



Rebecca Paterson

Postdoctoral Researcher

Centre national de la recherche scientifique le laboratoire Langage,

Langues et Cultures d'Afrique

Certified Linguistics Consultant

SIL Africa Area



Biography

I study how grammatical structures are used by speakers *today* and how these grammatical structures may have developed *over time*. In these ways, I aim to inform how we understand the capacity, diversity, and beauty of language.

I use tools from language documentation and linguistics to create corpora of oral stories. These corpora are then used to demonstrate the natural grammatical patterns used within the community. Using a collaborative process, I marshal these oral stories from recording through to transcription and translation.

My research interests include African languages, morphosyntax, language description and documentation, diachronic morphosyntax, and discourse grammar. I am particularly interested in the morphosyntax of the Kainji languages of Nigeria and how they can inform our understanding of the Niger-Congo language family more broadly.

Interests

- Language description and documentation
- Morphosyntax
- Kainji languages
- Diachronic syntax
- Discourse grammar

Education

- Ph.D. in Linguistics, 2019
University of Oregon
- M.A. in Linguistics, 2007
University of North Dakota
- B.Sc., 2001
Cairn University

Selected Publications

Rebecca Paterson
November 2019 · Folia Linguistica Historica · Peer Reviewed

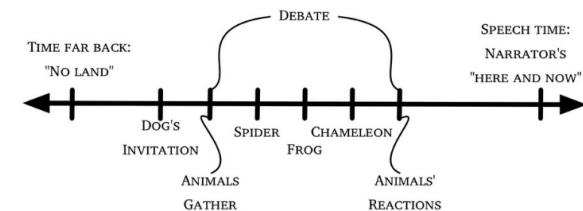
On the development of two progressive constructions in Ut-Ma'in

Synchronic description of two progressive constructions, proposal of historical sources of the distinct morphological pieces, and a comparison of the Ut-Ma'in Progressive Constructions with cognate elements from four Kainji language clusters.

[Cite](#) [Project](#) [DOI](#) [Publisher Page](#)

Rebecca Paterson
February 2015 · Beyond aspect: the expression of discourse functions in African languages · Peer Reviewed

Narrative uses of the Ut-Ma'in (Kainji) Bare Verb form



A discourse based study of the distribution of verb forms in narrative texts with focus on the "unmarked" Bare Verb form that is used to progress the storyline — sequential main events in a narrative text.

[Cite](#) [Project](#) [DOI](#) [Publisher Page](#)

Rebecca Paterson
February 2012 · Advances in minority language research in Nigeria · Peer Reviewed

Semantics of ut-Ma'in noun classes

Class	Class Prefixes	Object Pronouns	Semantic tendencies of class pairings
1/u/2	ú-/ø-	wá/é	humans
1/o/2	ø-/ø-, wa-/ø-	wá/é	humans/ agentative
1/o/6	ø-/øt-	wá/tš	humans
3/u/2	ú-/ø-	já/k	'giant'
7/u/2	ø-/ø-	dé/k	humans
5/2	úr-/ø-	dé/k	'puff adder'
5/6	úr-/øt-	dé/tš	mostly inanimate / round
7/u/2	ú-/ø-	já/k	animates / fruits

3u/6	Ø-/Ø-	5/5	moodly inanimate objects
3ø/6	ø-/ø-	5/5	only inanimate objects
3u/4	Ø-/Ø-	5/5	only inanimate objects
3ø/4	ø-/ø-	5/5	only inanimate objects
5/4	Ør-/Øs-	dé/sé	'thatch'/'arrow'
7u/4	Ø-/Ø-	já/sé	plants / long things / speech acts
7u/6	Ø-/Ø-	já/tá	change over time/baby sling'
3u/aug	Ø-/Ø-	5/4	augmentative
dim/4	I-/Øs-	É/sé	'argument'
dim/6u	I-/Øm-	É/mé	diminutive

I explore evidence for semantic cohesion and semantic assignment criteria to Ut-Ma'in noun class pairings, the distribution of loanwords semantic regularities, and the distribution of verbal nouns throughout the noun classes.

