APPENDIX 10.
## Non-counted Nominals in Kpelle
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0. A distinction can readily and almost intuitively be made between "counted" and "non-counted" nominals in Kpelle. For example, an expression such as /pɛrɛ feerɛ/ 'two houses' is common; but many nouns such as /mɔlɔŋ/ 'rice' do not occur directly before numerals, at least in normal daily usage. It is the purpose of this brief study to outline the types of non-counted nominals.

0.1. A more precise definition of terms is possible and desirable. The terms "countable" and "non-countable" have been purposely avoided. A nominal is "counted" if it occurs immediately before a numerator; in terms of the logical formulation underlying this study, which has been found applicable to Kpelle, such a noun is quantified by the implied measure "item", under the aspect "number". On the other hand, a nominal is "non-counted" if a measure term is stated between it and an enumerator; such a noun is quantified by some measure other than item.

0.2. What is implicit in the above can be made explicit: some nominals may occur in either "counted" or "non-counted" combinations. That is, a given content may at one time be quantified by the implied measure "item", and at another time by an expressed measure such as "bundle, pint, basket-full". Thus the identification of a particular nominal as "counted" or "non-counted" depends not on the identification of the nominal, but on the construction in which it is used.

0.3. We may now further exclude from "non-counted" any content which is quantified in the form of "sets"; a "set" by definition is made up of discrete members, which can also therefore be quantified by the measure "item".

1. Many terms for material objects are non-counted in the sense that they are sometimes (in most cases usually or always) quantified by measures other than "item". A few examples are:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| mɛlɔʋ | 'rice' | ɛɛya | 'sand' |
| telâʋ | 'peanuts' | láa | 'thatch' |
| yá | 'water' | pêro | 'mud' |
| wúʋo | 'oil' | ʋɛʋ | 'fire' |
| -rama | 'blood' | -kôlo | 'skin' |

Lest this seem too obvious, it should be observed that ambivalence between counted and non-counted constructions by no means parallels that of the corresponding English words. For example, /telâʋ/ is not normally counted at all in this form; "two peanuts" is /telâʋ-kàu feere/ 'two peanut kernels'. /yá/, on the other hand, is readily countable: /yá feere/ 'two streams'. Similarly /láa feere/ 'two leaves', /ʋɛʋ feere/ 'two fires'. /-kolo/ 'skin' is not itself counted, but occurs as the second member of counted compounds; e.g., /kólu-kòlo feere/ 'two leopard skins'; the stem also occurs as a counted free noun, /kolo/ 'book, letter'.

2. Some contents do not occur in any form (- presentation) to which the aspect "number" can be applied. These appear to be of two major types. The first is dependent nouns indicating unique properties; the second is free nouns, of which the only immediately obvious type appears to be names of diseases. E.g.,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| -sù | 'inside' | -mà | 'surface, top' |
| -ʋá | 'top, peak' | -kíli | 'mind' |
| -kolɛ | 'vicinity' | -nía | 'will' |
| -mù | 'underneath' | -koo | 'abdomen' |
| yee-kôle | 'vitiligo' | gbôdo | 'leprosy' |

3. Abstract nouns which may be used to designate

aspects are not counted. Some of these are:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| kéts-là | 'size' | léls-là | 'goodness' |
| wis-lâ | 'weight' | kôya-là | 'length' |
| táma-là | 'number' | fólo-là | 'brightness' |

4. Activities are frequently uncounted, though at least the first two of the following examples probably occur also in counted constructions:

| | |
|---|---|
| tíi | 'work' |
| pêle | 'singing and dancing, "playing"' |
| sále | '"medicine"' (this may also be a material, but includes ritual-type activities) |

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