

CHADIC WORKING GROUP  
WEST AFRICAN LINGUISTIC SOCIETY

Mailing address:  
Afrikanistische Abt.  
c/o Dr. H. Jungraithmayr  
355 Marburg-Lahn  
Am Kruumbogen 28 - Germany

CHADIC NEWSLETTER  
No. 1 March 1970

This Newsletter is intended to provide a platform for contact, communication and discussion as well as to function as a means of information among Chadists. All persons concerned with any aspect of the Chadic language field are encouraged to write to the above address. Languages of communication are English, German and French.

C.W.G. Newsletter No. 2 is scheduled to be compiled in June, 1970. Please, send in your informations, questions or comments till June 10, 1970. As to items of common interest see under Proposed topics of this Newsletter. Please, add anything that you would like to be discussed.

Sincerely yours,

signed H. Jungraithmayr.

Some general remarks

The need for cooperation and coordination of work in the field of Chadic linguistics has been felt since it is clear that

(1) many of the 115 or more languages in question may disappear before research based on individual efforts only would reach them;

(2) from a comparative point of view Hausa can and shall no longer serve as the representative of the whole family of languages;

(3) any large scale comparative work can successfully be carried out only if the needed data are collected by as many scholars as possible;

(4) the basis of comparative work has to be the exact description of the individual languages; in order to reach this goal, however, more linguists must engage themselves in the study of Chadic languages - and, it was felt, such interest might be stimulated by establishing some kind of coordinating clearing-house.

In 1967, at the 7th West African Languages Congress, held at Lagos University, some scholars including C. Hoffmann, J. Bendor-Samuel, CH. Kraft and H. Jungraithmayr first discussed the possibility of arranging a common platform of scientific communication and contact for Chadists. It was, however, not before the 8th West African Languages Congress at Abidjan that a Chadic Working Group was actually constituted. E. Frick, J.H. Greenberg, C. Hoffmann, H. Jungraithmayr, Paul Newman and Roxana Ma Newman participated in its first sessions. That group agreed on offering Prof. J. Lukas, Hamburg, the protectorship over the Group.

Asked to undertake the first steps towards that declared aim of establishing a kind of clearing-house I mailed approx. 50 circulars and questionnaires to scholars concerned with the study of Chadic - Chadohamitic and Chadic - languages. The following notes, etc. are to a certain extent derived from an analysis of the 25 responses received so far.

As to the term CHADIC the Group agreed on pragmatically using this term in the widest sense possible, comprising both Chadohamitic and Chadic as used by J. Lukas in the Handbook (1952). Although subgrouping will be part of the discussions it is felt that any definite classification would be premature at this stage of research.

#### Suggestions and comments

The following suggestions and/or comments were made by scholars who returned the questionnaires:

1. "Amande: Quelles sont les possibilités d'aide financière du "Chadic Working Group" pour prendre en charge la publication d'un travail, pour financer un voyage de recherche ? - Proposition: Au centre du Tchad, une collaboration pourrait s'établir entre un chercheur de passage et des missionnaires résidant sur place, certains d'entre eux ayant assemblé une certaine documentation restée inédite." (G. Fédry)

2. "Je souhaite que le C.W.G. songe à l'Elaboration d'une bibliographie aussi complète que possible de toutes les publications concernant les langues tchadiennes (lato sensu) autre que le haoussa; y compris les publications de textes en langues tchadiennes. ... il me semble que cette bibliographie devrait laisser de côté tout ce qui touche au haoussa (sauf les publications où le haoussa est comparé à l'ensemble tchadien, ou à certaines langues tchadiennes), du fait que le haoussa constitue un domaine beaucoup plus exploré; et en quelque sorte 'classique'." (C. Gouffé)

3. "Cooperation especially in the field of the comparative research seems to me obligatory." (J. de Waard)

