

much known on the ways of the data records except for the statement that they „have been based on multi-media techniques, part of which will be also available shortly via veb” (p. 9). The author also discloses that a full Maaka-English-Hausa dictionary with the reverse index is being prepared in collaboration with German linguists.

Out of the huge Maaka corpus, the author selected stories about migration and the relation of the Maaka to their neighbours, and has chosen some proverbs and riddles. The present text - as well as several others yet to be published - stems from the material recorded under the auspices of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and now deposited in Institut für Afrikanistik in Frankfurt under the care of Prof. H. Jungraithmayr. The typing, transcription and translation have been realised during a field research in 2012 by the author of the book, supported by Jibril Jatau Bara and Musa Ali Baba.

In „History of Bara” the pages on the left side (folios verso) contain the original Maaka text, including phonological and grammatical analysis with all morphological traits. The lines below the text comprise the literal translation accompanied by the morpho-syntactic indicators. On the front page (folio recto), the text is then reproduced alone, below followed by a free English translation.

Few pages of this volume are devoted to those Maaka proverbs which are frequently used by common people. They have been taken from a collection of proverbs and riddles gathered by H. Jungraithmayr and Jibril Jatau Bara (1998), and revised by A.S. Valli, Jibril Jatau Bara and Musa A. Baba (2012). The entries contain the original Maaka proverbs, literal translations, free translations, Hausa equivalents (if any), and one or two explanations.

The book is provided with hand-drawn beautiful pictures of the essential episodes of the story (by Massimiliano Sommella and Riccardo Rosati), a selection of which can be admired in the appendix. That is only a pity that in this very valuable and well structured book many misprints escaped the attention of the proof-reader. It applies to the free English translations of the text on pages recto.

Stanisław Piłaszewicz

Gian Claudio Batic, *A Grammatical Sketch of Bure – a Chadic Language of Nigeria, Chadic Linguistics /Linguistique Tchadique /Tschadistik* (ed. by Dymitr Ibriszimow, Henry Tourneux, H. Ekkehard Wolff), vol. 9, Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, Köln 2014, 178 pp.

The descriptions of endangered or little-known languages contribute to our knowledge about the varieties of language structures, but are also important as support to the attempts for language revitalization. The work done so far in the area of African studies is relatively significant in number but still insufficient with respect to the two above aspects.

The work under review presents a description of Bure (also known as Bubure or Bubbure), a Chadic language from northern Nigeria, used by a very low number of speakers in an ethnic population consisting of about 500 people. This is the first comprehensive approach to the structure of the Bure language which refers to material collected by earlier researchers (Rudolf Leger, Bernard Caron and Andrew Haruna), but is mainly based on the Author's field research undertaken during four trips in 2011 and 2012.

The book was published in a series of Chadic Linguistics as its 9th volume. Being a description of one Chadic language, it makes a breach in the sequence of publications dedicated to topics in Chadic linguistics which have a wider perspective. With the title stating that it is a grammatical sketch of Bure, it significantly differs from the descriptions of other Chadic languages done so far and from the linguistic descriptions of any other language in general. It combines the presentation of linguistic data with other factors that are relevant for the documentation of endangered languages by referring to the social, historical, religious and political context in which the language functions. The typological features of the Bure language are presented in the introductory chapter. The linguistic profile which is deeply embedded in current developments on Chadic covers lexical comparison and reconstruction. The position of Bure among Bole-Tangale languages is illustrated by ten lexical items from Bure and their equivalents in Kirfi, Galambu, Gera, and Bole. Their proto-Chadic roots are also indicated, according to the reconstruction by Jun-

