Reviews

Henry Tourneux (ed.), *Topics in Chadic Linguistics* VII, „Chadic Linguistics / Linguistique Tchadic / Tschadistik", Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2013, 243 pp.

The volume contains thirteen papers from the 6th Biennial International Colloquium on the Chadic Languages which was held in Villejuif (near Paris) on 24-25 September, 2011. The participants came from Germany, Cameroon, France, Italy, Russia, Chad and Czech Republic: in sum sixteen papers were presented. Those published here have been arranged in the alphabetical order of their authors' names.

In „Arabic loans in Bole-Tangale languages" (pp. 9-25) Sergio Baldi traces Arabic loans in all dictionaries by Russell Schuh (Bole, Ngamo, Karekare, Bade, 'Duwai and Ngizim languages) which are available on the Internet. The author observed that the highest concentration of Arabic loans is in Bole, and the lowest – in Karekare: most of them have arrived via Kanuri, and others via Hausa. The loanwords have been arranged thematically: religion; works, employment, tools and material (including cloth); community, education, family and marriage; wealth and values; time and space; sky, earth, fauna and flora; health and illness; interjections and particles; and miscellaneous.

Gian Claudio Batic in his paper entitled „The Bure language: an overview" (pp. 27-42) provides up-to-date assessment of vitality of this endangered language, along with a basic sketch of the grammar and English-Bure-Hausa wordlist. When documenting the language, the author undertook fieldwork in the Bure village (March-June 2011).

In the study entitled „Kujarge wordlist with Chadic (Afroasiatic) cognates" (pp. 43-52) Vaclav Blážek compares the lexical data of Kujarge (collected and published by Doornbos) with the

words of well described East Chadic languages, and occasionally with other Chadic or Afroasiatic tongues. He inclines towards the hypothesis that Kujarge can be a Chadic variety influenced by other languages, and probably represents an independent group of the East Chadic branch, „(...) perhaps with a closer relation, genetic or areal, to the Dangla-Mubi super-group" (p. 43).

According to Roger Blench one of the most distinctive features of African languages are the abundance of ideophones, it is words that describe sensory experiences. In his contribution entitled „Mwaghavul expressives" (pp. 53-75) he sketches history of the discovery of this class of words in African languages and then indicates their unusual features in Mwaghavul, a relatively large West Chadic language. According to him „Mwaghavul has an elaborate array of expressive terms, both covering the standard of ideophones and also including odour and colour terms, as well as body epithets" (p. 74).

The paper entitled „Tonal inversion in Geji and Pelu" (pp. 77-85) by Bernard Caron offers a unified account of the tonal inversion observed between two dialects of Geji (Geji and Pelu), a Chadic South Bauchi language. This type of tone variation has been documented in other Chadic languages: Kotoko and Ngamo. The author notices the need for research on distinctive language features among close neighbours of Geji as a source for the development of dialects. One is astonished to see heading „The tone system of Mawa" instead of „Tonal inversion..." (pp. 79-85)! This misinformation continues in further part of the book (pp. 87-129).

Richard Gravina in his paper entitled „The history of vowels and prosodies in Central Chadic" (pp. 87-99) proposes a reconstruction of the vowel-prosody system of proto-Central Chadic, and describes the reflexes of the vowels and prosody in different groups of Central Chadic. He realises that diverse systems of surface vowels of the Central Chadic languages have developed from a reasonable concise system in Proto-Central Chadic.

In „Observations concerning the metrical systems of three Chadic languages" (pp. 101-113) Mary Pearce investigates a similar metrical structure of three Chadic languages – Kera, Kwong and

Zime – spoken in Southern Chad. She observes that „These three languages have a similar underlying structure of CCV for a number of words, and all three languages have surface forms for this structure which suggest iambic feet" (p. 101).

„The tone system of Mawa" (pp. 115-125) has been analysed by James Roberts. Mawa is a language of the Guera group of the Eastern Chadic branch. The author examines the behaviour of tone in Mawa, „(...) whose system shows some characteristics that are common in tone languages, and other phenomena which are not characteristic of tone behaviour at all" (p. 115).

The study of Olga Stolbova entitled „Postvelars in Chadic. Internal reconstruction and external parallels" (pp. 132-138) includes the list of Chadic roots with initial laryngeal h- and their cognates in Semitic, Egyptian and Cushitic languages. In conclusion she states that due to specific reflexes (∅/w/y) in West and East branches, most of Chadic roots with initial *h- show limited distribution within the family.

