

bedor (pp.109–126). Ewe, a Niger-Congo language, is spoken in southeastern Ghana and southern Togo by over three million peoples. Ewe is part of a cluster of related languages commonly called Gbe; the other major Gbe language is the Fon of Benin. The German Africanist Diedrich Hermann Westermann published many dictionaries and grammars of Ewe and several other Gbe languages. Other linguists who have worked concerning Ewe and closely related languages include Gilbert Ansre (tone, syntax), Herbert Stahlke (morphology, tone), Nick Clements (tone, syntax), Roberto Pazzi (anthropology, lexicography), Felix K. Ameka (semantics, cognitive linguistics), Alan Stewart Duthie (semantics, phonetics), Hounkpati B. Capo (phonology, phonetics), Enoch Aboh (syntax), and Chris Collins (syntax). This study aims at drawing attention to an aspect of the language which has not been studied yet. The authors affirm that “Verbal alternation involves variations in the syntactic expressions of the arguments of a verb, with or without differentiation in meaning. The paper demonstrates that the syntactic behavior of a verb is heavily determined by its meaning. The variation in the number of arguments affects the transitivity or valency of a verb” (p. 109).

The third article is “Question, subordination et focalisation: Le préconstruit en haoussa” by Bernard Caron (pp.127–143). As described by the author in the abstract “Contrary to what is generally thought, in Hausa, TAM markers compatible with focus are not compulsory in WH-questions and relative clauses” (p.127). Caron starting from an article by Claude Gouffé appeared in GLECS (1963/66), explains «subordination» and related phenomena. In Hausa there is a chance to topicalize every part of the sentence, i.e. a noun, a verb, and even all phrases. This attitude of the language is explained with many examples.

The following article, on Hausa is “Hwá, kwà et dáy – marquers de la thématization en hawsa?” by Mahaman Bachir Attouman (pp.145–182). This article has the merit of shedding light on an aspect of an eastern Hausa dialect, the Damagaranci. Studies on Hausa dialects are not so many, therefore this work by a mother tongue speaker of the language is useful for further studies on this topic.

In the last article, “Pearl millet in early Bantu speech communities in Central Africa: A reconsideration of the lexical evidence” by Koen Bostoen (p.183–213), the author states that it is “assumed that Bantu speakers first acquired pearl millet when the crop started to spread in the eastern part of Central Africa around the beginning of the first millennium AD”. On the basis of lexical evidence the Author critically reconsiders this hypothesis. According to him Bantu speakers adopted pearl millet

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This issue of the journal starts with a long and in-depth study on “Beja (Bidhaawyeet): The Verb System” by Klaus Wedekind & Abuzeinab Musa (pp. 1–108). Beja (also called Bedawi, Bedaue, To Bedawie, Hadareb, or by dialect names; Beja: Bidhaawyeet, Tu-Bdhaawi) is an Afro-Asiatic language spoken around the southern coast of the Red Sea by about two million nomads, in parts of Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea. It is the only North Cushitic language in the Afro-Asiatic phylum. Its verb system exhibits traits of both the Semitic and the Cushitic verb system. The work starts from one of the numerous previous presentations, i.e. the one presented in Hudson’s chapter on ‘Beja’ (1976: 114–124) with phonology and transcription of the language, morphophonology with detailed tables of the different patterns of the Beja verbs. It is the most exhaustive work on these topics. It is full of tables of possible combination of syllables in the verb system and sheds new light on these topics. It also provides comprehensive references at the end.

The second article is on “Some Verbal Alternations in Ewe” by Mercy Bobuafor, E. Kweku Osam & Paul Ag-

earlier than usually thought and introduced it into the Bantu-speaking world at least twice. Interestingly, at p. 213 in the map, after a long list of works of references on distribution of **bèdé* ‘durra/sorghum’ and **cángú* ‘maize’ with their respective meanings in present-day Bantu languages, he tries to establish a common relationship.

Two review articles are given at the end: (1) “A comparative linguistic approach to the history of iron-working among Savannah Bantu speech communities: a critical appraisal of Klein Arendt (2004)” by Koen Bostoen about Reinhard Klein-Arendt’s *Die traditionellen Eisenhadwerke der Savannen-Bantu. Eine sprachhistorische Rekonstruktion auf lexikalischer Grundlage* (pp. 215–228) and (2) “A new voluminous Berber grammar: A critical appraisal of Jeffrey Heath’s description of Tamashek (Tuareg/Mali)” by Karl-G. Prasse about Jeffrey Heath’s *A Grammar of Tamashek (Tuareg of Mali)* (pp. 229–244).

These are the reviews of the following fifteen books:

(1) Segerer, Guillaume: *La langue Bijogo de Bubaque (Guinée Bissau)* by G. Tucker Childs; (2) Luffin, Xavier: *Un créole arabe: le kinubi de Mombasa, Kenya* by Jonathan Owens; (3) Kilian-Hatz, Christa: *Khwe Dictionary. With a supplement on Khwe Place-Names of West Caprivi* by Mat-

thias Brenzinger; (4) König, Christa & Bernd Heine: *A Concise Dictionary of Northwestern !Xun* by E. D. Elderkin; (5) Halme, Riikka: *A Tonal Grammar of Kwanyama* by Jacky Manacky; (6) Himmelmann, Nikolaus P. & Eva Schultze-Berndt (eds.): *Secondary Predication and Adverbial Modification. The Typology of Depictives* by Nina Pawlak; (7) Jakobi, Angelika & Joachim Crass: *Grammaire du beria (langue saharienne). Avec un glossaire français-beria* by Denis Creissels; (8) Heath, Jeffrey: *Dictionnaire touareg du Mali, tamachek-angalis-français* by Karl-G. Prasse; (9) Gajdos, Martina: *Fulfulde. Lehrbuch einer westafrikanischen Sprache* by Peter Gottschlig; (10) Lange, Dierk: *Ancient Kingdoms of West Africa: Africa-Centred and Canaanite-Israelite Perspectives* by Helmut Bley; (11) Kathage, Birte: *Konzeptualisierung von Landschaft im Mbukushu (Bantusprache in Nord-Namibia)* by Jeff Good; (12) Caron, Bernard: *Za:r – Dictionary, Grammar, Texts* by Georg Ziegelmeier; (13) Anbessa Teferra & Grover Hudson: *Essentials of Amharic* by Ronny Meyer; (14) Crass, Joachim: *Das K’abeena – deskriptive Grammatik einer hochlandkuschitischen Sprache* by Rainer Voigt; (15) Ceysens, Rik: *Le roi Kanyok au milieu de quatre coins (Mwĩn Kányòk, mákóók’ mànàày)* by Leonhard Harding.