

too narrow or too wide. Needless to say that for an academic edition a number of words would require a lexical discussion. One wonders whether the published Swahili proverb collections could not have been of advantage to the author.

The use of kanga among non-Swahili East Africans would be another interesting topic of future research. "For Giriama women the kanga inscriptions have only little importance" (Linnebuhr, p 30); from accidental experiences with Pokomo women, both Christians and Muslims, I can confirm the contrary.

The description on page 20 indicates three footnotes, of which the text (apparently source references) is lacking. One or the other passage remains obscure¹, while on the whole Linnebuhr's style is well to read and sensible. The museum can be congratulated for a technically well prepared catalogue, which I am proud to show to discussion partners.

Elisabeth Linnebuhr has opened the eyes of the academic to an object which otherwise every traveller in East Africa sees and is attracted to. Scholarly studies have to follow which should be more rigorous with regard to the poetics, pragmatics and politics of the dressing materials. Prerequisites for this are comprehensive documentation, good acquaintancy with women and depending on the research aim, interviews with designers, producers and sellers. Would this research not also include the veiling functions of the buibui?

Thomas Geider

GUDRUN MIEHE UND WILHELM J. G. MÖHLIG (ED.), *SWAHILI - HANDBUCH*. UNDER EDITORIAL CO-OPERATION OF ELENA BERTONCINI-ZÚBKOVÁ, SAUDA BARWANI-SHEIKH AND LUDWIG GERHARDT. 1995, KÖLN: RÜDIGER KÖPPE VERLAG. 460 pp. DM 128.-

Advanced Swahili students as well as teachers of Swahili will surely appreciate the new German Swahili - Handbook published recently. This handbook fills a gap in Swahili teaching materials. Thirteen authors, each of them being a specialist in the given Swahili field, have been collectively working on the volume.

Individual contributions spread in 21 chapters deal with problems of morphology and syntax, as well as with themes which are either outside the province of a usual textbook, or not

¹E.g. "Der Entwurf des Kangadesigns ist ... symmetrisch aufgebaut. Ausgewogenheit verdeckt besser, weil sie verschlossen ist und gleichzeitig sich vom Hintergrund abhebt. In der ornamentalen Symmetrie versteckt sich eine Dualität, die Einheit zeigt und wird so zum Ausdruck einer zum Äußersten gesteigerten Ambivalenz. Solche Strukturen haben die psychologische Wirkung von Beschwörendem und Bannendem." (p 21)

elaborated in the textbooks to such an extent. The contributions are as follows (titles translated from German):

Gudrun Mieke (Bayreuth): Introduction to the history of Swahili research; Ludwig Gerhardt (Hamburg): Swahili - The history of a language; Wilhelm J. G. Möhlig (Köln): Swahili dialects; Irmtraud Herms (Leipzig): Diminutives and augmentatives; Irmtraud Herms (Leipzig): Adjectives; Wolfgang Dodt (Berlin): Relative clause; Claus Göbelsmann (Köln): Tempus, aspect and modality; Elena Bertoncini-Zúbková (Napoli): Two homonym ka- markers; Walter Schicho (Wien): Modality and speaker's intention; Irmtraud Herms (Leipzig): Impersonal constructions; Thomas Bearth (Zürich): Word order, topic and focus; Thomas Bearth (Zürich): To be and to have - *kuwa na kutokuwa*; Reinhardt Klein-Arendt (Köln): The discourse in Swahili - a selection of the more important types; Werner Graebner (Mainz): Mambo - the modern textual forms and recent development of language in Dar es Salaam; Gudrun Mieke (Bayreuth): Stylistic features of Swahili poetry; Thomas Geider (Frankfurt): Research of borrowings and neologisms; Elena Bertoncini-Zúbková (Napoli): Idiomatic expressions; Sauda Barwani-Sheikh (Hamburg) & Ridder Samson (Leiden): The proverbs and their use; Elena Bertoncini-Zúbková (Napoli): The reader; Ludwig Gerhardt (Hamburg): Glossary.

Said with G. Mieke (p. 9), the history of Swahili research has such a long and un-interrupted tradition that the study subject might be almost considered a philology in the classical sense. The subject-matter of this handbook only confirms this opinion.

