
The book is a result of a PH.D. project and meant as a first part of Kambaata Grammar. Kambaata, as explained in introductory chapter, is spoken in Ethiopia, around the Hambarrichcho massif situated about 300 km southwest of Addis Ababa. It is classified in the Highland East Cushitic branch of the Cushitic languages. This volume deals with phonology, nominal morphology and non-verbal predication. The language data was collected during several fieldwork trips conducted mainly in Daamboyya and Duuraame where Kambaata is spoken. The book contains 107 tables showing mainly declension case paradigms, various types of word classes (de-ajectival quality nouns, de-verbal nouns) and examples of word formation patterns among others.

The author states that the aim of the book is to “[…] give as complete account as possible of the phonology, morphology, and morphosyntax of nouns, attributes (adjectives, numerals, and demonstratives), and pronouns in Kambaata (p. 15)”’. The description follows the Basic Linguistic Theory, advocated by R.M.W Dixon and contains many references to other closely related Cushitic languages, especially Alaaba and Qabeena, but also to Amharic which is the source of many loanwords for Kambaata.

The book is divided into 10 chapters. The first introductory chapter contains some basic information about the language, such as its classification and the overview of the literature as well as the presentation of the corpus on which the study is based. The next three chapters deal with phonological characteristics of Kambaata (chapter 2), accent (chapter 3) and morphophonology (chapter 4). Chapter 5 „Orthography” is quite crucial for the structure of the book because the author presents the rules of Kambaata orthography based on the Latin script and indicates how the official orthography varies from the orthography of the book. The explanation is important as the following chapters (from 6 to 10) contain the examples written in a slightly altered Kambaata orthography. Examples in previous chapters (from 1 to 6) are written in phonetic transcription.
Chapter 6 gives an overview of word classes that exist in Kambaata. Some of them are undisputed, such as nouns, verbs, pronouns, conjunctions, adverbs, ideophones and interjections. Others – adjectives, numerals, demonstratives and quantifiers are claimed to belong to a single word class called attribute with three subclasses: adjectives, numerals and demonstratives. Although the three subclasses of attributes have slightly different morphosyntactic characteristics (only adjectives and numerals function as head nouns, only adjectives can govern complements) they share one common feature that sets them apart from nouns and verbs, i.e. they can be used as gender/case agreeing modifiers of a head noun, e.g. *abbá* (M.ACC) *mini* (M.ACC) ‘big house’, *lamú* (M.ACC) *mini* (M.ACC) ‘two houses’ *ka* (M.ACC) *mini* (M.ACC) ‘this house’ (p.87).

Chapter 7 “Nouns” takes one third of the entire book and tackles with various aspects of nominal morphology: case, number, gender, agreement, word formation, and nominal suffixes. The figure presented at the beginning of the chapter shows how many derivational and inflectional morphemes can be attached to nouns in Kambaata and the example 280 (p. 100) *olleechchoontannée* “and with our neighbour (F)” clearly illustrates the usage of some of the morphemes: *oll* (root), *-eechch* (singulative morpheme), *-oon* (case marker), *-ta* (linker), *-nne* (possessive pronoun), *-V* (coordination suffix). The chapter also discusses so called 'special nous' containing temporal nouns or spatial nouns among others. The categorial status of these lexemes is less clear as they lack some morphological or functional features of nouns.

The chapter discusses also the way of expressing spatial relations. The discussion can be found in sections concerning spatial nouns and cases. As Kambaata lacks adpositions, location or direction is expressed by means of spatial nouns that are used to encode static topological relations, motion verbs, and case: ablative, locative, or instrumental-comitative-perlative.
Apart from nouns, various morphemes of nominal origin are described in the chapter, such as pragmatically determined suffix -n marking the focus of the attention or topic continuity, -be – a sign of a speaker’s surprise or disbelief, -nmu “what about X”, and -ma(t) – a marker of heavy emphasis.

Chapter 8 describes attributives: adjectives (including quantifiers), numerals, demonstratives and vocalic attributes. Apart from attribute adjectives that have a unique morphology that sets them apart from nouns there are some lexemes with nouns-like features, e.g. labb-âa ‘male’, me'-áa-ta ‘female’. They cannot be categorized as nouns or as adjectives out of context.

All types of pronouns: personal (free and bound), demonstrative, and interrogative are described in chapter 9. It is noteworthy that Kambaata has two honorific pronouns. Treis gives an overview of historical development of pronouns, semantic features of referents (dependent personal pronouns may refer to humans only apart from exceptional cases where a non-human referent has an affectionate reading), grammaticalization process of certain pronouns (third person masculine bound pronoun has become a marker of definiteness), and their pragmatic function (third person honorific pronouns in sentences without overtly expressed subject may have an impersonal reading).

Chapter 10 describes non-verbal predication in Kambaata based on three types of copulas: one locative and two non-locative copulas. A locative copula, referred to as copula 1, consists of a defective verb -yoo. It is used to express location, existence, time, accompaniment and possession. Copula 2 is an enclitic, non-verbal copula used in ascriptive and predicational predication. Copula 3 is used in identificational and oblique case predication.

The author is very careful about her statements and manages to keep the reader informed about possible misinterpretations. Whenever the term may be misunderstood, Treis clearly states its usage. For example, on page 102, she explains that Kambaata has a “marked nominative system” which does not mean that nominative case has more phonological weight than the accusative, but accusative is more frequent, it is used in more contexts than the nomina-
tive. If the function of a morpheme or a lexeme is questionable Treis always indicates her doubts clearly or suggest two different hypotheses rather than superimposing the straight, yet not precise interpretation. For example in section 7.8.1 the author states that the pragmatically motivated suffix -n may be used as an emphasis marker or a marker of topic continuity, but its function is still obscure and requires further investigation. A similar statement is made with regard to the morpheme -ς. After having stated that it is a definiteness marker, Treis quote a few counter-examples where the suffix is attached to inherently definite noun phrases (proper nouns and pronouns) admitting that it has to be examined whether the given characterization of the suffix is appropriate (p. 356).

The book contains more than a rough grammatical information. Treis managed to describe the language structure without losing track of the Kambaata people. Apart from the information about their occupation, history and economy (section 1.5) one can find Kambaata proverbs, riddles, and fragments of songs scattered throughout the chapters. The reader ends the book knowing that adults use affectionate language for the communication with infants by inflecting common nouns like personal names (section 7.2), men may be called by the name of their eldest son (footnote, p. 110), people make use of Ethiopian calendar having 13 months and their most important feast is masaalā and shaashshigá (section 7.7.1.1).

There are more than fifteen hundreds language examples in the book. All examples are glossed. The language data presented throughout the book consists not only of elicited sentences, but also of spontaneously produced utterances, fragments of narratives, and passages taken from school books. Reach and diversified language corpus collected by the author made it possible to discover certain nuances, such as the function of a morpheme -n, which „[…] is not frequent in elicited data, but used in almost every sentence of spontaneously produced oral literature or conversations (p. 226)”.}

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The book contains a lot of diachronic, comparative and typological notes. Due to the richness of information concerning anthropology or ethnology the book may be of use to specialists dealing with these fields. It is also a first-class source for those interested in morphology because Kambaata has extremely rich morphological structure. For descriptive linguists it is an excellent guide of writing a grammar. Finally, the book is to be highly recommended to Cushitists because of comparative remarks on other Cushitic languages.

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