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*Ibn Tofail University, Kénitra, Morocco***Moroccan Arabic  
Secret Languages**

new

Vol. 05 - 09

**Moroccan Secret  
Languages: Evidence  
from the ġuṣ**

This work, the eighth of a series of books on Moroccan secret languages (the ġuṣ) of the Tafilalet (TSLs), the south-east of Morocco, thoroughly investigates four categories of the secret languages of the Tafilalet (TSLs), Morocco, namely the x...xərxəlləC, the x...Ca, the x...ṛaCi and the x...xəyyuC families. In the x...xərxəlləC category, a consonant of the word is substituted by the consonant of the variety under usage (x). Then the new word is followed by a second copy of the consonant of the variety (x), the syllable "ər", a third copy of the same consonant (x), the fragment "əllə" and the substituted consonant ("C"). For instance, the word "mat" (die) is encoded in one variety of the x...xərxəlləC family as "sat səršəlləm". In the x...Ca category, a consonant of the word is substituted by the consonant of the variety under usage (x). Then the new word is followed by the substituted consonant ("C") and the vowel "a". For instance, the word "ktab" (a book) is encoded in one variety of the x...Ca type as "stab ka". In the x...ṛaCi family, a consonant of the word is changed by the consonant of the variety under usage (x).

The newly created word is followed by the constant disguise element "ṛa", the substituted consonant ("C") and the vowel "i". For example, the word "sarut" (a key) is secretised in one variety of the x...ṛaCi family as "warut ṛasi". In the x...xəyyuC "ġuṣ", a consonant of the word is substituted by the consonant of the operating variety (x). Then the new word is followed by the disguise element "xəyyuC", that is another copy of the substituting consonant (x), the disyllabic "əyyu" and the substituted consonant of the word ("C"). In this respect, the word "kla" (eat), for instance, is encoded as "sla səyyuk" in one variety of the x...xəyyuC family. The present book contains four parts, with each separately investigating one family of the TSLs. Each part involves eight chapters, and a detailed bibliography on secret languages is presented for research purposes.

The first chapter shows major previous works on the topic in different languages. Chapter two introduces major sociolinguistic aspects of the TSLs with reference to aspects like sex, age and locations, for example. Chapter three investigates the encoding operations of prefixless words, like nouns and adjectives. Chapter four studies the encoding of prefixed items like verbs and passive participles. Chapter five is concerned with the encoding of long, short and lengthened parts of speech. Chapter six aims at a description of the encoding of phrases, clauses and sentences. Chapter seven mirrors the uses of the TSLs in everyday-like encounters. Chapter eight presents a detailed account of the rules governing the varieties of the four families of the TSLs. The work also contains maps showing the localisation of Morocco, the Tafilalet, the Tafilalet region borders and the separate geographical localisations of each of the four families of the TSLs as well as relevant indices. This work addresses linguistic areas of main concern to linguists, phonologists, morphologists, sociolinguists, dialectologists, arabicists, sociologists, and graduate and post-graduate students, among others.

ISBN 978 3 89586 179 6. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 08. LINCOS Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 24.* 400pp. USD 94.00 / EUR 64.00 / GBP 46.00. 2008/II.

**Four Types of the Moroccan  
ġuṣ**

This book is a follow-up to our detailed description and analysis of both corpora and rules of the Moroccan Arabic secret languages of the Tafilalet (TSLs), namely the "ġuṣ". In this work, four families of the TSLs are proposed, together with their varieties. The types are the x...xxəCC, the x...xaCi, the x...xaCu and the x...xawiCa families. These types, which branch into several varieties, function separately. The x...xxəCC type, for instance, secretises a given word like "mat" (die) as "sat ssəmm" or "fat ffəmm", for instance, depending on the encoding variety of the family in question. The x...xaCi category modifies the same word as "sat sami" and "kat kami". The x...xaCu type changes the word as "sat samu" and "bat bamu". The fourth family, namely the x...xawiCa "ġuṣ", distorts the relevant word as "tat tawima" and "wat wawima". The present book proposes four parts and eight chapters describing many of the linguistic aspects of the TSLs.

ISBN 978 3 89586 188 8. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 07. LINCOS Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 23.* 400pp. USD 94.00 / EUR 64.00 / GBP 46.00. 2008/II.

**The Moroccan Arabic ġuṣ:  
Five Categories**

So far, twelve families of the Moroccan Arabic secret languages of the Tafilalet (TSLs), namely the "ġuṣ", were investigated in detail in several works. In this book, emphasis is on five other and different categories of the TSLs, namely the x...xawinCa, the x...xaxiCa, the x...xinxaC, the x...xawiC and the x...ṛaC cases, together with their intricate and numerous varieties. A sample of two varieties from each of the families above respectively encode the word "ktab" (a book) as: "wtab wawinka" and "stab sawinka", "btab babika" and "ptab papika", "ftab finfak" and "dtab dindak", "dtab dawik" and "htab hawik", "stab ṛak" and "vtab ṛak". This book is organised in the realm of five parts that analyse the encoding operations in the TSLs with reference to several parts of speech and structures.

ISBN 978 3 89586 189 5. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 06. LINCOS Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 22.* 500pp. USD 105.80 / EUR 72.00 / GBP 51.80. 2008/III.

**The Moroccan Arabic  
Substitution ġuṣ**

This book, which is the fifth of a series of works on Moroccan Arabic secret languages, proposes an extremely detailed account of the "ġuṣ", a secret language of one region in the south-east of Morocco, the Tafilalet. The language in question contains a rich number of varieties. This work, which addresses linguistic areas of main concern to linguists, phonologists, morphologists, sociolinguists, dialectologists, arabicists,

sociologists, graduate and post-graduate students, for instance, focuses on the secretising of a multitude of words, prepositions, verbs, phrases, clauses and sentences, for instance. For descriptive convenience, this study proposes eight chapters and a detailed bibliography. The substitution "ġuṣ", which is the main concern of this book and which involves thirty-two varieties, operates through the mere and single replacement of a consonant of the word by a given consonant of the variety of the family "x". In this family of the secret languages no additional disguise item follows the encoded word. Thus, the word "kla" (eat), for instance, is encoded in one variety of the substitution "ġuṣ" as "sla" and as "wla" in another one. One extremely important aspect of the substitution secret language under study in this work is the crucial effect of the context of use of the language itself on the comprehension of the secret encounters, given the total absence of the disguise element, which would stand as the necessary key for the genuine deciphering of the encoded word.

ISBN 978 3 89586 190 1. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 05. LINCOS Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 21.* 160pp. USD 16.70 / EUR 42.00 / GBP 30.20. 2008/III.

