

## **The political status of the points of view indicated by the French connective “mais” in the campaign speech of Paul Biya, President of Cameroon**

This article aims to describe and analyze in the campaign speech of October 2011 of the Head of State of Cameroon, the polyphonic use of the connective “mais” (« but » in English). Consistent with the approach of the Scandinavian theory of linguistic polyphony, the Scapoline, and specifically its extended version, we describe and analyze the structures where « mais » appears in concessive and adversative constructions.

The choice of this connective is motivated by the fact that, whether its concessive form with *p mais q* structure (see Ducrot & Anscombre 1977; Nølke, Fløttum & Norén 2004), or its adversarial form with the *negAmaisB* structure (see Ducrot & Anscombre 1977; Birkelund 2009), we are witnessing a plurivocity which allows to distinguish the President’s points of view, those he concedes or those he opposes. Especially, in this work, we would like to saturate, in context, the sources of these points of view that the speaker-President assumes no responsibility for, in order to disclose their political and ideological affiliation on the Cameroonian political scene.

This work is part of my doctoral project on polyphony in the Cameroonian political discourse.

**Keywords:** polyphony, connective « but » (“mais”), point of view, discourse