

# Adpositions in Adamawa languages

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# Adpositions in Adamawa languages

## Survey languages

Samba Duru	Kebi-Benue	Mumuye	Bua	Longuda
• Kolbila	• Mundang	• Zing Dialect	• Lwàa	• Longuda
• Samba Leeko	• Nganha Mbum			
• Dii				
• Pεrε				
• Doyayo				
• Beiya				
• Riitime				
• Kobom				
• Lɔŋto				

# Adpositions in Adamawa languages

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## Analyzing Adpositions

- Different names ( i. e. „fonctionnels, indicateur de fonction“ marker“)
- Different analysis ( i.e. clitic, prarticle, free position, affix, pronoun, demonstrative)
- Ambigious description
- Borrowed forms (séé, háá(r))
- Lack of data
- Marginal

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## Analyzing Adpositions

- Spatial and temporal adpositions

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## Considerations

1. What kind of adpositions does the language have?
2. Is there an adposition expressing spatiality in general?
3. If yes what form, position and variants does it have?
4. Are these adpositions part of spatial expressions (in, on, at, above etc.)?
5. Are there formal similarites all over the Adamawa language group or in specific subgroups?
6. Are there any language specific features?

# Adpositions in Adamawa languages

## The survey

	Kolbila	Samba Leko	Dii (Duru)	Pere	Doyayo	Beiya	Riitime	Kobom	Lɔŋto
1.	Post	Prep, Cir, Post	Prep?	Post	Prep, Post	Post	Post	Post	Post
2.	👍	👍	Suffix	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍
3.	dú	dú	-lí	tī	á, lē, dú	(d)ē/ ə	(d)ō/ō	ō	rε
4.	👍	👉	👉	👍	👍	👎	👎	👎	👍

# Adpositions in Adamawa languages

## The survey

	Fali	Mundang	Nganha Mbum	Mumuye (Zing Dialect)	Lwàa	Longuda
1.	Prep, Cir, Post	Prep	Prep	Prep, Post	Post	Prep
2.	👍	👍	👍	👍	👉	👍
3.	è	kè	bí	á, ni	nè	á
4.	👍	👎	👎	👍	?	👍

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## Dii

Bonhoff 2010, Altebockwinkel 2014

- Variants of Suffix -l̩: -í, -lé, -li, -e, -lá, -ŋ, -nɛ, -ni, -ní and -v
- Bound to the postposed Element

1) dəg gbòò tóó-l̩  
Pot big this-spec-LOC  
In this big pot.

(3) mbèè-l̩  
Mbé-LOC  
In Mbé.

(2) bəd yé'í-l̩  
mud dig-LOC  
To dig into (the) mud.

(4) vòò-l̩  
2P-LOC  
At theirs (home).

