also bodily conduct such as sighs, sniffs, coughs, and winks (Dingemans 2020b). Despite their ubiquity in everyday interaction, many of these devices are thought of as extra-linguistic or paralinguistic and have consequently been mostly ignored in theoretical and empirical linguistic work. There is a realization on the rise in the language sciences that grappling with these devices holds the key to an understanding of language, the unique feature of the human species.

In this workshop, we invite contributions based on language use, linguistic practices and norms in African communities of practice that investigate the **interactional uses** of linguistic elements or more broadly semiotic resources that are traditionally thought of as extra-grammatical, non-lexical, or paralinguistic. Examples include:

Interjections that play roles in human-human and human-animal interactions, e.g calling or sending away various animals (Ameka 1992b; Amha 2013; Bynon 1976; Dingemans 2020a)

Conversational routines, including greetings and leave taking expressions (Duranti 1997; Ameka 2009)

Clicks and other non-lexical vocalisations such as *ksss*, 'I want you to pay attention to me', *mmm* 'I like this' etc.; (Painter 1975; Dialo 1985; Gil 2013; Pillion et al. 2019)

Aspects of bodily conduct that are deployed in interactionally systematic ways, such as sighs, sniffs, laughs, winks, nose wrinkles and facial expressions (Levisen 2019; Dingemans 2020b)

Researchers wishing to participate in this Panel on Pragmatics should submit abstracts following the abstract submission guidelines for WOCAL10 and include PRAG in the "keywords" field. Abstracts should be submitted via the EasyChair link by November 30th.

The organisers are seeking support to provide bursaries covering travel and accommodation for scholars resident in Africa to be able to participate physically if the situation allows it.

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