[Preprint](#) [Cite](#) [Project](#) [Publisher Page](#)

Publications

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 On the development of two progressive constructions in Ut-Ma'in

Rebecca Paterson

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 Nominalization and predication in Ut-Ma'in

Rebecca Paterson

[PDF](#) [Cite](#) [Project](#) [Source Document](#)

 Narrative uses of the Ut-Ma'in (Kainji) Bare Verb form

Rebecca Paterson

[Cite](#) [Project](#) [DOI](#) [Publisher Page](#)

 Describing Mòoré: a language of Burkina Faso

Sara Pacchiarotti, Rebecca Paterson, Amos Teo

[Cite](#) [Project](#) [Poster](#)

 Possessed Woman

Ibrahim Yohanna, Rebecca Paterson, Sunday John

[Cite](#) [Project](#)

 Musa and Audu

Ibrahim Yohanna, Rebecca Paterson

[PDF](#) [Cite](#) [Project](#) [Project](#)

 My trip to Minna

Sunday John, Rebecca Paterson

[Cite](#) [Project](#)

 Kambari Man

Ibrahim Yohanna, Rebecca Paterson

[PDF](#) [Cite](#) [Project](#) [Project](#)

 The Gossip King // Faryk y két-y néz-ut wa ys-rem

Ibrahim Yohanna, Rebecca Paterson, Sunday John

[Cite](#) [Project](#)

 What you sow is what you reap

Sunday John, Rebecca Paterson

[Cite](#) [Project](#)

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Oral Presentations

[See all talks »](#)

 An unattested person alignment ut-Ma'in with possible logophoric function

22 Sep, 2021 — 24 Sep, 2021 · Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

 Exploring the logophoric continuum

22 Sep, 2021 — 24 Sep, 2021 · Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

 Clause final negation and double negation in Northwest Kainji

8 Apr, 2021 — 10 Apr, 2021 · University of Florida

 Building Multilingual Comparable Corpora

4 Mar, 2021 — 7 Mar, 2021 · University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

 Songs: Language Choice and Verbal Art

4 Mar, 2021 — 7 Mar, 2021 · University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

 Reported Speech in ut-Ma'in

✉ **Marked nominative alignment from reanalyzed relative clauses: Towards an explanation of prefixes and suffixes in Northwest Kainji argument marking**

26 Aug, 2020 · University of Bucharest, Romania

✉ **Ubiquitous Association in *ut-Ma'in***

28 Jul, 2020 · Langley, British Columbia, Canada

✉ **University of Oregon Ph.D Defense**

7 Aug, 2019 09:00 — 11:00 · Straub Hall Room 255, Eugene, OR 97405

✉ **Development of *Ut-Ma'in* in Progressive Constructions**

11 May, 2018 15:00 — 17:00 · Straub Hall Room 254, Eugene, OR 97405

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Experience

Post-doctoral researcher



CNRS-LLACAN
Sep 2019 – Present · Villejuif, France

Responsibilities include:

- Project: Discourse reporting in African storytelling
- Annotating texts

Linguist



SIL International Nigeria Group
Sep 2013 – Sep 2019 · Oregon, USA / Jos, Nigeria

Graduate Teaching Fellow



University of Oregon
Sep 2012 – Jun 2019 · Eugene, Oregon, USA

Responsibilities included:

- Teaching English & Linguistics

Professional Development Coordinator



SIL Americas Area
Sep 2010 – Aug 2012 · Texas, USA

Responsibilities included:

- Project: Professional Development Platform Implementation
- Workshops: Life Long Leadership & FLEX

Visiting Instructor



Department of Linguistics, Payap University
Aug 2007 – Dec 2007 · Chiang Mai, Thailand

Responsibilities included:

- Teaching: Linguistics

Instructor



Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of North Dakota

Jun 2005 – Aug 2013 · Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA

Responsibilities included:

- Teaching: Linguistics

Translation and Linguistics Consultant Intern



The Seed Company
Aug 2004 – Dec 2007 · Texas, USA / Chiang Mai, Thailand / Jos, Nigeria

Responsibilities included:

Responsibilities included:

- Projects: Pipero Research & *yt-Ma'in* noun research
- Offering Master Classes: Community level training in Orthography, Phonology, Literacy, and Translation

Projects

KAINJI BIBLIOGRAPHY
An essential resource for anyone doing research in Kainji language speaking areas.



YT-MA'IN ORAL HISTORIES AND NARRATIVES
A project collecting Narratives and wordlists from the various lects of the *yt-Ma'in* language.



