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**Review**

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## Bibliographical abbreviations used in this volume

- AE* *Annales d'Éthiopie*, Paris 1955ff.
- ÄthFor* Äthiopistische Forschungen, 1–35, ed. by E. HAMMERSCHMIDT, 36–40, ed. by S. UHLIG (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner (1–34), 1977–1992; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (35–40), 1994–1995).
- AethFor* Aethiopistische Forschungen, 41–73, ed. by S. UHLIG (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1998–2011); 74–75, ed. by A. BAUSI and S. UHLIG (*ibid.*, 2011f.); 76ff. ed. by A. BAUSI (*ibid.*, 2012ff.).
- AION* *Annali dell'Università degli studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale'*, Napoli: Università di Napoli 'L'Orientale' (former Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli), 1929ff.
- BSOAS* *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (London, 1917ff.).
- CSCO* Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, 1903ff.
- EAE* S. UHLIG, ed., *Encyclopaedia Aethiopica*, I: A–C; II: D–Ha; III: He–N; in cooperation with A. BAUSI, eds, IV: O–X (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2010); A. BAUSI in cooperation with S. UHLIG, eds, V: Y–Z, *Supplementa, Addenda et Corrigenda, Maps, Index* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2014).
- EMML* Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library, Addis Ababa.
- JAH* *The Journal of African History*, Cambridge 1960ff.
- JES* *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, Addis Ababa 1963ff.
- OrChr* *Oriens Christianus*, Leipzig–Roma–Wiesbaden 1901ff.
- PdP* *La Parola del Passato. Rivista di studi classici*, Napoli 1946ff.
- PICES 8* TADDESE BEYENE, ed., *Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, University of Addis Ababa (26–30 November) 1984*, I–II (Addis Ababa: Institute of Ethiopian Studies–Frankfurt am Main: Frobenius Institut, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, 1988–1989).
- PICES 10* C. LEPAGE and É. DELAGE, eds, *Études éthiopiennes: Actes de la X<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale des études éthiopiennes, Paris, 24–28 août 1988* (Paris: Société française pour les études éthiopiennes, 1994).
- PO* *Patrologia Orientalis*, 1903ff.
- RIÉ* É. BERNAND, A.J. DREWES, and R. SCHNEIDER, *Recueil des inscriptions de l'Éthiopie des périodes pré-axoumite et axoumite*, I: *Les documents*, II: *Les planches* (Paris: (Académie des inscriptions et belle-lettres) Diffusion de Boccard, 1991).
- RRALm* *Rendiconti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei, Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filologiche*, Roma, 1892ff.
- RSE* *Rassegna di Studi Etiopici*, Roma, 1941–1981, Roma–Napoli, 1983ff.
- SAe* *Scriptores Aethiopici*.

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question is to what extent two non-consecutive verbs, separated by an additional nominal argument in the dative—‘for Y’—may be considered a syntactically complex predicate at all, even if semantically they seem as such. The author tries to address this issue but to me the syntactical problem remains unsolved. The other contribution on Cushitic ‘The Asymmetry of Verbal Markedness in Libido’ (pp. 179–204) by Joachim Crass deals with a Cushitic language spoken by 64,000 people living in a region approximately between the speakers of Sidama and Gurage 120 kilometers south of Addis Abäba. The author surveys in a very concise description accompanied by numerous tables an extremely reach verbal system with ‘17 affirmative verb paradigms ... as main verbs and subordinate verbs ... [plus three] negative paradigms, namely negative imperative, negative hortative/jussive and negative converb’ (p. 179) and demonstrates the lack of symmetry between finite and subordinate verbs both in the affirmative and in negation.

It was a pleasure to read Yvonne Treis’ ‘Interrogativity in Baskeet’ (pp. 41–78) entirely based on genuine examples from her recordings. No Almaz and Berhanu here of elicited examples but only beautiful living sentences. We learn that interestingly in these small Omotic languages the jussive inflectional paradigm changes according to whether it is used in a statement or in a question. The presence of the interrogative particle *-a* in assertive constructions brings to mind an identical use of *-a* in Amharic responses.<sup>14</sup> ‘Complex Predicates in Zargulla’ (pp. 91–119) by Azeb Amha and ‘Grammaticalization of Existential Auxiliaries in Koorete’ (pp. 121–136) by Binyam Sisay Mendisu complete the Omotic part of the Volume.