**Moroccan Secret  
Languages:  
Evidence from the Patterning and  
Inversion ġuṣ**

In this work, focus will be on an analysis of two types of the Moroccan Arabic "ġuṣ" (MAG), a secret language that spreads in the regions of the south-eastern part of Morocco known as the Tafilalet. The first type, the patterning one, involves four sub-types: The l-CuCi fuCi/ l-CuCaC fuCaC, the mətt-CaCCi trisa/ tifarkusin, the mətt-CaCCi and the tə-CCiCi wiCi/ tə-CCiCaC wiCaC cases. The second type is the Inversion language. The patterning MAG distorts the words "bda" (start) and "sfər" (trip), for example, as "l-budi fudi"/ "s-sufər fufər", "mətt-safri trisa"/ "mətt-safri tifarkusin", "mətt-safri" and "tə-bbidi widi"/ "tə-ssifər wifər". The Inversion secret language encodes the words through a regular and systematic change in the position of consonants and syllables in the target item depending on its length. The language encodes the words "la" (no), "ktar" (too many) and "balu" (his mind), for instance, as "al", "tark" and "luba". Two parts will cover the book, with each part analyzing each of the main types of the MAG. For descriptive reasons, the work studies all parts of speech and structures from Moroccan Arabic in eight chapters.

ISBN 978 3 89586 207 6. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 09. LINCOS Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 25.* 300pp. USD 85.20 / EUR 58.00 / GBP 41.70. 2008.

**A Moroccan Arabic Secret  
Language: The X...XinCa  
Family**

The present work studies one category (family) of the Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages of the Tafilalet (TSLs), the south-east of Morocco. In this family, which involves thirty-three varieties, a consonant of the word is substituted by the consonant of the variety. Then the new word is followed by the consonant of the TSL, the element "in", the substituted consonant (that of the word) and the vowel "a". For instance, the word "ktab" (a book) is encoded in one variety of the TSLs as "stabsinka" and as "wtabwinka" in another one.

The book involves eight chapters and a detailed bibliography for secret languages research. The first chapter presents major previous works on the topic, like the French Verlan, for instance. Chapter two introduces major sociolinguistic aspects of the TSLs with reference to such aspects as sex, age and locations, for example. Chapter three investigates the encoding operations of prefixless words, like nouns and adjectives. Chapter four scrutinizes the encoding of prefixed items like verbs and passive participles. Chapter five is concerned with the encoding of long, short and lengthened parts of speech. Chapter six aims at a description of the encoding of phrases, clauses and sentences. Chapter seven mirrors the uses of the TSLs in everyday encounters. Chapter eight presents a detailed account of the rules governing the varieties of the x...rinCa family of the TSLs.

ISBN 978 3 89586 886 3. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 01. LINCOC Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 03.* 130pp. USD 82.30 / EUR 56.00 / GBP 40.30. 2007.

### Notes on a Moroccan Arabic Secret Language: The X...rinC Family

The second book in the series focuses on the x...rinC family of the TSLs.

ISBN 978 3 89586 389 9. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 02. LINCOC Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 17.* 144pp. USD 82.30 / EUR 56.00 / GBP 40.30. 2007.

### Notes on a Moroccan Arabic Secret Language: The X...rinCa Family

The third book in the series presents a detailed account of the rules governing the varieties of the x...rinCa family of the TSLs.

ISBN 978 3 89586 325 7. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 03. LINCOC Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 18.* 144pp. USD 82.30 / EUR 56.00 / GBP 40.30. 2007.

### Notes on a Moroccan Arabic Secret Language of the Tafilalet: The X...rinCu Family

The fourth book discusses the rules governing the varieties of the x...rinCu family of the TSLs.

ISBN 978 3 89586 326 4. *Moroccan Arabic Secret Languages 04. LINCOC Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 19.* 144pp. USD 82.30 / EUR 56.00 / GBP 40.30. 2007.

## Literary Old Babylonian

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Akkadian is a cover term for the Semitic languages of ancient Mesopotamia, constituting the eastern branch of the Semitic family. Akkadian, the most ancient Semitic linguistic

## Extraprosodicity and Syllable Structure in Berber An Optimality-theoretic Analysis

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The present study investigates the concept of Extraprosodicity and its relevance to Tamazight syllable structure. This notion has been hinted at in studies carried out within different frameworks: Prosodic Phonology (Ito 1986- 1989); Hayes (1993)); Autosegmental Phonology (Goldsmith (1990)); Prosodic Morphology (McCarthy (1985-1989) and Optimality Theory (McCarthy and Prince (1993); Prince and Smolensky (1993)).

However, this notion still needs to be explored further. The reason for this maneuver is twofold: a) to determine what Extraprosodicity is and b) to exactly explain the principles that condition its use. Such limitations make of Extraprosodicity a principal research objective especially that it makes the formulation of rules having to do with Tamazight syllable structure an easy enterprise.

This study is thus concerned with the applicability of the notion of extraprosodicity in analysing aspects of syllable structure of a variety of Tamazight spoken in El ksiba . Ait Wirra Tamazight Berber (Henceforth AWTB). Extraprosodicity simply means that syllable-building rules are blind to incorporating certain edge constituents into the structures they build. In the case of syllable structure, the extraprosodicity model uses the notion of Extrasyllabicity.

Three reasons stand behind the exploration of Extraprosodicity. First, this concept has received little attention from Berberists. The works that have dealt with cases involving Extraprosodicity and its relevance to Tamazight syllable structure are Bader (1985), Adnour (1994) and Faizi (2002). Second, the treatments propounded in these studies have failed to come up with an account that is explanatorily adequate, since Extraprosodicity is considered a tool to account only for irregular cases where schwa epenthesis is blocked. Third, the analyses undertaken in these works consider Extraprosodicity a language-specific mechanism. Thus, they fail to recognize it as the result of the interaction of more general constraints pertaining to Universal Grammar.

In this book, beside relying on the assumptions of Standard Non-linear Generative Phonology, we basically assume the conception of grammar as proposed within Optimality Theory (henceforth OT). It is within the general framework of OT (McCarthy and Prince (op.cit.) and Prince and Smolensky (op.cit.) and later development, namely Correspondence Theory - that we attempt an analysis of some aspects of AWTB word morphophonology that motivate the use of Extraprosodicity.

