

Doris Löhr & Ari Awagana (eds.), *Topics in Chadic Linguistics VI, "Chadic Linguistics / Linguistique Tchadique / Tschadistik"* 7, Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2011, 202 pp.

The volume contains thirteen papers from the 5th Biennial International Colloquium on the Chadic Languages, which took place at the University of Leipzig in June 10-14, 2009. Since the date of the conference and of the official retirement of Professor H. Ekkehard Wolff almost coincided, the proceedings are dedicated to this famous German Africanist, who was engaged in scientific research and teaching activities at the Universities of Hamburg, Maiduguri, Niamey and Leipzig.

The colloquium was attended by international scholars from Africa, America and Europe, who presented 32 papers. The book contains a selection of contributions, which reflect current linguistic research on two branches of Chadic: West and Central Chadic. They are concentrated on Chadic internal and external classification, lexicography, semantics, and oral literature.

The first article in the volume by Ari Awagana is titled „La lexicographie du buduma – une étude exoloratoire” (pp. 9-21) and deals with some ancient vocabularies of that language from the contextual point of view. The author provides the reader with short historical survey of publications and lexicographic works on Buduma and then presents some remarks and commentaries referring to the lexicographic works, which were compiled by S.W. Koelle, P.A. Benton, H. Barth, and captain Gaudiche.

Sergio Baldi & Rudolf Legere in their paper titled „Some diachronic observations on gender and number in Bole-Tangale languages, (pp. 23-31) describe the current system of nouns in that language group, which is spread in the wider Gongola-Benue basin of the North-Eastern Nigeria. They observe gender levelling process progressing from geographically northern languages (Bolanci, Kwami and Kupto) towards the southern languages (Tangale, Pero, Piya, Widala and Nyam), in which almost all nouns are of feminine gender.

In „Chadic ‘brother’ and ‘sister’” (pp. 35-50) Václav Blažek analyses two above mentioned kinship terms in the representative choice of the Chadic languages: first from the point of view of the internal etymology, and then also in perspective of the external ety-

mology. He proposes the most archaic shapes for those kinship terms, confirming his findings by some external cognates taken from Cushitic, Egyptian and Semitic.

Roger Blench in his paper titled „Mwaghavul pluractional verbs” (pp. 51-66) discusses a rich system of verbal plurals in Mwaghavul, a relatively large West Chadic language spoken in Central Nigeria. He reminds the reader that some formation strategies of pluriactional verbs reflect widespread Chadic morphological processes, but some others correspond „in general appearance and semantics to neighbouring Plateau languages” (p. 64), which could be better characterised as metatypy.

Richard Gravina’s contribution, „The internal classification of Chadic Biu-Mandara” (pp. 67-84) calls into question the hitherto existing classification of Biu-Mandara into three sub-branches. He tries to prove that there are only two sub-branches, which could be labelled North and South.

An effort of classifying Goemai verbs on the basis of their semantics has been undertaken by Birgid Hellwig in „Lexical aspect classes in Goemai (West Chadic)” (pp. 85-100). The author presents preliminary findings from the study of that language and tries to place them into a West Chadic perspective.

Attributes of the lexemes from the semantic field of kinship (*amarya*, *kishiya*, *uwargida*, *iyali* and *dangi*) as provided by L1 and L2 Hausa speakers in Nigeria are discussed by Dymitr Ibrishimow & Balarabe Zulyadaini in their case-study titled „Fighting friends with the scent of a bride: Wives, ‘family’ and ‘relatives’ in Hausa from a cognitive point of view” (pp. 101-107).

The causative derivation, traditionally known as ‘grade 5’ is dealt with by Marit Lobben in „Agreement and relative topicality in the *-aC* causative/caused-motion and benefactive constructions in Hausa” (pp. 109-129). The author is of opinion that *-aC* suffix in Hausa is related to a set of agreement markers.

Idiomatic linguistic structures are discussed by Doris Löhr in her article titled „Multiword expressions in Malgwa” (pp. 131-144). This is the first overview of the most frequent strategies for the construction of verbal multiword expressions in a Central Chadic language spoken in the north-eastern Nigeria by some 30.000 people.

