

Vowels, consonants and prosody in two Central Chadic languages

Richard Gravina

SIL - Cameroon

The purpose of this paper is to describe the roles of vowels, consonants and prosodic features in two closely-related Central Chadic languages, Jimi and Sharwa, spoken in northern Cameroon. The paper will look at the function of palatalisation and labialisation in the two languages, at the question of how many underlying vowels exist in the languages, and at the nature of the epenthetic vowel. The paper will conclude by relating the features of these two languages to the situation in a wider range of Chadic languages.