

Karl-Gottfried Prasse, *Tuareg Elementary Course (Tahaggart)*, "Berber Studies", 33, Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe, 2010, 220 pp.

Karl-Gottfried Prasse is a well-known Danish linguist. He is recognized for his numerous researches and work on Semitic and Berber languages, as well as the Tuareg language. His achievements include the systemic description of the Tuareg grammar published as early as 30 years ago. The author has already worked on particular linguistic topics and retranscription of Charles de Foucauld's Tuareg texts in prose. The *Tuareg Elementary Course* is the first publication which aims at application of the linguistic knowledge of this language in practical use. The course appears as the 29th volume of Berber Studies series.

Tuareg language called Tamajagh or Tamachaq, depending on dialect, is used in 5 countries: Mali, Niger, Algeria, Burkina Faso and Libya. The author has already explored three major Tuareg dialects. In his dictionary, published in 2003, the author of the book has explored dialect spoken in Niger, in the four volume manuals of grammar of 1972-2009, dialect spoken in Algeria has been investigated, whereas in 1985 the author presented some morphological tables of dialect from Adrar in Mali. The course under review is devoted to the Tahaggart dialect of the Hoggar region in south Algeria and the adjacent regions of Azzar and Ahnat. This particular dialect is spoken by relatively few people comparing to the dialects used in Niger and Mali. However, it is also the best known dialect and the earliest one to have been examined. The first studies, by C. Motylinski *Grammaire, dialogues et dictionnaire touarges* and A. Hanoteau *Essai de grammaire de la langue tamachek* have been published on the verge of XIX and XX centuries. The most substantial work on the dialect of Hoggar named Tahaggart is the four-volume dictionary of C. de Foucauld already mentioned, published first in 1951 and re-issued in 2009. De Foucauld's work was published with original notes of the Tifinagh alphabet of Tuareg language. Prasse's work, on the other hand, is transcribed. Out of many ways of transcribing Tuareg, Prasse is using the official Malian transcription of Tuareg with small modifications.

The Tahaggart dialect is considered to be the key to learn other dialects. Prasse's publication is not intended to provide a comprehensive beginner's course in Tuareg. Aware of its content, the au-

thor encourages the reader to use other sources to complete the study of the language. Nevertheless for the English speakers this is a really important work on Tuareg studies, as most of other works done so far have been published in French.

The course is divided into 22 lessons, and is preceded by an introduction. The first lesson could be an introduction. It contains a presentation of sound system and some basic information about Tuaregs, their dialects and alphabet. All the other lessons are divided into three or four subjects. Almost all are dedicated to particular verb and preposition, together with examples. The book contains also dictionaries: Tuareg English and English-Tuareg.

The publication provides a rich set of grammatical patterns of Tahaggart. The biggest part of the course is devoted to verbal system. Prasse gives many illustrations of verbal paradigms and supports them with useful comments. The volume is rich in examples on use of this particular forms but the course lacks some exercises for students. Though there are some colloquial sentences for everyday use like: "See you later", "Come to me", "I am hungry" etc., the sentences serve as an illustration of systematic rules of grammar rather than communication needs. There is no sample texts, however, some short notices of particularities like kinship terms are given. The volume also contains a list of abbreviations and a short bibliography.

According to authors' statement, the electronic version of the course has been available for few years and created the basis for the printed one.

Even though the course is not really enough to learn how to speak Tuareg, it is a good starting point for exploring the language. Especially it is considered to be essential for studying the works of Charles de Foucauld. The book can be used as a manual for learning conjugation of Tuareg and a means to understand basic rules of its grammar.

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