Reviews

Eva Rothmaler (ed.), *Topics in Chadic Linguistics V*, **"Chadic
Linguistics / Linguistique Tchadique / Tschadistik" 6, Köln:
Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2009, 185 pp.**

The volume is composed of written versions of fifteen papers presented at the 4th Biennial International Conference on the Chadic Linguistics, which was held on 30th-31st October, 2007 at the University of Bayreuth, in the famous Gallery of African Arts known as Iwalewa House.

In a short preface, E. Rothmaler informs the reader that the participants of the Conference commemorated by a minute's silence those distinguished Chadicists who have passed away since the previous conference held in Paris in 2005: Mairo Kidda Awak, Carl Hoffmann, Daniel Barreteau, Stefan Elders and Alan Kaye.

The book opens with an article titled "Derivation of the PAM system in Makary Kotoko" (pp. 9-21) by Sean Allison from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He proposes an analysis of the derivation in the person/aspect/mood paradigms of the Makary language from the Kotoko group of Central Chadic B. The author tries to prove that the PAM paradigms could be obtained through the combination of the underlying aspect/mood markers with the underlying forms of the person markers.

"The Nyam language. First steps toward a grammatical description" (pp. 23-36) by Heike Andreas, Rudolf Leger and Ulrich Zoch from the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main may be considered as a preliminary insight into the Nyam language, which is spoken by some 5.000 people: they live on the southern foothills of the Muri Mountains in the Taraba State of Nigeria. The language belongs to the southern Bole-Tangale subgroup of West Chadic. It seems to have been influenced by the Benue-Congo tongues.

In "Loanwords in Hausa" (pp. 37-49) Ari Awagana and Doris Löhr from the University of Leipzig discuss selected results from

the realisation of the International Loanword Typology research project based in Leipzig, especially those referring to Hausa. The paper opens with a short outline of the theoretical framework, which is followed by some details about the historical background and confirmed language contact situations. Further on, there is a presentation of the project results, which takes into account the most important donor languages (Arabic, English, Kanuri, French, Berber, Yoruba, Fulfulde and Songhay) and contains a general examination of the phonological adaptation processes.

G.C. Batic from the University of Naples (L'Orientale) in his contribution titled "Imaginative dimension and experiential constructions in Hausa and Bole" (pp. 51-63) pays attention to the metaphorical and metonymical strategies employed in Hausa and Bole, which encode some basic-level experiences in reference to M. Reh's experimental domains (emotion, cognition, conception, volition, perception and physical traits). His research is limited to the emotional domain, and it points out that body parts renderings are quite productive and preferred strategies, which express anger, happiness, disappointment and sadness.

In "All Chadic Lakes" (pp. 65-74) V. Blažek from the Masaryk University comes to a conclusion that the hydronym 'Chad' has its origin in the Central Chadic group of Kotoko. He provides a reconstruction of some 47 water reservoir terms in the Afroasiatic phylum.

Roger Blench and Anthony Ndamsa from Cambridge and Jos in „An introduction to Kirya-Konz∂l" (pp. 75-85) display some preliminary data on the Central Chadic language, which is spoken by 5.000-8.000 people in 13 settlements north-east of Mubi, close to the Cameroun border in the Adamawa State of Nigeria. The Kirya form part of a larger cultural grouping, commonly known as Fali. After a short presentation of phonology and morphology, the authors are ready to conclude that Kirya-Konz∂l is related to Kamwe [= Higi].

Dymitr Ibriszimow from the University of Bayreuth and Viktor Porkhomovsky & Valery Sheshin from the Russian Academy of Sciences, the authors of "AAKTS database and kinship computer programme for processing Afroasiatic kinship terms and systems"

(pp. 87-93) make the readers acquainted with a special computer programme, which is known as "Afro-Asiatic Kinship Terms and Systems". The programme presented on the example of Higi Baza is believed to become a new formal basis for the comparative study of the Afroasiatic kinship terms. The authors claim that it can be also successfully applied for the study of other African and non-African languages.