In fact, the basic principles of OT will be applied to explain the interaction between prosodic phenomena such as syllabification, epenthesis and affixation, a morphological process. To explain, some prosodic words' final syllables end in a sequence of three consonants, a structure not permitted word internally. Monoconsonantal coronal nominal affixes and verbal clitics create these sequences. The second chunk of the feminine morpheme /t ---- t/, the third masculine / feminine object clitics /t/ and /tt/, the second part of the 2nd person pronoun /t --- d/ and the orientation index /d/ give rise to clusters of three consonants when attached to nominal and verbal stems respectively.

ISBN 978 3 89586 138 3. *LINCOC Studies in Afroasiatic Languages 20.* 180pp. USD 94.00 / EUR 64.00 / GBP 46.00. 2008/II.

continuum attested, was written in the cuneiform script, mainly on clay tablets.

It is attested from the third millennium B.C. to the third century A.D. Linguistic research of Akkadian has been relatively scanty, and grammatical descriptions of any of the attested languages and dialects were aimed primarily for didactic purposes. Research has concentrated on phonology, and especially on morphology, which is typically Semitic. Syntactic structures and the TMA system have remained largely unexplored.

The grammatical description offered in LW/M is based on the language of narrative texts with mythological context of the Old Babylonian period (the first half of the second millennium B.C.). Considering the state of the art and the frame and goals of this series, the authors have confined themselves to a brief model of the language and to defining the basic linguistic strategies of Akkadian. As such, it may also serve as a guide to Semitic grammatical concepts.

All levels of the grammar of this language are treated together for the first time: graphonology, morphology, micro- and macro-syntax (characterizing different textemes). Some attention is given to linguistic variation, acknowledging the (albeit small) diversity within the time-space continuum of the texts which constitute this corpus. A short description of the cuneiform script will aim at giving some hint of the problems in adducing linguistic data.

This grammatical description is written with a systemic, structural perception of language in mind, which yields novel concepts in modern presentation. It is intended first and foremost for linguists for whom the language is inaccessible for various reasons and for Semitists whose

expertise is not in Akkadian. However, Assyriologists will benefit from it as well, as this description is unique in its linguistic presentation, revealing important details unknown heretofore.

ISBN 3 89586 738 1. *Languages of the World/Materials 81.* 60pp. USD 74.00 / EUR 50.40 / GBP 36.30. 2004.

## Consonance in the Qur'an

A Conceptual, Intertextual and Linguistic Analysis

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Consonance in the Qur'an provides an in-depth text linguistic analysis of Qur'anic discourse. The lexicogrammatical selections, intertextual meaning relations, the textual notions of conceptual connectivity and intertextuality are expounded with variegated examples. This text linguistic approach is a vital source for literary semiotics. The textual feature of consonance contributes effectively in the conceptual thrust of the text. This book provides a detailed account of inter and intra-sentence consonance in Arabic. It explicates the impact of contextual and co-textual factors upon the occurrence of the verb, passive participle, active participle, plural of paucity, plural of multitude, the feminine noun, and the phonetic form of a given lexical item. It also investigates rigorously the different levels of linguistic analysis in the light of the modern

European linguistic theory of text linguistics.

Consonance in the Qur'an provides 11 linguistic levels of analysis as well as 10 sub-levels of Arabic discourse. These include: (i) the grammatical level which accounts for the grammatical features of modification, word order, grammatical form of words, and grammatical functions of words, (ii) the stylistic level which accounts for the stylistic feature of antithesis, shift in cohesive devices, and selection of words, (iii) the lexical level which accounts for lexical variation, (iv) the semantic level which investigates the semantic componential features of words, semantic connectivity among sentences or macro texts, the semantic connectivity between a word and a leitmotif, and the collocation of concepts, (v) the phrase level which deals with the occurrence of refrains, (vi) the contextual level which accounts for the impact of context on the juxtaposition of leitmotifs, (vii) the co-textual level which accounts for the grammatical construction, stylistic variation, the ad hoc selection of words, and morphological form of words, (viii) the thematic level which investigates the linear order of themes, (ix) the letter and word level which accounts for stylistic symmetry and rhyme phrases, (x) the level of formulaic expressions, and (xi) the phonetic level which accounts for phonological features of words.

Consonance in the Qur'an is a vital source for linguistics and Islamic studies students and for researchers. It provides an empirical textual, grammatical, semantic, stylistic, and phonetic analysis of Arabic. Consonance in the Qur'an investigates linguistic structuring at the micro and macro levels of Arabic. In order to show the reader how conceptual and intertextual links are maintained within a text, this book provides a textual bird's-eye view of the thematic and leitmotif compartments which are the constituent units of the macro text.

ISBN 3 89586 801 9 (Hardbound). **Languages of the World 34.** 334pp. USD 170.20 / EUR 115.80 / GBP 83.40. 2005.

## Selected Comparative-Historical Afrasian Linguistic Studies in Memory of Igor M. Diakonoff

M. LIONEL BENDER, GABOR TAKACS & DAVID L. APPELYARD (EDS.)

This volume contains overviews on Afrasian as a whole and its constituent families plus 23 articles by internationally known contributors. In order to arrive at a focussed volume of high-quality papers, the editors chose to restrict the contents to what is arguably Diakonoff's major field among the many in which he was a world-renowned scholar.

Afrasian Overview (M.L. Bender)  
Semitic táwar- 'bull' and its Relatives (Vaclav Blazhek)  
Some Afrasian Etymologies (Andrzej Zaborski)  
Proto-Afrasian Vowels (Saul Levin)  
Berber Overview (D. Appleyard)  
Origin of the Berber 'Participle' (Maarten Kossmann)  
La Vocalisation du protoberbere (Karl-G. Prasse)  
Chadic Overview (Russell G. Schuh)  
Third Consonants in Chadic Verbal Roots (Christopher Ehret)  
West Chadic Verbal Suffixes (Schuh)  
Sibilant Affricates in Chadic (Olga Stolbova)  
Arabic D-stem in Chadic? (Herrmann Jungrathmayr)

Cushitic and Omotic Overview (Mauro Tosco)  
The Omotic Lexicon (M.L. Bender)  
Infix Genesis in South Cushitic (Roland Kießling)  
Cushitic Adpositions and Semitic (Hans-Jürgen Sasse)  
South Cushitic Sibilant Affricates (Takacs)  
Karakter der "Zweiradikalen" Verben des Agyptischen (Joachim Friedrich Quack)  
Reduplicative Passive in Older Egyptian (Chris H. Reintges)  
Semitic Overview (Appleyard)  
Ablaut and Aspect in Akkadian and Proto-Semitic (Vit Bubenik)  
Ethio-Semitic Negative NonPast (Grover Hudson)  
Relative Markers in Ancient Ethiopic (Olga Kapeliuk)  
Proto-Semitic \*yš (Adrian Macelaru)  
Cognates to Akkadian Preposition ana in Ethiopia and South Arabia (David Testen)  
Surveying Bi-Consonantal Reduplication in Semitic (Peter Unseth).