Alessandro Suzzi and Jules Jacques Coly in their contribution entitled „The Maaka language: First insights" (pp. 139-151) provide a short introduction concerning a historical overview on Maaka language which is spoken by some 4000 people in southern Yobe State of Nigeria. Then they present a phonetic description, give some remarks on grammatical aspects of the language, and insert lexical list taken from a basic and cultural vocabulary gathered in 1993 by Herrmann Jungraithmayr and Khalil Alio.

The paper entitled „Musgu and Masa h- vs. ḥ- and Afro-Asiatic" (pp. 153-184) by Gábor Takács arose from author's research primarily focusing on possible Afro-Asiatic reflection of Semitic ghayn. He concludes that Stolbova's hypotheis on Musgu and Masa ḥ- <AA*γ- has been verified as correct by some half of a dozen new etymologies.

„Les noms de poissons en kotoko commun" (pp. 185-201) is the only paper in French submitted by Henry Tourneux. Kotoko live on borderland of Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad Republic, and they are called „people of water": their main economic activity has been fishery. The proximity of the Kotoko with aquatic environment in-

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clined the author towards the comparison of their ichthyology vocabulary with the hope of finding the common fish vocabulary.

H. Ekkehard Wolff opens his paper entitled „On the diachronics of Chadic tone systems: From pitch to tone in Lamang-Hdi" (pp. 204-228) with a sad statement that little is known, even less is written on the typology and history of Chadic tone systems. In this contribution he looks at diachronic changes affecting to closely related Central Chadic languages: Lamang and Hdi.

The volume ends with an article by Ulrike Zoch entitled „Perfectives in the Bole-Tangale languages" (pp. 229-243). He takes a closer look at perfectives in selected Bole-Tangale languages, paying special attention to forms with the marker KO. The author states that „A comparative morphological analysis of perfectives with and without perfective marker (PM) in Bole-Tangale languages has led to conclusion that the PMs originated on the right fringe of the verb phrase and gradually moved towards the verb base".

Stanisław Piłaszewicz

Tove Rosendal, *Linguistic Landshapes. A comparison of the official and non-official language management in Rwanda and Uganda, focusing on the position of African languages*, **Köln, Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2011, 327 pp.**

The author's doctoral dissertation has been published in „Language Contact in Africa – Sprachkontakt in Afrika" series edited by Hans-Jürgen Sasse and Rainer Voßen. The main objective of the work is to describe the present status, function and use of languages in two countries, respectively Rwanda and Uganda. The author carried a macro-sociolinguistic study on language status and language use in these two countries in theory with totally different linguistic situation.

Rwanda is a rare example of an African country with a national language (being also an official one), i.e. Rwanda, spoken by a majority of its citizens (app. 99%) as a mother tongue, while Uganda is known for its multilingual composition. In Rwanda, due to its historical implications, French was a medium of official communication together with Rwanda, and English was introduced

recently (after 1994) as a third official language. On the contrary Ugandan language policy has been exoglossic with English as the only official language since Independence, but it changed to a mixed one in 2005 when Swahili was added as the second official language.

The author proposes an investigation in the new field of linguistic landshapes, that covers linguistic, man-created environment in a social and political system, as opposed to wider investigated linguistic landscapes, that limit the reference to messages and signs in urban settings.

In her study the author investigates the present status, function and use of languages within the main formal domains in society, both official and non-official, and focuses on official languages, while taking also other languages under consideration. The author deals with language policy, but also with language management, both by authorities and citizens.

The study is of particular interest for its theoretical approach. The strong point of the book is an exhaustive overview of the literature. In depth it addresses theoretical assumptions and terminological issues. Moreover the author developed a new model for analysis, i.e. *Multilingual Management Model* (MMM), that allows to compare the same domains and units of analysis in several countries.

The study disposes of believes and myths, as e.g. both the army and the police forces in Rwanda use Swahili for communication, or the neutrality of English as a means of creating national unity. It gives quantitative analysis of the present situation of language use in different domains, such as official domains, education, state media, trade and commerce, religion and private media. Reveals an interesting unequal employment of official languages within the different domains, despite their equal official status. Clearly presents a strong position of Rwanda both in official domains and in everyday life, compared to French and English in Rwanda. And a dominant position of English over Swahili in Uganda. The study proves that language asymmetry exists and shows which languages are assigned which specific roles in a society, taking under consideration not only official languages but

other African languages, e.g. Ganda in Uganda, as well.

