

Studies On Southern Sudanese Languages: Analytic Survey

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Abstract

This descriptive study aims to shed light on the contributions made by different researchers on southern Sudanese languages so that a clear picture of what is done and what is left could be provided. It focuses on languages and fields of linguistics that receive more attention, i.e. the main areas of linguistic research, the subject matters, the period of time, among others. The study rests on a data that is collected from documentary resources. It based on the study of Samira Abdalla Mirghani (1990) , Nizar Alnour Sulieman Ali (2000), the academic studies conducted in the University of Khartoum in both Institute of African and Asian Studies (IAAS) and the Department of Linguistics in the Faculty of Arts, in addition to the studies conducted at the Khartoum International Institute of Arabic Language for non-Speakers. An account is also given to the attempts of writing southern Sudanese languages in Arabic scripts. It is found that studies on southern Sudanese languages which are classified as religious, historical, empirical, legal and applied cover certain subjects, fields of study, neglecting many. Therefore, more studies on different levels of southern Sudanese languages' structure and function are required.

Keywords: southern Sudanese languages, linguistic fields, linguistic studies

المستخلص

تسعى هذه الدراسة الوصفية إلى الوقوف على مدى مساهمات الباحثين في دراسة لغات جنوب السودان من حيث اللغات، وأهم المجالات اللغوية والفتراء الزمنية التي شملتها هذه المساهمات، فقد يمكن ذلك من وضع تصور لما يتوجب التركيز عليه مستقبلاً. تتمحور هذه الورقة البحثية حول اللغات ومجالات الدراسات اللغوية: مجالات البحث الرئيسية، الموضوعات، الفترة الزمنية التي غطّتها هذه الدراسات. اعتمدت الدراسة الحالية على بيانات تم جمعها من مؤسسات أكademية تعنى بالدراسات اللغوية: دراسة سميرة عبد الله ميرغاني بمعهد الدراسات الإفريقية والآسيوية بجامعة الخرطوم 1990م، المسح الذي قام به نزار النور سليمان علي بمركز محمد عمر بشير للدراسات السودانية بجامعة أمدرمان الأهلية 2002م، بحوث диплом, الماجستير والدكتوراه في جامعة الخرطوم في كل من معهد الدراسات الإفريقية والآسيوية وقسم اللغويات بكلية الآداب، وكذلك دراسات معهد الخرطوم الدولي للغة العربية للناطقين بغيرها، ومركز يوسف الخاليفي أبو بكر لكتابة اللغات بالحرف العربي. وبيانات هذه المؤسسات التعليمية شملت الدراسات التي تمت في الفترة الزمنية حتى 2016م. ومن أهم ما وصلت إليه الدراسة الحالية أن معظم الدراسات التي تمت في لغات جنوب السودان يمكن وصفها بالدينية، التاريخية، التجريبية، القانونية والتطبيقية وهي ترتكز على موضوعات بعيداً لذا توصي الدراسة الحالية بأهمية إجراء الدراسات البنوية والوظيفية لكل لغات جنوب السودان الأصلية والوافدة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: لغات جنوب السودان، مجالات الدراسات اللغوية، دراسات لغوية

1. Linguistic profile of South Sudan

The following section presents general overview of the southern Sudanese languages. It starts with background information on the geographical location of South Sudan, its population and then a classification of southern Sudanese indigenous languages and immigrant languages is provided adopting Greenberg's classification of African languages (1970).

The Republic of South Sudan is a newly born country. It was founded on 9 July 2011 after its break up from Sudan. Its capital is Juba with Ramciel as the proposed new capital. South Sudan has an area of 619,745 km and it is a land-locked country in east-central Africa. However, South Sudan is classified as part of the North Africa sub-region by the United Nations Organization (UN). It has a population of around 10,314,021 (Source: 2011 World Bank estimate). According to the Sudan's 5th Population Census 2008⁽¹⁾, there were around 8,260,490 people; 4 287,300 (51.9%) out of them are males and 3,973,190 (48.1%) are females. Its boundaries are Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Uganda and Kenya to the southeast, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the southwest and Central African Republic to the west. English is the official language of the country.⁽²⁾

The geographic location of South Sudan has made it recipient of migrations of many people of different ethnic origins. The ethnic diversity can be noticed by the existence of ethnically different groups either from different areas of South Sudan, Sudan or from other African countries. In addition to common boundaries, South Sudan is bound by complex racial and ethnic links with many countries of the region. Throughout the centuries, groups of people and whole tribes crossed freely into the territory of South Sudan, where they intermingled and culturally blended with the native population.

