Dogon

There are perhaps 80 locally named Dogon varieties that are tentatively grouped into some 20-25 "languages." Bangime is not Dogon. A tentative genetic subclassification distinguishes a large eastern branch from one or two western branches. We are now in a position to reconstruct some basic lexicon and morphology. Typical typological features are a) seven vowel qualities; b) ATR-harmony, sometimes morphologized into a kind of stem-ablaut system; c) verb-final order, d) reversive and causative derivations; e) many paired mediopassive and transitive derivatives; f) derived and underived stative predicates; g) verbal inflection for aspect-negation and pronominal subject; h) inflections for indirect (quoted) imperatives and hortatives; i) postpositions, often including "accusative"; j) "internally-headed" relatives involving downward movement of head NP; k) expressive adverbials with distinctive predicative frames; and l) a rich tonosyntax especially within multi-word NPs. Noun classes other than number plus [+animate] or [+human] are generally absent, but three inanimate classes are distinguished in Najamba-Kindige and may be reconstructible.