The work can be used as a strong and reliable reference on languages of Rwanda and Uganda. It in-depth describes a multilingual situation in Rwanda and Uganda and shows the complex situation of language status and use and aspects in which it differs in these two countries. The author not only presented a well researched, unique macro-sociolinguistic study that compares language situation in two countries, but also proposed a new approach to the comparative research in sociolinguistics.

Beata Wójtowicz

Herrmann Jungraithmayr, *La langue mubi* **(***République du Tchad***).** *Précis de grammaire. Textes. Lexique***, Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 2013, 226 pp.**

This outline of the Mubi grammar was published by Dietrich Reimer Verlag as the 27th volume of the valuable and renown series „Sprache und Oralität in Afrika" The publication is a crowning achievement of Professor H. Jungraithmayr in his long lasting research on that remarkable language, which is believed to preserve the most archaic grammar in the whole Chadic branch of the Afroasiatic family. Inspired by the data collected in 1933 by Johannes Lucas in Maiduguri, the Author started his work aimed at the deepening the knowledge of that language. As a result of this initial research he published an article entitled „The Hamitosemitic present-habitative verb stem in Ron and Mubi" (1968), in which he compared two languages spoken on the peripheries of the Chadic language area: Ron (Nigeria) and Mubi (Chad Republic). In 1971 the Scholar renewed his interest in Mubi. During his third research sojourn in Chad (1975/76) he came to know Isa Ramadan Na'im who became his principal informant and collaborator. During his latest stay on the Mubi terrirory in 2001 he spent few hours in Mangalme supplementing his source materials.

The book under review has been dedicated „*Aux Monjul, les locuteurs de la langue mubi et préservateurs de la grammaire la plus archaïque en tchadique*" One has to keep it in mind that the speakers of the language call themselves (as well as their tongue) Monjul, whereas among their neighbours they are known as Mubi.

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In scientific literature the language is referred to exclusively under the name Mubi. The Mubi people live in the central and eastern part of the Chad Republic, to the east of the Abu Telfan mountains. Their principal town is Mangalme, situated 80 kilometres to the east of Mongo. According to the former sultan of Mangalme, the Mubi (Monjul) inhabit 136 villages, names of which have been enumerated in the introductory section of the book (pp. 19-21).

The book is composed of four parts: an outline of the Mubi grammar, small collection of Mubi texts, Mubi-French vocabulary, and French-Mubi index. Inquiries into the language proved to be extremely difficult because the knowledge of the mother tongue among the learned people (fluent in French or Arabic) was rather limited, and many of them have just forgotten their parents' speech. Therefore the collection of words and grammatical features had to be acquired through the mediation of Arabic, and in collaboration with Isa Ramadan Na'im and his mother.

When pointing to the structural character of the Mubi language, H. Jungraithmayr notices that it is a language very rich in ways concerning the apophony, which is often accompanied by the consonantal gemination and which applies both to the domain of noun and verb. Mubi is probably the language with the most developed apophonic system in the entire Chadic branch (p. 34). It has also many ways of the plural noun formation like suffixation, gemination, and internal vocalic alternation. In comparison with the importance of the segmental phonology, the domain of tone plays rather secondary role. The syntax of Mubi is distinguished by an astounding freedom. From the further reading of the volume one can notice a great number of pronominal forms (e.g. inclusive, exclusive and dual pronouns) which is rather rare in the Chadic languages. It is typical of the Ron language spoken in the extreme west of this language branch.

Mubi displays many other peculiarities which enlarge our knowledge of the Chadic languages. They have been carefully described and scrupulously analysed. This outline of the Mubi grammar deserves a special attention as an exemplary piece of the scientific publication by outstanding linguist and expert in African culture.