1.1. Classification of southern Sudanese languages

There are many classifications of the languages of Africa. In the present study, the southern Sudanese languages are classified following Greenberg's classification (1970).

⁽¹⁾ The Sudan's Fifth Population Census was conducted in April in 2008 and the results are published in April 2009 ,when South Sudan was still part of Sudan. The Sudan's Fifth Population Census is very important since the previous censuses (1973 1983 ,and 1993) excluded Southern Sudan because of wars. The results of this census are politically significant. The data collected during the census would be the primary source of information to decide the number and re-allocate the electoral constituencies and to re-demarcate the administrative boundaries. The census data determined the outcome of the 2011 referendum on the right of Southern Sudan to self-determination. Furthermore, data collected during the population census was the basis for re-distribution of political power and repartition of economic wealth in the country (A DRDC Report, 2010: 6). The negotiations on Darfur Crisis is also based on the results of this census ...“ the census data would be used not only for national development planning and social services, but also as the basis for review and repartition of political power and economic wealth across the country- thus laying down the foundation for a democratic and egalitarian Sudan” (ibid: 11). However, the government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) rejected the results of the census for different reasons ;to mention one, it insisted that the number of the population of Southern Sudan residents in Northern Sudan is over 2 million inhabitants and they are not only 500,000as estimated by the census.

⁽²⁾ See [http://www.sudantribune.com/+South-Sudan,036.+-](http://www.sudantribune.com/+South-Sudan,036.+)

According to this classification, the languages of Africa fall into four language families, three of which, are Afro-Asiatic, Niger-Kordofanian, and Nilo-Saharan, are represented in South Sudan. Each one of these three families is divided into sub-groups that are in turn subdivided into sets of closely related languages. There are two sources relied on here to account for the distribution of languages of South Sudan. The first one is the Summer Institute of Linguistics' Ethnologue Database (<http://www.ethnologue.com>). The number of languages of Sudan listed in the Ethnologue is 142, of which 134 are living languages and eight are extinct. The second source is Thelwall (1978), which contains a linguistic profile of Sudan based on the first Population Census of 1955. In addition to southern Sudanese languages, there are many other languages spoken by immigrant ethnic groups in the country. Accordingly, the languages are categorized into two groups: indigenous languages and immigrant languages. For the immigrant languages, only the languages found in the study area will be mentioned within Greenberg's classification.

1.1.1. Indigenous languages

This group of languages includes the national languages spoken by the indigenous people of South Sudan. The term national is used in this context to denote the languages used by South Sudanese indigenous ethnic groups. They are grouped into three categories; Afro-Asiatic, Nilo-Saharan and Niger Kordofanian language groups. This category comprises various numbers of languages belonging to different subgroups of Africa. Most of the southern Sudanese languages belong to the Nilo-Saharan language family (mostly Nilotic subgroup) and the Niger Congo family of the Niger- Kordofanian phylum. These languages are grouped into four groups; Nilotic which is sub-divided into Western Nilotic and Eastern Nilotic, Central Sudanic, Eastern Sudanic, and Niger Congo. The Afro-Asiatic language family is represented by southern Sudanese Arabic as a variety spoken by the majority of South Sudanese people. Therefore, some information on it is presented below.

Afro-Asiatic

This category includes southern Sudanese Arabic. Southern Sudanese Arabic as one of the major dialects of Sudanese Arabic is presented in the following paragraphs since it is widely spoken in South Sudan.

Southern Sudanese Arabic

These varieties of Sudanese Arabic are peculiar to South Sudan,⁽³⁾ i.e. they are influenced by the southern Sudanese local languages in each sub-region. It is spoken by 200,000 (1987) speakers as L1 and by 400,000 speakers as L2 and it is a language of trade and a major language in Juba, Wau and Malakal towns. It is used in religious services as mentioned in the Ethnologue.⁽⁴⁾ Unlike northern Sudanese Arabic, the varieties of southern

⁽³⁾ There is no sufficient information on these varieties ;exceptionally, there are a number of studies on Juba Arabic (see Mahmud 1983 ,Manfredi and Petrollino 2013, etc.). Some information on its nature is presented by Nashid.(170-169 :2014)

⁽⁴⁾ See http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=pga.

