A grammar of Digo (a Bantu language of Kenya and Tanzania)

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Abstract: Digo, or Chidigo (Ethnologue code [dig]), is a Bantu language spoken in the coastal region of Kenya and Tanzania, and is classified as E73 (Maho 2003). The emphasis in this grammar of Digo is on the structure of words, clauses, and larger units of language, and on the meanings and functions of these segments. Phonology and tonology are dealt with only briefly. As far as possible, all examples are taken from collected texts. This emphasis on the use of the language in context means that special attention is paid to features of the language that have significant textual functions. For example, Digo has a large number of demonstrative forms which play an important role in distinguishing major and minor participants, indicating the start of the main event line, maintaining continuity across episode boundaries, etc. Because of this, the description of Digo demonstratives runs to over thirty pages, whereas many grammars of Bantu languages deal with demonstratives in just a few paragraphs. Similarly, a complete chapter is devoted to describing the forms and functions of markers of tense, aspect, and movement. The final two chapters describe clause structure, including information structure, and non-verbal predicates. Because of the importance attached to the use of language in context, this volume includes an appendix containing two narrative texts, one hortatory text, and one expository text. The large number of Bantu languages and the many similarities that they share make the Bantu language sub-family a fruitful field of study for comparative linguistics. In light of this, common features such as the noun class system and verbal morphology have not been neglected. To aid comparative research I have also included as appendices the 1,700-item SIL Comparative African Wordlist (plus 113 botanical terms) and a discussion of the relation of Digo to Swahili (the language of wider communication spoken in the Digo area).
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The Digo language is a Bantu language classified as E.73 (Guthrie) or North-East Coast (Nurse). The Digo people are the second largest of nine coastal ethnies known as the Mijikenda, and are concentrated in the coastal area and eastern slopes of the coastal hills from Mombasa, Kenya, south to Tanga, Tanzania. According to Digo... — 367 p.

This dissertation examines verbal tone in Kuria, an Eastern Bantu language spoken in Kenya and Tanzania. It shows that Kuria has a predictable tone system, in that, verbs are assigned high tones on the first, second, third, fourth, or first and fourth vowels of the macrostem, beginning at the left edge. Digo (Chidigo) is a Bantu language spoken primarily along the East African coast between Mombasa and Tanga by the Digo people of Kenya and Tanzania. The ethnic Digo population has been estimated at around 360,000 (Mwalonya et al. 2004), the majority of whom are presumably speakers of the language. Dialects[edit]. Digo speakers recognise in turn a number of named varieties or dialects of their language. These are: Chinondo (Northern Digo), spoken along the south Kenya coast between Likoni (south Mombasa) and Msambweni (Hinnebusch 1973); Ungu (or Lungu, Southern Digo), spoken on the coastal strip south of Msambweni and across the border into northern Tanzania (Hinnebusch 1973) Digo (Chidigo) is a Bantu language spoken primarily along the East African coast between Mombasa and Tanga by the Digo people of Kenya and Tanzania. The ethnic Digo population has been estimated at around 360,000 (Mwalonya et al. 2004), the majority of whom are presumably speakers of the language. All adult speakers of Digo are bilingual in Swahili, East Africa's lingua franca. The two languages are closely related, and Digo also has much vocabulary borrowed from neighbouring Swahili dialects.