



# A Grammatical Sketch of Ruciriku (Rumanyo)

*Wilhelm J. G. Möhlig*

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Ruciriku is one of two dialects of Rumanyo, a Bantu language spoken in the region around the middle Kavango (Namibia / Angola) with some estimated 60,000 to 80,000 speakers. Considering its literature written by several native authors and its constant presence in the regional radio, it seems to be the culturally most active language of the four Kavango languages of today. Since 1988 a standardised orthography exists that although it was introduced by the apartheid government is fully accepted by the population by now. The present work therefore follows these orthographic rules. The grammar comprises all fields of language structure. First, the phonetic and tonal system is described. The main part includes the nominal, pronominal and verbal categories as well as syntax, including complex sentence structures. Secondly, two linguistic interlinear text analyses, a word list of the used vocabulary (Ruciriku-English, English-Ruciriku), a bibliography and a subject index complete the study. Ruciriku is object of the Collaborative Research Centre 389 "Kultur- und Landschaftswandel im ariden Afrika" (1995-2007) at the University of Cologne, Germany. The present study offers the scientific public further basic linguistic material of this collaborative research centre in a professionally edited manner. It is therefore an important component for the historio-linguistic comparison of the whole Northern Namibian area. Moreover it can be used as a practical reference book and linguistic instruction. The author of the work is occupied with the Ruciriku since 1965. In 1967, he published a dissertation in German language in which the prosodic structure of this language is the focus of interest. In 2005 the extensive "A Dictionary of the Rumanyo Language. Rumanyo-English / English-Rumanyo. Including a Grammatical Sketch" was published in collaboration with a native counterpart. Up to now a systematic grammar considering the whole linguistic structure was missing.

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