

To investigate relationships between genetic, linguistic, and geographic variation in Africa, we sequenced HVSI segment of mtDNA genome in 81 individuals of two West African populations from different linguistic families. These sequences were compared to similar data published by other authors. The interpopulation analysis included 4550 mtDNA HVSI sequences of 101 populations in total representing main African geographic and linguistic diversity. AMOVA indicates that the mtDNA among-group variation is higher when populations are grouped by geography (9,85 %; $p < 0,001$) than by linguistics (4,09 %; $p < 0,001$). Also MDS plotting based on F_{ST} data reveal a correlation between genetic and geographic distances and hardly any correlation between genetic and linguistic distances. The linguistic relation does not strengthen even if the most heterogeneous language families (Niger-Congo, Khoisan) were removed from the analysis. These data suggest that complex patterns of differentiation and gene flow in sub-Saharan Africa were influenced mainly by the admixture and language borrowing between expanding Bantu agriculturists and local hunter-gatherers in the last 3000 years, but the descent of some recent population-genetic events can be traced in other parts of Africa.