

## **Consonantal mutation in Nuer**

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Western Nuer, a Nilotic language, displays morphologically triggered consonantal mutation: for example, the non-inflected form of 'buy' is kâk 'buy.TR', while the past participle form of the same verb is kâh. This phenomenon, based on data from Crazzolara (1933) has been used by some researchers (Lieber 1987, Akinlabi 2011, Trommer 2008, Wolf 2005) to make theoretical claims about affixes consisting of floating features. Common to all these accounts is the assumption that consonantal mutation in W. Nuer involves affixation of floating features such as [-voice] and [+continuant]. The approach offered here does not involve floating consonantal features at all. It links all morphologically conditioned consonantal changes in both Western and Eastern Nuer to lengthening and shortening operations triggered by the addition of floating moras.