

Short Biography:

After 34 years on the faculty at Stanford University, I retired as Professor of Linguistics in 2006.

I still teach the occasional course and continue to work in three main areas: African linguistics, English words, and applications of linguistics to language teaching and to brand names. I have done field work in Niger, Nigeria, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire on tone and intonation in Chadic and Kwa languages, and I have collaborated on books and digital materials for teaching Hausa.

On English words, I co-authored two editions of *English Vocabulary Elements*, published by Oxford University Press. A third edition, co-authored with Brett Kessler, is in press.

My most recent book, co-authored with Brett Kessler, is a totally revised edition of Anatole Lyovin's Introduction to the Languages of the World for Oxford University Press. Currently I am working on a new book for Oxford University Press, *Advertising and the Language of Persuasion*, based on a Stanford course from spring quarter, 2016-17.

Since 1989 I have worked with the linguistics program at Lexicon Branding, Inc. My role has been to apply linguistic research to creating and evaluating brand names.

Academic Degrees:

- Ph.D., 1973, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Linguistics)
- M.A., 1968, Northwestern University (Linguistics)
- B.A., 1965, Boston College (Modern Language)

Awards:

- Officier de l'Ordre du Mérite Ivoirien: awarded by the government of Côte d'Ivoire for contributions to the study of its languages, 2014
- Plaques recognizing contributions to African linguistics, Ohio University, 2000, and University of Florida at Gainesville, 1996
- Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University, 1976-77

Academic Positions:

- Professor of Linguistics Emeritus, Stanford University, 2003 to present
- Professor of Linguistics, Stanford University, 1986-2003
- Chair, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, 1988-1992
- Associate Professor of Linguistics, Stanford University, 1978-86
- Assistant Professor of Linguistics and African Languages, Stanford University, 1972-78

Selected Publications

- [in press a] W. R. Leben & Brett Kessler. *English Vocabulary Elements: A Course in the Structure of English Words*. Oxford University Press.

- [in press b] L. M. Hyman & W. R. Leben. Word prosody II: Tone systems. In *Handbook of Prosody*, ed. by C. Gussenhoven & A. Chen. London: Oxford University Press.
- [in press c] The Nature(s) of Downstep. In Proceedings from SLAO/1er Colloque International, Humboldt Kolleg Abidjan 2014. Ed. F. Ahoua.
- [2019] Tone and length in Mende. In *Schuhschrift: Papers in Honor of Russell Schuh*, ed. by Margit Bowler, Travis Major, and Harold Torrence. eScholarship Publishing, U. of California.
- [2018a] W. Leben & F. Ahoua. The phonetics of downstep in Abron and Adiokrou. In *Revealing structure: Papers in Honor of Larry M. Hyman*, ed. by E. Buckley, T. M. Crane, & J. Good. Pp. 123-138. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications.
- [2018b] A brief history of autosegmental phonology with special reference to its founder. In *Shaping Phonology*, ed. by D. Brentari & J. L. Lee. Pp. 26-45. U. of of Chicago Press.
- [2017] A. Lyovin, B. Kessler, and W. R. Leben. *Introduction to the Languages of the World*, second edition. Oxford University Press.
- [2009] (W. R. Leben & F. Ahoua) Repetition in linguistic change: Tone in Kwa languages of Côte d'Ivoire. In L. Uyechi and L. H. Wee, eds., *Reality Exploration and Discovery: Pattern Interaction in Language and Life*. Stanford University: CSLI Publications, 35-46.
- [2007b] (F. Ahoua & W. R. Leben, directors) *Morphophonologie des langues kwa de Côte d'Ivoire*. Cologne: Koeppel, 344 p.
- [2003a] (B. Kelly, W. R. Leben, R. Cohen) "The meanings of consonants." In *Proceedings from the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*.
- [1999] (W. R. Leben & R. Randell. *Hausar Yau da Kullum*. 3 CD multimedia course in intermediate and advanced Hausa. Stanford: CSLI Publications.
- [1997] (W. R. Leben & F. Ahoua) "Prosodic domains in Baule." *Phonology* 14.113-132.
- [1991a] (W. R. Leben, A.B. Zaria, S. Maikafi, and L.D. Yalwa) *Hausar Yau da Kullum: Intermediate and Advanced Materials in Hausa Language and Culture*. 2 volumes: Textbook and workbook. Center for the Study of Language and Information, Stanford University, 1991.
- [1991a] (S. Inkelas & W. R. Leben) "The phonology of intonation in Hausa." In *Proceedings of the First Conference on Laboratory Phonology*, ed. by M. Beckman and J. Kingston. Cambridge University Press.
- [1980a] A metrical analysis of length. *Linguistic Inquiry* 11.497-509.
- [1973, 1980b] *Suprasegmental Phonology*. Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics. New York: Garland Press, 1980.