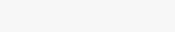
YT-MA'IN PREDICTION
Exploring the morphosyntax of verbal and nonverbal predication, negation, and the extensive use of nominalization.



SIL AMERICAS AREA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM
Implementation of Cornerstone OnDemand for SIL Americas Area



YT-MA'IN NOUN RESEARCH
Complex morphology and agreement patterns within the NP and beyond.



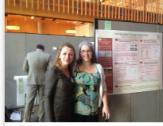
PIPERO RESEARCH
Working alongside local speakers of Pipero to develop a writing system and language materials.



DISCOURSE REPORTING IN AFRICAN STORYTELLING
Exploring grammatical patterns used for quotations in narrative texts.



YT-MA'IN PEAR FILM RESEARCH
A parallel corpus of Pear Film retellings from 9 speakers, across 3 *yt-Ma'in* varieties.



MÔORÉ RESEARCH
Collaboration with Timbaoga Aime Judicaël Ouermi, Sara Pacchiarotti, and Amos Teo, while enrolled in a 9 month field methods course.



Recognition & Support

Awards, Fellowships & Grants

Awards

- 2014 Jacqueline Schachter Outstanding Conference Presentation Award Department of Linguistics, University of Oregon

Fellowships

- 2016 Research Fellowship, Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research *Documenting Oral Literature of the *yt-Ma'in* Language*
- 2012–2019 Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Department of Linguistics, University of Oregon

Grants

- **2016 Research Grant**, Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon *Her voice: Documenting the language of women speakers of the *Yt-Ma'in* language (Nigeria)*
- **2013, 2015 Travel Grant**, Department of Linguistics, University of Oregon
- **2014 Travel Grant**, American English Institute, University of Oregon

Scholarships

- **2007 MA Scholarship**, Linguistics Program, University of North Dakota
- **2001–2005 General Scholarship**, Linguistics Program, University of North Dakota
- **1999–2001 Merit Scholarship**, Cairn University
- **1999 Leadership Scholarship**, Cairn University

Community

Service, Professional memberships, and Community Development

Service

- 2019–2020 Discourse reporting in African storytelling. Hiring committee for two predoctoral researchers and one postdoctoral researcher positions.
- 2014–2015 Student Organizer, *46th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*
- 2013 Peer reviewer, *Ghana Journal of Linguistics*
- 2012–2014 Co-Chair, *Graduate Linguists of Oregon Student Society (GLOSS)*
- 2009–2010 Scholarship Committee, Linguistics Program, University of North Dakota

Professional Memberships

- Association for Contemporary African Linguistics
- Societas Linguistica Europaea
- Association for Linguistic Typology
- Linguistic Society of America

Community Development

Professional involvements with minority language community members.

- Language team building — on demand training in computer skills and program planning
- Instructing speakers of other languages in linguistics, discourse analysis of narrative texts, translation principles, and preparation of materials to help mother-tongue speakers test orthography design decisions

Teaching

Leadership in formal education settings

Trinity Western University

The Canada Institute of Linguistics

- Workshop on grammatical description (Writing Grammars) — Consultant (Summer '20) Conducted via Zoom due to Covid-19.

University of Oregon Department of Linguistics

Department of Linguistics

- Morphology and Syntax, LING 435/535 — Teaching Assistant (Fall '18)
- Language and Power, LING 201 — Teaching Assistant (Spring '17)
- Structure of English Words, LING 150 — Teaching Assistant (Spring '16)
- Structure of English Words, LING 150 — Teaching Assistant (Winter '16)
- Structure of English Words, LING 150 — Teaching Assistant (Fall '15)
- Intro. to Linguistic Analysis, LING 301 — Teaching Assistant (Spring '13)
- Structure of English Words, LING 150 — Instructor of Record (Winter '13)

- Morphology and Syntax, LING 435/535 — Teaching Assistant (Fall '12)

American English Institute, University of Oregon

Intensive English Program (IEP)

- Listening and Note taking, Level 4 — Instructor of Record (Winter '18)
- Listening and Note taking, Level 4 — Instructor of Record (Fall '17)
- Oral Communication Skills, Level 6 — Instructor of Record (Spring '15)
- Oral Communication Skills, Level 6 — Instructor of Record (Winter '15)
- Oral Communication Skills, Level 6 — Instructor of Record (Fall '14)
- Oral Communication Skills, Level 2 — Instructor of Record (Winter '14)