Sudanese Arabic do not pose any threat to the local languages in South Sudan, as it is a matter of coexistence, because these varieties are not yet hegemonic as they do not have a well-built corpus of literature and discourse like the case of standard Arabic in the Sudan (Nashid 2014). Its regional varieties are Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Equatoria.⁽⁵⁾

The first regional variety is Bahr el Ghazal. It is represented by Wau Arabic, the variety spoken in Western Bahr el Ghazal State. Wau Arabic is influenced by the Luwo language spoken by Jur Chol, the major ethnic group in Western Bahr el Ghazal State. It is a widely used language variety. The variety spoken in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (NBeGS), which is influenced by the Dinka language, is a language variety used by different ethnic groups living in the region to fulfill different functions. The second regional variety is the Upper Nile, influenced by the local languages in the Upper Nile area like Nuer and Shilluk. The Equatoria variety is represented by Juba Arabic. Juba Arabic, a Pidgin-Creole Arabic, is spoken by 200,000 as first language and by 400,000 as second language in Juba city alone (1987 estimates) as mentioned in the Ethnologue. It is also spoken in South Sudan in the towns and many villages all over Equatoria region and up into Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile regions. It is also used as the major language of communication between speakers with different linguistic backgrounds in Equatoria, south of Wau and Malakal. It is used in many public places such as: markets and churches. Many school teachers use it at least part of the time. It is a language of trade. Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile varieties are pidgin, unlike the Equatoria variety represented by Juba Arabic which is a Pidgin-Creole since it is acquired as L1 by South Sudanese as explained by some studies on Juba Arabic (Mahmud 1983).

Nilo-Saharan

This category includes Nilotic subgroups, Central Sudanic, and Eastern Sudanic Language groups.

Nilotic Languages

It is a subgroup of Eastern Sudanic, Chari-Nile, and Nilo-Saharan phylum. It is divided into Western, Eastern and Southern Nilotic. Some of the Western and Eastern Nilotic languages are found in South Sudan; therefore, they will be presented below since they constitute part of the linguistic fabric of South Sudan.

Western Nilotic Languages

Among the Western Nilotic languages spoken in South Sudan are Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk, Acholi, Anuak, Reel and Lou (Luwo).

⁽⁵⁾ This regional subdivision of the southern Sudanese Arabic used here is made by the researcher and most of the information included is taken from the researcher's visits to the area and the interviews.

Eastern Nilotc Languages

This category includes Bari, Belanda Bor, Latuko, Toposa, Kakwa, Lokoya, Lango, Loppit, Mandari (Mundari), Dongotono, Päri and Otuho.

Central Sudanic Languages

The southern Sudanese languages included in this group are Baka, Bongo, Morokodo, Beli, Gbaya (Kresh), Binga, Yulu, Moru, Avukaya, Keliko, Lugbara, Ma'di, Gula, Jur Ma'do, Nyamasa-Molom, Aja and Lulubo.

Niger Congo Languages

This sub-group of Niger Kordofanian includes many languages, such as Zande, Belanda Viri, Feroge, Bai, Banda, Indri, Ndogo, and Mangayat.

Generally speaking, the three language families are represented in the South Sudan. Most of the languages spoken in the South Sudan belong to the Nilo-Saharan language family. They are Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk, Acholi, Anuak, Gbaya, Gule, Nile Nubian, Kordofanian Nubian, Zaghawa, Masalit and Fur. Niger Congo language family is represented in the study area by Zande, Belanda Viri, Feroge, Banda and Fulfulde languages. Although the number of languages that belong to the Afro-Asiatic language family found in South Sudan is small compared with other families, their speakers constitute the majority of the Sudanese population due to the number of speakers of Arabic. The languages spoken in the study area in this family are Arabic with its different dialects, Bedawit (Beja) and Hausa. The majority of these languages have Latin-based script, except Anuak which has, in addition to Latin-based script, Ethiopic script and Hausa and Fulfulde which have, in addition to Latin-based script, Arabic script and Ajami style.

2. Section One: Notes on Bibliography of Linguistic Research in the Sudan: A Source Book of the Languages of the Sudan (1990)

This bibliography was conducted by Samira Abdalla Mirghani (1990) at IAAS. It included three main areas of linguistic research: linguistic studies, language problem studies and language documents. Within linguistic studies, the bibliography has covered the theoretical, structural, typological, classificational and sociolinguistic studies. The language problem studies cater for the problem of language policies and planning and the writing of vernaculars. In addition, language documents covered the vernacular literature, the religious material, educational and other types of texts. Only the studies on southern Sudanese languages will be presented here.