In an article titled "I think what you think" (pp. 96-103) Dymitr Ibriszimow and Balarabe Zulyadaini from the University of Bayreuth present part of the Hausa data, which have been collected under the project "Contrastive Cognitive Semantics". The data disclose some significant differences in the conceptualisation of semantic categories between the L1 and L2 Hausa speakers. The authors try to find out possible reasons for those differences. They take into account the following notions: CLOTHING (*sitira*), FOOD (*abinci*), FISH (*kifi*) and KOLANUT (*goro*).

The aim of "Hausa language and the perception of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria" (pp. 105-115) by Baba Mai Bello is to disclose how HIV/AIDS pandemic is perceived in Hausa. The article is based on the data obtained by means of a questionnaire, which has been distributed among the Maiduguri and Gombe respondents. It takes into account descriptive appellation of the disease, as well as euphemistic terms and dysphemistic sarcasms. The final paragraph refers to the HIV/AIDS perception as: 1. an accidental misfortune, 2. a retribution for wrongful acts, or 3. indices of death and misfortune.

The essay by Joy Naomi Philip from the University College in London, which is titled "Tone on Lagwan verbs" (pp. 117-128), is concerned with the realisation of tone in Lagwan, a Central Chadic language of the Kotoko group, spoken in northern Cameroun. It focuses on the verbal system, which encompasses two sets of verbs: one with lexical tone, and the other one with the predicable tone.

"Palatalization and labialization in Mawa" (pp. 120-140) by James S. Roberts form the University of Njamena is a progress report, in which the author presents his results in the study of phonology of Mawa, an Eastern Chadic language spoken by some 5.500 people in the Guéra region of the central Chad Republic.

Olga Stolbova from the Institute of Orientals Studies in Moscow has contributed and article titled "Plurality in Chadic" (pp. 141-149), in which she aims at the retrieving morphological traces of ancient languages in the modern representation of the Chadic family. She takes into consideration noun and verbal plurals in the Kirfi language from the West Chadic branch. In conclusion she emphasises that revealing frozen plural models contributes not only to historical morphology of the Chadic languages but may be also used in lexical comparison within the frames of the Hamito-Semitic phylum.

The only paper in French, "Les marqueurs relatifs dans les langues dites *kotoko*" (pp. 151-159) by Henry Tourneux and Adam Mahamat from CNRS concerns the origin and functioning of the relative markers in some Kotoko languages, which are spoken in Cameroun (Afade, Makari, Goulfey, Logone-Birni, Kousseri, Zina and Mazera).

H. Ekkehard Wolff from the University of Leipzig in "Another look at 'internal *a*' in Chadic", considered as a potential reflex of a common 'pluralizer' for nouns and verbs, which could be inherited from Proto-Afroasiatic, is a complete misnomer. "Nouns and verbs made, and some still make use of two quite distinct morphological processes" (p. 171).

The final paper in this volume, "Between Hausa and Kanuri" (p. 173-185) by Georg Ziegelmeyer from the University of Vienna, is dedicated to the linguistic influence of Hausa and Kanuri on Bade and Ngizim, two closely related languages of the West Chadic subbranch B, spoken in Yobe State. They are located between those of Hausa to the west, and Kanuri to the east. Bade and Ngizim have borrowed from the neighbouring tongues some words, which function as co-ordinators, topic markers, discourse markers, and others.

Stanisław Piłaszewicz

Harry Stroomer, Maarten Kossmann, Dymitr Ibriszimow, Rainer Vossen (eds.), *Études berbères V. Essais sur des variations dialectales et autres articles*, "Berber Studies" 28, Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2010, 212 pp.

