

The expression of space in Ikposo

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The aim of this presentation is to show a preliminary analysis of the expression of space in Ikposo, a Kwa language of Togo. I will mainly focus on three characteristics of the language: the locative preposition, relational nouns and the expression of path through verbal serialization. Firstly, concerning the locative preposition it must be noted that the movement direction described in the verb is not encoded by this preposition but by the verb itself. Thus, the preposition does not differ in terms of source, locative or destination meaning. This is a typical characteristic of the West African languages. Secondly, the relational nouns are very frequent in the language. They occur with the locative preposition and are typically encoded as a genitival phrase. However, we will see that some of them are much more grammaticalized than the others. There are phonological and syntactical arguments to consider they are losing their nominal characteristics. Finally, a short overview on spatial serialization will be proposed. Some verbs such as 'to be at, to put' are frequently used as the second verb in a series, giving indications on path. I will discuss these three topics in the framework of typological studies.