

Michael Bulkaam Shikpan

(he/him/his)

75 Walmer Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2X6

Email: mb.shikpan@mail.utoronto.ca | Personal: smbulkaam@gmail.com | Website: <https://smbulkaam.com.ng>

EDUCATION

Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto

Toronto, Canada

M.A LINGUISTICS

September 2024-Date

- **Topic:** Vowel Harmony in Tal: Evidence from Reduplication in Verb Focus
- **Supervisor:** Asst. Professor Samuel Akinbo

Department of Linguistics and Translation, TCNN

Bukuru-Jos, Nigeria

(Theological College of Northern Nigeria,

2020-2022

an affiliate of University of Jos)

M.A LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION AND DESCRIPTION

- **Topic:** Plural Verbs in Tal in the Context of West Chadic languages
- **Supervisor:** Dr. Matthew Harley

Department of Linguistics and Translation, TCNN

Bukuru-Jos, Nigeria

B.A LINGUISTICS AND TRANSLATION

2013-2017

[2ND CLASS UPPER DIVISION]

- **Topic:** Tense and Aspect in Tal
- **Supervisor:** Dr. Matthew Harley

Nasarawa State Polytechnic,

Lafia, Nigeria

Department of Basic and Remedial Studies

2009-2011

[A] LEVEL IJMB (INTERIM JOINT MATRICULATION BOARD)

- Arts and Languages

RESEARCH

GRANTS/CONTRACTS/AWARDS

- | | | |
|------|---|---------|
| 2024 | Nominated Final Proposal for the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, by the U.S. Government, Title: <i>Inventory, Documentation and Conservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Middle Belt, Nigeria</i> https://pressbooks.pub/middlebelt/ Role: Co-author. PI: Professor Aaron Carter-Enyi | |
| 2023 | Interviews on Farmer-Herder conflict in Nigeria, Morehouse College Environmental Justice and Sustainability Program: PI: Professor Aaron Carter-Enyi | \$2000 |
| 2023 | Documentation of Cara: An Endangered Central-Plateau Language of Nigeria, Endangered Language Funds (ELF), Role: PI | \$3,210 |
| 2023 | Harmony System in Yebu (Adamawa language), PI: Prof. Avery Ozburn, Linguistics Department, University of Toronto, Canada | \$1,940 |

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

2024	June/July	Word Collections on Ganang, Gyem, Gura, Jakun, Sigidi, Fyalu (Chadic and Benue Congo languages)
2023	November	Fieldwork to Tal for recording of acoustic, tone and narrative data
2023	Aug., Sept.	Word Collection on Bata (Central Chadic, Adamawa State) iTunzu (Kainji)
2023	May	Yebu Data Collection Fieldwork to Kaltungo, Bauchi, Nigeria
2023	Jan., Oct.	Nyankpa and Ishe (Plateau) Dictionary Consultant Checking
2022	Jan.-May	Fieldwork to Tal for Text Collection for Discourse Studies at TCNN
2021	October	Fieldwork to Ribina, Loro and Panawa communities in Toro LGA, Bauchi state on Bunu and Panawa (Eastern-Kainji)
2019	November	Fieldwork to Zul, Buk (=Zaranda), Bolu, Dokshi and Mantsi Bauchi state, Nigeria
2019	November	Fieldwork to Zul, Buk (=Zaranda), Bolu, Dokshi and Mantsi Bauchi state, Nigeria
2019	October	Fieldwork to Chakfem and Ywom, Chadic languages of Plateau State
2019	September	Fieldwork to Tel and Miship, Chadic languages of Plateau State
2019	March	Fieldwork to Gera in Bauchi state
2019	February	Fieldwork to Tal in Plateau State
2018	November	Fieldwork to Gera in Bauchi state
2018	June	Fieldwork to Gera in Bauchi state
2017	May	Fieldwork to Tal, Pyanpung, Koenom, Belning and Jakato
2016	Jan-May	TCNN Phonology and Grammar Fieldworks on Tal
2015	Jan-May	TCNN Fieldwork Word Collection, Text Collection, and Sociolinguistics Survey on Tal

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024	Teaching Assistants' Training Program (TATP), Discussion-Based Tutorial, Participant University of Toronto,
2024	Teaching Assistants' Training Program (TATP), Problem Sets Tutorial, Participant University of Toronto
2022	Global Partnerships Field Coordinators' Training, Participant from Nigeria Bible Translation and Literacy, Nairobi Kenya
2021	Africana Digital Ethnography Project (ADEPt) Training, Participant University of Nigeria, Nsukka,
2006	Introductory Course in Applied Linguistics (ICAL) Training, Participant Nigerian Bible Translation Trust (NBTT), Jos, Nigeria

PUBLICATIONS/UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

- Akinbo, Samuel, Tongpan Rabo Fwangwar & **Michael Bulkaam**. (submitted). Morphophonological tonal polarity in West Chadic languages. *Phonology*.
- Akinbo, Samuel & **Bulkaam, Michael**. 2023. Iconicity as the motivation for the signification and locality of deictic grammatical tones in Tal. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 9(1). pp. 1–41. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.10666>
- Bulkaam, Michael** and Blench Roger. 2023. *Dictionary of Tal: A West Chadic Language of Nigeria* (submitted to Rudiger Koppe Verlag, Germany).