Berber linguistics is a relatively recent, but fast growing field, although scholars from outside francophone countries still give little attention to this area of research. The "Berber Studies" series which is irregularly published since 2001 is an excellent confirmation of the emerging body of scholarship that also includes Berber languages' native speakers. Volume 28 in this series is a result of the 5th "Bayreuth-Frankfurt-Leidener Kolloquium zur Berberologie" in Leiden. It contains nine presented papers concentrated mostly on dialectal variants of Berber languages. The study is dealing with the stereotype of Berber languages seen as one Berber language and brings fresh view on Berber linguistics.

The opening paper "La variation morphosyntaxique en amazighe: position et ordre des pronoms clitiques" by Fatima Boukhris shows the variations of the position and the order of clitic pronouns. The author concentrates on the relation of pronoun object clitics to the verb but also to the other morphemes of the verbal phrase. The comparison is made between the three dialects from Morocco: Tachelhite, Tamasighte and Tarifite. The study is divided into three sections. First one deals with the postverbial position of the clitic, second one focuses on the preverbial position and the morphosyntactic behavior, while the third section summarizes the analysis of the author with two main conclusions concerning enclitic and proclitic pronouns. The article provides unexpected results on the variations in syntax of Berber languages that used to be considered as regular and unified.

Noun phrase in Tamazighe: morphologic and syntactic aspects are discussed in the second article written by Malika Chakiri from Sorbonne, Paris. The description of typological features, morphology and syntax of noun phrases is based on her own researches. The study results in confirmation of the existence of dual syntax: free and fixed. The article lacks bibliography.

The following article "Some thoughts on the origins of the Libyco-Berber alphabet" by Robert M.Kerr represents a very valuable discussion on Libyco-Berber script epigraphy. It starts with a short notice of the division of Berber writing systems that is followed by the description of still unsolved problems in the field of Libyco-Berber epigraphy, referring to short texts and texts dated with no certainty. Libyan language is seen as one or many languages and still there is a question of what the ancient authors understood as 'Libyan' language. Kerr is trying to answer whether Libyco-Berber script was an invention or rather borrowing. The article provides us with critical interpretation of ideas on the script's origin shared by different authors from ancient to modern times. He realizes that much attention was paid to the forms of letters. He himself insists on their function and meaning mechanisms of the script. He assumes that Libyco-Berber was an invention in the time of Massinissa reign. The article is provided with a large bibliography.

Maarten Kossman, the co-editor, provides us with a pioneering contribution into the field of berberology with the description of the Berber dialect of Igli in Algeria, South of Oran. The dialect of Igli called Tabeldit, belonging to 'kçour du Sud oranais' group was poorly studied so far, and Kossman based his notes on the fieldwork done by three famous berberologists: André Basset, Edmond Destaing and André Picard in the 30's of the last century. The article is divided into thirteen sections which describe comparatively Tabeldit and other Sud Oranais dialects. Twelve of these sections present a meticulous examination of grammar starting from phonology, pronouns, noun morphology, quantifiers, and followed by verb morphology, verbal complex, prepositions, relative clauses and similar constructions, questions, 'be' constructions and notes on the use of aspect, finally discussing coordination and subordination. The last section contains some texts from Igli and Iche in Morocco collected by Basset.

"La topicalisation en berbere: formes et structures" is the title of next article written by Mena Lafkioui. The author starts with the presentation of the theory of topicalization, which constitutes a striking operation in Berber languages, serving as a tool to attract atten-

tion of the interlocutor to a specific point of discussion. In the further sections, the syntactic marking of topic, repetition of the topic, and the combination of topicalization in the spontaneous oral discussion are being presented. The author uses the tool of intonation diagrams to show melodic curves of topicalized sentences. The intonational dislocation shown in the diagrams is believed to be the most reliable trace of topic in the statement.

