

Plan for Kjell Magne Yri's stay at HU May 2014

Linguistic seminar Tuesday 20 – Thursday 22 of May (2 hrs each day)
Participation in Cushitic Network meeting Friday 23 and Saturday 24 of May

Day 1 – Lecture and discussion: Writing Sidaamu Afoo

Principles of writing systems: (Coulmas F. 2003: Writing Systems. Cambridge)

- Historical considerations
- Social and political factors
- Tradition
- Strict phonology

Short history including fidel. Present practice of writing Sidaamu Afoo with Latin script. Analysis of some weaknesses and strengths of the present writing system from a phonological point of view.

Yri: Phonology and Orthography in Sidaamu Afoo. JES 2004

Yri: The phonology of 'Sidaamu Afii Jirte'. JES 2013

Day 2 – Lecture and discussion: From demonstrative to subordinator

Grammaticalization of content words to function words: (Hopper and Traugott (3rd edition 2006): Grammaticalization (Cambridge)

Amharic and Sidaama adpositions and subordinators

Literature: The essentials of grammaticalization theory: Hopper, Traugott, Heine.

Yri: Decategorization of Nouns as postpositions in Sidaamu Afó and Amharic.

Yri (unpublished): The Polysemy of a grammatical construction

Day 3 – Lecture and discussion: Is a Noun always a Noun?

Theory: categories in construction grammar

Literature: Chapter two of Croft 2001: Radical Construction Grammar. Oxford.

Implications: Parts of speech of Sidaama and Amharic

In the workshop of the Cushitic network:

Friday 23 of May 10.30 – 11 a.m.:

Paper on orthography I

Introduction about and discussion of the most controversial points in the Sidaamu Afoo orthography from a purely phonological point of view – is a revision necessary, desirable, or practicable? Areas to be covered (more if there is time):

- Phoneme survey
- How the phonemes are written
- Phonetic realization of simplex and geminated consonants – if they are different
- Is <'r> a cluster of two consonants like <'m>?
- The most conspicuous inconsistency: simplex and geminated glottal stop

Literature:

Yri: Alphabet making as war of liberation – the case of Mapudungun in Chile

Yri: Phonology and Orthography in Sidaamu Afoo. JES 2004

Yri: The phonology of Sidaamu Afii Jirte. JES 2013