ISBN 3 89586 857 4. **LINCOM Studies in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics 14.** 340pp. USD 130.50 / EUR 88.80 / GBP 63.90. 2003.

## Yehuda ben David Hayyuwj Tanqiyt<sup>c</sup> : A Treatise on Hebrew Vowels Translation, notes and analysis

SOLOMON I. SARA, S.J.  
& SIMON M. MAUCK  
*Georgetown University*

Hayyuwj is a 10<sup>th</sup> century Hebrew scholar and linguist who was born in Fez, North Africa c945. He migrated to Cordova, Spain c960, where he studied, taught and wrote on Hebrew linguistics and biblical matters. He died in around the year 1000. He is a pivotal figure in the history of Hebrew linguistics, in that he abandoned the traditional linguistics methods and adopted and adapted the more sophisticated linguistic paradigm developed by the 8<sup>th</sup> century Arab grammarians of the School of Basrah. He was the first Hebrew linguist to apply the newly realized formal linguistic methods to the analysis of Biblical Hebrew text. He wrote two detailed treatises on the weak and doubled verbs of Biblical Hebrew: *kit-b Šul-Šaf''-l daw-t šurwfw Šul-lyw*, and *kit-b Šul-Šaf''-l daw-t Šul-mw layw*, and a treatise on selected biblical topics: *kit-b Šul-nuaf*.

He also wrote this gem of a treatise on *tanqiyt*, the textual pointing system of the biblical text that was developed by the Masoretes to indicate vowels, accents, and prosodic features in the otherwise purely consonantal system biblical text and gave it a clear statement and a coherent basis. This is a singular treatise and one of a kind, written in Arabic about Hebrew vowels, called *šarak-t* 'motions', using the Semitic paradigm of analysis. He wrote clearly and elegantly on an obscure, intractable and neglected topic that has engaged the Biblical scholars ever since.

ISBN 3 89586 312 2 (Hardbound). **LINCOM Studies in Afroasiatic Linguistics 16.** 215pp. USD 167.30 / EUR 113.80 / GBP 81.90. 2005.

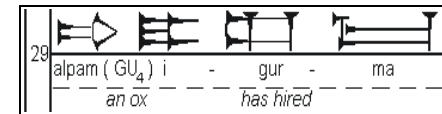
## The Code of Hammurabi

H.-DIETER VIEL

The Code of Hammurabi (C.H.) represents the largest coherent monument of the Old Babylonian literature. The main emphasis of this study is on the wedge characters with all variations in the Old Babylonian version.

The codex isn't represented only in Old Babylonian but also in the Neo Assyrian version. All sign variants of the original code are shown and their meaning named in list form (also the Neo Assyrian signs).

Furthermore there are Determinatives, Sumerograms also in Babylonian as in Neo Assyrian. The study contains a short excursion in the Akkadic grammar, determinatives, rare cuneiform signs, representations about the development of the writing, tables of the rulers of the Ancient Orient and more.



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## Koptisch - Ein Leitfaden durch das Säidische

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 VON REGINE SCHULZ

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 The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore*

Coptic, belonging to the Afro-Asiatic languages, is the final development of the ancient Egyptian language. It is derived from the popular tongue of the so called New Empire and uses the Greek alphabet complemented with six letters from Demotic, an earlier form of Egyptian writing since the 7th century B.C.

Beginning with the 1st century A.D. Coptic writing started to replace the complicated Hieroglyphic system and became the official written language during the 3rd century by the spread of Christianity and Christian texts. In addition to this, gnostic, Manichaeic and profane texts are important parts of Coptic literature. After the Arabian conquest of Egypt in 641 A.D. and the spread of the Islam, Coptic was abandoned as colloquial and written language in favour of Arabic even by the Christian population. Until now Coptic is used as liturgical language of the Coptic Church.

The present volume is an introduction to Sahidic Coptic, the starting-point for any Coptic study. The emphasis has been put on basic matters relevant to the needs of the beginner. The volume contains: the basic structure of the morphology with special reference to the verbal system; the principles of the different syntactical constructions (main and subordinate clauses - both with translated examples); a sample text with interlinear phonetic transcription and translation; an extensive bibliography with references to more specialized literature and an index.

This comprehensive introduction in Coptic is based on the experience of almost a decade of continuous teaching and was also used successfully for self-studies. (written in German)

ISBN 3 89586 022 0. **Languages of the World/Materials 07.** 109pp. USD 71.10 / EUR 48.40 / GBP 34.80. 2004.

## Qur'anic Stylistics A Linguistic Analysis

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Stylistic variation is the colourful manifestation of language. It is an intriguing linguistic phenomenon that can take place at different levels of language as it has been found in Qur'anic genre. Stylistic shift can occur within the sentence boundary at both the micro and the macro levels. In the micro text, stylistic variation occurs at the morpheme, word, and sentence levels. However, in the macro text, stylistic change can occur at the macro textual level beyond the sentence boundary. In other words, stylistically different sentences are found at different texts far away from each other. Stylistic variation mirrors language behaviour and the

manipulation of the linguistic tools and strategies available to the text producer. Stylistic variation in Qur'anic Arabic occurs for a good reason and is context and co-text sensitive. Context and co-text are the linguistic habitat for stylistic shift. The surrounding grammatical, semantic, and phonetic environment has a direct impact upon the linguistic behaviour of Qur'anic genre. This is due to the fact that the text unfolds in a given context of situation.

Therefore, the distinctive stylistic patterns are influenced by the contextual and co-textual factors. A linguistic-stylistic exploration of sentence patterns illuminates the reader's appreciation of the grammatical and semantic subtleties underpinning the distinct meanings of two stylistically different but structurally identical sentences. A linguistic investigation of the stylistic patterns of language also unearths the underlying signification of two stylistically distinct sentences. The present analysis attempts to provide an insight into the resourceful stylistic and linguistic strategies of Arabic. The book sharpens up the reader's awareness of the exotic stylistic patterns that are semantically-oriented. These stylistic structures can be realized through various linguistic processes that are specific to Arabic. The resourceful mechanism can be a useful linguistic tool to achieve various communicative functions with different semantic significations. The present account of Qur'anic genre explores how grammatical acceptability and semantic syntax are interrelated to stylistic variation in Arabic. This work provides an in-depth explicated analysis of stylistic variation in Qur'anic genre.