Until 2001, when the first study appeared, Tetserret was considered as a variety of Tamacheq. In 2007 Cecile Lux and Gerard Philipson undertook the fieldwork in Niger to collect texts in Tetserret. The article "L'accent en tetserret et en tamacheq: contacts et contrastes" is a result of the fieldwork, that provides new data. It also brings fresh view on this very little studied field in a more general perspective. The article begins with short introduction on accent theory and presentation of accent behavior in Berber languages. Section 2 is dedicated to comparative studies on nominal group accent in Tetserret and Tamacheq, while in section 3 the authors investigate verb group accent in Tamacheq and Tetserret. The conclusion is rather unexpected: it contains the statement that accent in these two languages differs despite close interaction between them and that the accent in Tetserret is of a very important value. The article is provided with large bibliography and useful abbreviation index.

Some forty years after Anna Wierzbicka's work on Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM, French variant MSN) André Savage uses the tool to analyse the Touareg proverb in order to convince us that understanding and describing proverbs refers to the same semantic units in any language. The article "Un proverbe touareg: plusieurs variants, en seul sens" is the examination of seventeen variants of the same proverb collected during the author's fieldwork. The variants are organized into three groups giving three scenarios possible. Thus, the data form three key semantic elements leading to the application of MSN allows for giving the explanation of the proverb in French, English and Tamacheq. The article terminates with the table of NSM contexts and large bibliography.

One of the most original pieces in the whole volume is Lameen Souag's "The Western Berber Stratum in Kwarandzyey

(Tabelbala, Algeria)". This article goes beyond Berber linguistics, as it shows the influence of Western Berber on Songhai language from Tabelbala in Souhwestern Algeria; the language is called by its people Kwarandzyey. After giving brief description of linguistic situation in the oasis and some data on Western Berber, the author examines the Berber-Songhai contact features by checking the phonetic innovations of Western Berber. The method relies on attesting presence or absence of the form in Western Berber and in its different varieties. Historical implications and explanation of the context are given subsequently. Notwithstanding, lack of data makes giving an unambiguous answer to the question of origin through the contact and interaction between these languages impossible. Further investigation would be necessary.

Catherine Taine-Cheikh's essay, "Ordre, injunction, souhait et serment en Zenaga (étude comparative)" closes the volume. The comparative study investigates no-declarative sentences in Zenaga and other Berber languages. It is divided into three sections. The first one is dealing with expressing order and injunction, while presenting its positive and negative explication, as well as defense and prohibitive statements. The second section presents the wish, and the third one – the oath. Sections 1 and 3 contain comparative tables of grammatical exponents in Berber languages, relevant to the category distinguished for each section. This comparative study aims at showing a significant difference between order and injunction in opposition to wish as well as wish that is differentiated by grammatical means with oath.

As a whole, the volume can be considered as a very valuable review of the main domains of Berber linguistics and as a presentation of some pioneer aspects in this field. It can serve as an useful handbook and source material for linguistic research.

Marta Jackowska

Georg Ziegelmeyer, Norbert Cyffer (eds.), *Aspects of Co- and Subordination. Case Studies from African, Slavonic, and Turkic Languages*, **Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2010, 289 pp.**

The description of complex sentences in African languages is far from being adequate and this situation is not caused by the lack of data, but rather by the variety of analyses that are hardly compared with each other in terms of linguistic interpretation. The book under review aims at examining the sentences expressing the relation of either co- or subordination and giving them a theoretical perspective. The African languages that are mostly discussed in the volume (Hausa, Lamang, Hdi, Malgwa, Bade, Gurduŋ, Buduma, Kanuri, Kanembu, Songhay, and Chamba-Daka) represent the three language families (Afroasiatic and Nilosaharan, with a single Niger-Congo representative). Different language structures of African languages are presented along with the data of Slavonic and Turkic languages and such a combination makes a background for theoretical interpretations. The book presents contributions of research oriented at examining the linguistic situation in northeastern Nigeria with respect to language contact and change and integrates the research achievements with the results of the workshop on the syntax of co- and subordination.