4. "Die im Formular ... erhobenen Angaben über die Forschungstätigkeit der einzelnen Interessierten scheinen mir noch nicht ausreichend zu sein. Der Newsletter sollte viel

detailliertere Angaben enthalten über die Art der aktuellen Forschungen (ob Monographien oder Vergleiche beabsichtigt sind, welche Sprachen zum Vergleich herangezogen werden oder wie sie sollen etc.)." (E. Wolff)

5. "Interested in problems of standardization of Hausa for alphabetisation purposes." (P. Zima)

Current research and forthcoming publications

1. The Institute of Linguistics (in West Africa) under its director J.T. Pendor-Samuel informs us that two of its members are concerned with the study of Chadic languages: D. Burquest with Angas and R. Mohrlang with Higi. Outline studies on the phonology of these languages are to be published in 1970.

2. A research team composed of Dr. Paul Newman (principal investigator), Miss Roxana Ma, and Mr. Russell Schuh is currently in Northeastern Nigeria conducting field studies of three Chadic languages, Dera (Kanakuru), Ga'anda, and Ngizim. The period of descriptive field research is to be followed by intensive comparative work on the above named languages plus Hausa, Mergi, and Tera. Using these six languages as a core, the objective will be to reconstruct basic syntactic patterns of Proto-Chadic and of intermediate periods in Chadic linguistic history. The project is being supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

All correspondence should be addressed to Dr. Newman, c/o Department of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.

3. As the most recent result of J. Carnochan's work on Pachama Bata an article on "Grammatical Categories of the Verbal Piece in Pachama" is in the press (African Language Studies, 1969).

4. G. Hart is presently conducting research on Mandara. A research report for this Newsletter would be welcomed!

5. S. J. Litaszewicz is working on the Hausa language as spoken and written in Ghana (doctoral thesis).

6. E.L. Tapp hopes to publish his - together with Wilh. Scheytt's - lexical materials on Yagwataɓaxa soon.

7. Robert B. Terry is completing "The Chadic languages" to appear in Current Trends in Linguistics, vol 7.

8. J. Fédry is working on "Dangaleat". He expects to complete his thesis before the end of 1970.

9. Charles H. Kraft has - in 1956-'57 - collected and is presently working on lexical and morphological data of "approximately 70" Chad languages of Northern Nigeria.

10. H. Jungraithmayr's Die Ron-Sprachen (Augustin, Glückstadt) is expected to appear this year.

At the University of Marburg work has been started on a Chadic Comparative Word Catalogue (CCWC) which is intended to form the necessary systematic basis for further comparative research into the Chadic lexicon and its culture-historical implications. It is hoped to collaborate particularly closely with the authors of "Comparative Chadic: Morphology and Lexicon", Paul Newman and Roxana Ma. The Catalogue is thought to become a common institution open to all scholars from this country and from abroad interested and willing to cooperate. The support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is being sought.

Contributions made to the Catalogue will, of course, be acknowledged by carefully indicating the source and/or author of the contribution.

Correspondence should be addressed to Dr. Jungraithmayr, c/o. Afrikanistische Abt., Marburg, Am Krummbogen 28, Germany.

11. E. Wolff who did research in Sardauna Province, Nigeria, in 1968/69 is currently analysing his data on various languages of that area.

12. The following colleagues have indicated that their linguistic interest and work is directed exclusively or predominantly to the study of Hausa:

D. Arnott, C. Gouffé, E.A. Gregersen, K. Krieger, D. J.M. Muffett, S. Pitaszewicz, J.T. Ritter (with active openness towards others), K. Shimizu, R.F. Terry (with declared interest in "West Chadic"), P. Zima.

#### Conferences, Seminars, etc.

1. At the School of Oriental and African Studies a Colloquium on Comparative Hamito-Semitic Linguistics will be held by the Historical Linguistics Section of the Linguistic Association of Great Britain on March 18-20, 1970. Sections on Semitic, Ancient Egyptian, Libyco-Berber, Cushitic and Chadic are planned. The only papers on Chadic linguistics received and distributed by the Secretaries to the Colloquium at SOAS so far are:

Neil Skinner, The Hausa genitive morpheme as an exponent of gender: a query.

