

*Kinyarwanda: An Integrative Approach*, by Leo Sibomana with John Doldo IV and Matthias Brack, is a new English-language didactic grammar of Kinyarwanda (JD.61), the national language of Rwanda. While numerous works of this kind have been published in French, there are only a few in English, the most notable being Zorc & Nibagwire's *Kinyarwanda and Kirundi Comparative Grammar*. But rather than comparing Kinyarwanda with Kirundi, Leo's grammar is premised on an integrative comparison (hence the title) between dialects *within* Kinyarwanda, which he groups into northern and southern dialects. This approach has particular implications for his analysis of certain verb forms, as will be described below.

Leo's first grammar of Kinyarwanda was his Ph.D. thesis at the University of Hamburg, a descriptive tonology published in 1974. In 2020, Leo showed Matthias a manuscript for another grammar that he had written more than 30 years previously. The forthcoming book was prepared on the basis of that manuscript by Leo in collaboration with John and Matthias.

The book consists of 251 pages plus fourteen pages of front matter and is arranged into ten chapters. The first chapter covers phonology, including various processes of assimilation, dissimilation and tone movement. Tonality and vowel length are indicated throughout the book, which uses a form of the scientific notation widely employed among Rwandan linguists. One of the most important contributions of this book to the linguistic literature is its presentation of intonation and its interaction with tonality. While the basics of intonation have been described in works such as Coupez's *Abrégé de grammaire rwanda*, Leo's may be the first proper description of how intonation interacts with tonality.

The second chapter covers the nominal system, taken to include the class system, possession, numerals, kinship terms, adjectives, demonstratives, locatives and more. The third chapter covers Kinyarwanda's notoriously complex verbal system. It is important to note that Leo's analysis of the verbal system differs from most others with respect to certain inflectional forms. For instance, it considers the present-tense verb *arakóra* "he is working" or "he works" to be underlyingly *ari akóra*, the copula *-rí* serving as an auxiliary verb and a morpheme *a-* linking it to the following verb. Leo arrived at this analysis on the basis of a comparison of southern dialects, in which such forms as *arakóra* are typical, and northern dialects, in which such forms as *ari gukóra* are typical. It is particularly interesting to note that a similar analysis was arrived at independently and expounded in Bazirushaka's 2021 *I Kibónizamvúgo Nsóbaanuzi cy'i Kinyarwaanda*.

The fourth chapter deals with the derivational morphology of both nouns and verbs. The fifth and sixth chapters consist of a series of bilingual readings. The seventh chapter discusses proper nouns and includes lists of personal names, lakes, rivers, hills, administrative units of Rwanda, countries, the months of the year, clans, etc. The eighth chapter is a bilingual list of 338 Rwandan proverbs. The ninth chapter consists of a bidirectional glossary of Kinyarwanda vocabulary used in the book. While this is not intended as a comprehensive lexicon, it adds up to 49 pages. The book closes with a chapter on the typology of Kinyarwanda discussing the fact that Kinyarwanda is a tonal language and demonstrating how loanwords from languages like French, English and Swahili are incorporated into its prosodic system.

The final manuscript of *Kinyarwanda: An Integrative Approach* was completed just this month. The book will be published as a working paper through the Department of Anthropology and African Studies (ifeas) at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. Leo's coursebook supplies a long-standing need for English-speakers interested in learning Kinyarwanda. It will easily count as one of the most useful and accessible resources on Kinyarwanda grammar available in English.