Abstract

This paper concentrates on the reconstruction of *proto-Akan forms inasmuch historical linguists have already established the constituent varieties of the Akan language group as well as their relationships with other languages. We demonstrate in this paper that the mutually comprehensible codes that constitute the Akan language group have evidently undergone some changes over the course of time. However, adequate written material that can take us far back into the history of the Akan language to enable any diachronic or historical linguist to determine the hypotheses on their development is lacking. Besides, if empirical data from the sister Kwa languages or from the other daughters of the Niger-Congo parent language were readily available, then the reconstruction of the proto-Akan forms would be quite straightforward. But, unfortunately, these are also hard to come by, and in view of the unavailability of written evidence and empirical data from the languages that are genetically related to the Akan language group, we will apply the Comparative Method in determining the hypotheses on the diachronic development of the Akan language group, in this paper. Even though besides the Comparative Method, historical linguists have set up diverse techniques including internal reconstruction method, language universals and linguistic typology among others to reconstruct a *proto-language, we strongly believe that for our purposes the Comparative Method is an adequate tool for the execution of the job, since it is the archetypal and the surest method of dealing with change and determining earlier forms. In section 1, we define and classify the codes that compose the Akan Language Group paying some attention to the confusion which results from the use of the label, Akan. Section 2 considers the topic and expatiates on the methods of reconstruction vis a vis the theory of Comparative Method. In sections 4, we consider the diachronic study of the vowels, particularly how [+ATR] mid vowels developed into the language. Finally, section 5 is devoted to the diachronic study of the consonants of this language group focusing on how certain consonantal segments developed into the Akan language including the following:

- *b, *d, and *ɡ developed into /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/, respectively.
- *d and *t became /dz/ and /ts/, respectively.