

Curriculum Vitae

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Leston “Bulbul” Buell

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Interests:

Syntax, morphology, and typology; African (especially Zulu and Swahili), Romance, and Semitic languages; field methodology; phonology, especially tone.

Birth and Citizenship:

Born July 31, 1963, in Portland, Oregon. U.S. citizen.

Degrees:

Ph.D., September 2005, UCLA. Dissertation title: *Morphosyntactic Issues in the Zulu Verb*.

B.A., *summa cum laude*, June 1997, UCLA, majored in Linguistics. Coursework included Africa-related humanities courses, third year Swahili, and literature courses in French.

Attended the Higher Institute of Arabic Music, Egyptian Academy of Arts, 1985-1986, majoring in Voice. (Did not complete.)

High school diploma, 1981, Rex Putnam High School. Concentration in Spanish and French.

Most Recent Employment:

Postdoctoral fellow in the Bantu Syntax Project (Word Order and Morphological Marking in Bantu) at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL) until mid-December 2008. Duties included conducting and publishing research (particularly on *Wh* questions in Bantu languages), giving internal and external presentations, collaborating with other project members, mentoring two graduate students on the project, teaching graduate- and undergraduate-level linguistics courses, serving as advisor for masters thesis, serving as committee member for Ph.D. thesis (as *copromotor*). Activities include regular meetings with language consultants.

Teaching Experience:

LUCL, graduate and undergraduate level courses: *Syntactic Issues in Bantu Languages*, *Structure of Non-Western Languages* (in Dutch, twice), *Syntax II*, *Advanced Syntax* (twice).

UCLA, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, summers of 1998 and 2005, instructor for Egyptian Arabic. Besides teaching, duties included selecting materials, setting the syllabus, and writing exams.

UCLA, Department of Linguistics, various quarters 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, teaching assistant twice for Ling 200B (first quarter graduate syntax), once for Ling 206 (second quarter graduate syntax), and once for Ling 114 (historical linguistics). Duties included grading homework, meeting with students individually, and teaching discussion sessions.

Facilitator of Los Angeles Esperanto Conversation Circle, 2004-2005. Duties included preparing written teaching materials.

Los Angeles, 1994-1998, various Arabic and Spanish language teaching jobs, including at Berlitz (received Berlitz training).

Alexandria, Egypt, summers of 1994, 1995, and 1996, Northwestern University summer abroad program, instructor for first year Standard Arabic and facilitator. Teaching duties included setting syllabus, developing supplementary materials, and writing exams. Facilitator duties included leading travel activities for up to fifteen undergraduates and resolving conflicts.

Cairo, Egypt, 1985-1993, private instructor of Egyptian and Standard Arabic.

Milwaukie, Oregon, 1980, Clackamas Community College, taught course in beginning Esperanto.

Other Language-Related Work Experience:

UCLA, 2003-2005, Language Materials Project, graduate student researcher. Duties included writing language profiles and documenting instructional materials and primary source materials suitable for instruction.

UCLA, 2000, developed some 400 etymologies of Arabic borrowings in a Swahili epic poem, in project for Prof. Thomas Hinnebusch. Available on website.

Cairo, Egypt, 1991-1993, Clinical Services Improvement Project, translator (Arabic and English).

Publications and Writings:

“The Bantu Languages”, an overview article on the syntax of the Bantu languages to appear in the 2nd edition of *Walter de Gruyter's Handbook on International Syntactic Research*, as invited contributor. Under review.

“Zulu *ngani* ‘why’: postverbal and yet in CP”, submitted to *Lingua*, recommended for publication and in revision stage.

“The Syntax of Affix Orders and Mirror Violations in Wolof”, with Mariame Sy and Harold Torrence, submitted to *Morphology*.

“VP-internal DPs and right-dislocation in Zulu”, in *Linguistics in the Netherlands 2008*, pp. 37-49.

“Evaluating the immediate postverbal position as a focus position in Zulu”, to appear in *Proceedings of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL) 38*, pp. 166-172.

“Semantic and formal locatives: implications for the Bantu locative inversion typology” (2007), in *SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics*, pp. 105-120.

“Transparency effects in Zulu reason questions” (2007), in *Linguistics in the Netherlands 2007*, pp. 62-73.