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ISBN 3 89586 817 5. **Languages of the World 32.** 250pp. USD 112.00 / EUR 76.20 / GBP 54.80. 2004.

## Verb Classes and Transitivity in Amharic

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The book provides a detailed analysis of verb classes and transitivity alternations in the Ethiosemitic language Amharic. It investigates the lexical-semantic and morphosyntactic properties of a number of constructions including causatives, passives, applicatives, and experiencer predicates.

The lexical semantic analysis of the verbs appeals to the theory of Conceptual Semantics as developed by Ray Jackendoff. Thus, the study assumes a decompositional approach to the meaning of lexical items in which the meaning of a given lexical item is decomposed into smaller universal conceptual primitives. Each chapter begins with a succinct introduction of the Amharic data under investigation and a concise statement of the theoretically relevant issues.

Then the Amharic data is analysed within a cross-linguistic context in order to uncover deep and underlying grammatical properties. The book would interest theoretical and descriptive linguists studying the interface between lexical semantics and morphosyntax. As it explores the relationship between conceptual structure and language, the book would also be of interest to psycholinguists and researchers interested in the mental lexicon.

ISBN 3 89586 404 8. **LINCOM Studies in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics 06.** 160pp. USD 94.40 / EUR 64.20 / GBP 46.20. 2002.

## If Conditional Sentences in Contemporary Hebrew Structure, Meaning, and Usage of Tenses

TALI BAR

The book deals with Contemporary Hebrew Conditional Sentences, classified from a structural point of view.

The Hebrew language is rich in conditional expressions, simple and complex. Conditionality is expressed there by various means, specific conjunctions on the one hand, and negators and adverbial subordinators on the other hand. Conditional sentences are among the most complicated of structures. They contain a great variety of subtlety of nuances; some constructions

are transparent, in which the condition is expressed in typical patterns, and in others the conditional meaning is implied from the context. The tense and mood system there, characterized by complex tenses and by shifting to the past, is different from that found elsewhere. These issues are discussed here.

The book is aimed and intended to introduce the structural, semantic, contextual, and stylistic aspects of the Present-Day Hebrew Conditionals. It provides a short presentation of their logical aspect without being sidetracked to areas irrelevant to the linguistic discussion, and it clarifies their boundaries as a linguistic category. The description and conclusions are based on evidence taken from a wide and diverse corpus, which gives a comprehensive coverage of the language. Dealing with conditionality, the author also briefly discusses some other important traits of the language, such as the modal usage of the Hebrew infinitive; the relation between coordination and subordination and general features of the Hebrew tense system.

ISBN 3 89586 700 4. **LINCOM Studies in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics 12.** 130pp. USD 94.30 / EUR 64.20 / GBP 46.20. 2003.

## Use of aspect-tense verbal forms in Akkadian texts of the Hammurapi period (1792—1750 B.C.)

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The conjugated forms traditionally named as the Present, Preterite and Perfect are the main components of the Akkadian aspect-tense verbal system. The existence of the Akkadian Perfect and the peculiarities of its usage had been the subject of lengthy discussion. When studying the Perfect in the Middle Assyrian dialect the author came to the conclusion that the use of the Perfect in that dialect should have been explained a way different from that suggested by W. von Soden (*Grundriss der Akkadischen Grammatik*. Roma 1952; 1995<sup>3</sup>). Thus, the necessity arose to check anew the use of the Perfect at the earlier stages of the development of Akkadian. The Perfect being a component of the single aspect-tense verbal system, its usage was to be studied along with that of the Present and Preterite.

The detailed analysis of all the verb contexts in the letters of Hammurapi and in the Code of Hammurapi has led to the following conclusions.

In the texts under discussion as in the Old Babylonian dialect in general the three conjugated forms could express the action of any time and aspect. The difference lies, in the first place, in the frequency of their use in this or that aspect-tense function. But this difference is so great in a number of cases that one can speak of certain aspect-tense functions as attached to a particular verb form.

Comparing Old Babylonian with later Akkadian dialects shows that the aspect-tense system was constantly changing. It is best seen on the relations of the Preterite and Perfect within the past. A clear tendency is observed of the Perfect becoming the form of the punctive in the past in affirmative sentences (or main clauses) and the Preterite into the form of the punctive in the past in subordinate clauses.

The changes within the aspect-tense system were penetrating into the texts of various genres not evenly but depending on the closeness of this or that written genre to the spoken language. This seems to explain the uneven distribution of the Perfect in different texts: being an innovation of Akkadian, the Perfect is more frequent in the texts which are closer to the spoken language.

It has long been debated on which time and tense should be applied to translate protases of the law clauses of the Code of Hammurapi. The author is of the opinion that most protases of the law clauses of the Code of Hammurapi should be translated by the past. Her arguments are as follows. The law part of the Code of Hammurapi as a whole can be considered as the main clause of a complex sentence whose subordinate clause of time placed in the Introduction of the Code of Hammurapi refers to the past. So the main clause seems to refer to the past as well. When used together in one *šumma*-clause of a protasis the Preterite as a rule denotes a prior action while the Perfect — a posterior one. An analogous phenomenon is observed in the Old Babylonian letters in sentences (or main clauses) describing past events. In the subordinate clauses of protases the punctive is expressed as a rule by the Preterite. In Akkadian the punctive of subordinate clauses expressed by the Preterite generally referred to the past.

ISBN 3 89586 692 X. **LINCOM Studies in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics 09.** 130pp. USD 94.30 / EUR 64.20 / GBP 46.20. 2002.

## The Maltese Language of Australia - *Maltraljan*

RODERICK BOVINGDON

This is a comprehensive linguistic study of the Maltese language of Australia known as *Maltraljan* (Ausmaltese) as it has evolved over the last seventy years of Maltese migration to Australia.

The first two chapters outline the historical, sociological, political and linguistic framework in which this continuing phenomenon has developed. A select glossary of some nine hundred *headwords* with several derivations and variations added thereto, comprises chapter three - the core of the entire work. This lexical presentation includes, for the first time ever in the lexical study of Maltese, phonemic transcriptions for every entry. No Maltese dictionary or glossary to date has ever gone into such linguistic depth. In addition to this, the glossary presents an in-depth, though general analysis, of the main features of *Maltraljan* (viz. phonological, semantic, morphological, syntactic, as well as examples for each entry of conversational usage for each term and the respective provenance when this is known.)

A considerable bibliography is added, providing the researcher and student with ample cross-reference for both cross-checking as well as for further research.

ISBN 3 89586 331 9. **Languages of the World 16.** 130 pp. USD 88.70 / EUR 60.40 / GBP 43.40. 2001.