Stanisław Piłaszewicz

Gabriele Sommer and Clarissa Vierke (eds.), *Speech Acts and Speech Events in African Languages* **(Topics in Interdisciplinary African Studies, Volume 23). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2011, 170 pp.**

The volume, as the editors inform, "is the result of an international workshop held at Bayreuth University in 2010". The workshop was organized by Gabrielle Sommer and Clarissa Vierke from Bayreuth University and aimed at intensifying pragmatically oriented research on Africa, especially with regard to Niger-Congo languages as well as introducing research projects, reviewing current trends in pragmatic research, considering methodological and theoretical issues and developing agendas for future research (p. 7). Some of the papers presented during the workshop were later submitted for publication and included in the volume edited by the organizers of the workshop.

Apart from a short preface (p. 7-10), where the editors explain their reasons to start a debate on pragmatic research oriented in Africa and speech events in African languages, the book contains five articles discussing both methodological issues and case studies concerning speech acts in particular languages or areas. The first two articles focus on discussing and criticizing some theoretical aspects of the pragmatic theory. The authors support their claims with examples taken from several African languages. The other three articles are case studies based on particular African languages.

The first paper (p. 11-40) written by Gabriele Sommer and Clarissa Vierke consists of two parts. In the first one, the authors discuss the theoretical framework of speech acts and its nonapplicability to African languages. In the second they come back to the issue touched upon in the preface – genesis and importance of organ-

izing the workshop and they present the outline of the proceedings, i.e. they give summary of the following four articles inserted in the volume.

The main purpose of the paper is to show that various aspects of speech theory that seems to be universal have been worked out mainly on English and thus do not always apply to other, especially non-European languages. Authors of the article show this nonapplicablity on the basis of the concept of politeness that "regards the speaker as a member of a society who continuously has to bargain over recognition and acceptance from others, trying to safeguard and construct his or her 'face', i.e. his or her 'public self-image"(p. 18). According to Brown and Levinson (1987), the authors of the theory, one of linguistic strategies used to minimize coercion imposed on the addressee is through indirectness. Sommer and Vierke give a counterexample of this assumption referring to Zulu language where direct requests are associated with high degree of politeness. Superimposing universality of certain strategies of politeness often leads to cross-cultural misunderstanding like in South Africa, where speakers of English regarded Zulu English being 'less polite' because of direct forms. Sommer and Vierke draw also attention to the fact that the individualist notion of 'face' does not apply to collective societies and is hardly "reconcilable with African notions of identity" (p. 16). Similarly in hierarchical societies "the volitional, goal-oriented aspect ascribed to speech act may be questioned" (p. 16). The authors claim that applying English-oriented theory may lead to neglecting culturally and linguistically distant phenomena. Again, they illustrate their claim with an example from the Zulu culture where the concept of 'hlonipha' is well known. It is interpreted as respect behavior and it implies, among others, the use of avoidance language among the Zulu. The young married woman who talks to her parents-in-law "cannot use any syllable that occurs in or resembles her husband's family's names" (p. 18). Thus, the name bears a person's inner being in Zulu-specific understanding of the self.

In the second paper (p. 41-65) "Face, Politeness, and Speech Acts: Reflecting on Intercultural Interaction in African Languages and Varieties of English" Luanga A. Kasanga discusses the dynam-

ics of interaction through analyzing three types of speech acts: requesting, apologizing and greeting. At the beginning of the paper the author defines two terms crucial for the article: "linguistic politeness" and "face". He also introduces the notion of face-threatening act (request, compliment, criticism), i.e. the act that could damage the hearer's face. Politeness as a universal strategy to reduce the possibility of damaging one's face is questioned by referring to the societies like the Igbo living in Nigeria where imperative-like strategies lacking the overt politeness markers are preferred. Similarly, the data from Black South African English show that explicit performatives (e.g. "I am asking for a pen") outranks all other requesting strategies. The speakers of Sesotho consider this strategy the most polite way of making a request.

When it comes to the notion of face in African context, Katanga confirms the observations made by Sommer and Vierke. He shows that unlike in theoretical frameworks based on Anglocentric way of thinking where the emphasis is imposed on the individual's creative role (p. 46) 'face' is more a notion of a group than a burden of an individual.

