

Sergio Baldi, *Dizionario Hausa: Hausa-Italiano, Italiano-Hausa*. Milano: Ulrico Hoepli Editore S.p.A., 2015, 588 pp.

As it is stated in foreword (VI-VII), this monumental dictionary is intended for students, economists, tourists and all the others interested in Hausa language, Hausanists included. First steps in its compiling were undertaken in 1995, when Bernard Caron acquainted the Author with the ShoeBox computer programme, which became essential tool in Baldi's lexical research. With the help of Prof. Henning Schreiber the collected data were transferred into the Windows version of the ShoeBox Programme.

The dictionary contains more than 13.000 Hausa and above 10.000 Italian lemmata which have been taken from literary and journalistic texts, as well as from technical term lists and literary sketches. In the introduction (VIII-IX) one can find general information on the number of Hausa speakers as mother and vehicular tongue. The question of the Hausa ethnic and religious complexity is raised. Finally, the introduction of *Ajami* and *Boko* has been discussed. In the bibliography (X-XI) the lexicographical works have been taken into account with a small omissions. The reader is looking in vain for J. McIntyre's *Hausa Verbal Compounds* (Köln 2006) and V. Laptuhin's *Russko-Chausa Slovar'* (Moskwa 1963). The essential part of the dictionary is preceded by a guide for the users (XII-XIV) and a list of abbreviations (XV-XVIII).

The dictionary is provided with an outline of Hausa grammar and with useful appendixes: week days' names, Christian and Muslim months' names, personal and geographical names (586-588). It is principally based on standard Hausa. Since Hausa is also mother tongue for many inhabitants of Niger it encompasses also some terms of the local use, mainly of French origin. It also contains some words coming from several dialects spoken in northern Nigeria. All those additions are duly marked in an abbreviated form.

As mentioned above the Author has borrowed technical and scientific terms from articles and lists published in *Harsunan Nijeria*. He mistakenly attributes this journal to the Ahmadu Bello University, Kano (XI) whereas it is being edited by the Centre of the Study of Nigerian Languages, Bayero University, Kano.

There is a number of misprints, omissions and few controversial opinions which are rather difficult to avoid in such serious undertaking. For example, it is rather a simplification to consider the Qadiriyya brotherhood as a Muslim sect (p. 28). In *bàn san indà dà yârā sukà tàfi* 'io non so dove i ragazzi sono andati' *dà* is redundant (p. 145). Plurals of *kadà* should start in the same line. In *K'ungiyar Āgàji ra Red Cross* instead of *ra* it should be *ta* (p. 195). On p. 222 *ta* is omitted in *Manufar dà ta shàfi dūniyà gābā daya* 'politica globale'. On p. 236 *dàbà* should be divided into two words. On p. 247 instead of *kimāyà* it should be *kìyāmà*. The sequence *tayàmurnà* should be divided into two words (p. 260).

The main value of the dictionary is enlarging words treasury in relation to the traditional Hausa dictionaries. It does not mean, however, that it resolves all the lexical and idiomatic problems. Recently I was reading novel *Amina* by Mohammed Umar and could not find in Baldi's dictionary many words which were not attested in the existing vocabularies. Still Prof. Baldi has made a long step in Hausa lexicography but there remains enough work to be done by others.

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