

150 Years after Dillmann's Lexicon: Perspectives and Challenges of Gə'əz Lexicography (Hamburg, 6-7 November 2015)

Abstracts

The TraCES project and the Gə'əz lexicography

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The TraCES project aims, among others, at creating a content- and morphology-annotated corpus of Ethiopic texts that shall be linked to a searchable electronic dictionary of the language. The presentation of the project team shall illustrate the goals and the intermediate results achieved. At the end of the workshop, the tools developed by the project shall be introduced in more detail.

Beyond Dillmann's Lexicon – Towards digital lexicography: Lessons from Syriac

Andreas Ellwardt (Universität Hamburg)

At the beginning of the 21st century, we witness two important events in the domain of Christian Oriental lexicography: the publishing of Michael Sokoloff's "A Syriac Lexicon. A Translation from the Latin, Correction, Expansion, and Update of C[arl] Brockelmann's Lexicon Syriacum" in 2009, and the launching of the TraCES project in 2014.

Whereas Sokoloff goes the traditional way of producing a paper print dictionary, TraCES takes steps to bring Christian Oriental lexicography into the digital era. Both enterprises stand firmly in their respective pedigree, thus, comparison can be made for their historical development as well as for their contemporary approaches. Besides this, some inside facts of August Dillmann's Lexicon will be given which only an addicted reader will find.

Dillmann's Lexicon and KWK's Dictionary: A comparative study of selected Gə'əz words

Bruk Abdu (Capuchin Franciscan Research Center, Addis Ababa)

Inspired by August Dillmann's lexicon, the Ethiopian Scholar Kifle Ghiorghis prepared a Gə'əz-Amharic Dictionary, currently available in manuscripts, which, in its turn, lead toward Kidane Wold's unpublished Gə'əz-Amharic Dictionary. Desta Tekle Wold gave the current shape to the published dictionary under the name of Kidane Wold Kifle (KWK). Three stages are thus detectable in the formation of the KWK dictionary. In this connection, this paper tries to study a given number of selected Ge'ez nouns (መልእክ፣ ልቡና፣ ህላዌ፣ ባሕርይ፣ ጸባይ፣ ገጽ) and verbs (ኮነ፣ ቀተሎ፣ ቀደሰ፣ ባረከ፣ ጸገወ፣ ቀብሎ), their range of definitions, their semantic field, their literary references, as they are recorded in Dillmann's Lexicon and in KWK at its three stages of formation.

Sabaic loanwords in Gə'əz and borrowings from Gə'əz in Middle Sabaic

Serge Frantsouzoff (Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, St Petersburg)

It is commonly recognized that the ancient Sabaeen kingdom contributed much to the formation of the state of Da'mat (Di'amat) in the north-western part of the Horn of Africa in the 8th–7th century BC. The influence of Saba' in that period could be detected in different spheres of culture, including the local epigraphic documentation represented by the so-called Ethio-Sabaic inscriptions, viz. the texts composed in a variety of early Sabaic, notable for some orthographic, morphological and syntactic features typical to Ethio-Semitic languages. It seems quite natural that a number of words mostly connected with the urban life and landownership were borrowed by indigenous population and some centuries later enriched the vocabulary of Gə'əz. The following among them are worthy of mention: *hagär* "city, town" (in medieval Ethiopia, where until AD 1636 there was no town, it meant "region" or "province"); *maḥəfäd* "tower, fortress", *wäsän/wäsn* "boundary, limit", *g^wəlt* "land grant, fief". Moreover, it appears that the word *sab(ə)* "persons, men, people" goes back directly to the ethnic name Sb' "Sabaeans".

From the end of the 2nd century AD until the last third of the next century the kingdom of Axum was engaged in the struggle for hegemony in Yemen and as a result some Gə'əz lexical units occur in Middle Sabaic inscriptions. Apart from *'aḥzab* "tribes, crowds", which designated Axumite expeditionary troops, two terms, namely *dglmtm* and *lmwdm*, attested in the large text MAFRAY–al-Mi'sâl 2 draw the attention of Ethiopianists. Their derivation from the Gə'əz words *dəg^wlamma* "bracelet" and *lämd* "sheepskin cloak, ornate ceremonial garment", closely related to Ethiopian mode of life, is well-founded.

Irrational nasal infix as indication of Semitic loanwords borrowed in their Greek form

Agostino Soldati (Università degli studi di Padova)

Loanwords from the Greek language are copiously present in Gə'əz: they are almost exclusively nouns not only relating to cultural and religious terms, but also extending to all areas of the vocabulary. Many Grecisms exhibit a typical feature of vulgar Hellenic speech as the irrational nasal epenthesis before labial and dental sounds. The presence of such nasal infix could indicate that some apparently direct loanwords from Hebrew, as a matter of fact, came to Gə'əz through the Greek language.