The southern Sudanese languages which have been studied are 32; belonging to the two language families: Nilo-Saharan and Niger Congo. The majority of them are categorized as Nilo-Saharan; mainly Western Nilotc, Eastern Nilotc and Central Sudanic as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: The distribution of studies according to languages

No.	Language	Classification (Language family)	Number of studies
1	Acholi	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotic	14
2	Aja	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	3
3	Anuak	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotic	4
4	Avokaya	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	4
5	Bai	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	1
6	Baka	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	4
7	Banda	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	1
8	Bari	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Nilotic	24
9	Belanda	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Nilotic	4
10	Bongo	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	4
11	Bor	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Nilotic	3
12	Bviri	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	3
13	Didinga	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Nilotic	5
14	Dinka	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotic	33
15	Feroge	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	1
16	Golo	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	6
17	Gule	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	7
18	Jur (Luwo)	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Sudanic	10
19	Kresh	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	6
20	Lango	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Sudanic	11
21	Logbara	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	1
22	Lotuko	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Sudanic	12
23	Moru	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	8

24	Murle	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Sudanic	11
25	Ndogo	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	13
26	Nuer	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotic	22
27	Shatt (Thuri)	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Sudanic	2
28	Shilluk	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotic	26
29	Tgoyo	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	1
30	Toposa	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Nilotic	7
31	Yulu	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	5
32	Zande	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	51
32		2	307

As shown in the above Table, 8 out of the 32 languages belong to Niger Kordofanian, Niger Congo phylum and they were covered by 25.08% (77/307) of the studies, in addition, more than half of these studies (50.8%, 156/307) were conducted on only five of the thirty-two languages (Zande, Dinka, Bari, Shilluk, and Nuer). Besides, 16.6% (51/307) were conducted on Zande language. The following Table shows the distribution of the studies according to the subjects of study.

Table 2: The distribution of studies according to subjects

No	Subject	Field of study	Number of studies
1	New testament	Religious material	4
2	Evangelism	Religious material	6
3	Grammar	Grammar	17
4	Elementary lessons	Teaching	1
5	Text	Teaching	15
6	Vocabulary	Vocabulary	4
7	Dictionary	Lexicography	8
8	Sentence construction	Syntax	2
9	Syntax and Morphology	Grammar	1
10	General study	General	40
11	Lexicon	Lexicon	45
12	Orthography	Orthography	8
13	Comparative study	Comparative	8
14	Handbook	Teaching	1

15	Linguistic study	General	3
16	Introduction	General	1
17	Predication	Syntax	1
18	Phonemes	Phonology	2
19	Construction	Syntax	1
20	Generative	Syntax	1
21	Discourse	Semantics	2
22	Educational book	Teaching	2
23	Notes	General	7
24	Religious book	Religious material	7
25	Prayer book	Religious material	1
26	Phonology	Phonology	11
27	Structure	Syntax	6
28	Alphabet book	Teaching	2
29	Reader	Teaching	4
30	Grammatical studies	Grammar	1
31	Lexical studies	Vocabulary	1
32	Lexico-statistical	Vocabulary	1
33	Lexical, phonetic statistical	Vocabulary	1
34	Dialectology	Dialectology	13
35	Morphology	Morphology	14
36	Primer	Teaching	4
37	Phrases	Morphology	1
38	Bible	Religious material	1
39	Manuscript	General	2
40	Morphology, phonology and lexicon	Linguistics	27
41	Nominal	Morphology	1
42	Teaching	Teaching	10
43	Christian text	Teaching	2
44	Cluster	Phonology	1
45	Clause types	Morphology	1
46	Demonstrative	Morphology	1
47	Adjectives	Morphology	1
48	Book	Teaching	2
49	Classification	Classification	3
50	Study	General	26
51	Tone	Phonology	1
52	Roots	Morphology	1
53	Theology	Religious material	2
54	Literature	General	1
55	History	Historical Linguistics	6
56	Terms	Vocabulary	1
57	Sociolinguistics	Sociolinguistic	1

58	Royal language	General	1
59	Verb	Morphology	3
60	Slang	Sociolinguistics	1
61	Proverbs	Semantics	1
62	Ono-names	Vocabulary	1

The 32 studies have covered 62 subjects and can be categorized into 12 areas of linguistic: religious material (21), grammar (19), teaching (40), lexicon (89), syntax (11), general (98), comparative (8), phonology (33), semantics (6), sociolinguistics (30), and morphology (49). The studies which include more than one field are repeated in each field of study. General and lexicon are the fields with more studies than the other 10 fields. The following Table shows the distribution of the studies conducted on nine of the southern Sudanese languages with more studies.