## Die St-Stämme des Altäthiopischen (The St-Stems of Old Ethiopic)

MICHAEL WALTISBERG

Das Altäthiopische oder mit einheimischem Namen Gc'cz ist die klassische Literatur- und Kirchensprache Äthiopiens. Es wurde im 1. Jahrtausend unserer Zeit im Norden Äthiopiens mit dem Zentrum Aksum (heute Provinz Tigre) gesprochen, fand aber bis ins 19. Jh. als Schriftsprache Verwendung und dient noch heute als Liturgiesprache der äthiopischen und eritränschen Kirche.

Das Altäthiopische steht strukturell anderen altsemitischen Sprachen wie dem Akkadischen

oder Arabischen nahe, zeichnet sich aber ihnen gegenüber durch eine sehr regelmässige Morphologie aus. Dies gilt insbesondere für den Bereich der Verbalderivation, d.h. die sogenannten Verbalstämme. Bisher fehlen Untersuchungen zur Funktion der altäthiopischen Verbalstämme fast völlig. Die Studie von Waltisberg versucht, diese Lücke für die St-Stämme zu schließen.

Das Werk bietet eine eingehende, synchron ausgerichtete Diskussion der Morphologie, Funktion und Stellung der St-Stämme und wertet den Befund statistisch aus. Im abschließenden Teil wird das Ergebnis in den gesamtsemitischen Rahmen eingeordnet und mit dem Befund der anderen semitischen Sprachen verglichen. Ein Index erschließt die in der Studie behandelten Verbalwurzeln.

(The monograph by Waltisberg treats the morphology and functions of the so-called St-stems of Old Ethiopic and compares the result with related Semitic languages.)

ISBN 3 89586 391 2. **LINCOM Studies in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics 08.** 100 S. USD 78.50 / EUR 53.40 / GBP 38.40. 2001.

## The Microstructure of Lexicon-Grammar-Interaction:

A Study of "Gold" in English and Arabic

LEILA BEHRENS  
& HANS-JUERGEN SASSE  
*Universität zu Köln*

This book presents an entirely new approach in cross-linguistic research. Aiming at a typological comparison of the interaction between lexicon and grammar in English and two varieties of Arabic (Standard and Egyptian Arabic), the authors proceed from fine-grained analyses of single lexical families rather than lexical fields or grammatical categories. Using the family of English gold and the corresponding Arabic families dahab and dahab as an exemplary case study, they compare lexical-semantic, morphosyntactic, and discourse-pragmatic properties of the microstructure of these families in a very detailed fashion. As amply demonstrated throughout this book, the microstructural method enables the linguist to capture subtle hidden properties revealing evidence for fundamental cross-linguistic differences that cannot be arrived at on the basis of coarse-grained macrostructural typologies. The microstructural approach is crucially associated with a corpus-based method of data acquisition and a multidimensional framework of representation.

ISBN 3 89586 871 X. **LINCOM Studies in Theoretical Linguistics 32.** 310pp. USD 129.00 / EUR 87.80 / GBP 63.20. 2003.

## Comparative Morphology of Standard and Egyptian Arabic

HASSAN A. H. GADALLA  
*Assiut University*

The major concern of this book is the comparison of the morphological aspects of Standard Arabic (SA) and Egyptian Arabic (EA). It is divided into five chapters. Chapter One provides a phonological outline of SA and EA. It also analyses morphological basics and the morphosyntactic preliminaries of the two varieties. Chapter Two is devoted to the

morphology of triradical and quadriradical verbs. In addition, the inflection of verbs for aspect/mood and voice and a treatment of verbal affixes and verb derivation are provided.

Chapter Three deals with the morphology of primary and deverbal nouns. Moreover, the divergence between definite and indefinite nouns and the inflection of nouns for case, gender and number are explained. The formation of the diminutive is also illustrated. Chapter Four handles the morphology of adjectival stems. Then, the difference between definite and indefinite adjectives and the inflection of adjectives for case, gender, number and degree are analyzed. Furthermore, participial forms and relational adjectives are discussed. Chapter Five is related to the morphology of closed-list classes, including pronouns, prepositions, adverbs, as well as interrogative and responsive particles. Finally, negative and possessive particles are exhibited.

ISBN 3 8958 697 2 4. **LINCOM Studies in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics 05.** 264pp. USD 130.50 / EUR 88.80 / GBP 63.90. 2000.

## Development of Afro-Asiatic (Semitic-Hamitic) Comparative-Historical Linguistics in Russia and the Former Soviet Union

GÁBOR TAKÁCS

This study gives the first science history and a detailed and extensive scientific appraisal of the works by the Russian school (or "Moscow school") of Afro-Asiatic (Semitic-Hamitic) comparative-historical linguistics in the past three decades.

The book contains the following parts: 1. A general overview of roots of Afro-Asiatic linguistics in Russia before 1965. 2. A concise survey of development of Afro-Asiatic studies from 1965 in Russia. 3. A most detailed presentation and critical appraisal of works by the Russian comparativists on the reconstruction of Afro-Asiatic comparative phonology and lexicon in the light of research results of other ("Western") scholars (incl. my own observations). 4. A concise description of the so-called "Nostratic theory" and introduction of the "Moscow school of comparative linguistics" in the latest three decades. 5. The work ends with a comprehensive bibliography of all cited works. This is at the same time the first bibliography that includes all Russian works on Afro-Asiatic linguistics from 1965.

ISBN 3 89586 591 5. **LINCOM Studies in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics 02.** 200 pp. USD 127.60 / EUR 86.80 / GBP 62.50. 1999.

# Grammars

## Gc'cz (Classical Ethiopic)

STEFAN WENINGER  
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Gc'cz, a South-Semitic language, is the classical tongue of Ethiopia. Extinct as a spoken language since the 10th century, it is still used by the Ethiopian church, and still influencing the modern languages of Ethiopia. In this regard it's comparable to the Classical tongues of Europe, Latin and Greek. After Egyptian and Meroitic it is one of the oldest attested languages of Africa.

The present volume contains: A short outline of the problems connected with Gc'cz phonology;

the basic structures of the morphology, with special reference to the verb; the principles of Gc'cz syntax; a sample text, thoroughly analyzed in interlinear translations. Comparative charts of the nomenclature of the verbal stems, a chapter on research tools and literature and an ample bibliography should function as a helpful guide to Gc'cz-studies for the non-specialist and facilitate reference. The second revised and enlarged edition takes account of new findings, the bibliography is updated and more examples are given.

