

Dymitr Ibriszimov (ed). *Topics in Chadic Linguistics IX. Papers from the 8th Biennial International Colloquium on the Chadic Languages, Bayreuth, February 4–5, 2016.* Köln 2019. Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 84 p., Euro 24,80, ISBN 978-3-89645-529-1

This publication of the Chadic Linguistics Group contains seven communications, which represent only in part those, presented in the two days of the Colloquium. They are: *Pronouns of address in Sakwatanci dialect of Hausa: An exploratory study* by Umar AHMED (pp. 9–17), *Ethnonyms and proper names in West Chadic languages* by Sergio BALDI & Rudolf LEGER (pp. 19–29), *The numerals of West Chadic* by Václav BLAŽEK (pp. 31–46), *Oblique nominals in Mawa* by James ROBERTS (pp. 47–55), *Elements of Chadic diachronic morphology – the ‘verbalizer [ʔv-]’* by Olga STOLBOVA (pp. 57–62), *Le syntagme de détermination nominale dans le parler « kotoko » de Mazéra (Cameroun)* by Henry TOURNEUX (pp. 63–71), *The documentation of Central Chadic Lamang (1967–2015)* by H. Ekkehard WOLFF (pp. 73–84).

In the first communication the author, after a brief examination of the importance of pronouns in languages, deals with the forms of Hausa ones and the absence in Hausa Standard of the courtesy pronouns existing in French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish cited by Lyons, but incurring a mistake: the courtesy pronoun in Italian is *lei* and not *lie*. He goes on to cite a series of examples in the Sokoto dialect, which suggest the presence of a courtesy pronoun for the second person singular, such as those existing in the European languages previously mentioned. The author formulates the hypothesis, suggested by Professor Ekkehard Wolff, that such a linguistic phenomenon may have been influenced by the Hausa spoken in Niger. In this case, however, it should be ensured that this use is also present in the spoken language there. It is hoped that, as advocated by the author, “more research is needed to determine, among other things, whether this linguistic phenomenon exists in other dialects of Hausa”.

In the third communication, Professor BLAŽEK presents in a series of tables the forms of the numerals ‘one to ten’ in the West Chadic languages, continuing his years of research for reconstruction “within individual groups the mutual cognates within the whole West Chadic branch”.

The fourth communication concerns the Mawa, an Eastern Chadic language of the Guera group and the oblique nominal marking *-o*.

In the fifth communication Olga STOLBOVA examines a conspicuous series of data, collected by her, “to reveal traces of a **prefix** with a similar function – a ‘verbalizer [ʔa-]’.

In the sixth communication, Henry TOURNEUX, who, among other things, worked a lot on Kotoko, which is a Chadic language (or a group of dialects) spoken in Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon by the Kotoko people, examines the nominal determination phrase in the Kotoko dialect of Mazéra (Cameun). This speech is particularly threatened with disappearance, as its speakers are estimated at no more than 3,000 individuals. The grammatical gender is characterized by the presence of the masculine / feminine, as in all the other spoken parts of the group and is neutralized in the plural. However, this genus cannot be deduced either from its form or its suffix, contrary to what is found in Zina’s speech (TOURNEUX 2005). The author then analyzes the various forms of plurals existing in this dialect, for then offer us a brief examination of personal pronouns.

The last communication concerns the 50-year research conducted by Professor WOLFF, on a Central Chadic language, *Gwàd Làràṅ* (short and internationalized simply Lamang). Among other things, these researches produced a monumental work in two volumes (WOLFF 2015): one dedicated to grammar and the other to the dictionary of this language, a work already reviewed in *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*.

References

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- Wolff, H. Ekkehard. 2015. *The Lamang Language and Dictionary. Documenting Gwàd Làràṅ – Endangered Central Chadic Language in Northeastern Nigeria*. Vol. 1: *The Lamang Language*. Vol. 2: *A Dictionary of Lamang* (Afrikanistische Forschungen 16). Köln. Rüdiger Köppe (501 p.; 609 p., rev. Sergio Baldi in *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 2017, 112(1): 92–93.

Sergio Baldi