Table 3: The distribution of the studies on 9 southern Sudanese languages

Languages	Fields of studies				Total number
	Linguistic studies	General studies	Teaching	Religious	
Zande	32	8	10	1	51 (26.7%)
Dinka	17	3	7	3	30 (15.7%)
Shilluk	18	8	0	1	27 (14.1%)
Bari	10	9	2	2	23 (12.04%)
Nuer	12	6	1	2	21 (10.9%)
Acholi	8	0	3	1	12 (6.3%)
Ndogo	7	5	0	1	13 (6.8%)
Lango	4	2	1	0	7 (3.7%)
Jur	4	2	1	0	7 (3.7%)
Total	112 (58.6%)	43 (22.5%)	25 (13.1%)	11 (5.8%)	191 (100%)

As shown in Table 3 above, 62.2% (191/307) of the studies were conducted on only 9 of the 32 southern Sudanese languages. Besides, more than quarter of these studies were conducted on Zande (26.7%) and 15.7% on Dinka. The following Table shows the distribution of the studies according to the period of time.

Table 4: The distribution of the studies according to the years

Years	Number of studies
No date	15
1800s	10
1900s	5
1910s	13

1920s	32
1930s	41
1940s	25
1950s	34
1960s	53
1970s	30
1980s	48
Total	307

Although the studies on southern Sudanese languages started early 1800s (Zande 1801), 42.7% of these studies have been conducted at time between 1960s-1980s.

3. Section Two: Notes on “A bibliography on Southern Sudan (2000)”

This section presents some notes on the unpublished bibliography on southern Sudan prepared by Mohamed Omer Beshir Centre for Sudanese Studies at Omdurman Ahlia University, (2000). The bibliography includes different studies on southern Sudan on different disciplines as law, anthropology, history, and many others. This section represents the linguistic studies on southern Sudanese languages. The following Table shows the distribution of the studies according to languages.

Table 5: The distribution of the studies according to languages⁽⁶⁾

Languages	The number of studies	Languages	The number of studies
Acholi	8	Lotoko-Maa	1
Aja	1	Madi	3
Anuak	3	Mangaya	1
Avokaya	2	Moru	1
Baka	2	Murle	5
Banda	2	Nodogo	4
Bari	15	Ngulguli	1
Belanda	1	Nuer	11
Binga	1	Nyangara	1
Biviri	1	Otuhu	1
Bodo	1	Pari	1
Bong	3	Shatt (Thuri)	1
Bembo	1	Shilluk	15
Didinga	3	Tagbu	1
Dinka	17	Tgoyo	1
Feroge	1	Toposa	3
Gbaya	1	Turkana	1

⁽⁶⁾ Source: Suleiman, Nizar Alnour Ali (2000), op. cit.

Jur (Luwo)	2	Yulu	1
Jur Mado	1	Zande	15
Kara	1	General studies	28
Longarim (Boya)	1	Sociolinguistic	2
		Studies on language policies and planning	1

The bibliography consists of 172 entries, although the number of studies is 138. It is organized on the base of languages in addition to general studies and in most cases, one study may cover more than one language, therefore; the study is repeated in each entry of language. In addition, some studies covered more than one field; therefore, the number of studies when discussed in relation to the field exceeds the total number of the studies.

The majority of these studies are written in English (101), except 15 out of them are written in Italian, 5 in French, 12 in German and 5 in Arabic.

Only 39 of the southern Sudanese languages which have been studied linguistically, although their number is estimated more than 60 languages as previously mentioned.

Dinka (17 studies), Bari (15 studies), Zande (51 studies), Shilluk (15 studies) and Nuer (11 studies) are the languages which receive more attention compared with other southern Sudanese languages, 22 out of which had only one study and the rest range between 2-7 studies.

Table 6: The distribution of linguistic studies according to the field of study⁽⁷⁾

No.	Field of studies	Number of studies
1	Grammar	19
2	Phonology	16
3	Morphology	8
4	Syntax	5
5	Semantics	3
6	Psycholinguistics	1
7	Sociolinguistic	2
8	Vocabulary	12
9	Orthography	4
10	Dictionary	12
11	Translation	1
12	Handbook	1
13	Languages' classification	4
14	Language	36

⁽⁷⁾ Source: Suleiman, Nizar Alnour Ali (2000), op. cit.

