Recent developments in Semitic and Afroasiatic linguistics
Five teaching modules at Addis Ababa University, March 10–14, 2014
1. Why is a broader Afroasiatic perspective useful for the study of Semitic:
Discussion: Ethio-Semitic and Afroasiatic
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(1) Ferguson's (1976) list of Ethiopian features (cf. Tosco 2000: 340)

P1	*f* for *p*
P2	palatalization
P3	glottalic consonants
P4	presence of *ḍ'*
P5	presence of *ḥ* and *ʿ*
P6	gemination
P7	presence of *i* and *ɛ*
P8	anaptyctic vowels
G1	SOV word order
G2	subordinate clauses precede main clauses
G3	"converbs"
G4	postpositions
G5	"quoting clauses"
G6	compound verbs
G7	negative copula
G8	singular with numerals
G9	possessive suffixes
G10	person-gender pattern
G11	prefix tense
G12	root and pattern word structure
G13	reduplicated intensives
G14	"broken" internal plurals
G15	independent-subordinate tenses
G16	plural-feminine singular concord
G17	irregular imperative of 'to come'
G18	singulative

(2) Common hallmarks in (Ethio-)Semitic and Cushitic/Omotic
    (Appleyard 2011)
– presence of gutturals
– phonological "triads"
– presence of labialized consonants
– five-term vowel system
– non-concatenative morphology (e.g., "broken plurals")
– structure of independent personal pronouns
– gender, number, and case in nouns
– verbal inflexion (prefix- and suffix conjugations)

(3) Ethio-Semitic-Cushitic language contact phenomena (Crass & Meyer 2011)
– existence of labiovelars
– existence of ejectives
– VSO/SVO > SOV word order
– ablative > 'since'-temporal > real condition
– simile > complementizer > purpose
– different copulas in main and subordinate clauses
– past > apodosis of an irreal conditional clause
– lexical features

(4) Lexical influence of Cushitic (Appleyard 1977)
1) "man", comprising general terms, kinship terms, and parts of the body, e.g., Amharic *aggot* 'uncle', cf. Bilin (Central Cushitic) *ʾäg*;
2) "the domestic environment", comprising agricultural activities and implements, crops, domestic animals, food and its preparation, and the [realm of the] house, e.g., Amharic *doro* 'chicken', cf. Saho-Afar (East-Cushitic) *dorho*;
3) "the natural environment", comprising natural phenomena, flora, and fauna, e.g., *däga* 'highlands', cf. Bilin (Central Cushitic) *dag* 'summit, above';
4) "social organization", comprising law and government, economy, warfare, and religion, e.g., *aṭe* 'emperor', cf. Kemant (Central Cushitic) *ašena*;
5) "grammatical items", comprising pronouns, numerals, and particles, e.g., *ši(h)* 'thousand', cf. Bilin (Central Cushitic) *šix*.

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