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MELKAMU DURESSO, *Wörterbuch Oromo–Deutsch/Deutsch–Oromo* (Hamburg: Helmut Buske Verlag GmbH, 2014). 566 pp. Price: € 58,-. ISBN: 978-3-87548-648-3.

Oromo (in earlier publications often called Galla) belongs to the Cushitic branch of Afro-Asiatic languages and is the most widely used tongue of this branch. It is spoken mainly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. In the Oromia regional state of Ethiopia, Oromo is an official language, used in administration, courts and schools.

<sup>14</sup> See Kapeliuk 1968, 193–206 (mentioned in n. 1); Id., ‘Particles of Concatenation and Reference in Amharic’, *BSOAS*, 41 (1978), pp. 272–282, here pp. 279–280 (reprinted in: Id., *Selected Papers in Ethio-Semitic and Neo-Aramaic Linguistics* (Jerusalem: The Hebrew University Magnes Press, 2009), 299–309, here pp. 306–307).

The first Oromo vocabulary was published in 1842,<sup>1</sup> the second one—an already more comprehensive two volume book—was issued in 1844–1845.<sup>2</sup> They were followed by several smaller vocabularies and two dictionaries one of which was used for some decades in English speaking, and the other in Italian speaking areas of the world.<sup>3</sup>

In the last quarter of the twentieth century, the political changes in Ethiopia roused great interest in the international community for the Oromo people and their language, resulting in the creation of a number of Oromo dictionaries. It is worth mentioning those written by Gene B. Gragg,<sup>4</sup> Tilahun Gamta,<sup>5</sup> Mahdi Hamid Muudee,<sup>6</sup> and Mario Borello;<sup>7</sup> the first official dictionary of the Oromo language sponsored by the Language Academy of the Peoples of Ethiopia,<sup>8</sup> the *Oromo Newspaper Reader with the Grammatical Sketch and Lexicon*,<sup>9</sup> and the *Dictionary of Oromo Technical Terms*.<sup>10</sup>

While the majority of these books, as well as the Oromo newspapers and teaching materials, represented the dialects spoken in the central areas of Ethiopia, the southern Oromo dialects were dealt with mainly by missionaries. The first Borana dictionary was published in 1973.<sup>11</sup> In 1992 three Catho-

<sup>1</sup> J.L. Krapf, *Vocabulary of the Galla Language* (London: Church Missionary Society, 1842).

<sup>2</sup> C. Tutschek, *Dictionary of the Galla Language/Lexicon der Galla Sprache*, I: *Galla-English-German/Galla-Englisch-Deutsch*, ed. L. Tutschek (Munich: Franz Wied, 1844); II: *English-Galla*, ed. L. Tutschek (Munich: Franz Wied, 1845).

<sup>3</sup> E.C. Foot, *A Galla-English, English-Galla Dictionary* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1913); G. Da Thiene, *Dizionario della lingua galla con brevi nozioni grammaticali: opera compilata sugli scritti editi ed inediti di Mons. Andrea Jarosseau* (Harar: Vicariato Apostolico, 1939).

<sup>4</sup> G.B. Gragg, *Oromo Dictionary* (East Lansing, MI: African Studies Center, Michigan State University, 1982).

<sup>5</sup> Tilahun Gamta, *Oromo-English Dictionary* (Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Printing Press, 1989).

<sup>6</sup> Mahdi Hamid Muudee (Abbaa Bariisaa), *Oromo Dictionary*, I: *English-Oromo*, (Atlanta, GA: Sagalee Oromoo Publishing Co., 1995).

<sup>7</sup> M. Borello, *Dizionario Oromo-Italiano*, *Kuschitische Sprachstudien/Cushitic Language Studies*, 10 (Hamburg: Helmut Buske Verlag, 1995).

<sup>8</sup> Akkaadaamii Afaan Saboota Itoophiyaatiin, *Galmee Jechoota Afaan Oromoo*, (Finfinnee, Itoophiyaa: *Mana Maxxansaa Boolee*, 1996 EC (2004 CE)).

<sup>9</sup> Yigazu Tucho, R.D. Zorc, and E.C. Barna, *Oromo Newspaper Reader, Grammar Sketch, and Lexicon* (Kensington, MD: Dunwoody Press, 1996).