15	General studies	13
16	Studies on language policies and planning	1
	Total	138

Studies on southern Sudanese languages, grammar and phonology are the fields with more studies. According to Table 4 above, there has been a complete absence of linguistic studies in certain fields. The field of language documentation receives no attention despite its necessity to southern Sudanese languages.

Table 7: The distribution of the studies according to years⁽⁸⁾

No.	Years	Number of studies
1	1800s	15
2	1900s	13
3	1920s	15
4	1930s	16
5	1940s	10
6	1950s	22
7	1960s	8
8	1970s	15
9	1980s	17
10	1990s	2
11	2000	0
	Total	138

The historical development of interest in southern Sudanese languages started since 1800s without variations in the number of studies between 1800s-1980s. Except 1990s in which there are only two studies and no one at 2000.

About 29 out of the 138 studies were published at Sudan by Sudan Notes and Records (SNR), the Ministry of Education, IAAS, etc. Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) has made 10 of the studies during 1980s; 6 out of which were conducted at 1985. Moreover, most of the studies published by Bulletin of School of Oriental and African Studies were conducted during 1920s.

Table 8: The distribution of the studies according to language family

Language family		Number of studies
1	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotic	56
2	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	29
3	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Nilotic	29
4	Niger Kordofanian , Niger Congo	27

⁽⁸⁾ Source: Suleiman, Nizar Alnour Ali (2000), op. cit.

5	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Sudanic	9
	Total	150

The total number of the studies is 138 and it is 150 in the above Table because the distribution here is based on the languages where exists many studies covering more than one language. Therefore, it is repeated many times. Western Nilotic language family is the one with the greatest number of studies due to the fact that it includes Dinka (17 studies), Nuer (11 studies) and Shilluk (15 studies).

Generally speaking, studies on southern Sudanese languages started earlier since 1800s, they are few and did not cover the majority of southern Sudanese languages and all field of studies. The majority of the studies on southern Sudanese languages were conducted on the languages belonging to the Western Nilotic phylum.

4. Section Three: Notes on some of the Academic Studies

This section includes some of the studies on southern Sudanese languages conducted at the Institute of African and Asian Studies and Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Khartoum and the Institute of Arabic Language for non-Speakers. In addition, it also provides information on the contribution of Abu-Bakr Yusif Al-Khalifa Institute for writing languages with Arabic scripts, focusing on southern Sudanese languages.

4.1. The Institute of African and Asian Studies (IAAS)

This institute was established at 1972, University of Khartoum.⁽⁹⁾ Since then many diploma, MA and PhD degrees were awarded. Many of the conferences on Sudanese languages as the Nilo-Saharan Conferences, projects as the Project of Language Survey of Sudan and many workshops were held. The following paragraphs provide information on this project which includes some of the southern Sudanese areas that are covered by these surveys such as Adong, and Malakal.

The Department of African Languages

The Department of African Languages provides 57 academic degrees; 8 diplomas, 39 MAs and 10 PhDs. Diplomas were taken place during 1983-1968; 7 of them were conducted on the field of sociolinguistics and the remaining one on terminology. The 39 MAs covered different linguistic fields. They were conducted during 1970s-2000s (20.5%, 8/39 at 1970s, 20.5%, 8/39 at 1980s, 28.2%, 11/39 at 1990s and 30.8%, 12/39 at 2000s). 80% (8/10) of the PhD degrees were conducted on the field of sociolinguistics and the remaining 2 on morphology and applied linguistics.

Only 14.03% (8/57) of these studies were conducted on southern Sudanese

⁽⁹⁾ For more information about the Institute of African and Asian Studies, see:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13530197708705214?journalCode=cbjm19>.

languages. Three out of these studies were conducted on Dinka (Ayom 1980, Deng 1989, and Jok 2004) covering its phonology, and morphology. There are 2 studies on Bari covering its phonology (Yokwe 1974), and morphology (Awad 2014). There is one study on Jur Bell; one of the Jur dialect (Persson 1979) and one study covered noun phrase on Viri language (Wau 2002). The last study was on language policies and planning in southern Sudan (Ohiri 1990).