“The Zulu conjoint/disjunct verb alternation: focus or constituency?” (2006), in *ZAS Papers in Linguistics*, vol. 43, pp. 9-30.

“Argument and affix order in Wolof applicatives and causatives” (2006), with Mariame Sy, in *Selected Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference on African Linguistics: African Languages and Linguistics in Broad Perspectives*, pp. 214-224.

“A fixed hierarchy for Wolof verbal affixes” (2006), with Mariame Sy, in *Proceedings of the Thirty-First Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, pp. 25-36.

Issues in Zulu Verbal Morphosyntax (2005), dissertation.

“Introducing arguments above the agent: the case of Zulu locative applicatives” (2003), in *WCCFL 22 Proceedings*, pp. 109-122.

“Swahili *amba*-less relatives without head movement” (2002), *UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics*, no. 8, pp. 86-106.

“A synchronized parsing model for the syntax and prosody of Swahili” (2002), doctoral qualifying paper, available on my Web site.

Swahili relative clauses. (2000), masters thesis, UCLA.

“A footless, constraint-based analysis of stress and high vowel deletion in Cairene Arabic” (1996), senior thesis, available on my Web site.

Presentations:

(Presentations which were published in proceedings and are listed in the previous section have been omitted. Numerous UCLA Syntax and Semantics Seminar and internal Bantu Syntax Project presentations also omitted.)

“Class 17 as a non-locative noun class in Zulu”, abstract submitted, 3rd International Conference on Bantu Languages, Tervuren, Belgium, March 2009.

“*Pro*-gevoelige voegwoorden in het Egyptisch Arabisch”, TiN-dag, Utrecht, February 2009.

“Purpose *why* in vP, reason *why* in CP: evidence from Zulu”, UCLA Syntax and Semantics Seminar, January 2009.

“Purpose *why* in vP, reason *why* in CP: evidence from Zulu”, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) linguistics colloquium, December 2008, invited speaker.

“The order of affixes and Mirror Principle violations in Wolof”, with Mariame Sy and Harold Torrence, Berkeley Workshop of Affix Ordering, October 2008.

“Kliks in het Zulu”, presentation for HOLEC/VROLEC (university professors' association), November 2008.

“The Ordering of Affixes and Mirror Principle Violations in Wolof”, with Mariame Sy and Harold Torrence, conference talk at Berkeley Workshop on Affix Ordering, UC Berkeley, October 2008.

“Moved IP and postverbal C: negative reason questions in Zulu”, Word Order and Movement in Bantu conference, Leiden, March 2008.

“The conjoint/disjoint alternation in Sambia”, with Kristina Riedel, TiN-dag, Utrecht, February 2008.

“Aspectien van de rechterperiferie: binnen en buiten de VP in het Zulu”, TiN-dag, Utrecht, February 2008.

“The Syntax of Affix Orders and Mirror Violations in Wolof”, with Mariame Sy and Harold Torrence, presentation at International Morphology Meeting, Vienna, February 2008.

“Postverbal friends in high places: negative reason questions in Zulu”, International Conference on Bantu Languages: Analysis, Description and Theory, Göteborg, Sweden, October 2007.

“Teaching the fundamentals of Zulu tone”, SOAS workshop on Zulu pedagogical materials, June 2007, invited speaker.

“Evaluating the immediate postverbal position as a focus position in Zulu”, LUCL colloquium, April 2007.

“Two merge positions for Bantu locative applicatives”, International Conference on Bantu Grammar: Description and Theory, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London 2006.

“Zulu Long and Short Verb Forms: Focus or Constituency?”, conference ‘Focus in African Languages’, ZAS, Berlin, 2005.

“Zulu long and short verb forms: focus or constituency”, UCLA Linguistics colloquium, 2005.

“A constituency analysis for Zulu long and short verb forms”, job talk, Ohio University, 2005.

“On the syntactic position of Zulu reciprocal *-an*”, ACAL conference talk, 2005.

“The Zulu verb within the constraints of the LCA”, ACAL conference talk, 2004.

“Argument and affix order in Wolof applicatives and causatives”, with Mariame Sy, ACAL conference talk, 2004.

“Bantu locative applicatives high and low,” LSA conference talk, January 2004.

“Introducing arguments above the agent: the case of Zulu locative applicatives,” West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, March 2003.