<sup>10</sup> Tamene Bitima, *A Dictionary of Oromo Technical Terms, Oromo-English*, *Kuschitische Sprachstudien*, 15 (Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2000), and parallel: (Finfinnee: Master Printing Press, 2000).

<sup>11</sup> B. Venturino, *Dizionario Borana Italiano* (Bologna: Editrice Missionaria Italiana, 1973); Id., *Dizionario Italiano-Borana* (Marsabit (Kenya): Catholic Mission, 1976).

lic Fathers published a vocabulary with lexical equivalents from three Oromo dialects ('Maca, Guji and Borana') arranged parallel to 7,700 English words.<sup>12</sup> In 1995 Father Ton Leus issued the *Borana Dictionary* with the subtitle *A Borana Book for the Study of Language and Culture*<sup>13</sup> and in 2006 (together with Cynthia Salvadori) *Aadaa Boraanaa/A Dictionary of Borana Culture*.<sup>14</sup> In 2001 Harry Stroomer (University of Leyden) published his Vocabulary of Orma Oromo<sup>15</sup> which followed several books on southern Oromo dialects. To meet practical needs different dictionaries with English, Oromo and Amharic equivalents, (e.g. *Harmony*)<sup>16</sup> appeared during the last decade.

The *Wörterbuch Oromo-Deutsch/Deutsch-Oromo* by Melkamu Duresso is written mainly for the author's compatriots in German speaking countries and for German aid activists, missionaries and students interested in the Oromo language.

The first twenty-two pages of the book comprise a preface, an introduction, notes for the users as well as notes on pronunciation, parts of speech, abbreviations and bibliography. The following two hundred and seventy-nine pages contain the Oromo-German part, and the next two hundred and fifty-nine pages represent the German-Oromo part of the Dictionary. The short appendix includes lists of cardinal and ordinal numbers, the names of days and the traditional times of the day, months, seasons as well as districts of the Oromiya Regional State of Ethiopia, the Federal States of Germany, as well as their main towns and capitals. In addition the 'exclusive' reader is provided with the names of the twenty-three towns of the Oromiya Regional State whose population exceeds 20,000 people, though their spelling (under the German and the Oromo headings it is different) can be called into question. For example it is not clear why the lexemes Moyaalee, Roobe or Ginnir of the Oromo column are spelled as Moyale, Robe and Ginir in the German column, since both the Oromo and the German languages have long vowels and geminated consonants.

<sup>12</sup> T. Leus, J. van de Loo, and G. Cotter, *An Oromo-English Vocabulary* (Debre Zeit: s.n., 1992).

<sup>13</sup> T. Leus, *Borana Dictionary: A Borana Book for the Study of Language and Culture* (Schijndel: W.S.D. Grafisch Centrum, 1995).

<sup>14</sup> T. Leus with C. Salvadori, *Aadaa Boraanaa: A Dictionary of Borana Culture* (Addis Ababa: Shama Books, 2006).

<sup>15</sup> H. Stroomer, *A Concise Vocabulary of Orma Oromo (Kenya): Orma-English, English-Orma*, *Kuschitische Sprachstudien/Cushitic Language Studies*, 6 (Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2001).

<sup>16</sup> Ephrem Assefa Woredework, *Harmony: English-Afaan Oromoo-Amharic Dictionary* (Addis Ababa: Aster Nega, 1995 EC (2002 CE)).

The dictionary includes 30,000 lexemes and technical terms, including those specific terms which pertain to the German administration, education and living conditions. These terms are explained in Oromo, e.g.:

‘Abitur [abi'tu:r] *nt* qormaata ittiin mana barnoota Jarmanii rawwatan; kan ittiin universitii galuuf ragaa namaa keennuu’ (p. 309);

‘Alkoholtest [alko'ho:ltest] *m* qorranaa hafuura alkoolii’ (p. 314);

‘BAFöG *nt* [ba:foek] gababsa *Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz* seera federalaa kan gargaarsa barumsaa sadarkaa olii’ (p. 333).

Though some of these descriptions are, perhaps, not the best possible, they are surely useful for Oromo speakers living in Germany.

In the *Introduction* (p. 8) the author claims that Oromo, with the exception of Hausa, is the most widely spoken indigenous language south of the Sahara.<sup>17</sup> The existence of Swahili is very often ignored by Oromo authors, who usually refer to Mekuria Bulcha.

