Acknowledgments

This book is a revised version of my dissertation that I submitted in Leipzig in 2018. First and foremost, I want to thank my two supervisors, Martin Haspelmath and Barbara Stiebels. Thank you for having been such a great team of supervisors, who gave me a lot of freedom in developing my dissertation project, but who were always there to stop me from pursuing silly or unrealistic ideas, and to discuss my questions and to give me valuable feedback from both a theoretical and a typological perspective. I further wish to thank Klaus von Heusinger - this book would not have the form it has without his detailed comments from yet another perspective.

My thanks also go to Gereon Müller and the other members of the IGRA graduate school. I do not think I could have written this dissertation in a different place. I am grateful for the inspiring environment that you have created for us as graduate students, allowing us to work on so many different topics, encouraging us to go to conferences, summer schools, or to do fieldwork, without which I would not be the linguist that I am today. Also on a personal level, the possibility to travel literally around the world and to meet people from so many places was a very enriching and, even more so, humbling experience. I am extremely grateful for the financial support that allowed me to do fieldwork in Cameroon, Colombia and Guatemala for my dissertation project. On that note, I also wish to thank Maria Polinsky, Tess Wood and Pedro Mateo Pedro for organizing my stay in Guatemala as part of the Guatemala Field Station. Thank you, Pedro, for organizing meetings with speakers of various Mayan languages, for allowing me to visit various places and to get to know so many fascinating people and stories. Examples from Kaqchikel, Tz’utujil and Q’anjobal have made it into this book, which would be very different without my trip to Guatemala in 2017.

I am also indebted to my friend and colleague Jude Nformi, without whom this book would not have its present form either. Thank you for letting me join you on your trip back to Cameroon and for making it possible for me to work on Mokpe. Thank you also for your time and patience to discuss the Limbum examples. Without your help, this book would be short of quite a few Bantu examples! I also thank my colleague and office mate Sampson Korsah for taking the time to talk me through many Akan examples while being extremely busy with his own dissertation. I am grateful to all the people who have shared their languages and native speaker insights with me! This book would be very different without you!

My thanks also go to my other IGRA colleagues, who made our time in Leipzig so enjoyable. Thank you Asia, Zoka, Katja, Andy, Hannes, Ludger and Sampson from the first cohort and Jude, Siri and Yuriy from the second cohort for all those great memories! Countless coffee breaks in the kitchen, dinners on “Karli”, and

https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110724424-205
thanks, Ludger, for our “office runs”! Jingting, thanks for the fun we had in Leipzig and in all those other places that we discovered at conferences and beyond!

Last but not least, I thank my family and my in-laws who supported me throughout the process of writing this book. Thank you for putting up with me when I was literally working non-stop! I would not have been able to submit on time while moving house only weeks before the deadline. And thank you, Matías, for your endless support in the venture of writing this book and in life in general.