ISBN 3 89586 604 0. **Languages of the World/Materials 01.** 60pp. USD 56,70 / EUR 38.60 / GBP 27.80. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) 1995.

## Inor

BERHANU CHAMORA & ROBERT HETZRON

Inor is a Gurage dialect (South-Ethiopian Semitic) spoken in South Central Ethiopia by about 156, 000 speakers. It is one of the most complex and least understood Ethiopian Semitic languages.

This monograph provides a sketch of the phonology, morphology, morphosemantics and syntax of Inor. It presents a synchronic description of its consonantal alternations, as observed in verbs, and establish its phonemic system. We show that Inor verbs select one of two basic patterns: short and long. This division applies to both sound (or transparent) verbs, such as səpər 'break' and gərətəβ 'cut into two', and weak (or opaque) verbs, such as ašər 'make a fence' and bərəʔə 'run off suddenly'. A brief description of the morphosemantics of verb derivations is also put forth. An overview of the complex suffixal system is also provided. Finally, most basic syntactic structures are discussed, as are issues such as tenses and negation.

The monograph contains data and analyses which will be of interest to specialists in general linguistics, as well as to students of Ethiopian, Semitic and African languages.

ISBN 3 89586 977 5. **Languages of the World/Materials 118.** 70pp. USD 56.70 / EUR 38.60 / GBP 27.80. 2000.

## Palestinian Rural Arabic

(Abu Shusha dialect)

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The sketch describes a rural (*fellahi*) dialect of *Palestinian Arabic*. The dialect is that of the pre-1948 Palestine village of Abu Shusha. There are an estimated 1000 speakers of this dialect living in Ramallah (West Bank), Amman (Jordan), New Jersey (USA) and a few other places. Abu Shusha *fellahi* is an endangered variety of Arabic. This is due to the original dispersion of its speakers and the resulting inter-dialect contact, the increasing age of its speakers and pressure from Standard Arabic (as on all non-urban varieties of the language) to conform to more urban and educated speech.

This dialect has not been documented before. Like all Arabic colloquials, it is unwritten. The present sketch addresses the general need for dialectology work on Palestinian Arabic. It also addresses the call for data to permit much needed comparative work in Arabic syntax and phonology.

This sketch describes the phonemic system of the dialect, its morphology (nominal and verbal systems), and syntax (word order, clause

structure, and clause chaining). Throughout these sections, those features are identified which are markedly Palestinian (vs. Classical) or rural (vs. urban or bedouin). It remains beyond the scope of the sketch to compare this dialect with other Arabic colloquials (e.g., Egyptian, Iraqi, etc.). Two phenomena are highlighted. The first is the Abu Shusha vowel system, which has three times the inventory of Classical Arabic.

The second is its discourse structure, as found in oral narrative: features and strategies of topic/focus, coherence and cohesion. An example narrative is provided, with interlinear gloss and English translation. The sketch is based on initial data gathering from two trips each to New Jersey and Ramallah in 1989 and 1991.

ISBN 3 89586 960 0. **Languages of the World/Materials 28.** 60 pp. USD 58.20 / EUR 39.60 / GBP 28.50. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) 2000.

## Palestinian Texts

KIMARY N. SHAHIN  
*University of British Columbia*

This is a collection of Palestinian Arabic narratives spoken by speakers of both urban and rural Palestinian dialects. It documents dialectal distinctions which are expected to disappear over the coming decades. The texts are analysed with reference to the grammatical sketch LW/M Series no. 28 by the author and to previous published collections of Palestinian oral texts.

ISBN 3 89586 169 3. **Languages of the World/Text Collections 05.** 80pp. USD 69.60 / EUR 47.40 / GBP 34.10. 1999.

## Canaanite-Akkadian

SHLOMO IZRE'EL  
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During the second millennium BCE, Akkadian served as the lingua franca of the ancient Near East. An extensive body of epistolographic texts written in this language was discovered at Tell el-Amarna, the modern name for the ancient seat of government of the Egyptian Pharaoh Amenophis IV (Akhenaton). The majority of the Amarna letters were sent to Egypt by the rulers of Canaanite cities which, at the time, were part of the Egyptian empire.

While the conventional language of correspondence was nominally Akkadian, by the Amarna period, i.e., the 14th century BCE, the Canaanite administration had developed a kind of mixed language. This language, or rather, linguistic continuum comprising many varieties, was based upon the lexicon of Akkadian, with serious structural interference from the scribes' primary languages, i.e., the spectrum of West Semitic dialects spoken in Canaan. As a result of this language contact, all levels of the linguistic structure were affected, especially in the domains of syntax and morphology, creating a marked similarity between this mixed Canaanite-Akkadian diplomatic language and the indigenous West Semitic Canaanite dialects.

Since we do not possess any substantial written record of the Canaanite dialects prior to the first millennium BCE, the Amarna letters from Canaan are our only source of knowledge regarding the linguistic structure of the dialects spoken in Canaan in the second millennium BCE. The Amarna letters yield linguistic, sociolinguistic and linguistic-cultural material that predates both Phoenician and Hebrew as we know them from the written records of the first millennium BCE.

The survey offered in LW/M, which sketches

a concise model of the linguistic system embodied by this corpus, lays special stress on the interference between Akkadian and the West Semitic languages, which resulted in the Canaano-Akkadian mixed languages and linguistic varieties.

ISBN 3 89586 126 X. **Languages of the World/Materials 82.** 92pp. USD 58.20 / EUR 39.60 / GBP 28.50. 1998. Second printing, with minor corrections. 2005.

## Chadian Arabic

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This sketch deals with an unwritten dialect of Arabic which is spoken in parts of northern and central Chad (French Tchad) and which has received serious attention only in the last three decades. The description and materials used is of potential interest to nonspecialists as well as to students of Arabic linguistics and dialectology. A variety of what may be labeled Sudanic Arabic, the Chadian dialect manifests certain linguistic features which pose a challenge to its classification in terms of the traditional Eastern/Western or nomadic/sedentary dichotomies.

Included in this study are brief phonological, morphological and syntactic outlines of the dialect followed by sample texts in phonemic transcription. It is hoped that enough information is given to be of help to those who do not know Arabic as well as to those who are familiar with other varieties of Arabic. A number of characteristic features of Chadian Arabic, especially in the area of phonology, are contrasted with equivalent structures in Modern Standard Arabic since the latter is one variety of Arabic which is more likely to be familiar to most readers.

The materials in this sketch is based mainly on data collected in the late sixties from a native speaker of Chadian Arabic to be used in the preparation of teaching material for the Peace Corps. Other materials collected by other researchers and published since are also taken into consideration.