The user of this handbook acquires the opportunity to be informed about the present state of the main directions in modern Swahilistics. He/she should nevertheless expect a traditional paradigm of teaching procedures, but be prepared for a relatively high standard of linguistic knowledge, which is necessary to approach the themes discussed in this handbook.

Almost each article provides useful bibliographical references in endnotes, which are rendered in full in the main bibliography at the end of the handbook which contains more than 500 titles.² Some of the articles provide useful exercises which are supposed to be solved in accordance with the Swahili texts of the reader compiled for this purpose. The same applies to the examples presented in individual articles. Practically this is the only methodological principle coordinating the cooperation of the contributors. To avoid inaccuracies in describing the grammatical phenomena the authors have decided to employ as standard reference work the *Swahili Grammar* of D. V. Perrott.

The Glossary (chapter 21) includes Swahili and German equivalents of the most frequently used words in the Swahili texts which are hardly available in the dictionaries. At last the handbook provides an index of persons and topics.

The introductory chapters deal with the history of the Swahili language, with the external and internal factors which influenced its development.

² Some of the titles mentioned in the references of chapter 10 (Kästner 1988, Katalambulla 1988 and others) are not given in the main bibliography.

The article describing the history of Swahili research informs in detail about the linguistic sources, which refer to the early origins of the settlement of Swahili people at the East African coast and to the evidences of dating the emergence of the Swahili language. Further explained are questions concerning the classification of Swahili as well as its proto-form. Attention is also paid to the history of Swahili research. Additionally the problems of Swahili language policy are mentioned which have many articles in the extensive bibliography. The internal development of the Swahili language is discussed in chapter 2, where the question of the influences and historical contacts of Swahili with other Bantu languages is treated. Thus the phonetic, phonological and morphological elements of Standard Swahili are examined and confronted with those of Proto-Bantu.

The chapter treating the Swahili dialects mentions their territorial division (shown on a map) and introduces to the problems of their research. The emphasis of this article lies on the description of the phonological, morphological and lexical features of the coastal dialects of Swahili. Text examples from selected dialects (Amu, Jomvu, Makunduchi) are given with the German translation.

The chapters dealing with the problems of morphology and syntax have more or less descriptive character. Chapter 4 is devoted to the most frequent methods of word formation in Swahili which is the verbal and nominal derivation. These are both clearly arranged and elaborated in detail thereby giving comments on the degree of their productivity just and semantic and/or syntactic function. This subject is complemented in chapter 5 which summarizes the formation of augmentatives and diminutives. The subject of the morphological formation of adjectives and adjectival concepts is described in chapter 6. Chapter 7 summarizes essential information on relative clauses in Swahili. Another chapter concentrates on the problems of tempus, aspect and modality and analyses the use of some TAM prefixes such as -li-, -me-, -ta- in an expanded functional connection, the imperfective aspect with the auxiliary *kuwa*, the tenses -ki-, -ka-, -nge-/ngali-, the perfect and negative tenses as equivalents to the affirmative forms and accentuates specific difficulties which arise in learning Swahili. The problem of the TAM-marker -ka- is further discussed in chapter 9.

It is a well known fact that each language offers to its speakers different kinds of means of communication and expression through which the speaker realizes his intention of speaking. The essay "Modality and speaker's intention" deals with the realization of the possibilities provided by the Swahili language to express the speaker's communicative purposes, evaluation, intention, emotion etc. A parallel between the formal realization of modality in German and Swahili is also drawn. Chapter 12 analyses the text structure. The syntactic and semantic structures of a sentence are explained as well as its communicative structure with the main concepts of theme, rheme, topic and focus. The author investigates the possibilities of word order permutation in the Swahili sentence as a main technique of its communicative structure. He also mentions other relevant means of expression which Swahili disposes to mark a given sentence constituent (stress, morphological marking) as being in topic and focus.

The article "To be and to have"³ deals with the morphosyntactic constructions of the concept 'to be' and 'to have' (as subcategory of the paradigm of 'to be') The author classifies grammatical forms expressing the category of 'being' in Swahili and investigates the realization of these forms in connection with their semantic characteristics (identification, classification, description, existence, localization, association and others)

Swahili as a written language includes many functional and artistic forms of discourse in informal as well as in formal style The article "Discourse in Swahili" offers 10 of them (news report, political speech, interview, folk theatre, literary text, documentary literature, utenzi, historical text, letter, professional text) The individual discourses are completed with vocabulary, grammatical explanations and stylistic features denoting the type of language appropriate to a particular text or situation reflected in the text.

