

provides evidence for a variety of systemic manifestations of regular grammatical categories and uncovers some unusual features. New language systems (or their parts) are presented with special attention paid to maintaining clarity and accuracy. The topics are only discussed following a brief introduction to the language and a description of its grammar, due to the fact that these languages were largely absent from the earlier linguistic works.

The book is very innovative within the field of historical linguistics and classification matters, especially in those aspects that refer to using linguistic data for tracing Nigerian prehistory and establishing mutual relationships between ethnic groups. Connecting ethnolinguistic history with linguistic reconstruction remains a proposal that needs to be verified by other sources. As for the classification matters, Robert Blench's contribution to the volume contains new ideas related to the classification of Niger-Congo languages, including a revised subclassification of Benue-Congo languages and subgrouping of some units (e.g. Plateau languages).

The most spectacular achievement of the volume involves the documentation of minority languages in Nigeria, including endangered languages that have thus far not been registered in the UNESCO world atlas. The publication promotes some newly established orthographic versions of language names (e.g. Tsishingini, Cicipu). Therefore, the earlier name Fyer is now replaced by Fier, Mapun is used as a variant of Mupun, Gurdung has replaced Gùrdùm/Gùrùntùṅ). However, there are still some unclear solutions, especially related to the use of prefixes. The list of languages of the Plateau State (p. 103) includes the name Irigwe, whereas chapter 6 is devoted to Rigwe; a language identified as Fyem is listed as if it were spelled Pyem (which is suggested in the description, p. 97). However, in terms of questions related to language names, the book contributes to a better understanding of orthographic matters of minority languages. It also includes a discussion of some aspects of developing literacy among minorities in Nigeria.

*Advances in Minority Language Research in Nigeria* is a valuable publication that gives an account of the research activities of the Jos Linguistic Circle in which missionaries and academics have met in their concern for 'threatened' languages and manifested their

interest in both theoretical and practical aspects of language endangerment. However, the cover picture, which connects the idea of minority languages with non-civilized people, seems to be an unsuitable and possibly even controversial illustration of the presented ideas.

Nina Pawlak

**Herrmann Jungraithmayr, *Studia Chadica. Ausgewählte Beiträge zur tschadischen Sprachwissenschaft. Selected by Julia Becker, Anna Haffner and Rainer Voßen, Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2011, 247 pp.***

Professor Hermann Jungraithmayr, the leading German Africanist of an international reputation and fame, celebrated this year his eighties birthday. The book prepared by the Institute of African Linguistics, Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, is an anthology comprising the reprints of eighteen his most important publications in the field of Chadic linguistics. They have been arranged in a chronological order, starting with the one published in 1961 and ending with that of 2009.

In an introduction (pp. ix-xxvi) Rudolf Leger has presented the scientific career of the scholar, with a special attention paid to his field research, editorial and organisational activities, both in Germany and on the international scene. In 1995 he was awarded the honourable title *Mai Yadak* – „Minister of Defence” for his promotion and protection of the Tangale language and culture. In the further part of the introduction readers are acquainted with the contents of the reprinted papers.

In „Beobachtungen zur tschadochamitischen Sprache der Jegu (und Jonkor) von Abu Telfan (République du Tschad)” (1961) H. Jungraitmayr provides the first description of that language which is classified in the East Chadic group. In a traditional way he describes phonemic inventory, and nominal and verbal systems. The article ends with a small Jegu-German and German Jegu glossary. The Jegu language is characterised by the richness of nominal plurals. Its independent and personal pronouns display a typical Afroasiatic distinction in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> persons of singular.

Angas was another Chadic language which very early attracted attention of Professor Jungraithmayr. It is spoken on the extreme west of the Chadic language territory (on the Southern Plateau of Northern Nigeria) by some 100.000 people. In an article titled „On the ambiguous position of Angas” (1963) the author compares Angas with the neighbouring language Sura (Mwaghavul) which seems to preserve some older language traits. Elements of Angas-Sura morphology as well as syntax are quite similar to those in Hausa. Many lexemes, especially names of the body parts, probably constitute a common heritage. All these makes Professor believe that Angas and Sura belong to the Chadic family.

Languages of the Ron group (Fyer, Bokkos-Ron, Daffo-Batura, Sha and Kulere) are characterised by a great amount of the internal plural forms of nomina and verba. In an article titled „Internal A in Ron plurals” (1965) the author accepts it as a distinctive feature of the Ron and Angas sub-groups, and considers this phenomenon as a common Chadic legacy.

In another article, „The Hamitosemitic present-habitative verb stem in Ron and Mubi” (1968) the scholar for the first time compares two languages which are spoken on the peripheries of the Chadic language area: Ron in Nigeria and Mubi in the Chad Republic. He comes to a conclusion that both languages comprise some comparable verb paradigmata: short forms for the ‘prefixal praeteritum’ and long forms for ‘present’.

The relationship between Chadic languages and the other members of the so-called Chado-Hamitic language family is discussed in „Ancient Hamito-Semitic remnants in the Central Sudan (1968). Few Chadic languages, for example Hausa, contain some innovations in their verbal system which are not found in other tongues of this family. The eldest features of development display Ron languages (Fyer, Bokkos, Daffo-Butura, Sha and Kulere) which are believed to be on the same level of development as Akkadian, Arabic and Old Egyptian.

