

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.

Adam Mahamat in „Les différents types de contes dans la littérature orale des kotoko de Makari” (pp. 145-154) distinguishes two types of stories among the Kotoko people living in the northern part of Cameroon. His classification is based on the way in which a story is presented in front of the audience.

In „Means of transport. The concept of vehicle for L1 and L2 Hausa speakers” (pp. 155-168) Maria Schubert analyses the semantic field of „vehicle” in Hausa among L1 and L2 speakers on the bases of two notions: *abin hawa* and *abin sufuri*.

Gábor Takács has gathered new evidence to Chadic lexemes signifying arrow, bow, hunting, and killing. He took it into account in his study titled „The ‘Chadic Lexical Roots’ and their Afro-Asiatic background” (pp. 169-184).

The volume ends with an article by Henry Tourneux titled „La contribution de Heinrich Barth à la lexicographie du parler kotoko de Logone-Birni” (pp. 185-202). The author emphasises that Barth collected numerous terms which even now are of interest not only for the comparative linguistics but also for anthropologists, geographers and businessmen. This substantial corpus of the Kotoko words was noticed in merely two days!

Stanisław Piłaszewicz

Joseph McIntyre, Mechthild Reh (eds.), *From Oral Literature to Video. The Case of Hausa*. (Study Books of African Languages, vol. 21, edited by Wilhelm J.G. Möhlig and Bernd Heine), Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2011, 116 pp.

The book contains three articles and the introduction where the editors talk about the influence of modern technology and socio-political changes on Hausa cultural genres, present the contributors of the volume, and summarize their articles.

One of the contributors is Ado Ahmad Gidan Dabino – writer, publisher, journalist, film producer and director living in Kano, Nigeria. The other is Abdallla Uba Adamu – professor of Science Education and Curriculum Studies and a lecturer in Media and Cultural Communication at Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria.

The first article *Littattafan Soyayya: Samuwarsu da Bunkasarsu da kuma Tasirinsu ga Al'ummar Hausawa a Nijeriya*

(*Hausa Love Stories: Origins, Development and their Impact on the Hausa in Nigeria*), as the editors state is “a slightly modified version of a lecture given in Hausa by Ado Ahmad Gidan Dabino (Hamburg, November 2008), (p. vii)”. The article has been translated to English and the parallel versions — Hausa on the left-hand page, English on the right-hand page — have been included in the book. The Hausa version has been preserved in order to “pay tribute to the growing importance of Hausa language, its literature and its ever-increasing place in the internet” (p. vii).

Ado Ahmad Gidan Dabino's article concerns love novels, called *littattafan soyayya* (lit. ‘books of love’) in Hausa. First he writes about love customs of Hausa people that are a mixture of a local tradition, and foreign patterns, taken mainly from the Arabs and Europeans. Later he discusses the history of written love stories in Hausa tradition which dates back to XIX century when the first love songs written in Ajami were recorded. In XX century many love novels were published as a result of literature competitions organized since 1932, but the real boom for publishing love stories started in 1980s. Gidan Dabino gives several reasons for this fact such as availability of computers, assistance offered by the writers’ associations, government agencies and international organizations, as well as promoting books by reading them in radio stations or by publishing them as a series in newspapers and magazines. But perhaps the most persuasive reason is the fact that love novels are really popular among readers, especially young people, thus the publishers and booksellers are interested in printing and selling them as it brings good business profits. Gidan Dabino underlines that only those few writers who have made a name for themselves could afford writing something else than a love story and then find acceptance among the readers and booksellers (p. 25). For young writers the only chance to settle on the book market is creating a love story.

The impact of love stories on Hausa society is another component of Gidan Dabino’s paper. He suggests that apart from economic factors such as providing jobs for young people, love stories caused some sociological changes such as challenging forced marriage, opening debate about love issues and weakening “the trait