

AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Perhaps the basic function of the Languages Section of the Institute is, by its research, to help to provide the material urgently required for the preparation of teaching courses in Ghanaian languages, and accordingly its research has so far been devoted chiefly to the analysis of a number of the more important of these languages: Akan (Twi-Fante), Ewe, Dagbani, and Ga. It is proposed to describe different aspects of this work, as well as other research undertakings, in subsequent issues.

The analysis of several of the numerically less important of the languages spoken in Ghana is being carried out by the Summer Institute of Linguistics under a Co-operative Agreement with the Institute of African Studies. A report contributed by the Summer Institute follows.

LANGUAGE RESEARCH BY THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS

The Summer Institute of Linguistics is at present engaged in a study of some of the languages of Northern Ghana. This programme, begun in October, 1962, is being carried on in co-operation with the Institute of African Studies. It complements, in certain respects, the work of the members of the Institute's staff in the linguistic field (an account of which will be included in a subsequent issue of this Review). It aims to make an intensive study of some of the Northern languages, including a full analysis of their phonological and grammatical structure and a comprehensive collection of their vocabulary. In addition, comparative studies will be made, and it is hoped to collect a variety of textual material, including oral history, songs, and all types of folklore.

So far linguistic work has started in Kusaal (October, 1962), Kasem (November, 1962), Basare (November, 1962), Kokomba (November, 1962), Vagala (December, 1962), Sisala (December, 1962), Bimoba (November, 1963), and Dagaare (November, 1963).

In each language-area a team of two members of the Institute is learning to speak the particular language as well as attempting an analysis of it. The teams are living in villages chosen for their suitability as representative of the language concerned and as having certain minimum necessities such as an all-