

Research Workshop
25–27 July 2014 Adaama

Activity Report – Semitic Group
January 2014 – July 2014

1 GROUP MEMBERS

Prof. Baye Yimam, Dr. Fekede Menuta, Dr. Ronny Meyer, Prof. Lutz Edzard

Problem: It was also intended to incorporate Dr. Fikre Gebrekidan from Mekelle University into this group but due to the lack of an official agreement between Norhed, AAU and Mekelle University this was impossible. It was suggested that research funding and related funds should be directly send to Dr. Fikre from the University of Oslo.

2 WORKSHOPS

2.1 Networking workshops

All group members took part in the two networking workshops at Hawassa (23–24 May 2014) and Adaama (25–27 July 2014).

2.2 Training workshops

The Semitic group organized two training workshops:

Training Workshop 1

- Topic: Recent developments in Semitic and Afroasiatic linguistics
- 10–14 March 2014 in Addis Ababa, by Prof. Lutz Edzard
- Participants: PhD students and staff from AAU, and HU

Training Workshop 2

- Topic: Standardization of Gurage
- 09–10 June 2014 in Wolkite
 - 40 participants from education, and culture and tourism offices of all Woreda in Gurage Zone, Addis Ababa and Wolkite University
- Trainers:
 - Fekede/Ronny on aims of Norhed project
 - Baye with presentation on role of mother tongue for education and development
 - Fekede with presentation of new Gurage orthography including its strengths and weakness
 - Ronny with presentation on language planning and standardization geared towards Gurage
- Various discussions concerning

- further procedure in standardization
- selection of standard variety or varieties
- Intend to continue this workshop with
 - workshop on Fekede's PhD results' presentation regarding mutual intelligibility

3 FIELDWORK

- Baye:
 - 1–8 June 2014 in Tawla Dere and Warrababo (Wello)
 - Data collection on the Wello dialect of Amharic
 - includes recorded audio data
- Fekede
 - 8–22 July 2014 in Sedur, Bole, Aslech'a (Gurage)
 - Data collection for the description of Gumer
 - includes ca. 5 hours of audio recordings
- Ronny
 - 11–26 June 2014 in Wolkite and Tattessa
 - Data collection, cross-check and filling gaps on phonology of Muher
 - includes ca. 1 hour of audio- and video recordings in Muher

4 PUBLICATION

- Two publications scheduled for 2014
 - Article on orthography in Gurage
 - Still in progress
 - Primer for teaching Gurage
 - Still in progress
- Workshop proceedings are on the way

5 CORPUS

Intended to produce a Gumer–Muher mixed corpus which could be further developed into a Gurage dialect corpus.