The initial presentation by Lars Johanson "Three kinds of clause junctors" refers to the classification of devices combining neighbouring predications, that include subjunctors (incorporating devices), conjunctors (coordinative devices) and adjunctors (i.e. adverbial junctors). The classification elaborated initially with the Turkic data is intended to be universal and adaptable to languages of various types, including different African languages. The three groups of clause junctors, however, do not cover all possible devices and do not form theoretical background for discussing many aspects of syntactic co- and subordination, that are characteristic of African languages. The criterion of syntactic integration that determines the classification, brings about new understanding of some traditional terms, therefore adverbial junctors are understood differently from adverbial subordinators discussed later in the volume. No references

to the four traditional syntactic categories of complex clauses, namely coordinate, adverbial, complement, and relative clause are given.

The next article turns to diachronic investigation of co- and subordination. Juliane Besters-Digler in "Co- and subordination expressing causality in Slavonic languages" discusses some typical Indo-European and European features concerning the linguistic means for this kind of structures. Tracing back to the Old Church Slavonic texts, it focuses on reconstruction of the oldest types of co- and subordination. The established models of their development include processes of language contact, grammaticalization and reanalysis. Rich variety of structural markers in the Slavonic languages (not necessarily of their own origin) provides a good material for comparative studies in a wider linguistic perspective.

The contribution of African studies to the recognition of grammatical means for co- and subordination is transparently manifested in the article "Clause linking in some Central-Chadic languages" by H. Ekkehard Wolff. Stress is laid on devices that are marginal or even absent in the inventory of markers in European languages. The data of three related Central Chadic languages, i.e. Lamang, Hdi and Malgwa are to demonstrate variety of linkers (clause-initial and clause-final markers), different verb forms, as well as clause-connecting strategy of juxtaposition. It is also shown that co- and subordination is determined not only by syntactic but also by pragmatic dependency. Language contact and grammaticalization are claimed to be responsible for the development of subordinating devices.

The following articles develop the recognized strategies of coding co- and subordination and throw some more light on their functions in particular languages. Philip J. Jaggar in "Relational DÀ as a preposition, coordinator, and subordinator in Hausa: Polysemy or homophony?" examines a polyfunctional word *da* [dà]. The detailed analysis of structures in which *da* occurs in syntactically different constructions links all functions in one in semantic/cognitive perspective. It is stated that the notion of accompaniment/association/involvement constitutes a base for all structures and the comitative 'with' expressions are their formal prototype.

However, this interpretation leaves apart a significant opposition between the two types of coordinative structures that are differentiated by the use of *da*. Whereas this marker links two units (NP's) within a single clause, it does not link two predications as coordinate units. This aspect is raised in other contributions dealing with Chadic languages (e.g. by Ekkehard Wolff, Doris Löhr, and Andrew Haruna).

The function of *da* is further examined in areal perspective. Petr Zima in "Sprachbund and lingua franca as dynamic features: DA – NDA beyond Hausa" discusses the development of markers DA/NDA in non related languages that are geographically and areally close to each other. It shows that the similarities between Hausa and Songhay in the form and function of the discussed morpheme are the result of contact.

Doris Löhr's article "Coding temporal subordination in Malgwa" deals with both synchronic and diachronic interpretation of strategies connecting two predications. Relying on sentences expressing temporal subordination, a variety of clause-initial and clause final junctors have been discussed. It is shown that a number of the junctors are borrowed. As for juxtaposition that is a device to link two formally unconnected clauses, it is the strategy in which "the order of clauses regularly mirrors the sequence of actions" (p. 102).

The contribution of Georg Ziegelmeyer refers to dialectal variation of Northern Bade termed as Gashua Bade. The article "Retention and innovation: On adverbial subordination in Gashua Bade" presents adverbial clauses i.e. "strategies whereby one clause modifies another similar to the way in which an adverb modifies a proposition" (p. 120). The description focuses on the inventory of explicit junctors and processes that account for their development, namely borrowing and grammaticalization. The most spectacular result is seen in typological classification of junctors, that is based on concepts rendered by adverbial clauses. Including the differentiation of markers in Gashua Bade, the following notions have been distinguished: ANTERIORITY, REASON, REASON and PURPOSE, PREFERENCE, COMPARISON, SIMULTANEITY, TERMINUS

AD QUEM, TERMINUS A QUO/REASON, POSTERIORITY, CONCESSIVES, SUBSTITUTION, MANNER/SIMILARITY, CONDITION. The list of notions and polyfunctional markers provide a source for further studies on the idea of subordination and its marking system.