The essay "Mambo" presents the way how the development of everyday language is reflected in certain artistic forms like comics, songs, traditional forms of oral literature in the modern cultural and social context The author analyses the poetic arrangement and language structure (lexicon and grammar) of some text examples The aim of this essay is to point out the cultural, social and political milieu of contemporary Dar es Salaam as it is expressed through the creativity of different artistic groups

Those who are interested in Swahili poetry will surely enjoy the detailed and critical historical overview of research in Swahili poetry, about its forms, poetic categories and stylistic characteristics which concern the analysis of content and language elements All comments are documented in numerous examples

A very informative survey of research on borrowings and neologisms in Swahili is given in chapter 17 which summarizes the individual principles of extending the Swahili lexicon through borrowings from different languages The author discusses the problems of their phonological and morphological adaptation to the Swahili language system as well as the cultural and historical conditions which have influenced the Swahili lexicon in its contemporary state

Proverbs in Swahili are not only an important part of the literature, but also a much used form in everyday language The study of Swahili proverbs is concerned with their form, content, grammatical peculiarities and the authors try to give certain instructions on how to understand these sayings

The last chapter contains 17 Swahili texts in which examples of different styles of Swahili literature (short story, novel, theatre piece etc) are represented Apart from introductory remarks on the individual writers, and the character of the Swahili as it is used in the literature, each text also provides remarks on the stylistic and linguistic peculiarities In order to facilitate the correspondance of the examples with the previous chapters the paragraphs of the texts are marked with capital letters

³ The title of chapter 13 does not correspond in contents and in the text The correct title should probably sound "Sein und haben - kuwa na kuwa na".

The *Swahili - Handbuch* presents qualitatively new teaching material. Although many of the subject-matters can be found in journals or textbooks, they are systematically classified and adequately worked out in this book for the purposes of modern Swahili teaching. In this lies the main achievement of this handbook which will surely become an important part of Swahilistics.

Marie Brzobohatá

GUDRUN MIEHE, *DIE SPRACHE DER ÄLTEREN SWAHILI -DICHTUNG (PHONOLOGIE UND MORPHOLOGIE)*. 1979, BERLIN: DIETRICH REIMER, 260 pp., DM 35, -

For the students of Swahili poetry that predates the twentieth century (e.g. Muyaka, Al-inkishafi, Mwana Kupona, Hamziyya and others) there has always been a dire need for a book which could aid in the understanding of this poetry. This need is made acute by two main reasons. Firstly, classical Swahili poetry is written partly in what is known as Kingozi, an archaic form of language believed by many to be some kind of proto-Swahili. Secondly, the language of old Swahili poetry also incorporates a lot of features from the northern dialects of Swahili (e.g. Kiamu, Kipate, Kisiu etc). This combination of archaic Swahili and features from the northern dialects of the language renders both the understanding and the explication of the pre-twentieth Swahili poetry rather difficult for many readers.

It is with the above background in mind that many readers of classical Swahili poetry will welcome Gudrun Miehe's *Die Sprache der älteren Swahili-Dichtung*.

This book has three main sections. The first section is introductory. It provides a brief historical background of the East African coast, the centre stage for the composition of the pre-twentieth Swahili poetry. This section also introduces the northern Swahili dialects (Kitikuu, Kipate, Kisiu, Kiamu) and outlines the salient differences between these dialects and Standard Swahili. In addition, thematic concerns of classical Swahili poetry are outlined.

The second main section gives an overview of the phonology of old Swahili poetry. Here main phonological features of the pre-twentieth century Swahili poetry are compared with those of Standard Swahili. These features include known northern-dialect features such as the deletion of /l/ and /g/ between vowels in cases where Standard Swahili still maintains them, e.g. in 'mbee' for 'mbele' (forward); 'mbeu' for 'mbegu' (seed). It also includes other archaic forms in which the consonant /l/ is still present, e.g. in 'luma' for 'uma' (bite), 'mulume' for 'mume' (man) and others.

Section three is more detailed than the other two sections. Here the author discusses the main differences between the language of classical Swahili poetry and Standard Swahili at the morphological level. This includes many aspects of morphology among them the following: