

# Mende

Due: in class, Tuesday, November 25, 2008

The data below (from Leben 1973, Riailand and Badjimé 1989) illustrate the all possible tonal patterns for one-, two-, and three-syllable noun stems in Mende (A Niger-Congo language with about 1.5 million speakers in Sierra Leone). Develop an analysis that derives the surface tonal patterns from an underlying tonal specification. Make sure your analysis answers each of the following questions. In (e) below [mbâ] has a rising-falling pitch contour.

- List the inventory of tonal patterns.
- What descriptive generalizations can be made about the surface forms?
- Provide a set of autosegmental rules deriving the surface forms from URs.
- What justification can be given for fixing the direction of tonal association?
- What role does the OCP play in the analysis?
- How are the data in (p-v) relevant?
- How does your analysis account for the descriptive generalizations you made above?

	<u>monosyllables</u>		<u>disyllables</u>		<u>trisyllables</u>
a.	kó 'war'	f.	pélé 'house'	k.	háwámá 'waist'
b.	kpà 'debt'	g.	bèlè 'pants'	l.	kpàkàlì '3-legged chair'
c.	mbû 'owl'	h.	ngílà 'dog'	m.	félàmà 'junction'
d.	mbǎ 'rice'	i.	fàndé 'cotton'	n.	ndàvúlá 'sling'
e.	mbâ 'companion'	j.	nyàhâ 'woman'	o.	nikìlì 'peanut'
	<u>noun</u>		<u>noun + ma</u>		<u>'on'</u>
p.	kó		kó-má		
q.	mbû		mbú-mà		
r.	mbǎ		mbà-má		
s.	pélé		pélé-má		
t.	bèlè		bèlè-mà		
u.	ngílà		ngílà-mà		
v.	nyàhâ		nyàhá-mà		