Van Olmen and Devos in their paper "An Explanation of the Prohibitive in Hunde, Havu and Shi" analyze a speech act from a different perspective. Unlike other contributors of the volume they do not focus on pragmatic but rather on diachronic side of the language. They argue that there is a link between prohibition and narration by comparing the prohibitive construction in Hunde and Hauvu to the similar construction existing in closely related language of Shi (all belonging to the Central Narrow Bantu Group J 50) which apart from prohibitive function has also narrative reading. Due to lack of diachronic data the authors cannot prove the existence of a relation between prohibitive in Hunde and Havu and narrative in Shi, but they show that such a possibility cannot be excluded. The authors point out that the process of derivation from narrative to prohibitive is not found in typological literature, but the instances of the opposite scenario, from prohibition to narration, is found in the languages. For example in Russian "the imperative is used to signal a rupture in the expected course of events".

Much of the discussion presented in article (p. 83-108) by Roland Kießling, Britta Neumann and Doreen Schröter about requesting, complaining and apologizing in two languages of the Cameroonian Grassfields refers to the speech acts in two communities, Isu and Mɛn. The first part of the article "comprises the elicitation of vocabulary pertaining to the domain of speech, along with Wierzbicka's study of English speech acts verbs (1987), combining with the exploration of contrastive usages in syntactic contexts for delimiting semantic ranges" (p. 86). Questioning the definition of 'complaint' proposed by Trosborg (1995: 311) which says that a complaint is directly addressed to the complainee (the person who is held responsible), the authors show that in the Grassfield cultures there exists a mediation of complaints. The addressee is usually not the causer of the complainable but a third-party mediator such as a chief, a quaterhead, or one of the elders. Thus, for the complainee it is much more important to find a proper person to lay complaint to rather than to find proper form of the complaint. In such situation the complaint is not an act considered as highly threatening to the social relationship as it is often presented in the literature of the subject, but rather as a speech act that "upgrades the social importance and authority of the addressee" (p. 96).

The second part of the paper is an analysis of a "natural piece of a discourse taken from a public hearing" (p. 96). It is the elder's complaint presented at the inauguration ceremony of the Fon, i.e. the chief of Isu. The presentation of macrostrucrure of the event, i.e. the occasion, the setting and its participants is followed by the discussion on the microstructure, i.e. the single speech acts and communicative moves of the speakers showing the steps of lying and reacting to a complaint. The exact record of the complaint furnished with interlinear glossing and translation is included in the appendix (p. 109-143) that follows the paper. The appendix contains also a microstructure overview of an old man's complaint and a lexico-semantic analysis of the speech act.

The last article (p. 145-168) by Anne-Maria Fehn "Ts'ixa Gesture Inventories" focuses on nonverbal part of the utterance. It is a result of a research carried out in Botswana in Mababe village

(Eatsern Ngamiland) where Ts'ixa is spoken. As indicated in the paper the number of Ts'ixa speakers is less than 200, thus the data presented by Fehn is a valuable contribution towards preserving the facts about an endangered language. The decreasing number of speakers goes along with the loss of gestures, which are no longer in use because the model of life changes. Fehn presents several types of gestures illustrating their shape with pictures. One type referred to as 'special purpose gestures' comprise iconic gestures denoting animals. This type is used almost exclusively by hunters in the bush. By using the gestures hunters can communicate without making any noise that would scare animals. Another type of gestures mentioned in the article is called 'obligatory pointing gestures'. They are called obligatory "because they have no equivalents in the speech lexicon" (p. 157). Fehn describes several subclasses belonging to this type of gesture, such as deictic gestures, gestures indicating the time of the day, gestures expressing age and size, and gestures denoting action. What is particularly interesting in this type of gestures is the fact that temporal or special concepts can be expressed very precisely. For example, the deictic gestures encode the salient features of the reference point, such as degree of proximity and visibility. The gestures indicating time almost precise the hour of the day.

Although the book is not pioneering in the subject of speech acts in African context, the topic has not been extensively studied so far. There are a few studies that contrasted speech acts in English and other African languages. Most of them concern South African English, Zulu and Xhosa. The value of the book lies in paying attention to some aspects of pragmatic theory that have been presented as universal, but can be easily contradicted by particular examples taken form the languages of Africa. Another important contribution of the book is to present detailed case studies of speech acts, that could be interesting not only for those making research in African studies, but also for linguists dealing with pragmatic theory.

Izabela Will

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Angelika Mietzner and Ulrike Claudi (eds.), *Directionality in Grammar and Discourse: Case Studies from Africa*, Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2012, pp. 232.

