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- No. 11 Buem-Akan Area consisting of Nkonya, Bowiri, Kwamekrom, Tapa, Sakada, Krakwamekofi, Mangoase, Takroso, Breniase, Odei, Akanie, Zongo Dawuda, and Okomfokrom.
- No. 12 The migrant Tongu fishermen consisting of Bejamsotornu, Oborborkro, Nkatikwatornu, Nsunua, Apretsi, Supon, Aboi, Santase, Odiewu, Dodife, Katsra, Akrokai, Taglase, Buita Kawnoso, Akroso Kpome, Fahiakobo, Akukordzie, Akawakpe, Kodofi, Kpebe, Sakachire, Atixenu, Mangoase, Didim, Ampote, Dayinu Doguikofi, Agodeka, Aposihu, Dzemeni, Dawukofi, Adoma Apasu, Fiewukofi, Sefenukofi, Miawone, Asikoko, Mem, Batanya and Abehedim.

RESEARCH IN NORTHERN GHANAIAN LANGUAGES

Language research is proceeding along two main lines:

- (a) Language analysis and description; (b) Comparative studies.

a. Language analysis:

The Northern languages at present being principally studied are: Dagbani, Kasem, Dagaari, Kusal, Sisala, Vagala, Konkomba, Basal, and Bimoba. In these, analysis is being undertaken largely from recorded texts, with a view to describing their structure, which in most cases has not been studied hitherto; even in Dagbani there is a notable lack of reliable description.

An article on 'The phonology of the nominal in Dagbani' has appeared as pre-print from the Institute's new Bulletin, and phonological studies of Kasem and Sisala have appeared as the first two volumes of the 'Collected Language Notes', published by the Institute.

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Tonal analysis has shown that the so-called 'terraced-level' system well known through descriptions of Twi-Fante, is met in many other Ghanaian languages, including Dagbani and several of the other mentioned above. Some of these systems, as that in Dagbani, have proved to be very complex and difficult to analyse and describe.

Field trips to Northern Ghana and Upper Volta have enabled brief studies to be made of Mampruli, Bulli, Gurenne and Moli, and there has been opportunity to assist missionary linguists in writing preliminary descriptions of Walli and Lobiri.

A feature of the Gur languages is the formation of nominal compounds, in which the first nominal appears without its suffix, so that, for instance, a noun when qualified by an adjective appears in a shorter form than when it stands alone. In a language such as Dagbani there is also frequent elision of a final vowel before a following word. This often produces the same effect as the omission of a suffix in a compound. The fact that two quite different processes should in many cases have identical manifestations leads to very real problems of orthography.

A feature shared by many languages all over Ghana is the use of multiple verbs in 'serial verbal constructions' where other languages would use prepositions or postpositions. Examples of this may be translated literally into English:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. he took a knife cut meat | ('he cut meat with a knife') |
| 2. he has a knife is cutting the meat | ('he is cutting meat with a knife') |
| 3. He ran entered the house | ('he ran into the house') |
| 4. it left the box and fell | ('it fell out of the box') |

These sentences would be found both in Twi and in Dagbani for instance, but in Hausa only example 3 would apply, since this language has prepositions meaning 'with' and 'from' usable in the other examples. In Mandinka or Temne there are means of expressing 'with' by particles, so that examples 1 and 2 would not apply, the sentences being more similar

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to the English construction. It is very common in West Africa for 'directions' to be expressed only by verbs.

Constructions with the verb 'give' vary somewhat. In Dagbani it is possible to say either 'he gave me (the) money' or 'he took (the) money gave me', but in Twi the first sentence is not possible if the noun is definite, only if it is indefinite. In Hausa or in Temne, however, one can only say 'give me (the) money', while in Mandinka one can say either 'give (the) money to me' or 'present me with (the money)'.

It has been said that the speakers of languages that use serial verbs prefer to 'analyse an action into its component parts'. This statement is however based on a misunderstanding, since the reasons for using these expressions are actually grammatical and not notional. This can be shown from the fact that 'take and cut' or 'take and give' may be said even when there is no 'taking' to be done, the object already being in the hand of the person concerned.

Some sentences which prove difficult to analyse, such as the relative constructions in Dagbani, can be handled by the method known as 'transformational' or 'generative' grammar. This theory and the techniques associated with it are of relatively recent development, and are being considerably developed at present, particularly in the U.S.A. Already members of the Institute have found this of benefit in solving certain problems, and it is clear that a number of features of this whole approach to grammar are particularly relevant to Ghanaian languages.

b. Comparative Studies:

By means of sample vocabularies of 44 Gur languages, provided by colleagues in the four territories nearest to Ghana, and by members of the Institute working on northern Ghanaian languages, it has been possible to revise the classification of Gur. The presence of Professor Swadesh as visiting Professor during the Lent term gave considerable impetus to this work, and his experience of computer operations enabled him, in collaboration with the Rev. Dr. Koster of the Physics

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to process the word lists and make a glotto-chronological study of them. The report was presented to the Fifth West African Languages Congress, and is being revised for publication, together with the word lists. Amongst the Ghanaian languages included in this study were four little-known ones spoken by people ruled by Guang chiefs. These are: Hanga, Fantera (Brong-Ahafo), and both members of the Senufo group.