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## Doyayo

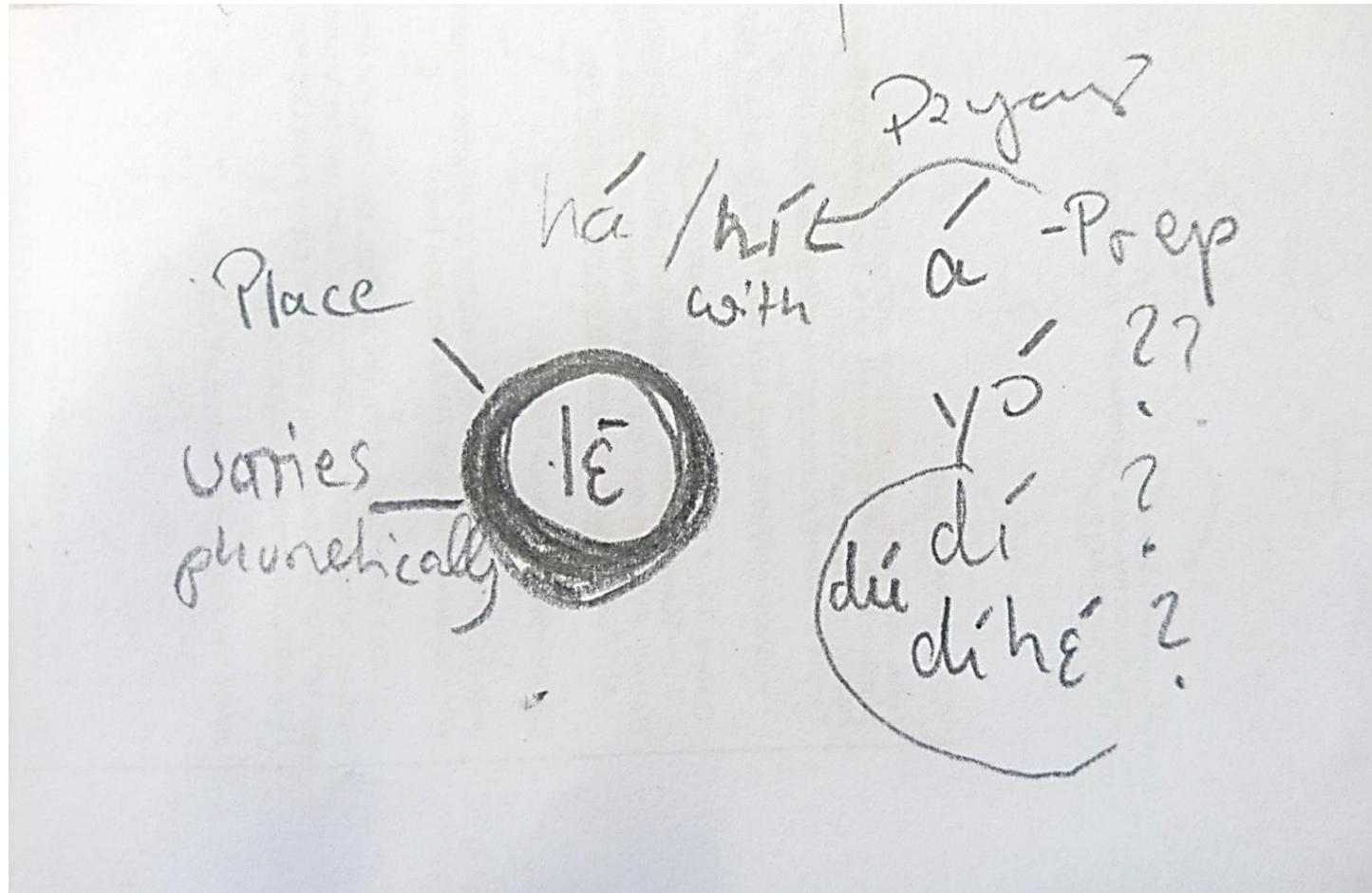
Wiering & Wiering 1994: 203

- (5) *īs Ø w̄ε̄*      *á gí lέ-l̄ε*  
goat 3S returned at 3S:POSS Ort-LOC  
The goat went home.

- (6) *mó yέl dú*  
2S:POSS back LOC  
On your back.

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## Doyayo



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## Beiya, Riitime, Kobom

- B: 10 NC, no locative class but gə-class
- R: 10 NC, no locative class but k-class
- K: 13 NC, -ku class

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## Beiya

- (7) ?ūū wát      rāà-r=ē      sē      gbīi-l=lē  
1P go      house-CL=LOC      DIR river-CL=LOC  
We go from (the) house to (the) river.

## Riitime

- (8) yāk yòò      dú-l=ló  
cat to be      hole-CL=LOC  
A cat is in the hole.

- (9) yírī-wàà-bīrī      ?ā      wūn      rāà      nī-ŋ=gò  
human-child-male DEM 3S:POSS house front-CL=LOC  
This man is in front of his house.

