

The expression of property concepts in Peere (Adamawa, Cameroon)

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Peere is a Central Branch Adamawa language spoken in the Western part of Adamawa Province in Cameroon. In this language, properties are basically and predominantly expressed by quality verbs that have a stative and a dynamic (inchoative) reading, depending on context, and on the relevant TAM category. These same verbs are, directly or indirectly, at the base of a large variety of derived property nouns.

In some cases, up to six formally different property nouns can be derived from one verb. These forms differ with regard to certain semantic and/or pragmatic parameters. Property nouns function as attributive modifiers in noun phrases. In addition, many of them combine with the copula verb yò: 'to be, exist' to form non-verbal predications. These, again, differ from predications operated by the corresponding verb in a number of ways (among others, allowing for the expression of a progressive).