

# Lama

Due: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

## Directions and notes

- Lama is a Gur (Niger-Congo) language spoken by the Lamba people in Togo.
- Develop an analysis of the tonal alternations in Lama and present it in an essay. Generally, whatever is predictable by rule should be accounted for.
- You will have to justify underlying forms for all the morphemes. There are not that many different morphemes here, so please provide the UR for each. URs should include tones, if any, which may or may not be associated to the tone-bearing units.
- Be sure to illustrate your analysis with derivations.
- You can use constraints if you like, though it's not the focus of the assignment. If you do, be explicit about how they interact with rules (if at all).
- Be clear about whether any of your rules apply iteratively, or at multiple places in the derivation.
- Your analysis may refer to “phrase boundary.” Each of the examples below is a complete phrase.
- The superscript exclamation mark indicates something called *downstep* on the following high tone. A downstepped high tone has a lower pitch than the high tones earlier in the utterance. It's up to you to determine the rule or representation that produces downstep.
- Acute accent (á) marks high tone; grave accent (à) marks low tone; circumflex (â) marks falling tone.

- For typographical ease, I've omitted the dots under certain vowels that indicate [ATR] (probably); this feature doesn't interact with tone.
- Here, 'chez' means 'at the house of'.

### Lama Data

cì	'father'	cì tè	'under father'	rà	'friend'	cì té	'chez father'	cì sèwá	'father ran'
rì	'mother'	rì tè	'under mother'	cì rà	'father's friend'	rì té	'chez mother'		
yàl	'wife'	yàl tè	'under wife'	rì rà	'mother's friend'	yàl té	'chez wife'	yàl sèw'á	'wife ran'
rà:l	'brother'	rà:l tè	'under brother'	yàl rà	'wife's friend'	rà:l té	'chez brother'	rà:l sèw'á	'brother ran'
wá:l	'husband'	wá:l tè	'under husband'	rà:l rà	'brother's friend'	wá:l té	'chez husband'	wá:l sèw'á	'husband ran'
		wá:l rá tè	'under husband's friend'	wá:l rà	'husband's friend'	wá:l rá t'é	'chez husband's friend'	wá:l rá sèw'á	'husband's friend ran'
yír	'person'	yír tè	'under person'	yír rà	'person's friend'	yír té	'chez person'		
ná:	'cow'	ná: tè	'under cow'	ná: rà	'cow's friend'	ná: t'é	'chez cow'	ná: sèw'á	'cow ran'
tî:	'elephant'	tî: tè	'under elephant'	tî: rà	'elephant's friend'	tî: t'é	'chez elephant'		