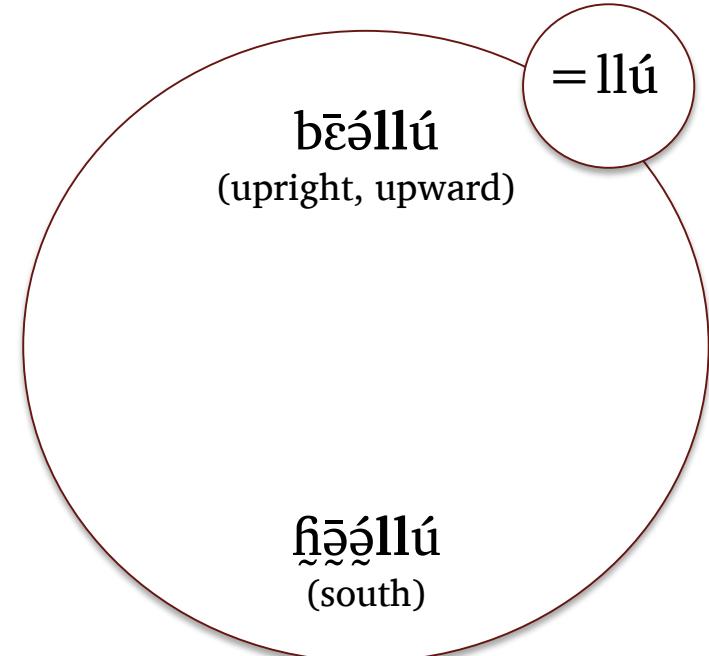
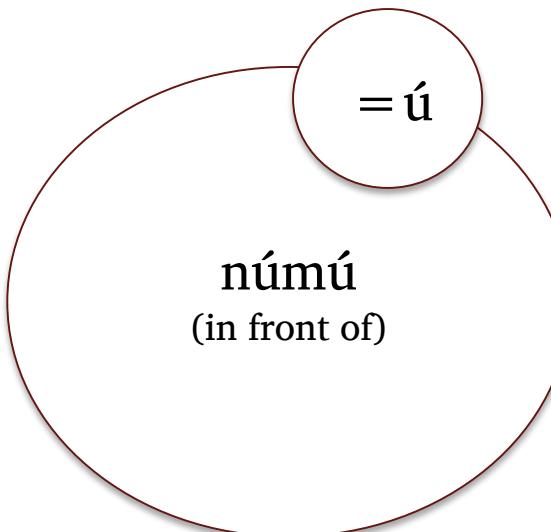
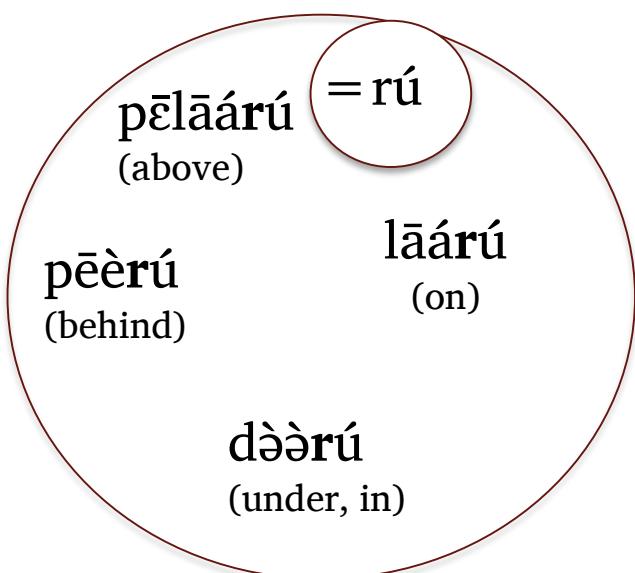
## Kobom

- (10) mu      wom      gwa      tuu-ri=ro      gε-ku=ro  
2S build house hill-CL=LOC side-CL=LOC  
You build a house next to the hill.

# Adpositions in Adamawa languages

## Kolbila

Spatial Expressions:



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## Summary

1. What kind of adpositions does the language have?
  - Prep, Circ, Post
2. Is there a general adposition expressing spatiality?
  - The languages tend to develop a adposition that expresses spatiality in general that is often part or obligatory in spatial expressions
3. Are there formal similarites all over the Adamawa language group or in specific subgroups?
  - No and yes
4. Any further ideas?
  - The loss of a Noun class system is somehow connected to the development of adpositions. Adpositions may replace locative-classes.
  - The position of the adposition is not depending from the word constituent order.

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A photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, there are dark, layered rocks covered in green moss. A small blue toy monster figurine is standing on one of these rocks. The beach is sandy and leads to the ocean where waves are crashing against more rocks. A person is walking along the water's edge in the background.

Thank you, Merci, Danke!

Questions and Discussion  
welcome!