“Non-agreeing subjects in Zulu,” colloquium at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2002.

“Swahili *amba*-less relative clauses without head movement”, ACAL conference talk, 2001.

Current Projects:

“Predication types and predicate-internal arguments in Zulu”, 45-page manuscript, available on my website.

Joint paper with Peter Muriungi on locative inversion in Tharaka. Draft available on request.

Word Order and Morphological Marking in Bantu, with Lisa Cheng and Thilo Schadeberg, synthesizing monograph for our project.

Co-editor, with Jenneke van der Wal and Kristina Riedel of special issue of *Lingua* entitled *Word Order and Movement in Bantu*, to appear in 2009.

Fundamentals of Zulu Tone with Dr. Zilungile Sosibo, Cape Peninsula University. This is intended to be a supplementary classroom textbook for post-beginning to advanced students of Zulu.

Courses I Can Teach:

Language courses in Arabic (Standard and Egyptian), Swahili, and Zulu.

Courses in syntax, morphology, and field methodology at all levels. Undergraduate courses in phonology, computational linguistics, language acquisition, phonetics, historical linguistics, African sociolinguistics.

Grant Activity:

Developed grant proposal in 2008 in collaboration with Jenneke van der Wal, Lisa Cheng, and Maarten Mous for three-year project for funding by the NWO (Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek). Topic was the syntax and information structure of locative inversion in Bantu languages.

Developed grant proposal in 2007 for solo three-year Veni project for funding by the NWO. Topic was the syntax of locative inversion in Bantu languages.

Developed research project proposal in 2003 with colleague Harold Torrence for on-site research in Ghana to work on the endangered Avatime language to produce a reference grammar, dictionary, and texts, with Russ Schuh as primary investigator. The project was submitted to both the Endangered Language Documentation Programme and the (US) National Science Foundation.

An application for a smaller grant was submitted by me and Harold Torrence to the Foundation for Endangered Languages in January 2005 to fund a smaller project to process existing Avatime lexical and audio data.

Languages:

Languages in which I have a high degree of competence: Arabic (Egyptian and Standard), Dutch, English (first language), Esperanto, French, Spanish, Swahili, Zulu.

Other languages I have studied at some depth: Chinese, German, Hebrew (Modern), Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian.

Other languages in which I have conducted field work: Kalanga (Bantu), Lakhota (Siouian), Sambia (Bantu), Sukuma (Bantu), Tharaka (Bantu), Wolof (West Atlantic).

Computer Skills:

Computer programming. Experienced in Python, Java, JavaScript, and CGI programming, and to a much lesser extent in Scheme (LISP), Basic, and Prolog.

Web management. Highly proficient in HTML. Duties during four-year membership of UCLA departmental Web site committee included designing and updating site. Played leading role in complete redesign of the site.

Server management. Skilled in administration and installation of Linux systems, including configuration of server software such as Apache and CUPS. Domain name management.

Longstanding contributor to the Mozilla project, which develops a free, open source Web browser. Contributions include over 170 bug reports and many test cases. Contributor in similar capacity, with over 60 bug reports, to the OpenOffice.org project, which develops a free, open source office suite, and to the KDE project, which develops a free, open source desktop environment for Unix-like operating systems.

Extended Language-Related Travel:

Two fieldwork trips to South Africa: 11-week trip to village of Ophepheni, KZN, in 2006, and 3-month trip near town of Port Shepstone, KZN, in 2002.

Six-week trip to Kenya and Tanzania, 2000.

Several months in France, 1996-2003.

Lived in Cairo, Egypt, for ten years, 1982-1984 and 1985-1993. Spent additional six months in Alexandria, Egypt.

Was an exchange student for one summer in Mexico during high school.

Awards:

Lenart Graduate Travel Fellowship, 2003, for three-month trip to South Africa to conduct dissertation research.

FLAS (Title VI) fellowship, 2001-2002, for the study of Zulu.

National Science Foundation fellowship, 1998-2001.

Won Teague-Melville-Elliot undergraduate humanities writing award for senior thesis, 1997.

Community Service:

Facilitator in Los Angeles Esperanto Conversation Circle, 2004-2005, as described above.

Volunteer work for the OpenOffice.org and Mozilla projects, described above under "Computer Skills".

Zulu language consultant and coach for American Film Institute film project *Princess*.