Major linguistic features of Tigrinya

Public lecture

Dr. Zeus Wellnhofer
Freie Universität Berlin
Organizer: Dr. Nathalie Dherbey Chapuis, UniFR

Abstract

The linguistic features of Tigrinya can be divided or grouped by different criteria. For the presentation, they will be divided into main linguistic features of grammar including phonemics, morphology and syntax, followed by a few remarks on semantic fields and lexical features and characteristics. As to loanwords, the most relevant contact languages are Gəʿəz, Amharic, Arabic and Italian.

The grammatical features will be grouped into three parts: features distinguishing Tigrinya from its closest relatives, features that might be considered areal, and inherited features that are in common with Ethio-Semitic or Semitic languages, mentioning also an overlap of Ethio-Semitic and areal features. All of the three parts may have a large bandwidth of peculiarities, although the distinguishing features might be stronger on more concrete and detailed aspects (whether due to linguistic change or preserved archaisms).

Areal features might be stronger on common periphrastic constructions and calques, inherited features might be stronger in more general characteristics or rather abstract aspects, e.g. that there is an Imperfect, a Gerund, a Perfect, a Copula etc. in many Ethio-Semitic Languages including Tigrinya, but there are a number of differences in detail.

INSTITUT FÜR MEHRSPRACHIGKEIT
INSTITUT DE PLURILINGUISME
ISTITUTO DI PLURILINGUISMO
INSTITUT DA PLURILINGUITAD
INSTITUTE OF MULTILINGUALISM

UNI FR
UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

HEP|PH FR

Google Maps