H. Jungraithmayr, Types of Conjugational Forms in Chadic.

2. The Chadic Working Group will meet at the 9th West African Languages Congress which is scheduled to take place at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Freetown, on March 20 - 24, 1970. Chadists who plan to participate in this conference are kindly asked to check the list of Proposed topics hereafter.

Proposed topics

The following topics could be discussed at the sessions of the Chadic Working Group in Freetown as well as in Newsletter no 2 which is scheduled for June, 1970:

1. A Chadic linguistic bibliography;
2. Urgent research needs; neglected areas/languages;
3. Towards a survey of all Chadic languages;
4. Towards unification of the language names and their spellings;
5. Vowel systems in Chadic; which languages have vowel harmony ?
6. A discussion of suffix conjugation in Chadic.

Abbreviations

(as used in the following list of Chadic scholars)

- d with mainly descriptive interests  
 c with mainly comparative interests  
 dc with descriptive and comparative interests

Working on

An	Angas	La	Lamang ( - Htkalanai)
Ea	Fachama/Eata	Lab	Labalam
Ean	Eana	Lus	Lusgu
C	Chadic (acc. to Handbook)	Ug	Ugizim
CH	Chadcomitic ( " )	Pa	Paduko (Poloko)
Da	Dangaleat	Ro	Ron (including Iyer, Daffo-Eutura, Lokkos, Sha, Kulere)
De	Dera (Manakuru)		
Dg	Dghwee	Su	Sura
Ga	Ga'anda	Ta	Tangale
Gi	Gisiga (Guiziga)	Te	Tera
Gl	Glavda	Tu	Tur
Gu	Guduf ( - Yaghwatadaxa)	Ve	Vemgo
H	Hausa	Vi	Vizik
Hi	Higi	Wo	Woga
Ka	Kapsiki	Ya	Yaghwatadaxa

70 approx. 70 languages (cf. no. 9 under "Current research").

LIST I

(of scholars who responded to  
the 1st circular of the Chadic Working Group)

- Annott, D. W., Prof., 25, Vine Ave., Sevenoaks, Kent, England. H/d
- Carnochan, J., Reader, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, W.C.1. H,Pa/d
- Cohen, David, Maître de Recherche, CNRS, 6 rue Louvois, 78-Viroflay, France. H/c
- Fédry, Jacques, 4 Montée de Fourvière, 69 Lyon, 5<sup>e</sup>, France. Da/d
- Gouffé, Claude, Prof., Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes, 2 rue de Lille, 75 Paris 7<sup>e</sup>, France. H/dc
- Gregersen, Edgar A., Assoc. Prof., 78-11 35 Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY 11372, U.S.A. H/d
- Groupe Linguistique d'études chamito-sémitiques, E.P.H.E. (4e Section), 47 rue des Ecoles, 75-Paris 5 France. CH/dc
- Institute of Linguistics (in West Africa), P.O.Box 489, Zaria, Nigeria. An,Hi/dc
- Jungraithmayr, H., Dozent, 355 Marburg, Universität, Afrikanistische Abteilung, Am Krumbogen 28, Germany. An,Su,Ro. Ta,De/dc
- Kraft, Charles H., Lecturer (UCLA), 1200 Lyndon St., South Pasadena, California, 91030, U.S.A. H,70/dc
- Krieger, K., Prof., Director, Museum für Völkerkunde, 1 Berlin 33, Arnimallee 23/27, Germany. H/d
- Meyer-Bahlburg, Hilke, Seminar für Afrikanische Sprachen und Kulturen, 2 Hamburg 13, Von-Melle-Park 5, Germany. H,Mus/dc
- Mirt, Heide, Dr., Seminar f. Afrik. Spr. und Kult., 2 Hamburg 13, Von-Melle-Park 5, Germany. Man /dc
- Muffett, David J.M., O.B.E., Institute of African Affairs, Duquesne Univ., Pittsburgh Pa. 15219, USA. H/dc
- Newman, Paul, Dr. Ass. Prof., Dept. of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, Conn., U.S.A. Te,De,H/dc
- Newman, Roxana Ma, Dept. of Anthr., Yale, Conn.,USA. H,Ga/dc
- Pilaszewicz, St., mgr, Instytut Orientalistyczny, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, Poland. H/dc
- Rapp, E.L., Prof., 55 Mainz, Saarstrasse 21, Germany. H,Gl, Ye/dc
- Pitter, John T., Room 20D-102, M.I.T., Cambridge, Mass 02139, U.S.A. H/c

