Tones Worldwide

A typological questionnaire

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### General Information on the language

**Language name**: Mwan

**genetic affiliation**: South Mande < Mande

**area**: West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire

Please, put this information in the end of the Index (AF (Africa). WA (West Africa)

**language international code**: ISO 639-3: Mwa

### 1.1 TYPE: Tonal language type

**TYPE INDEX**

**Ia5(3--1)+Dd [LMS] AccNo IntNo {isolating: 1,3} AF.WA**

If the linguistic tradition concerning the subject language has a traditional way of coding and classifying tonal distinctions, please, indicate correspondence of traditional way of writing to the uniformed transcription.

#### Coding

If the subject language has a traditional way of coding and classifying tonal distinctions, please, indicate correspondence of traditional way of writing to uniformed transcription[[1]](#footnote-1).

Mwan (3 level tonal units: L, M, H):

màá ‘broom’ ma1a3

māā ‘chicken’ ma2a2

màà ‘(he) heard’ ma1a1

Comments: …There are two ways of coding tones. One, used by CIL publications, including translation of the New Testament (2011) the following way of coding tones:

High tone is coded by the apostrophe, low tone is coded by the hyphen, middle tone by the absence of a sign; the equal sign marks the modulated falling tone, e.g. *‘fɛ* [fɛ3] ‘house’; *ye* [ye2] ‘to see’; *-yi* [yi1] ‘water’. Tonal marking on bisyllabic words is ambiguous. If both vowels bear the same tone, only the tone of the first vowel is marked: *‘peni* [pe3ni3] ‘sting’; *bie* [bi2e2] ‘elephant’; *-vakɔ* [va1kɔ1] ‘sugar cane’. If the first vowel bears low tone, and the second is “higher” (H or M), the word is followed by an apostrophe: *-gbaan’* [gba̰1a̰2] ‘dog’; *-soo’* [so1o3] ‘horse’. If the tone of the first vowel is high, and the tone of second vowel is “lower” (L or M), the end of the word is marked by a hyphen: *‘pubɔ-* [pu3bɔ2] ‘to greet’; *‘kpata-* [kpa3ta1] ‘claie’. The middle tone on the first vowel is not marked, the high tone of the second vowel is denoted with an apostrophe, the low tone of the second vowel being denoted with a hyphen: *kɔnɛ’* [kɔ2nɛ3] ‘bug’; *nina-* [ni2na1] ‘to return’.

For trisyllabicand more complex words, only the tone of the initial vowel is denoted:   
*-amasrɔyi* [a1ma2srɔ1yi3] ‘because’; *laanima* [la2a2ni3ma2] ‘upwards’; *‘ŋkɛna* [ŋ3kɛ1na1] ‘good morning’.

Traditional terms:

#### 1.1.1 Type of tonal system

In this questionnaire we will distinguish between two broad classes of tonal systems: **level tone systems** and **counter tone systems**.

In this section, please, indicate the predominant type of the tonal system.

* I ☐ Mainly level tonal units
* II ☐ Mainly contour tonal units
* III ☐ Other
* Comments:…

Please in the section “Type” mark the corresponding Latin numbers (I, II or III).

#### 1.1.2 Tone bearing unit

What is the tone bearing unit in the subject language?

* a ☐ [Syllable](#_9_Types_of)
* b ☐ [Foot](#_10_Types_of)
* c ☐ [Mora](#_11_Types_of)
* Comments: …

Please in the section “Type” mark the corresponding letter, e.g. Ia.

2 Characteristic of language

2.1. General morphological type

☐ 1 word = 1 morpheme

☐ cumulation

☐ fusion

2.1.1. Subtype

2.2. Word and syllable

☐ 1 word = 1 syllable

☐ 1 word > 1 syllable

2.2.Medium number of syllables in a word

* ☐ in text
* ☐ in dictionary

Comments: …

## 3 Specific features of type I (level tones)

##### 3.1. Number of tonal levels

* ☐ 3

Please, put the corresponding number (in brackets) into the section “Type” after the indication of the language type, e.g. Ia(3).

Comments:…

##### 3.2. Number of modulated tones

* ☐ 1

If the language has no modulated tones, skip this stage. If there are modulated tones, please, put the corresponding number (in brackets after the number of level tones, dividing these numbers with n-dash) into the section “Type”, e.g. Ia(3–1).

Comments:…

##### 3.2.1. Structure of modulated tones

Please, list all possible types of modulated tonal units, and their proposed term:

e. g. HL (high – low), proposed term F (falling).

Comments:…

## 4 Specific features of type II (contour tones)

##### 4.1. Number of tonemes

* ☐

Please, put the corresponding number (in brackets) into the section “Type” after the indication of the language type, e.g. II(6).

Comments:…

##### 4.1.1. Toneme structure

Please, list all possible tonemes, and their proposed term.

Comments:…

##### 4.1.1.1. Toneme structure

List elements of a toneme structure (present at least in one toneme)

* P ☐ modulation of pitch
* F ☐ phonation
* L ☐ length
* I ☐ inerrumption
* O ☐ other

Please, put the corresponding Capital letters (in brackets after the number of tonems, dividing these numbers with n-dash) into the section “Type”, e.g. II(6–PFI).

Comments:…

##### 4.2. Tonal sandhi

List variants of changes depending on tonal context.

Comments:…

### 5 Additional features

List elements of a toneme structure (present at least in one toneme)

* Dd ☐ Downdrift
* Ds ☐ Downstep
* Up ☐ Upstep
* Ft ☐ Floating tone
* Please, put the corresponding letters with the sign +Xx into the section “Type” after brackets, e.g. Ia5(3–1)+Dd

Comments:…

## 3 Functions of tone

Please, mark functions of tone in the subject language.

### 3.1 Functions of tone

Please consider, what are possible functions of tonal units in the subject language:

* L ☐ lexical
* D ☐ derivational
* M ☐ Morphological
* S ☐ Syntactic
* O ☐ Other

Comments: …

Please, put the corresponding capital letters (it can be more than one) in square brackets into the section “Type”, e.g. Ia5(3--1)+Dd [LMS]

### 3.2. Some functions of tone characterize only certain classes of words

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

Comments: …

### 4 Other suprasegementals

##### 4.1. Word accent

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

Comments: …

Please, put the corresponding information after square brackets into the section “Type”, e.g. Ia5(3--1)+Dd [LMS] AccNo

##### 4.2. Phrase intonation

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

Comments: …

Please, put the corresponding information after after the information on accent into the section “Type”, e.g. Ia5(3--1)+Dd [LMS] AccNo IntNo

## 8 Additional information, comments

Please add any remaining comments below.

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1. Uniformed transcription of our Project assumes the designation of tonal units with numbers. For level systems: 1 - the lowest level, then, depending on the number of levels: 2, 3, 4, 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)