- Bulkaam, Michael.** 2022. *Plural Verbs in Tal in the Context of West Chadic Languages*. Thesis submitted to TCNN (an affiliate of University of Jos) Linguistics Department, Bukuru-Jos, Nigeria in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Award of Master of Arts Degree in Language Documentation and Description.
- Bulkaam, Michael.** 2021. *A morphological analysis of verb pluralisation in Teel*. Seminar paper submitted to Prof. James J. Reynolds and Dr. Russell Norton, TCNN Bukuru-Jos.
- Bulkaam, Michael** and Blench Roger. 2021. *Reconstructing Economic History through Linguistics: a Case Study from the A3 West Chadic languages in Central Nigeria*. (paper submitted for the Proceeding of International and Interdisciplinary Conference on African Pre-Colonial History).
- Blench, Roger and **Bulkaam Michael.** 2021. *An Introduction to Mantsi, a South-Bauchi Language of Central Nigeria* (a prepublication).
- Blench, Roger and **Bulkaam Michael.** 2020. *A preliminary lexicon of Teel [=Tehl, Montol]: An under-documented language of Central Nigeria* (a prepublication).
- Blench, Roger **Bulkaam Michael** and Gyepya Simon. 2019. *The Decennial Magic Show: The Religious System of the Tal of Central Nigeria*. (unpublished).
- Blench, Roger and **Bulkaam Michael.** 2019a. *Belnəng, an undocumented Chadic language of Central Nigeria* (a prepublication).
- Blench, Roger and **Bulkaam Michael.** 2019b. *Jibyal, an undocumented Chadic language of Central Nigeria* (unpublished).
- Blench, Roger and **Bulkaam Michael.** 2029c. *Jakato, an underdocumented language of Central Nigeria* (unpublished).
- Blench, Roger and **Bulkaam Michael.** 2019d. *Nteng, an undocumented Chadic language of Central Nigeria* (unpublished).
- Bulkaam, Michael.** 2017. *Tense and Aspect in Tal*. Thesis submitted to the TCNN (an affiliate of University of Jos) Bukuru-Jos, Nigeria in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Award of Bachelor of Arts Degree in Linguistics and Translation.
- Blench, Roger and **Bulkaam Michael.** 2017. *Ethnozoology of the Tal, Chadic-speakers of west-central Nigeria* (unpublished).
- Bulkaam, Michael.** 2016a. *A Phonological Analysis of Tal*. TCNN/University of Jos Fieldwork Research submitted to Dr. Russell Norton of Linguistics and Translation Department.
- Bulkaam, Michael.** 2016b. *Grammar Sketch of Tal*. TCNN/University of Jos Fieldwork Research submitted to Dr. Matthew Harley of Linguistics and Translation Department.
- Bulkaam, Michael.** 2015. *Sociolinguistics Survey Report for Tal*. TCNN/University of Jos Fieldwork Research submitted to Mr. Mike Ruck of Linguistics and Translation Department.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Akinbo, Samuel & **Bulkaam Michael.** (in prep). *Tal Gerundive Formation*. to be submitted to *Languages*.
- Akinbo, Samuel & **Bulkaam Michael.** (in prep). *Analysis of tone system in Tal*
- Ozburn, Avery & **Bulkaam Michael.** (in prep). *Harmony system in Yebu*
- Ozburn, Avery & **Bulkaam Michael.** (in prep). *Yebu Vowel System*
- Akinbo, Samuel, Pedro Mateo and **Michael Bulkaam** (in prep). *A Pedagogical Grammar of Tal*

PRESENTATIONS

Guest Talk(s)

October 26, 2023. *Reduplication in Tal: An A3 West Chadic Language*. Graduate Seminar at University of Toronto, Instructor: Ass. Prof. Samuel Akinbo.

Contributed Presentations

Akinbo, Samuel and **Bulkaam Michael**. October 21-22, 2018. *Grammaticalised Iconicity, Deixis, and Phonological Locality in Tal*. Annual Meeting of phonology (AMP), Poster: Online.

Bulkaam, Michael. October 15-19, 2023. *The Exotic Phonology of Ywom (Chadic) and Implication for Orthography Development*. Oral presentation: Conference of Linguistics Association of Nigeria (CLAN), Federal University Lokoja, Kogi State.

Blench, Roger, Saul Samuel and **Bulkaam Michael**. September 13-15, 2023. *An extended morphosyntax of Bəna-Yungur noun classes*. Online presentation: 2nd Adamawa Conference, in Paris.