This interesting volume edited by Angelika Mietzner and Ulrike Claudi, two prominent researchers associated with the Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie at the University of Cologne, presents thirteen articles devoted to the expression of a broad concept of *directionality* in African languages. The papers are the output of a workshop held at the University of Cologne in June 2010 and are all consistent as to their aims and methodological assumptions. The linguistic material provides samples of all four African language phyla. Niger-Congo languages dominate and are represented by several linguistic groups which include: Bantu, of which well known languages, such as Otjiherero (Namibia) and Lingala (Democratic Republic of Congo) are described, but also new material of smaller languages of Bantu A zone in Cameroon is presented, viz. a case study of Isu and a comparative study of Barombi, Isubu, Mokpe, and Oroko; Eastern Sudanic is exemplified by Tima, a small language in the Nuba Mountains; the Ubangi group by Zande (Uganda and Central African Republic), Jukunoid by Mbembe (Cameroon), and the Gur languages by Syer (Senufo, Burkina Faso). The Nilo-Saharan phylum is represented by Nilotic languages: we find a case study of Dinka (South Sudan) and a comparative study based on many other languages. The investigation within the Afroasiatic phylum includes research on Somali, a Northern Cushitic language, and a comparative study of several Berber languages.The Khoisan languages are represented by N‖ng, an endangered language spoken by less than ten persons in the Northern Cape Province in the Republic of South Africa.

As evidenced by all the sample material discussed in the book, African languages use various grammatical means to provide precise

location or motion towards or away from a deictic center. However, the authors go far beyond in their investigations and demonstrate how metaphor and pragmatic strengthening transfer the expressions primarily associated with spatial concepts onto many other cognitive domains, including: vision, orientation, social interactions, and highly abstract grammaticalized domains. Hence, *directionality* appears as a very broad concept covering various functions of language specific *grams* (lexical expressions, particles, morphemes) used in a number of different pragmatic contexts. In addition, many authors provide a diachronic aspect of analysis and trace directional grams to their etymological sources, which include, among others, verbs of motion and body part terms. It would be impossible to present a detail review of all issues included in each of these very well written and appealing papers, but I will attempt at least to point out some of the eye-catching points. The articles are arranged in the alphabetical order of the authors' names and the same arrangement will be used in the following presentation.

The first contribution is authored by Suzan Alamin, Gertrud Schneider-Blum and Gerrit J. Dimmendaal and is entitled "Finding your way in Tima" (pp. 9-33). The authors demonstrate a rich repertoire of lexical and grammatical means used in conceptualization of space, focusing on verbal markers of various specific functions. Particularly remarkable are the uses of ventive markers with verbs denoting other actions than motion (e.g. 'drink', 'build') which refer to complex events involving an action and a subsequent motion towards a location (the phenomenon called *alloying*).

In the following article "Verbal directionality and argument alternation in Dinka" (pp. 35-53), Torben Andersen discusses derived (by means of root alternations) verbs which express a distinction between direction towards a deictic center (centripetal) as opposed to direction away from a deictic center (centrifugal). Furthermore, some of such directional verbs code additional functions of their arguments, such as, instrument, goal, and many others.

The next contribution by Gratien G. Atindogbé entitled "On the typology of directional verbs in Bantu A (Barombi, Isubu, Mokpe, and Oroko)" (pp. 55-76) provides a comparative perspective

to the expression of directionality among the mentioned closely related Cameroonian languages. In all four languages, orientation is coded either by the motion verb alone or by a verb accompanied by a preposition. The same structures extend to a number of contexts in which no motion is present, but other, more abstract notions, such as a distance between two objects or an orientation of one object with respect to another.

Ulrike Claudi in the article "Who moves, and why? Somali deictic particles" (pp. 77-89) focuses on the ventive particle *soo* and its itive counterpart *sii* paying a particular attention to various contexts of usage which code other than their basic functions. For example, *soo* may point to a complex "round trip" event, implying 'going' and subsequent 'coming', and *sii* may imply an absence of a speaker during the event expressed by the verb.

Klaudia Dombrowsky-Hahn in "Grammaticalization of the deictic verbs 'come' and 'go' in Syer" (pp. 91-114) discusses an impressive number of functions carried by the morphemes *pa(a)* and *ka(a)* which have developed from the original verbs of motion in serial constructions and their subsequent use in the ventive and itive function, respectively. Apart from that, their ongoing process of grammaticalization (accompanied by different degrees of phonological reduction and prosodic dependence) extends their usage to discourse connectors of various functions, as well as to tense/aspect markers.