Academic English for International Students (AEIS)

- Intro. to Academic Writing, AEIS 110 — Instructor of Record (Spring '14)
- Intro. to Academic Writing, AEIS 110 — Instructor of Record (Fall '13)

University of North Dakota Linguistics Program

Summer Institute of Linguistics Program

- Tone Analysis, LING 513 — Teaching Assistant (Summer '13)
- Linguistic Field Methods, LING 506 — Instructor (Summer '10)
- Linguistic Field Methods, LING 506 — Instructor (Summer '09)
- Linguistic Field Methods, LING 506 — Teaching Assistant (Summer '08)
- Syntax and Morphology I, LING 452 — Teaching Assistant (Summer '05)

Payap University Graduate Linguistics Department, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Graduate Linguistics Department

- Semantics, LING 607 — Visiting Instructor (Fall '07)

Nigeria Bible Translation Trust, Jos, Nigeria

Introductory Course in Applied Linguistic (ICAL)

- Phonetics/Phonology — Teaching Assistant (2006)

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

English Language Program, Office of International Education

- Pronunciation Coaching — Tutor (Summer '04)

Grace International School, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Middle School

- Special Needs Classroom — Volunteer (Jan. '03–Mar. '03)

Master Classes

Serving communities while
training in linguistic skills

SIL June 15 – August 14, 2020 *Grammar Writing Workshop* Trinity Western University, British Columbia Canada

Focus: Over nine weeks, I directly mentored three participants as they each wrote on different grammar issues for different African languages.

SIL October 21–29, 2011 *Lifelong Learning for Leaders* SIL Americas Area, Panama City, Panama

Focus: This workshop provided interpersonal and leadership skills for leaders across the Americas. I presented the Cornerstone OnDemand platform and how to use the platform to support individualized professional development plans.

As part of my position with the SIL Americas Area I worked to provide skills in linguistic tools to mother tongue language users. I was invited to co-lead the workshop on Fieldworks Software held at the University of Malaysia, Sabah.

SIL October 17–19, 2011 *Fieldworks Language Explorer as a dictionary development tool* University of Malaysia, Sabah, Malaysia

Focus: Over three days I provided 15 hours instruction on different aspects of Fieldworks useful in the production of community created dictionaries.

As part of my position with the Seed Company from 9/2004 – 12/2007, I was engaged as a *Linguistics Consultant Intern* under Katherine Barnwell, Ph.D. I worked and lived in Nigeria. During this three year internship I was took part in or facilitated various workshops. Most workshops focused on providing minority language speakers

linguistic and language use skills, for conducting language development activities in their own mother tongues.

⌚ January 15 – February 2, 2007 *8th Luke Partnership workshop in Gombe State* ECWA Theological College, Kufai, Biliri, Gombe State

⌚ September 18 – October 6, 2006 *7th Luke Partnership workshop in Gombe State* ECWA Theological College, Kufai, Biliri, Gombe State, Nigeria
Focus: Translation and community checking of translated materials: visit to Gwandum

⌚ May 15 – June 2, 2006 *6th Luke Partnership workshop in Gombe State* ECWA Theological College, Kufai, Biliri, Gombe State, Nigeria

⌚ January 16 – February 3, 2006 *5th Luke Partnership workshop in Gombe State* ECWA Theological College, Kufai, Gombe State, Nigeria
Focus: Draft for circulation: Reading and Writing

⌚ September 19 – October 8, 2005 *4th Luke Partnership workshop in Gombe State* Science Secondary School, Kaltungo, Gombe State, Nigeria

⌚ January 10–29, 2005 *2nd Luke Partnership workshop in Gombe State* ECWA Good News Church GRA, Gombe, Nigeria
Focus: Draft for circulation in preliminary orthography: The Good Samaritan (Pipero)

⌚ January 3–7, 2005 Facilitator, *Visual Arts, Scripture in Use Workshop* NBT, Jos, Nigeria

Across Cultures

Cross Cultural Experience

Europe

Paris, France | 24 months in Paris, France at CNRS

- Dates: 9/2019–Present

Resident in France while a postdoctoral researcher at CNRS–LLACAN. I worked with 20 other people doing research on reported speech in West African languages.