The classification now proposed is as follows:-

1. Bargu
 2. Moli-Gurma group:
 - a. Tamari
 - b. Burma subgroup: Basal, Konkomba, Gangam, Bimoba, Gurma
 - c. Moli-Dagbani subgroup: Pilapila, Naudem, Buli, Frafra, Gurenne, Talni (and Nabdam), Dagbani, Mampruli, Kusal, Moli, Dagara, Nura, Birifor, Dagaari (and Walli), Hanga, Safalaba.
 3. Grusi group:
 - a. Mo, Vagala, Chakali, Tamprusi
 - b. Sisala
 - c. Kasem, Lyele
 - d. Lamba, Kabre
 - e. Kotokoli
 4. Lobiri
 5. Bwamu (Red Bobo)
 6. Kirma, Tyurama
 7. Win
- fo groups

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9. Seme

10. Dogon

2. Seminar in African Linguistics:

This seminar is conducted regularly with the participation of members of the Departments of Linguistics and of Modern Languages and of the Institute of Linguistics. Recent topics have included the following:-

Bimoba sentence structure; Problems in Kasem verbal analysis; The vowel systems of Dagaari and Lobiri;
A survey of the Guang languages; Consonant Mutation Systems.

A joint meeting with the Seminar on the Akan peoples, organized by the History Department, was held on 25th May, 1965. Papers on the place of linguistic evidence in the study of the history of the Akan Peoples were presented by Dr. Stewart of this Institute, and Mr. C. Painter of the Department of Linguistics.

3. Fifth West African Languages Congress

This Congress was held at Commonwealth Hall from the 5th to the 10th April, 1965, and was organized jointly by members of the Departments of Linguistics and of Modern Languages, and of the Institute. The Chairman was Professor Nketia, and Vice-Chairman was Professor C. McCallien. The Secretaries were, successively, Dr. Stewart and Miss L. Cripser. The field Director of the West African Languages Survey, Professor R.G. Armstrong, was visiting Professor at the Institute for the month preceding the Congress, and the Organizing Committee were able to benefit from his advice and help.

The number of delegates was double the record figure that had attended the Fourth Congress, held at Ibadan a year before. 174 people signed up as participants, and there were many occasional visitors

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besides. The Minister of Education, representing Osagyefo the President, opened the Congress, and Professor Armstrong afterward gave a lecture on the aims and purpose of West African Language research.

Some 55 papers were presented by delegates, being summarized and discussed at working sessions. Papers were given in the following fields: Comparative studies, Syntax, Morphology, Phonology, Applied Linguistics, Lexicography, and Stylistics. The following papers were contributed by members of this Institute and of the Department of Linguistics and members of the Institute of Linguistics (West Africa) working in Ghana and affiliated to this Institute:

M.E. Kropp - European Loanwords in Accra Ga

J.T. Bendor-Samuel - Problems in the Analysis of Sentences and Clauses in Bimoba.

G. Jacobs - The structure of the Verb Clause in Bimoba

R. Rowland - Sisala Noun Groups

C. Painter - Guang - towards a historical perspective

G. Ansre - Verbids - a caveat to 'Serial Verbal Constructions'

L. Boadi - Notes on the Twi Comparative Construction.

K. Callow - The subordinate Clause Group in Kasem

P.M. Bendor-Samuel - Phonetic Interpretation Problems in some West African Languages.

J.M. Stewart - Three Akan-Bantu Sound Correspondences.

M. Swadesh, E. Arana, J.T. Bendor-Samuel and W.A.A. Wilson - A Preliminary Glottochronology of Gur Languages.

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H.M.J. Trutenau - An Appraisal of the Suitability of Tagmemic and Transformational Grammar of Teaching the Mother Tongue in West African Schools.

K. Chinebuah - Nasalization in Nzema.

It was significant that at this Congress much interest was focused on syntax. Hitherto this has been somewhat neglected in favour of phonology and morphology, but this year so many papers were offered on this subject that not all could be adequately discussed during the whole morning devoted to them.

The poor attendance at the session on Stylistics, on the other hand, showed that this topic is lagging far behind other aspects of language study. Partly this is due to a lack of knowledge of the basic structure of many languages, and partly this reflects a shortage of collections of oral literature. In certain languages such as Yoruba and Hausa, some progress is being made, and it is hoped that such studies will also begin at the Congress in demonstrations of means of collecting oral literature and traditions.

A special feature of this year's Congress was the evening Forum on language problems in Ghana. This interesting and important discussion was led by several eminent Ghanaians, and enabled the many delegates from this country to participate fully.

At the closing session of the Congress the new West African Linguistic Society was launched. This will be a professional society for linguists throughout the world who are working in the field of West African Languages.