ISBN 3 89586 005 0. **Languages of the World/Materials 21.** 47pp. USD 56.70 / EUR 38.60 / GBP 27.80. 1995.

## Modern Hebrew

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Modern Hebrew revival in Israel during the last century is a unique phenomenon: a written language used by Jews over 1700 years for either liturgy or writing has become a spoken language used for all purposes.

Although the revivers of Hebrew tried to base the spoken language on the grammar of Hebrew classical periods, the phonetic and grammatical structure of Modern Hebrew shows divergence from it due to various factors.

New words in Modern Hebrew are derived primarily in three ways: 1. combination of a consonantal root with pattern, e.g. *g-d-l-i-e* > *gidel* 'raised', *g-d-l-mi-a* > *migdal* 'tower'; 2. stem + affix, e.g. *bank+ay* > *bankay* 'banker', *migdal+i* > *migdali* 'tower-like'; 3. blends, e.g. *migdal* + 'or 'light' > *migdalor* 'lighthouse.' Loan words are added from various sources with some phonetic adaptation, e.g. *bank*, *telefon*, and can follow Hebrew derivational rules, e.g. *telefoni* 'of the phone (adj)', *t-l-f-n+i-e* > *tilfen* 'telephoned (v).'

All verbs are derived by root and (seven) patterns' combination, unlike nouns. There are

three tenses and one mood in the verb. Nouns are either masculine or feminine. Person inflection in the verbs is obligatory, and so is preposition inflection. Nouns and adjectives are inflected for number and gender, but possessive inflection is limited in nouns, e.g. *yadi* ~ *hayad seli* 'my hand.'

Modern Hebrew is an SVO language with an alternating VSO word order that was dominant in classical Hebrew. Topicalization and other word order shifts are possible. Adjectives follow head nouns, but numeral quantifiers precede them. Nominal sentences with no copula are very common in Hebrew, e.g. *hi yafa* 'she (is) beautiful.' Copulative verbs are obligatory in the past or the future tense.

The lexicon of Modern Hebrew is composed of original Hebrew words from all its language periods together with loan words. Semantic shifts occur in many original words, however, a lot of the changes are due to loan translations or loan shifts.

ISBN 3 89586 144 8. **Languages of the World/Materials 127.** 110pp. USD 65.20 / EUR 44.40 / GBP 31.90. 2001.

## Un créole arabe : le kinubi de Mombasa, Kenya

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Le kinubi est un créole de base arabe, parlé en Afrique de l'Est (Kenya, Ouganda, République Démocratique du Congo, Tanzanie) et apparenté à l'arabe de Juba (Soudan). Il est parlé par une communauté musulmane – les Nubi – dont les ancêtres sont venus du sud du Soudan à la fin du 19<sup>ème</sup> siècle.

La présente recherche se propose de décrire le kinubi tel qu'il est parlé actuellement à Mombasa, sur la côte kenyane, en mettant l'accent d'une part sur l'originalité de ce parler par rapport à ceux de Kibera (Kenya) et de Bombo (Ouganda), et en analysant d'autre part quel a été le rôle du superstrat (arabe dialectal), du substrat (langues sud-soudanaises) et surtout de l'adstrat (kiswahili et anglais) dans sa formation.

En ce qui concerne l'originalité, le kinubi de Mombasa présente une série de traits phonologiques et morphologiques qui, même s'ils sont limités à certains locuteurs, n'apparaissent pas dans les autres parlers étudiés : épenhèse et apocope moins fréquentes, survivance du duel, utilisation du pronom affixe après un nom... Par ailleurs, le kinubi de Mombasa est influencé par divers parlers, en raison des origines variées de ses locuteurs.

En ce qui concerne la formation du kinubi, nous constatons que l'influence du substrat est peu visible, tandis que le superstrat a joué un rôle-clé dans le processus. Enfin, l'adstrat exerce actuellement une forte influence sur la langue. Toutefois, l'anglais et le kiswahili n'agissent pas de la même manière sur le kinubi en général, tandis que les autres langues adstratales ont un impact très limité. Cette étude tente donc de déterminer quels sont les facteurs linguistiques, sociaux et historiques permettant de comprendre cette différence de traitement.

ISBN 3 89586 804 3. **LINCOM Studies in Pidgin & Creole Linguistics 07.** 200pp. USD 129.00 / EUR 87.80 / GBP 63.20. 2005.

## Kinubi Texts

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The Kinubi is an Arabic-based Creole, spoken today in some parts of East Africa: Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo. Formerly, it was spoken in Tanzania and in Somalia.

This language is closely related to Juba Arabic, spoken in Southern Sudan. It is the language of a Muslim community – the Nubi. Their ancestors were soldiers who left Southern Sudan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, due to the Mahdist rebellion. They went to Uganda, where they enrolled in the British colonial army.

The target language of Kinubi is mainly Sudanese Arabic (actually, various Sudanese dialects). Many features distinguish Kinubi from Dialectal Arabic: phonemic changes, the loss of gender, the loss of the article *al-*, the loss of the Arabic verbal morphology and the use of TMA markers. This language is also highly influenced by English and Swahili.

The texts which are presented in this book have been collected in Bombo (Uganda), Kibera (Nairobi, Kenya) and Mombasa (Kenya). They deal with the history of the Nubi community: their origins in Sudan, their arrival in Uganda, their settling in other countries of East Africa, their participation in the First and Second World Wars. They also cover the post-Independence period.

ISBN 3 89586 835 3. **Languages of the World/Text Collections 21.** 172pp. USD 84.30 / EUR 57.40 / GBP 41.30. 2005.

## Sumerian

JOHN HAYES  
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Sumerian has the distinction of being the oldest attested language in the world. Spoken in the southern part of ancient Mesopotamia, the Iraq of today, its first texts date to about 3100 BCE. Sumerian died out as a spoken language about 2000 BCE, but it was studied in the Mesopotamian school system as a language of high culture for almost two thousand more years. A language-isolate, Sumerian has no obvious relatives.

Typologically, Sumerian is quite different from the Semitic languages which followed it in Mesopotamia. It is basically SOV, with core grammatical relationships marked by affixes on the verb, and with adverbial relationships marked by postpositions, which are cross-referenced by prefixes on the verb. It is split ergative; the perfect functions on an ergative basis, but the imperfect on a nominative-accusative basis.

Because Sumerian is an isolate, and has been dead for thousands of years, special problems arise in trying to elucidate its grammar. There are still major challenges in understanding its morphosyntax, and very little is known about Sumerian at the discourse level. This volume will describe some of the major questions still to be resolved.

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