tics in the area of African studies and gives them a new dimension. If
focuses on explaining contact phenomena and linking them to histor-
ical events on the continent. The contributors give the evidence to the
idea that contact scenarios, not the reconstruction of protolanguage,
are main goal of linguistic studies oriented at tracing the history of
the people speaking these languages.

Nina Pawlak

Norber Cyffer & Georg Ziegelmeyer (eds.), *When Languages
Meet. Language Contact and Change in West Africa*, “Topics in

The book is a collection of 8 papers on language contact and
change that provides exemplification of areal influences in the de-
velopment of languages. Various case studies examine contact phe-
nomena in West Africa, with a consideration of their universality and
areality. The interest focuses on the very specific territory of the West
African Sahel region. This is a contact area where three African lan-
guage families meet, i.e. Afro-Asiatic, Nilo-Saharan and Niger-
Congo, and where genetically unrelated languages are used in a rela-
tively close distance.

The book explores different perspectives in the development of
Kanuri which was a dominant language of the area in earlier times
(as the official language of the Kanem-Bornu empire) and position of
which has faded nowadays. Various aspects of its change that are
caused by the linguistic context are demonstrated in three contribu-
tions.

Norbert Cyffer in his article *Cause and reason in Kanuri: the im-
pact of areality on linguistic change* investigates the means of ex-
pressing subordination that are interpreted in terms of sentence/clause structures influenced by contact. The presentation of
data is supported by more general linguistic observation that sen-
tence structures are not much determined by language family pat-
terns. In the processes of language development the concept for
grammatical marking and the relevant formatives are distinguished
as separate notions.
Doris Löhr’s article *Reduction of dialectal features in Kanuri as outcome of language contact* demonstrates the leveling processes within dialect continuum of Kanuri that are strongly connected with the spread of Hausa in this area. The data collected by the author during her field research are to show the ‘linguistic accommodation’ at the level of phonology and syntax. The analysis shows the implementation of some Hausa subordinators (hâr/hâttá ‘until, dôn/dalîl ‘because’, tîn da ‘since’, sâi dâi > sêde ‘except, until’, dole ‘must’) that are used on the whole Kanuri-speaking area without respecting Kanuri dialect boundaries.

The incorporation of foreign features at all levels of grammatical structure is recognized in the Buduma-Kanuri direct contact situation. In *Quelques aspects des interferences kanuri-buduma* Ari Awagana demonstrates the instances when the two genetically unrelated languages share not only the lexicon, but also properties of nominal and verbal morphology. In this context, a very specific feature was recognized on the phonological ground, namely articulation of the Buduma words ‘in a Kanuri way’, that respects the morphophonological alternations characteristic of that language.

The West African Sahel region is also investigated as an area of the dominant position of Hausa, both in the past and in the modern times. In the article *The Hausa particle koo – a widely spread formative in Northern Nigeria*, Georg Ziegelmeyer presents the polyfunctional and polysemantic particle *koo* (which is Hausa by origin) that is frequently employed in some other languages spoken in northern Nigeria. The fact that the languages (Fulfulde, Chamba-Daka and Guruntum) are representatives of different language families illustrates the impact of external factors on the development of language structures. Author’s claim about the restricted area in which the particle *koo* is employed, is a contribution to the studies on ethnic and cultural contacts in the region.

The question of lexical borrowings from Hausa to Adamawa-Fulfulde is investigated in terms of social conditions that motivate those loans and linguistic aspects of their grammatical adaptation. Abubakar Umar Girei (*Hausa loanwords in Adamawa-Fulfulde: a question of prestige or sociolinguistic necessity*) presents a rich do-
cumentation of Hausa loanwords from various social and cultural registers in both original and modified form. However, the orthography does not clearly reflect the mechanisms of adaptation. As the original Hausa words are presented in the standardized orthography which does not provide marking long vowels (direba, doya, karuwa, uwar gida) they are hardly comparable with their equivalents in Fulfulde which are marked for vowel length (direeba, dooya, kaaruwa, uwar gida). Moreover, some original Hausa terms are written not in standard form (zanin gado, kosay) that makes the Adamawa Hausa a distinct variety distinguished for the purposes of this investigation.

Out of ‘the Borno convergence zone’ and ‘Hausa lingua franca territory’ the book provides the evidence for areal features in another area of West Africa that emerged from the contact between South Mande and Kru languages (for which the term ‘Upper-Guinean Coast Sprachbund’ is used). Valentine Vydrine’s article Areal features in South Mande and Kru languages gives a rich catalogue of both phonological and morphological features that are common to the languages of the area. The distribution of some characteristic sounds (labiovelar consonants kp, gb) and spreading of morphophonological rules are noted (like e.g. vowel harmony and the rule of “consonant homoresonance” which means realization of a foot-internal /-L-/ as [-n-], [-r-] or [-l-] depending on the class of the foot-initial consonant). The common ‘culture vocabulary’ and even ‘basic vocabulary’ raise questions about historical arguments explaining the similarities. Some of them are discussed in the article.

A new pattern of language contact in Africa is presented in Bami-
dele Rotimi Badejo’s article The dynamics of Yoruba-English contact in Nigeria. The author examines the relation between European and African languages in South-Western Nigeria. In this case, the co-existing of languages without the contact of the neighbouring societies determines the nature of new linguistic phenomena. The point is to show the ongoing change of English and its development as a new means of expression in the new cultural environment.

The contact between Arabic and African languages is discussed in Sergio Baldi’s paper Arabic loans in West African languages: a semantic shift. It is a presentation of loans in which the change of their
source meaning is determined by some non-linguistic conditions. This aspect of linguistic change is important in tracing the earlier forms of common roots and their reconstruction, therefore the interpretation of changes in terms of language contact is a contribution to more general historical investigations.

The book under review presents a significant contribution to areal studies in both theoretical and material dimension. The contact phenomena are richly documented at the level of phonology, morphology, and syntax. The examples of spreading the vocabulary contribute much to the studies on common cultural zones in Africa. The recognized features are important for understanding more global tendencies in linguistic change, through which the idea of Sprachbund has gained thorough and more complex interpretation.

*Nina Pawlak*


The eighth monumental volume of *African Linguistics Bibliographies* is devoted to Bantu languages. Its author, Jouni Maho, is well known for his previous work in Bantu linguistics which also includes referential studies: on Bantu noun classes (Maho 1999, reviewed in SDALC 29, 2001: 84-88), and a bibliography of works on Tanzanian languages (Maho and Sands 2002, reviewed in SDALC 34, 2003:83-85).

The present bibliography is meant to be exhaustive and it contains approximately 17,000 references on Bantu languages out of which about 11,500 concern various aspects of descriptive and theoretical linguistics and the remaining sources are mostly ethnographic and historical works which can be of use to linguists as well. The book consists of six parts, an appendix and two indexes.

The first part *Language by language survey* (pp. 1-674) constitutes the main body of the book and is organized into sixteen chapters covering sixteen Bantu zones of the updated Guthrie’s classification (included in the appendix and described in Maho 2003). Within each zone, languages are listed according to their classification code and the references are arranged in the alphabetical order of authors’ names without further divisions into specific subjects. Some lan-