For his transcription, Melkamu Duresso claims to use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), but unfortunately he does not do so consistently. In the Oromo–German part of the Dictionary he transcribes the implosive/retroflex and some glottalized sounds by letters or digraphs of the current Oromo orthography known as Qubee using angular brackets, e.g. ‘[dh]’, ‘[ph]’, ‘[q]’ and ‘[x]’. The first two examples are digraphs which are alien to the IPA, while the symbols used in the last two examples contradict their function in the IPA: in Qubee *q* stands for a glottalized velar *k* and *x* for a glottalized dental *t*, while in IPA [q] stands for an uvular stop and [x] represents a velar non-sibilant fricative.

The description of the articulation of particular Oromo sounds (p. 17) is also not consistent and can scarcely help learners of Oromo to pronounce them correctly. The letters c, ph, q and x represent palatal, labial, velar or alveolar/dental sounds, but at the same time all of them are glottalized stops.

The main entries in both the Oromo–German and German–Oromo parts of the Dictionary are followed by the transcription in angular brackets with the marker ' in front of the stressed syllable, e.g.:

Abbayya [ʌ'bbayyə] *s Nil m*. The synonyms are given in round brackets, e.g. anqaaqu [ʌŋqa:'qu:] *s* (buphaa, killee) *Ei nt*. The transcription of Oromo entries in the Oromo–German part is not always as exact as the spelling of the Oromo words, e.g. ‘biifamuu [bi:ft'pmu:] *vi* sprühen’ instead of [bi:famu:] (p. 50) though in some cases the transcrip-

<sup>17</sup> ‘Sie ist nach Hausa (Nigeria) die am meisten gesprochene einheimische Sprache südlich der Sahara (Mekuria Bulcha 1993, Oromo Commentary Vol. III, No. 1) und neben dem Arabischen und Hausa die dritte Sprache unter mehr als 30 afrikanischen Sprachen, die von mehr als einer Million Menschen als Muttersprache gesprochen wird. (Tilahun Gamta 1993, Oromo Commentary Vol. III, No. 1, Fußnote 2)’.

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tion indicates the letter ‘forgotten’ in the Oromo entry, e.g. ‘bilblamuu [bilbila'mu:] *vi* läuten’ instead of the correct bilbilamuu.

To sum up, it should be said that Melkamu Duresso’s Oromo–Deutsch/Deutsch–Oromo Dictionary is the first to provide Oromo lexemes with German equivalents. In the Oromo–German/German–Oromo vocabulary in the *Lehrbuch des Oromo*<sup>18</sup>, the German language was used in the same way, but to a much smaller extent. The aim of that Textbook was to help German students to learn Oromo and therefore it naturally included only a limited amount of words within a limited number of semantic fields while Melkamu Duresso’s Dictionary covers practically all the semantic fields of basic German and Oromo vocabularies and includes a lot of technical terms in different fields of human activity: administration, politics, education, nature, medicine, etc. It is a well arranged, comprehensive and good looking publication. I have no doubts that the Dictionary will become a suitable means of support for many Oromo speakers living in German speaking countries as well as for those Germans who intend to learn Oromo or need a knowledge of this language for their work in Oromiyya.

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MUSSIE TEFAGIORGIS G., *Eritrea*, Africa in Focus Series (Santa Barbara, CA–Denver, CO–Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2011). 424 pp. Price: US-\$ 94.00. ISBN: 978-1-59884-231-9.

PAULOS MILKIAS, *Ethiopia*, Africa in Focus Series (Santa Barbara, CA–Denver, CO–Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2011). 544 pp. Price: US-\$ 94.00. ISBN: 978-1-59884-257-9.

Mussie Tesfagiorgis’s and Paulos Milkias’s bulky (and expensive) volumes *Eritrea* and *Ethiopia*, respectively, inaugurate a new series of books *Africa in Focus*. Both are aimed at a broad readership and intend to give a solid and reliable background for grasping the political, social and cultural situation of the two countries.

The arrangement and content of the books follow what has probably been set as a standard for the *Africa in Focus* series. Thus, they contain seven main chapters dealing with *Geography, History, Government and Politics, Economy, Society, Culture* and *Contemporary Issues*. The chapter on *Society* is divided into smaller sections such as *Social Classes and Ethnicity, Women and*

<sup>18</sup> C. Griefenow-Mewis and Tamene Bitima, *Lehrbuch des Oromo*, Afrikawissenschaftliche Lehrbücher, 6 (Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 1994).