4.2. The Department of Linguistics

The department was established at 1974 to graduate students with BA, MA and PhD degrees. There are about 17 different linguistic studies on both language structure and function. Nine of these studies were conducted for PhD degree and 8 for MA degree. They cover the areas of morphology (3), phonology (2), syntax (2), applied linguistics (3) and sociolinguistics (7). There are different attempts of documenting the Sudanese languages. Tima language is one of the Nuba Mountains endangered languages.⁽¹⁰⁾ Another project is on the Tagoi; one of the Nuba Mountains endangered languages.⁽¹¹⁾

Although the Department of Linguistics has valuable contribution in the field of linguistic studies on Sudanese languages, there are only two linguistic studies in postgraduate level related to southern Sudan. One of these studies was conducted on loanwords in the Dinka language (Nashid 1996), and the second one is a sociolinguistic survey on Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan (Nashid 2014). There is one undergraduate study on Dinka phonology (Nashid 1993).

4.3. Khartoum International Institute of Arabic Language for Non-Speakers

This Institute was established at 1974 under the supervision of the ESCO and it was activated at 1977. It provides academic degrees such as BA, Diploma, and MA on two different programs: Arabic language for non-Arabic speakers, and education.⁽¹²⁾ There are about 2915 studies; 23.1% (673/2915) of them are conducted to have academic degrees on education, i.e. syllabus design, syllabus evaluation, and those related to either students, teachers or to the difficulties faces the non-Arabic speakers in learning or teaching Arabic language. The remaining 76.9% (2242/2915) of the studies are linguistics. The distribution of studies on education is shown in the following Table:

Table 9: the distribution of studies on education according to fields

Fields	Frequencies	Percentages
Syllabus	126	18.7

⁽¹⁰⁾ The source of the information: Abeer Mohammed Ali Bashir staff member at the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Khartoum and a member of the working team in the Tima project.

⁽¹¹⁾ The source of information is Helene Fatima Idris; staff member at the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Khartoum and the coordinator of the project .

⁽¹²⁾ For more information about the Institute, the academic degrees and its aims and objectives see <http://143.95.91.230/~iuaedu/arabic-cent/?cat=1>.

Teaching	242	35.9
Learning	159	23.6
Education management	107	15.9
Educational policies	32	4.8
Total	673	100

As shown in Table 9, the majority of the studies covered the fields of learning and teaching of Arabic language focusing on students and teachers (59.5%).

The linguistic studies cover different areas. A number of studies are conducted on Arabic language structure and function: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics and applied linguistics. The psycholinguistic studies focus on the influence of native languages, culture, individuals' motivation on the acquisition and use of Arabic language (different dialects), the influence of personality differences on children's language development. They also cover the influence of Arabic language on the speakers and the structure of other languages (Masalit, Zaghawa, Nobiin, Dinka, Persian, Indonesian, Sindi, Kurdi, Kolango, etc.). Many studies investigate the impact of the Quran on the structure of different dialects of Arabic language. Common mistakes conducted by non-Arabic speakers are also covered. Folktales, methods of teaching Arabic, the dialects of Arabic are the areas investigated. The situation of Arabic language in different areas is studied: in Sri Lanka, southern Sudan, Malaysia, Eretrea, Senegal, Pakistan, Zanzibar, Albania, Kassala, southern Kordofan and many others. The use of Arabic in different domains: on mass media, press, etc. in addition to the use of Arabic for specific purposes. Some of the studies investigate Arabic loans in different languages: Malaysia, Turkey, Persian, Indonesia, Manka, Masalit, Hausa, Nile Nubian (Mahasi), Fur, Ingassana, Songhai, More, Tigre, Ajang and many others.

The comparative studies between Arabic and other languages cover a certain level of structure; morphology, phonology and syntax. Lexicographical studies are also exist on dictionaries: bilingual dictionaries where Arabic is one of the two languages and Arabic monolingual dictionaries where the classical Arabic, in most cases, is one of the two dialects. Many of the studies focused on Arabic language; describing the language of the Quran or styles of certain writers or poets. Moreover, some of these studies are related to the field of sociolinguistics; showing how Arabic language, in its contact with other languages, affect these languages in a form of borrowing, etc. The languages of mass media also received attention of a number of researchers. The distribution of linguistic studies according to the year is presented in the following Table:

Table 10: the distribution of studies according to years

Years	Frequencies	Percentages
1970s	89	3.9
1980s	670	29.9
1990s	425	18.9
2000s	1058	47.2

Total	2242	100
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Although the linguistic studies started since the establishment of the Institute in 1974, the majority of studies (47.2%) are conducted during 2000-2014.

