

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 2nd and 3rd persons of singular.