Bulkaam, Michael. 2022. *Plural verbs in Tal in the context of West Chadic languages*. Online: 11th Biennial International Colloquium on the Chadic languages, University of Wien, Austria.

Bulkaam, Michael. 2021. *Plural verbs in A3 West Chadic Languages*. Oral presentation: Jos Linguistic Circle, Jos, Nigeria.

Bulkaam, Michael. 2021. *A morphological analysis of verbal pluralisation in Teel [Montol]*. Interdisciplinary seminar presentation: TCNN, Bukuru-Jos, Nigeria.

Bulkaam, Michael. 2021. *A morphological analysis of plural verbs in Tal (West Chadic)*. Online: 10th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL10), Leiden University, Netherlands.

Bulkaam, Michael. 2021. *Reconstructing Economic History through Linguistics: a Case Study from the A3 West Chadic Languages in Central Nigeria*. International and Interdisciplinary Conference on African Pre-colonial History. Online: Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

Bulkaam, Michael. 2019. *Tense in Tall Narratives*. Oral presentation: Conference of Linguistics Association of Nigeria (CLAN), Customs Command and Staff College Gwagwalada/ University of Abuja, Nigeria.

Bulkaam, Michael. 2017. *Recent Consonant Discoveries in Tal*. Oral presentation: Jos Linguistic Circle, Jos, Nigeria

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP/EXPERIENC

Sept. 2024-Date	LIN204HF-English Grammar 1, Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto	Toronto, Canada
2021-2022	LLL 205 Word Collection, Teaching Assistant, TCNN, <i>Linguistics and Translation Department</i>	Bukuru-Jos
2022	Lexicography, Instructor, The Word for the World Nigeria Initiative	Abuja, Nigeria Abuja, Nigeria
2022	Dictionary Making, Facilitator, The Word for the World Nigeria Initiative	
2020	Orthography, Instructor,	Abuja, Nigeria

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

- 2022-Date Studies in Chadic Languages, Research Assistant to Prof Samuel Akinbo,
University of Toronto
- 2023-Date Harmony System in Yebu, Research Assistant to Prof. Avery Ozburn,
University of Toronto
- 2018-Date Documentation of Nigerian Languages, Research Assistant to Dr. Roger Blench,
Kay Williamson Educational Foundation, Gold and Base, Rayfield-Jos

INTEREST

- Language Documentation and Development
- Phonetics & Phonology
- Lexicography & Linguistics Fieldworks

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Tal - (*Native*)
- Hausa - (*Advanced*)
- English - (*Advanced*)
- Nigerian Pidgin- (*Advanced*)
- Ngas - (*Intermediate*)
- Chakfem - (*Intermediate*)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Speech Analysis:** Praat, Speech Analyzer
- **Annotation:** ELAN; FLEx; SayMore; ParaText
- **Text Processing:** Word; Excel; PowerPoint, Latex

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – Date **Research Consultant**
Kay Williamson Educational Foundation
Gold and Base, Rayfield-Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria
- 2023 – Date **Field Coordinator/Partnership Facilitator (Part-time)**
Global Partnerships, Anglophone Lusophone Africa Area
Serving with NBTT, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria
- 2023 – Date **Volunteer Literacy Coordinator**
Tal Language Development Project
Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria
- 2022-Date **Researcher, interviewer farmers/herders conflicts in central Nigeria**
Africana Digital Ethnography Project (ADEPt)
Morehouse College, Atlanta, USA

- 2016 – Date **Volunteer Literacy Instructor**
Tal Youths Association, Jos Branch
- 2022 Dec. **Lecturer**
Dictionary Making Workshops
The Word for the World Nigeria Initiative
Gwarimpa, Abuja Nigeria
- 2022 Nov. Dec **Lecturer**
The Word for the World Nigeria Initiative
Gwarimpa, Abuja Nigeria
- 2021 – 2022 **Graduate Assistant Lecturer**
Department of Linguistics and Translation
TCNN Bukuru-Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria
- 2020 Oct **Lecturer**
Orthography Workshop
The Word for the World Nigeria Initiative
Gwarimpa, Abuja Nigeria)
- 2017 – 2019 **Linguist/Language Documenter, Facilitator**
CAPRO Translation Department
National Headquarters, Jos, Nigeria

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2023-Date Linguistic Association of Nigeria
- 2025-Date Association of Contemporary African Linguistics (ACAL)

REFERENCE

Dr. Samuel Akinbo

Assistant Professor, Linguistics
University of Toronto, Department of Linguistics
samuel.akinbo@utoronto.ca
(Supervisor)

Dr. Avery Ozburn

Assistant Professor, Linguistics
University of Toronto, Department of Linguistics
avery.ozburn@utoronto.ca
(Supervisor)

Dr. Susana Bejar

Associate Professor, Linguistics
University of Toronto, Department of Linguistics
susana.bejar@utoronto.ca
(Supervisor)