The significance of contact features is further investigated in Andrew Haruna's paper "Co- and subordination in Gùrdùŋ". It refers to the role of Hausa and its influence on the syntactic structures in other Chadic languages. The author claims that the impact of Hausa on Gurduŋ language structures is sociolinguistically motivated and the influences result from the position of Hausa in the area. Andrew Haruna confirms the differences in marking Noun Phrase coordination and Sentence/Clause coordination in Gurduŋ. Similarly to Hausa, "sentence conjunction is not expressed by any overt morpheme. They are directly juxtaposed" (p. 149).

Ari Awagana in "Coordination et subordination en buduma" presents the co- and subordinative sentences within the theory of grammatical integration proposed by Payne (1997). The devices that mark the relation are differentiated according to the levels of grammatical integration. Syntactic structures that represent the levels vary from coordination to verb serialization, with different types of subordination in-between. The detailed analysis of conjunctions reveals their grammaticalization path that traces back many conjunctions to genitive and locative constructions.

Norbert Cyffer recognizes the sources of the exponents that express complementation and subordination in postpositions, indefinite pronouns, and adjuncts. The article "GA, RO & CO: Strategies of complementation and subordination in Kanuri" investigates the polyfunctional morphemes and the process of their grammaticalization. In more general perspective, the development of syntactic structures of present Kanuri is explained by areal influences and universal tendencies, rather than its genetic affiliation

The analysis of earlier stages of the language as documented in texts is demonstrated in Dmitry Bondarev's article "Complex clauses in Old Kanembu/LG". The description is based on written variety of Kanuri/Kanembu used for Qur'anic interpretation by the

Borno scholars in the 16th – 18th cc. The comparison of Old Kanem-bu constructions with their equivalents in modern Kanuri allows to make inferences on the development of complex clause junctors. It is shown that the two morphosyntactic categories, namely a participial-like verbal form and a postpositional morpheme -n change their polysemic and polyfunctional nature and become more specified grammatical means.

Contact features on the boundaries of language families are discussed by Maarten Kossmann in his article "On relative clauses in Northern Songhay: Tuareg and Songhay components". The well recognized contact zone is now examined with respect to the complex (relative) clauses. It is shown that relative clauses in Northern Songhay reveal both similarities to Songhay and to Tuareg, but structural details make the language of this area distinct from the two 'standard' languages.

The final article of the volume deals with subordination in a peripheral Adamawa language. Raymond Boyd's article "Subordination from a Chamba-Daka perspective" discusses the function of markers and their 'co-operation' with other syntactic means while coding subordination. Stress is laid on topicalizing particle which is transformed from postposition to proposition-initial position to mark subordination. The Chamba-Daka data clearly manifest the feature common to the African languages, namely the non-stable status of the markers of syntactic dependency that are used to "insure logical coherence and implications in discourse rather than purely syntactic organization" (p. 288).

The book *Aspects of co- and subordination* is a significant contribution to the studies on syntax in their documentary and theoretic dimension. With logically constructed sequence of articles, it deals with various aspects of co- and subordination, focusing on tendencies in the development of co- and subordination strategies. As far as the data are concerned, most contributions refer to syntactic devices of connecting clauses in African languages. The two articles dealing with European and Asian languages do not contradict any statement related to African languages. They rather manifest similarities in historical development of co- and subordinative strat-

egies, but the African language data seem to be hardly adaptable to the generalizations made on European languages data. The contributions show that co- and subordination does not constitute a single research topic in African linguistics and the two variants of complex sentences are related not only to syntax but also to pragmatics, and discourse.