The same basic verbs of motion, but in a Khoisan language, are investigated by Martina Ernszt in the article "On the different uses of the deictic directional verbs 'go' and 'come' in N‖ng" (pp. 115-126). Using a 90,000-word corpus of data the author points out that these two verbs appear as the most frequent verbs in the language and, consequently, are associated with various functions reflecting different degrees of grammaticalization: from full lexical verbs to various partly grammaticalized stages in serial verb constructions, in which, however, some semantic component of motion is typically preserved and has not been completely bleached as in similar cases in other languages.

Axel Fleisch in "Directionality in Berber: Orientational clitics in Tashelhit and related varieties" (pp. 127-146) provides a comprehensive discussion of the clitics *d(d)* and *nn*, out of which the former basically codes proximate, ventive and centripetal functions, while the latter is associated with distal, itive and centrifugal notions. The author draws attention to the higher frequency of the former clitic which correlates with its higher degree of grammaticalization (e.g. into aspect markers), and investigates usage patterns of both clitics in different domains, as well as constraints imposed on their usage (e.g. with stative verbs); he also speculates on a non-obvious issue of possible paths of the diachronic development of these formatives.

The following article by Roland Kiessling "Extensive is up, intensive is down: the vertical directional background of the adverbials *kə́* vs. *tsə́* in Isu" (pp. 147-164) brings us back to one of the Cameroonian languages. The author hypothesizes that the adverbials originate in the verbs 'ascend' and 'descend', respectively, which, in addition to extending towards the notions 'up' and' down' along a grammaticalization path well attested cross-linguistically, have undergone a cognitively motivated, but typologically less common development into markers of event *extension* and *intension*, which constitute cover terms for organized networks of highly abstract interrelated meanings in non-spatial domains.

Angelika Mietzner in the following contribution "Spatial orientation in Nilotic languages and the forces of innovation" (pp. 165-175) provides examples of geographical and cultural motivation behind the development of spatial concepts, as well as changes induced by language contact. She also focuses on innovative uses of ventive and itive morphemes in their extension beyond their basic functions.

Wilhelm J.G. Möhlig in the paper entitled "Directionality as a basic principle in Otjiherero verb constructions" (pp. 177-188) distinguishes two types of the concept of directionality. One, referred to as *semantic directionality*, relates to the argument structure of the verb (including derivatives, such as e.g. the applicative extension) and syntactic patterns associated with it, typical also of many other Bantu languages. The other type, called *perspective directionality*,

serves the author to analyze the system of verbal inflection as dependent on speaker's perspective "towards the speaking source" defined as either *approaching* or *departing*.

The next contribution, by Nico Nassenstein on "Directionality in Lingala" (pp. 189-203) also explores a Bantu language, but focuses on directionality understood in a more narrow sense as the expression of motion, direction or manner. Among various grammatical means coding these concepts, special attention is drawn to many uses of the locative element *na*, emphatic *directionality* of the applicative extension, as well as to certain cultural and language contact issues (e.g. mental "maps", 'right'/'left' concepts, influence of Lingala applicatives on Congo French).

Helma Pasch's contribution entitled "Two multifunctional locative and directional prepositions in Zande" (pp. 205-218) provides a detailed study of the prepositions *ku* and *be*. The former primarily indicates motion towards a location, but it may also be used to express the metaphorical trajectory of vision, as well as interpersonal attitudes (e.g. opposing someone, benefactivity). The latter is traced to the body part 'hand' which subsequently developed into a marker of possession, but is also associated with coding a concept of 'source' or 'origin', as well as 'cause' of negative sensations and effects.

The final paper by Doris Richter gen. Kemmermann is devoted to "Directional verbs in Mbembe" (pp. 219-232). The author discusses verbs coding the movement towards/away the deictic center, upwards/downwards, and into/out of a container. But the most fascinating are serial verb constructions which seem not to have a limit as to a number of their components (the longest example given counts as many as six verbs in one construction) and combinations reflecting speakers' creativity. Directional verbs occur in them either as *major* verbs or more grammaticalized *minor* verbs.

To conclude, the volume provides a lot of valuable linguistic material and analyses and can be recommended to all interested in African languages and typological studies.

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