Martin Heide (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

New Gə'əz word forms from Arabic-Ethiopic translation literature

In his Comparative Dictionary, Leslau has also listed word forms which are either rare or which are only known from specific literatures. I want to present a small sample of such words (mostly participles and similar derived forms), which are mainly found in Arabic-Ethiopic translation works. Some of them were not known to Dillmann and Leslau, and some were misinterpreted in earlier editions, so that their meaning was concealed.

Manfred Kropp (Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz)

Abraham Johannes Drewes' Glossar zum Recueil des inscriptions de l'Éthiopie antique und Sergew Hable Selassies Fragment eines Gə'əz-Belegstellenlexikons. Zwei unveröffentlichte Beiträge zur äthiopischen Lexikographie und deren Bewertung und Lehren für die heutige informationstechnisch aufgerüstete Äthiopistik

Der Vortrag wird die beiden postumen und bisher unveröffentlichten Arbeiten der äthiopistischen Gelehrten vorstellen und analysieren. Dann sollen daraus Folgerungen gezogen und ein "Pflichtenheft" für die lexikalische – aber nicht nur – Erschließung veröffentlichter und unveröffentlichter Gə'əz -Texte entwickelt werden. Angesprochen werden:

Auswahl vorrangig zu bearbeitender Texte – Spezialglossare zu Texten und Textgattungen – zeitliche, räumliche und gattungsmäßige Abschichtung des Wortschatzes – Bedeutung und Einsatz der Datenverarbeitung – Schaffung einheitlicher, aber elastischer Verarbeitungsnormen und Verfahren.

Stefan Weninger (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

The use of Arabic in Gə'əz Lexicography: From Dillmann to Leslau and beyond

August Dillmann quoted in his *Lexicon Linguae Aethiopicae* many cognates from other Semitic languages. The source language that is cited most frequently is Arabic. This presentation investigates primarily the principles that guided Dillmann concerning the Arabic parallels and the sources Dillmann had at his disposal for the Arabic etymologies. The second part of the presentation takes a look on the Arabic etymologies in Wolf Leslau's *Comparative Dictionary of Gə'əz*. It is mainly devoted to the question in how far Dillmann's *Lexicon* influenced also the Arabic material quoted in the *CDG*. The last part discusses perspectives how Arabic etymologies could be used the future.

Maria Bulakh (Russian State University for the Humanities)

Some problems of transcribing Gə'əz

The contribution deals with some problematic issues related to transcription of Gə'əz. It discusses two major types of transcribing Gə'əz vowels, showing that one of them is closer to transliteration than to transcription. It is then argued that in most aspects of Gə'əz studies, transliteration is to be preferred to transcription.

The contribution also considers various methods of dealing in the transcription with some features not reflected in Ethiopic script, namely, with gemination and presence/absence of ə. As an example, epenthetic ə after guttural phonemes wordfinally or before a consonant is discussed.

Maija Priess (Universität Hamburg)

Lexicon of Gə'əz Verbs for Students

In the field of Ethiopian studies a complete and comprehensive list of Gə'əz verbs has not been available. The tables of regular verbs are not helpful for understanding the irregular verb scheme. Furthermore, rules of laryngeals and semi-vowels w and y may not always facilitate sufficient guidance when dealing with the so-called “weak” verbs.

Unfortunately, the *Lexicon* of Dillmann is written in Latin and Greek which make translations and explanations a laborious undertaking for modern students and even scholars. On the one hand, old grammars of the 19th century use Gə'əz syllables but they illustrate only a few verbs in their tables. On the other hand, modern publications in German and English use a transliteration without Gə'əz syllables, and do not present all the verbs. In some books again, the information concerning verbs is scattered throughout in several chapters. One exception (though only in transliteration) is Tropper (2002) having relevant grammatical rules concerning multi-radical verbs, too.

There are several new grammar or study books of Gə'əz published in Ethiopia in Amharic and in English, providing simple everyday texts and giving good morphological examples of several verbs, but alphabetical lists of verbs are only in Perfect. None of these books gives tables of irregular or multi-radical verbs.

The *Lexicon* of Leslau (1989) only gives the perfect for verbs of three radicals with the Jussive (Subjunctive) in brackets. Further forms of the derived stems with the prefixes A-, T-, and Ast- are not stated. The same applies to multi-radical verbs: they are not given in any other form, except the Perfect. Hence, my aim was to collect as many verbs as possible and produce a small, cheap and handy booklet available for all who are interested in studying Gə'əz. The paradigms containing Perfect, Imperfect, and Jussive in 3rd person masculine singular are given alongside the necessary stems A-, T-, and Ast-. In the short introductory grammar, a table with regular verbs with general rules is given at the beginning. For the irregular and multi-radical verbs, special features of the morphology are given regarding to consonant and vowel changes.