There are about 34 studies related to southern Sudan. 50% (17/34) of these studies are conducted on linguistics and the remaining 50% (17/34) on education. The linguistic studies covered different areas: phonology (1), orthography (1), lexicography (1), sociolinguistics (6) and comparative studies (8) between Arabic and southern Sudanese languages. All studies are written in Arabic language.

Table 11: The distribution of the studies on southern Sudanese languages

No.	Language	Language family	Number of studies
1	Dinka	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotc	5
2	Shilluk	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Western Nilotc	2
3	Bari	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Eastern Nilotc	2
4	Moru	Nilo-Saharan , Chari Nile, Central Sudanic	3
5	Juba Arabic	Afro-Asiatic	1
Total			13

Only four languages in addition to Juba Arabic received attention and the majority of the studies focused on Arabic language: learning, teaching and designing and evaluating Arabic language syllabuses as shown below in Table 12.

Table 12: The distribution of studies according to the field of study

Field of studies		Number of studies
1	Comparative	9
2	Sociolinguistics	6
3	Learning	6
4	Teaching	2
5	Syllabus	7
6	General studies	4
Total		34

While 44.1% (15/34) of the studies were conducted in the field of applied linguistics, the remaining 55.9% (19/34) covered different linguistic fields. The Table below shows the distribution of the studies on southern Sudanese languages according to the time of the studies.

Table 13: The distribution of the studies according to years

No.	Years	Number of studies
1	1970s	1
2	1980s	25
3	1990s	3
4	2000s	5
Total		34

Although the studies on southern Sudanese languages started at 1974, 71.4% of the studies (25/35) were conducted during 1980s as shown above in Table 11.

4. Section Four: Writing Southern Sudanese Languages with Arabic Script

This section gives account to the attempts of writing southern Sudanese languages with Arabic script which started during the 1950s. Five of the southern Sudanese languages have been written with Arabic script: Dinka, Zande, Moru, Bari and Latuka. Then the American mission at Bibor wrote another four languages: Shilluk, Nuer, Murle and Anuak.⁽¹³⁾ At 1960, nine of the southern Sudanese languages have been written with Arabic scripts. It is necessary to mention the contribution of Yusuf Al-Khalifa Centre for Writing Languages in Arabic Scripts; the International University of Africa. It is established at 2004. Computerizing the Quranic letters helps in translating a number of Islamic cultural books into a number of African languages. The meanings of part 30 in the holy Quran have been translated into 10 of the written African languages. The cultures of eleven languages have been translated to Arabic: Hausa, Kiswahili, Fulfulde, Mandingo, Soso, Songhai, Wolof, Yoruba, Lucinda, Somali, and Malaya. Courses, training and workshops have been provided by the Centre to a number of people belonging to different African universities and ministries of education.

None of the southern Sudanese languages has been written in Arabic scripts by the Centre

5. Conclusion

Studies on southern Sudanese languages can be classified as religious, historical, empirical, legal and applied. One can talk about specific trends in such studies. Certain subjects extensively covered, some received little or substantially treatment and others as the studies on language function were conspicuously neglected. Some of the fields of study are still in its infancy development (language rights, language and culture, language and politics, language and education, language and gender, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics). In addition, there is no total coverage of the whole linguistic fields. This

⁽¹³⁾ The source: Pro. Yusuf Al-Khalifa Abu-Bakr, the Director of Yusuf Al-Khalifa Centre for Writing Languages with Arabic Script; the International University of Africa and member of the team of the Sudanese Ministry of Education .

may be due to the intentions behind these studies.

Although the studies on southern Sudanese languages started at 1800s, they are not all of linguistic nature. They are conducted by missionaries, travelers, explorers, and anthropologists. It was the situation until the era of the British Colonialism where a number of southern Sudanese languages were chosen to be written; therefore, they were treated linguistically. Some of these studies were ethnography. These studies started earlier; however, they are few and focused on a number of linguistic fields. The majority of these studies were conducted on language structure rather than function. Moreover, they covered few southern Sudanese languages.

Therefore, more studies on different levels of southern Sudanese languages' structure and function are required. The documentation of southern Sudanese languages is a prerequisite in the present time in order to be protected, promoted and officially used on the state level. Such projects should be activated. In addition, sociolinguistic surveys should be encouraged in order to collect information on the ethno-linguistic composition of the country. Accordingly, the scientific basis of any decision considering southern Sudanese indigenous languages could be founded.

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