

Tone in Andaandi Nubian

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Most Nubian languages have been shown to be tonal languages. However, research on tone in Andaandi (Dongolawi, Dongolese) is still in its infancy. The first researcher who showed that tonal contrasts produce different meanings in Andaandi was Almkvist (1911: 37, fn. 7). He noticed that the possessive pronouns of the 1st person singular and the 1st person plural differ in tone: The singular form an- is associated with a high tone and the plural form an- with a low tone.

In his PhD thesis (2007, University of Khartoum) Nasir Satti gained some further insights into the significance of tone in Andaandi grammar. However, his thesis has remained unpublished. In 2009 Al-Amin Abu-Manga presented fresh tonal data to the Nubian language workshop at WOCAL 6 in Cologne. Obviously assuming that Andaandi is about to lose the features of a tone language, due to the influence of Arabic, which is a language with predictable stress patterns, Abu-Manga put the title of his presentation in a question: "Is Dongolese Still a Tone Language?" This presentation has not been published as a paper.

I reviewed and extended Abu-Manga's data and discovered that different Andaandi speakers vary in pronouncing tone. My proposed presentation will therefore ask whether there is any regularity in the different realizations of tone. It will also present some evidence of phonologically contrasting tones.