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**Author:** Bobuafort, Mercy  
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A Grammar of Tafi

van Mercy Bobuafor.

1 Tafi agreement forms conform to the animacy hierarchy.

2 The Tafi noun class system is in the process of decaying in the sense that the a¹/ba(a) classes are the default classes where agreement markers of these classes are used by some speakers to cross-reference subject NPs (of all the classes) on the verb.

3 Tafi has two classes of numerals: one class which shows agreement – the cardinals, and the other, the ordinals which do not show concord.

4 The tone system of “the Central-Togo languages present some of the most complex data in this area of grammar” (Kropp Dakubu and Ford 1988:128).

5 Intra-speaker and inter-speaker variation among speakers of relatively small languages (like Tafi) are a great challenge to a language documenter.

6 The focus of the semantics of the verbs that occur in the basic locative construction in Tafi is on the topological relation between the Figure and the Ground.

7 The language in education policy of Ghana which stipulates that “In the first three years of primary education, the Ghanaian language prevalent in the local area is to be used as the medium of instruction.” (Andoh-Kumi 1999) does not reflect the balanced or stable multilingual practices of minority language communities such as Tafi.

8 In Ghana, a linguist is not necessarily someone who has studied linguistics; a linguist is a “mouthpiece” and “the buffer on which all dangerous words are deflected. ... and rendered safe for royal consumption.” (Kwesi Yankah 1995. Speaking for the chief. Indiana University Press (p. 11)

9 Tourism can have great socio-economic advantage for a community but it has mixed effects on their linguistic heritage.

10 Political party and candidate agents also have a crucial role to play to ensure free, fair and transparent elections to promote peace in a country.