Northern Nigeria

ut-Ma'in speaking people | 12 months in Niger State, Nigeria

- Dates: 4/2005, 11/2005, 2–3/2006, 8/2006, 10/2006, 2/2007, 8–9/2013, 3/2017, 8–9/2017

Data elicitation, collecting oral literature, transcription and translation of texts, grammar analysis. Development of adult reading primer for use by bilingual speakers literate in Hausa. Language data formed the basis for my master's thesis and doctoral dissertation. Most recent visits in 2017 funded by the Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research and the Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon. Close collaboration with local speakers and other linguists working on Kainji languages.

Pipero speaking people | 6 months in Gombe State, Nigeria

- Dates: 1/2005, 9/2005, 1/2006, 5/2006, 9/2006, 1/2007

Orthography checking and testing. Translation adviser to team of native speaker translators. Development of adult reading primer for use by bi/trilingual speakers literate in Hausa and/or English. Supervisor, Katherine Barnwell, Ph.D.

Southern Mexico

Me'phaa speaking people | 5 Months in Guerrero State, Mexico

- Dates: 11/2010–1/2011 and 3/2011–4/2011

Logistics support role for language documentation project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (USA) Project: Documenting the Me'phaa genus. (PI: Steven A. Marlett, Ph.D.)

Northern Thailand

Chiang Mai, Thailand | 10 Months in Northern Thailand

- 8/2007–11/2007 Visiting Instructor, Payap University, Department of Linguistics
- 2/2003–3/2003 Volunteer, Language Survey Department, Mainland Southeast Asia Group, SIL International

- 8/2002–2/2003 Volunteer, Foster Home Supervisor, Cummins Group Home

People I've Worked with

Mother Tongue Speakers



Ibrahim Tume Ushe
Language Speaker



Timbwaoga Aimé
Judicaël Ouermi
Language Speaker & Computer
Scientist



Ibrahim Yohanna
Language Speaker



Sunday John
Language Speaker



Serah Sunday
Language Speaker

Academics

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Abbie Hantgan-Sonko
Linguist

Rebecca Voll
Linguist

Christian Chanard
Programmer

Hugh Paterson III
Creative

Amos Teo
Linguist & Data Analyst



Timbwaoga Aimé
Judicaël Ouermi
Language Speaker & Computer
Scientist



Sara Pacchiarotti
Linguist



Doris Payne
Linguist



Keith Snider
Linguist

Instructional Collaborators



Doris Payne
Linguist



Kathrine Barnwell
Linguist



Keith Snider
Linguist



Tom Payne
Linguist

Skills

Learning a language is almost as easy as forgetting a language. All skills ebb and flow with fluency in various seasons of life.

Language proficiencies

Native

- English

Intermediate

- Hausa (Chadic, Afro-Asiatic)—speaking/reading/structural knowledge
- *ȝt-Ma'in* (Kainji, Benue-Congo)—speaking/structural knowledge | 12 months fieldwork

Basic

- Pipero (Chadic, Afro-Asiatic) — structural knowledge | 6 months fieldwork
- Mòoré (Gur, Niger-Congo) — structural knowledge | 9 month field methods course
- German — reading | 2 years coursework
- Koine Greek — reading/structural knowledge
- Latin — reading/structural knowledge

- Latin — reading/structural knowledge
- French — some knowledge

Digital tools

- *Authorship*: Google Apps, Microsoft Word, LibreOffice, XLingPaper, Papers, Endnote, Zotero
- *Communication*: MailChimp, WordPress, Hugo, WhatsApp
- *Operating Systems*: Linux (Ubuntu/Wasta), OS X/MacOS 10.6–10.12, Windows

Linguistic and Translation Software

- *Phonetics*: Speech Analyzer, ELAN, Praat
- *Phonology*: Dekereke, Phonology Assistant
- *Corpus Annotation*: ELAN, ELAN-Corpa
- *Lexicography*: FLEx, WeSay
- *Translation*: ParaTExt translation software

Strategy games

Saint Petersburg , Settlers of Catan, Carcassonne, Keeping a 4-year-old intellectually engaged and out of trouble during COVID-19.

Contact

Talking is better with coffee.

 becky.d.paterson@gmail.com

 618-401-4055

 7 rue Guy Môquet
94800 VILLEJUIF
France

 Talk to guard at the gate, or call and I will come meet you.

 email for appointment

 Skype Me

 What'sApp Me

[PDF version of my CV \(A4\)](#)

