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Author name: Nadezhda Makeeva

Email address: umuta11@yandex.ru

### General Information on the language

**Language name**: Akebu

**Genetic affiliation**: Kebu-Animere (< “Ghana – Togo mountain languages”) < Kwa < Niger-Congo

**Area**: West Africa, Togo

**Language international code**: ISO 639-3 keu

### 1.1 TYPE: Tonal language type

**TYPE INDEX**

**Iσ(3-P)+Dd [LX] AccNo IntNo {fus2; prdg2; word 2.2, 2.1} AF.WA**

#### 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).

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

kpə̀ə̀-yə̄ ‘Akebu (person)’ kpə1ə1-yə2

kpə̄ə̄ ‘to whistle’ kpə2ə2

kpə́ ‘to hew’ kpə3

Traditional terms: Low, Middle, High.

***Comment 1****:* In the practical orthography adopted in Togo tones are not marked; in five lexemes the acute accent indicates the high tone in order to distinguish between the members of minimal pairs. In academic publications tones are marked with diacritics (as shown above);

#### 1.1.1 Type of tonal system

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

* I ☐ Mainly level tonal units
* II ☐ Mainly contour tonal units
* III ☐ Other

[***Comment 2****:*](#_Comment_2.)Contour tones (rising and falling) are attested at the surface level, but they are interpreted as realizations of different level tones on one syllable or as level tones influenced by falling or rising effect of syllable-initial consonants. Voiced consonants act as pitch depressors leading to the rising realization of the high tone while voiceless consonants have the opposite effect leading to the falling realization of the low tone.

#### 1.1.2 Tone bearing unit

What is the tone bearing unit in the subject language?

* μ ☐ [Mora](#_11_Types_of)
* σ ☐ [Syllable](#_9_Types_of)
* π ☐ [Foot](#_10_Types_of) (Pes)

***Comment 3****:* There are three types of syllables: V, ŋ, CV.

## Characteristic of language

##### 2.1. Level of fusion

* ☐ 0 Absent
* ☐ 1 Low
* ☐ 2 Medium
* ☐ 3 High

***Comment 4****:* The general morphological structure of a finite verb form is the following:

CPN – (NEG) – (TAM1) – (TAM2) – (MPURP) – STEM, where

CPN means a class-person-number marker, NEG is a slot for an overt negation marker, TAM1 and TAM2 mean optional slots for overt tense-aspect-modality markers, MPURP is an optional slot for motion-with-purpose marker and STEM is a stem of the verb (basic vs. factative). CPN (class-person-number) markers group in series that express cumulatively person and number and TAM & negation. There are nine series of CPN: default, perfective, prospective, habitual, negative prospective & habitual, negative perfective & factative, future, ‘adhabitual’ and conditional.

##### 2.2. Existence of segmental paradigmatic classes

* ☐ 0 Absent
* ☐ 1 Low
* ☐ 2 Medium
* ☐ 3 High

***Comment 5****:* There exist two types of verbal stems: basic and factative. All the verbs can be divided into two groups according to the type of formation of the factitive stem.

Factative stems of regular verbs are formed from the basic ones according to a number of patterns that take into account the segmental and tonal structure of the basic stem. Factitive stems of irregular verbs are obtained via the rules that do not rely on the structure of the basic stem.

##### 2.3. Average number of syllables in a word

☐ in text: syllables 2.05, feet 1.75

* ☐ in dictionary: syllables 2.15, feet 1.62.

***Comment 6****:* [Bare basic stem that is used for 2 sg Imperative was chosen as the verb lexical form. The nominal lexical form is the form of a noun in its singular noun class.](#_Counting_word_length)

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

3.1. Number of tonal levels

* ☐ 3

***Comment 7.***

##### 3.2. Number of modulated tones

* ☐

***Comment 8.***

##### 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).

***Comment 9.***

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

##### 4.1. Number of tonemes (tonal units)

* ☐

***Comment 10.***

##

## 5 Tone unit structure

Please, list all functional tonal units of the subject language

L (v1), M (v2), H (v3)

***Comment 11.***

##### 5.1. Tone unit structure

List suprasegment features are relevant for tone units representation (present in one)

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

##### 5.1.1. Types of phonations

Name phonations characteristic for the subject language

* λ ☐ Laryngealisation (Creaky voice)
* φ ☐ Pharyngealisation (Breathy voice)
* α ☐ Other

##### 5.1.1. Autonomity of phonations

Are phonations autonomous or an integral part of the tonal unit?

***Comment 12.***

##### 5.2. Tonal sandhi

List variants of changes depending on tonal context.

***Comment 13.***

### 6 Additional features of tonal system

* Dd ☐ Downdrift
* Ds ☐ Downstep
* Up ☐ Upstep
* Ft ☐ Floating tone

***Comment 14.***

### 7.2. Tonal behavior specific for certain classes of words

* ☐ Yes:
* ☐ No

***Comment 15:*** Inflectional function of tonal units is characteristic only for verbs.

##### 7.2.1. Tonal paradigmatic classes

Are tonal paradigmatic classes characteristic for the subject language?

* ☐ Yes:
* ☐ No

***Comment 16.***

## 7 Functions of tone

Please, mark functions of tone in the subject language.

### 7.1 Functions of tone

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

* L ☐ lexical
* D ☐ derivational
* X ☐ Inflexional
* O ☐ Other

***Comment 17.***

Inflectional functions of tone:

1) The factative stem of regular verbs is formed from the basic stem according to a number of rules, each of these rules includes tonal changes:

- TV and TV1V2  give TVV and TV1V2V2 and raise the tone: *ʈɪ̀à* > *ʈɪ̄āā* ‘ask’, *cō* > *cóó* ‘tell’,

- TVV just raise the tone: *fɛ̄ɛ̄* > *fɛ́ɛ́* ‘sweep’,

- WV, NV and CVŋ take the formative *-lv / -nv* (whose vowel is subject to the progressive vowel harmony, whose tone is middle if the basic stem’s tone is low and high otherwise and whose nasality is triggered by nasals in the basic stem) and raise the low tone of the stem: *wō* > *wōlú* ‘chew’, *kòŋ̀* > *kōnū* ‘be long’,

- CVVCV and CV1V2V2CV inverse the tones: *kpōōpù* > *kpòòpū* ‘be big’.

C means consonants, V means vowels, W means glides, N means nasal stops, T means consonants that are neither glides, nor nasal stops

2) ƮƏ class has no segmental agreement marker in the default series of CPN (class-person-number) markers of verbal finite forms but triggers voicing of the initial consonant of the verbal root (that is lexically always voiceless if is not a nasal or an approximant); approximants and nasals do not alternate.

3) A number of CPN series can be distinguished only by the tonal contour. For example, the habitual series is characterised by the H-H tonal contour while the markers of the negative perfective & factative series have the L-L tonal contour: *(ŋ́)nv́v́-* ‘1SG.HAB’ vs. *(ŋ́)nv̀v̀-* ‘1SG.NEG.PFV’, *v̄lv́v́-*‘2SG.HAB’ vs. *v̄lv̀v̀-*‘2SG.NEG.PFV’.

### 8 Other suprasegementals

##### 8.1. Word accent

##### 8.1.1. Does word accent exist in the subject language?

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

##### 8.1.2. If word accent exists, is there any correlation between accent and tone?

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

***Comment 18.***

##### 8.2. Phrase intonation

##### 8.2.1. Does phrase intonation exists in the subject language?

* ☐ Yes
* ☐ No

***Comment 19.***

Additional information

TDI 0,92 (3 texts, the overall length containing 3500 characters, spaces included)

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)