

## **Recent development of lexical evolution in Kabiye (Gur)**

Balaibaou Kassan

University of Kara - Togo

*Kabiye has been and is being used in the media since 1971 (radio, print media, education, and later also television). The transmission of information on political matters, economy, commercial affairs, science, and cross-cultural concerns has deeply influenced lexical development of this African language, by continuously adapting it to new needs of communication. The language Kabiye uses different means for enlarging and restructuring its lexicon: There are loans as well as different word formation procedures. Besides, the lexical inventory of the language is deeply affected by enlarging the meaning of certain lexical items so that more modern understandings of the lexemes in question are covered (e.g. pɪtaá ɪɪzɪ/ "inside take.out" (= interpret, translate)). Furthermore, for enlarging the number of expressions, the language Kabiye copies constructions from other African languages (primarily Ewe) or even French ("calquing") (e.g. Ewe metsi\_ mengbe\_ "I have been behind" to Kab. mancaV/ wáyV/ "I have been behind" (= I am late)). The main source languages from which loans stem are French (e.g. aradiyóo "radio"), English (e.g. suku\_li "school", ʔOkOta "surgeon"), and Ewe (gazéé "aluminium pot"). There are two main processes of word formation in Kabiye, derivation and composition (Lébikaza 1985, 1999; Kassan 1996). In the domain of derivation, suffixes are more important than prefixes (e.g. sa\_-yU/ "drive-AGENTIVE" (= driver)). Compounds may entirely consist of Kab. elements or contain a foreign constituent besides a native one (e.g. agOma ʔlwa\_ "foreigner house" (= hotel), suku\_li pUwa\_ "school child"). Other procedures such as adding a loan to a Kab. expression in order to form a more general from a more specific meaning will also be discussed (e.g. pa-kpá-/pini\_i (< French puni) "they-caught:PAST-him punished" (= he has been punished)).*