- Schuh, Russell G., Poste rest., Potiskum, Northeast State, Nigeria. H,Ng/dc
- Shimizu, Kiyoshi, c/o Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. H/dc
- Perry, Robert R., Lecturer, 310 North Park Ave., Bloomington, Indiana 47401, U.S.A. H/dc
- de Waard, Jan, Dr., B.P. 1133, Yaounde, Cameroun. Ha,Fe, Ka,Mat,Ban/dc
- Wolff, Ekkehard, Seminar f. Afrik. Sprachen und Kulturen, 2 Hamburg 13, Von-Melle-Park 6, Germany. Ia, Wo-Ve-Vi-Tu, Gu,G1;Dg/dc
- Zima, Petr, Dr., Res. prof., Oriental Inst., Lázeňská 4, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia. H/dc

LIST II

(of scholars to whom this newsletter is mailed  
- apart from those of LIST I)

- Eulenburg, J., Stanford University, Dept. of Linguistics, Palo Alto, Calif., U.S.A.
- Frick, Eva, Zaria, Institute of Linguistics, POB 489, Nigeria.
- Goodman, M., Prof., African Studies Program, Northwestern University, 1815 Hinman Ave., Evanston, Ill. 60201, U.S.A.
- Greenberg, J.H., Prof., Dept. of Anthropology, Stanford Univ., Stanford, Calif., U.S.A.
- Hodge, C.T., Prof., Dept. of Ling., Univ. of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, U.S.A.
- Hoffmann, C. Prof., Inst. of Linguistics and Nigerian Lang., Univ. of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Kassühlke, R., 355 Marburg, Biegenstr. 20 1/2, Germany.
- Konrad, Dr., 32 Hildesheim, Felitzäus Museum, Germany.
- Lambdin, Thomas, Prof., c/o Dept. of New Eastern Lang., Harvard Univ., Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.
- Lemeshko, B., Prof., Leningrad L-13, Podolskaja 4, kv.4, USSR.
- Lukas, Renate, Frobenius-Inst., 6 Frankfurt, Liebigg. 41, Germany
- Neuhaus, Karl, B.P. 73, Marua, Cameroun.
- Olderogge, D.A., Prof., Faculty of Oriental Studies, Leningrad State Univ., Universitetskaja Nab 7/9, Leningrad, USSR
- Filszczikowa, Nina, Dr., Univ. of Warsaw, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, Warsaw, Poland.
- Platiel, S., Mme., 70 rue du Parc Jachan, 94-Paris, France.
- Rössler, O. Prof., 355 Marburg, Universität, Seminar für Semitistik, Krumbogen 28, Germany.

Schneeberg, Nen, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Indiana,  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401, U.S.A.

Schumann, Theda, 2 Hamburg 13, Von-Melle-Park 6, Seminar  
für Afrikanische Sprachen und Kulturen, Universität,  
Germany.

Skinner, Neil, Prof., Dept. of African Languages and Lite-  
rature, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Smith, David M., Dept. of Anthropology, Baker Hall, Michi-  
gan State Univ., East Lansing, Mich. 48823, U.S.A.

Sölken, Dr. H., 6231 Schwalbach/Taunus, Spessartstrasse 7,  
Germany.

Stennes, L.H., 4115 21st Avenue So, Minneapolis, Minn.  
55407, U.S.A.