Nina Pawlak

Christina Thornell & Karsten Legére (eds.), *North-South Contributions to African Languages*, Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2011, 203 pp.

This volume is a fruit of the 2007 Gothenburg Symposium "Nordic Contributions to African Languages", which was organized to mark the Year of African Languages 2007-2008 that was formally launched by the African Union in June 2007. The Symposium brought together substantial number of linguists from the Nordic countries and Sankt Petersburg, as well as from Cameroon, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania.

In an introduction (pp. vii-xi) Karsten Legére discloses that the special purpose of the publication was to demonstrate the academic potential and expertise in African linguistics in the Nordic countries and Northwest Russia as well as addressing African language problems in co-operation with the African linguists. The editor states that „[...] the current publication gives an overview of Nordic and African linguistic research as well as commitment to the cause of African languages, e.g. in teaching and empowerment" (p. vii). In further part of his contribution he shortly presents the contents of all the papers published in this volume.

The essential part of the book starts with an article by Beban Sammy Chunbow from the Yaoundé University titled "The African Academy of Languages and the continental language development programme" (pp. 1-13). The author presents an overview of the many-sided approach to the linguistic situation in Africa by the Academy (ACALAN), which is the official organ of the African Union dealing with languages and language policy at the continental level. It was established by AU Heads of States during the Khartoum

summit in January 2006 with its headquarters in Bamako. Nine priority projects of ACALAN are presented (e.g. *Year of African Languages*, *African Linguistic Atlas Project*, *Pan-African Centre for Translation and Interpretation*, *African Languages and Cyberspace Project*, and others). In conclusion Chumbow argues that the promotion of African Languages must be an integral part of the development: "No NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) without LAPAD (Language Plan of Action for African Development)".

In "African language teaching and research with emphasis on Swahili" (pp. 15-25) Assibi A. Amidu (a Ghanaian) deals with the role, importance and content of the African language studies in the Department of Languages and Communication Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Trondheim. Before the presentation of the Swahili program the author gives an overview of the research into other African languages (Gur, Kwa, Cushitic, Omotic, Ethio-Semitic, Bantu and Atlantic) and provides the list of the completed master and doctoral theses. When describing the Swahili teaching program he discusses the language courses and the culture, literature and social courses. A separate paragraph is dedicated to the research into Swahili where he lists his own publications, both books and articles.

Dorothee Beermann from NUST in "TypeCraft language annotation in the context of African Linguistics" (pp. 27-35) complains that up to now linguistics is divided into various fields of research with very little knowledge about each other and with little exchange of the research results. This could be overcome by the use of TypeCraft, which "[...] is an interlinearized glosser accessible online and connected to a relational database for the storage and retrieval of linguistically text data" (p. 35). The author introduces, and informs about this linguistic tool for text annotation, which she has created herself.

In an article titled "African languages, educational quality and the issue of parent choice" (pp. 37-49) Carol Benson from the Stockholm University focuses on the medium of instruction issue in school. She demonstrates that in most public schools with the for-

eign language of instruction the teaching results are of rather low standard. Happily, one can observe the growing use of African Languages in the national education programs.

Øyvind Dahl from the School of Mission and Theology in Stavanger in his article titled "Linguistic policy challenges in Madagascar" (pp. 51-79) presents a historical overview of the language policy of this country, with particular emphasis laid on Malagasy use in education, which according to the country's constitution is the only national language. It was suppressed during the colonial rule and French was solely promoted as the language of instruction after independence, until 1972. In 2008 the government implemented a new educational reform, according to which Malagasy became the language of instruction during the first seven years of schooling. The shifting language policies and their consequences are the main subject of the study.

Niklas Edenmyr from the University of Uppsala, Héléne Fatima Idris and Karsten Legére, both from the University of Gothenburg, in "Endangered languages. Examples from Tanzania and Sudan" (pp. 81-94) deal with the moribund African languages in Sudan and Tanzania, which are priority of the international research agenda. It is a report on field work, which was carried out in the two countries. Idris was able to find in Sudan some people still speaking Birgid and recorded some lexical items from this language. In Tanzania, few speakers of the moribund Ngasa were traced in the Kilimanjaro Region.