During his field research in Northern Nigeria Professor Jungraithmayr concentrated on Tangale and the Ron-Angas languages. In „The Tangale vowel harmony system reconsidered” (1971) he distinguishes nine vowels instead of eight vocalic phonemes which he had noticed in the translation of New Testament and accepted this

number in his earlier publications. His own field notes made him believe that besides closed phoneme /o/ there is another vowel – open /ɔ/. All the vowels have been divided into *u-* and *ɔ-* groups, and the vowel harmony has been shown in Kaltungo and Shongom dialects.

The article titled „Perfectiv- (Kurz-) und Imperfektiv- (Lang-) Stamm in Aspektsystem osttschadochamitischer Sprachen” (1974) is a milestone in research on the aspect system of the East Chadic languages. The author distinguishes two main groups in the verbal conjugation and then divides them into four types: Hausa, Angas, Bolanci and Ron-Daffo type. The common feature of all these types is that the perfective aspect has a short stem and the imperfective one is characterised by a long stem.

In „Sprachhistorische Schichtstufen im Tschadraum” (1977) the scholar critically assesses the thesis that so-called Chado-Hamitic languages can be ascribed to a reconstructed proto-language. He supports this statement by referring to lexeme „blood” which in the Chadic languages has four independent roots. Three of them might have come from Semitic, Kushitic and Old Egyptian, whereas the fourth one could profit from the Nigritic substratum.

An analysis of the aspect stems construction has been proposed in an article titled „A tentative four stage model for the development of Chadic languages” (1978). Having taken into account linguistic data from the East, Central and West Chadic tongues the author comes to a conclusion that the verbal complex of Chadic is built on three most common bases which from the chronological point of view could be ascribed to four stages of imperfective stem development: strong apophony, weak apophony, suprasegmental tone replacement (apophony) and zero change.

The problem of the historical stages in the development of Chadic languages has been raised in article titled „On mono- and triradicality in early and present-day Chadic – how reliable are reconstructions?” (1983). The author supports the thesis of the original triradicality of verbs, mainly in East Chadic languages (Migama, Mudi, Dangaleat), and reconstructs the historical development of the lexemes „eat”, „drink” and „die” which in present-day languages have a monoradical shape. When presenting the method of recon-

struction he refers to some lexemes taken from the Indo-European language family, e.g. Latin *augustus* and French *août* [u].

The processes of word shortening in Chadic have been described in an article titled „Apocopation and syncopation in Chadic – from the synchronic to the diachronic” (1987). Apocopation consists in clipping of final vowels and sometimes also weak consonants whereas syncopation denotes a loss or weakening of internal vowels. The phenomenon has been presented on the basis of Tangale and some other Chadic languages which could have two, and sometimes even three forms of a lexeme: the one in final form, in non-final form, and in prefix-like form.

In „Centre and periphery: Chadic linguistic evidence and its possible historical significance” (1991) the author proposes some typological criteria which allow to discern an opposition between the central and peripheral Chadic languages. Having taken them into account he advances a hypothesis concerning the movement of the Chadic speaking peoples. The speakers of the ‘conservative’ languages settled to the east and west of the Lake Chad. Those speaking ‘innovative’ languages found their homeland to the south of Chad: their tongues underwent strong influence of the Benue-Congo languages.

In 1972 Professor Jungraithmayr was engaged in studying Migama (Djonkor), an East Chadic language spoken in Abu Telfan Mountains. The results of his research were presented earlier, and thirty years later supplemented in an article „Migama – die Sprache von Wilhelm Raabes ‘Abu Telfan’” (1992). Its title refers to the novel *Abu Telfan oder die Heimkehr vom Mondgebirge* (1867) written by Wilhelm Raabe.

In the majority of Afroasiatic languages the pronominal systems are of greatest importance for the linguistic reconstruction and for the understanding of the genus reducing processes in the pronominal store. Of special interest are the pronouns of the first person singular which are dealt with in an article titled „The 1<sup>st</sup> person singular pronouns in Chadic” (1999). Its author distinguishes twofold representation of them: one with a nasal element (Hausa, Ron-Daffo, Tangale and Sibine) and the other one with semivowel *y* (Migama,

Mokilko, Mubi, Mbara and others). They give rise to three types of the pronominal paradigmata.

The Grimm’s Law was initially referring to the Germanic sound shift. Professor Jungraithmayr has applied it to the West Chadic in his article „Grimm’s Law in Tangale?” (2003). He has noticed regular sound change as observed in the Kaltungo and Shongom dialects.

Both Tangale and Tuareg languages have got ventive verb constructions. In „Altrilocality in Tangale and Tuareg: a common heritage feature?” the author considers the possibility of a Chadic-Berber provenance of the ‘distance’ and ‘altrilocality’ morphemes.

The scholar joined the discussion circle dealing with the controversial problem of subjunctive in Chadic and in the other Hamito-Semitic languages. In an article titled „Le paradigme verbal en -U dans les langues chamito-sémitiques” (2005) he comes to a conclusion that besides some innovations in present-day Semitic and Chadic the vowel suffixes *-e/-a/-o* denote respectively perfect, imperfect and subjunctive.

The final article in the volume, „Historical metamorphoses in Chadic” (2009), proposes different levels of the Chadic languages development, since ca. 5000 years up to date. Two main traits of those transformations could be discerned. The first one consists in passage from a synthetic to analytic type of languages. The other one is marked by the change from apophony to apothony in function of the phonological means of the lexical and grammatical morphology.

At the end of the book the reader will find complete bibliography of Professor Jungraithmayr which comprises his publications in years 1953-2010. They testify to the enormous contribution of the scholar and his praiseworthy input into the African linguistics. Many students and researchers will certainly profit from this reprint of his most important case studies which are scattered in various journals and books.

*Stanisław Piłaszewicz*