

HIOB LUDOLF ZENTRUM FÜR ÄTHIOPISTIK


HIOB LUDOLF CENTRE FOR ETHIOPIAN STUDIES



From Translation to Creation: Changes in Ethiopic Style and Lexicon from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages

An area of ancient written culture from the 1st millennium BCE, the Ethiopian highlands have been home to a complex literary tradition (predominantly in Gə'əz) that has no parallel in sub-Saharan Africa. Its emergence was determined by Late Antique culture (Byzantium including Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and the Red Sea), Mediterranean encounters, and the African background.

The earliest known texts were translations from Greek, later works were adopted from Christian Arabic (esp. Copto-Arabic) literary tradition, in addition to a rich local written production. The complexity of literary history is fully reflected in the changes in grammar, lexicon and stylistic means of the Gə'əz language.

During the years 2014-2019, the ERC Advanced Grant  will analyse in detail the lexical, morphological and stylistic features of texts depending on their origins using the achievements of linguistics, philology, and digital humanities.

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