

Tone Transcription Template

Linguistics 341

due: Friday, March 4th, 2022, by 11:59

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1 Yoruba Examples

Yoruba is a Niger-Congo language which is spoken by about 19 million people, primarily in west Africa. It is one of the official languages of Nigeria.

Yoruba is a contour tone language which includes high tones, mid tones, low tones, falling tones, and rising tones. Note that the rising and falling tones only occur on the final syllables of words in this exercise.

The high tone is transcribed with a [ó] over the vowel on which it is realized (not necessarily o!).

The mid tone is transcribed with a [ō].

The low tone is transcribed with a [ò].

The falling tone is transcribed with a [ô].

The rising tone is transcribed with a [ǒ].

Yoruba also features syllabic nasals, which bear tones as well.

1. [ā bá] ‘we meet’
2. [ā bā] ‘we hide’
3. [ā bā] ‘we perch’
4. [ń:tâ] ‘selling’
5. [ń:ǰá] ‘hacking’
6. [ń:kō] ‘writing’
7. [ōkō] ‘husband’
8. [ōkó] ‘hoe’
9. [ōkǒ] ‘spear’

10. [ãdã] 'cutlass'
11. [ãgã] 'chair'
12. [ãfã] 'custom'

2 Yoruba Exercises

1. [] 'shea butter'
2. [] 'black plum'
3. [] 'farm'
4. [] 'missile'
5. [] 'dish'
6. [] 'secret; mystery'
7. [] 'fishing net'
8. [] 'should have'
9. [] 'pouring'
10. [] 'fleeing'
11. [] 'the water is cold'
12. [] 'cold water'