The process of the alphabet forging for the Nyaneka-Nkumbi group of the Angolan Bantu languages has been described by Rikka Halme form the Universidade Agostinho Neto and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission in her essay: "Creating a common orthography Nyaneka-Nkumbi" (pp. 95-109). It is a common enterprise of speakers, local government, linguists and governmental institutions. Such democratic process is thought to pave the way to an easy acceptance of the official orthography by the population. The paper gives a short overview of the language situation of Angola and is provided with an outline of the phonology of Nyaneka-Nkumbi.

"Some Finnish contributions to African linguistics" (pp. 111-125) are presented by Arvi Hurskainen from the University of Helsinki. The Finish commitment to African languages goes back to the missionary activities in northern Namibia (Ovamboland), which started in 1869. Finnish missionaries reduced Ndonga and Kwangali to writing, produced dictionaries and teaching materials, and translated biblical texts. In the second half of the 20th century the academic research carried out at the University of Helsinki focused on Swahili, Ha, Kwanyama and Maasai.

Daniel Mkude from the University of Dar es Salaam dedicates his short essay "The impact of Swahili on other languages in Tanzania. An illustration from Luguru" (pp. 127-135) to the structural influence of the largest *lingua franca* of Eastern Africa on Luguru, which is spoken in the Southeastern part of the Morogoro District. The author is himself a prominent Luguru speaker and since 2001 he has been an important partner in the Swedish-Tanzanian project "Languages of Tanzania". In his contribution he demonstrates how modern Luguru drops grammatical features, especially as spoken by the young generation.

The paper "Subject glossaries for Mbukushu. Development and future prospects" (pp. 137-148) by Robert Munganda from the National Institute for Educational Development in Okahandja deals with the project jointly implemented by the Institute and the University of Gothenburg. The author was Namibian co-ordinator of the terminology development project for the Mbukushu language spoken in Northeastern Namibia. In his contribution he summarizes the way by which the glossary work was carried out and specifies the subjects covered.

Christina Thornell and Carl E. Olivestam from the University of Gothenburg in their article titled "Central African multilingual environment with neuroscience underpinnings" (pp. 149-169) investigate the process of adult learning in a multilingual society in the Central African Republic. Their research had a multidisciplinary perspective and included linguistics, education and neuroscience. It was conducted in Berberati and aimed at recording the linguistic competence of adult learners in the official language of Sango and

French. The authors pointed out that the level of general language competence did not play a significant role for the learning.

A joint Swiss-Russian project dedicated to an integral description of the southern Mande languages is presented by its participant Valentin Vydrine from the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography in Sankt Petersburg. In his report titled "South Mande lexicology project" (pp. 171-185) he points to the prominent role of the Russian researchers in a Russian-Swiss-Ivorian lexicology project, which covers South Mande group comprizing a dozen of languages spoken in the Ivory Coast. Two dictionaries were published in 2008, and the total number of publications of the team exceeds eighty items: they have been listed in an appendix.

Inequality in children's educational chances is shown by Åsa Wedin from Högskolan Dalarna and Örebro University in an article titled "Language attitudes and schooled education. The case of Karagwe" (pp. 187-196). The article is based on extensive field work in the Karagwe District of the Northwestern Tanzania. The author depicts the linguistic situation there, and suggests that the policy of "Swahili only" in primary schools favours the small minority of the children living in a context where Swahili is used.

The volume closes with a self-explanatory article by Alexander Zheltov from the Sankt Petersburg University: "African studies in St. Petersburg" (pp. 197-202. He provides a brief outline of the history of African language studies and teaching in Sankt Petersburg, presents the activities of its main institutions and scholars, and lists some recent publications.

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