



Faculty of Humanities



Textual Traditions of Arabic Grammars in Jimma

Regional Continuity and Specificity of Scholarship

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Arabic Language in Ethiopia: contexts of use

- Settled communities of Arabic-speaking migrants
- Groups of Arab traders, both Christian and Muslim
- Religious contexts:
 - Christian: works related to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church translated from Arabic into Ge‘ez (from the 13th cent.); contacts with Egyptian Coptic Church.
 - Muslim: identifier and communicative element; sacral *status* of Arabic; used in religious and juridical contexts and in everyday life as major element of unity and identity of the *umma*.



Arabic literary tradition in Ethiopia

- Arabic texts firstly entered the region along the commercial routes thanks to the passage and activities of travelling Arabic-speaking *šayḥs* and traders.
- Subjects: religious and non-religious sciences, including the ones related to Arabic Language: grammar and syntax; morphology; prosody, rhetoric, allegory, eloquence etc.
- Flourishing of an Arabic literary tradition produced by local learned men.



The Learning of Arabic Language: Library of the Ḥaḍra Zabbi Molla, Wolkite




The Learning of Arabic Language:

The remains of the *kuttāb* attached to Šayḥutā Tiğe al-Qurārī's mosque



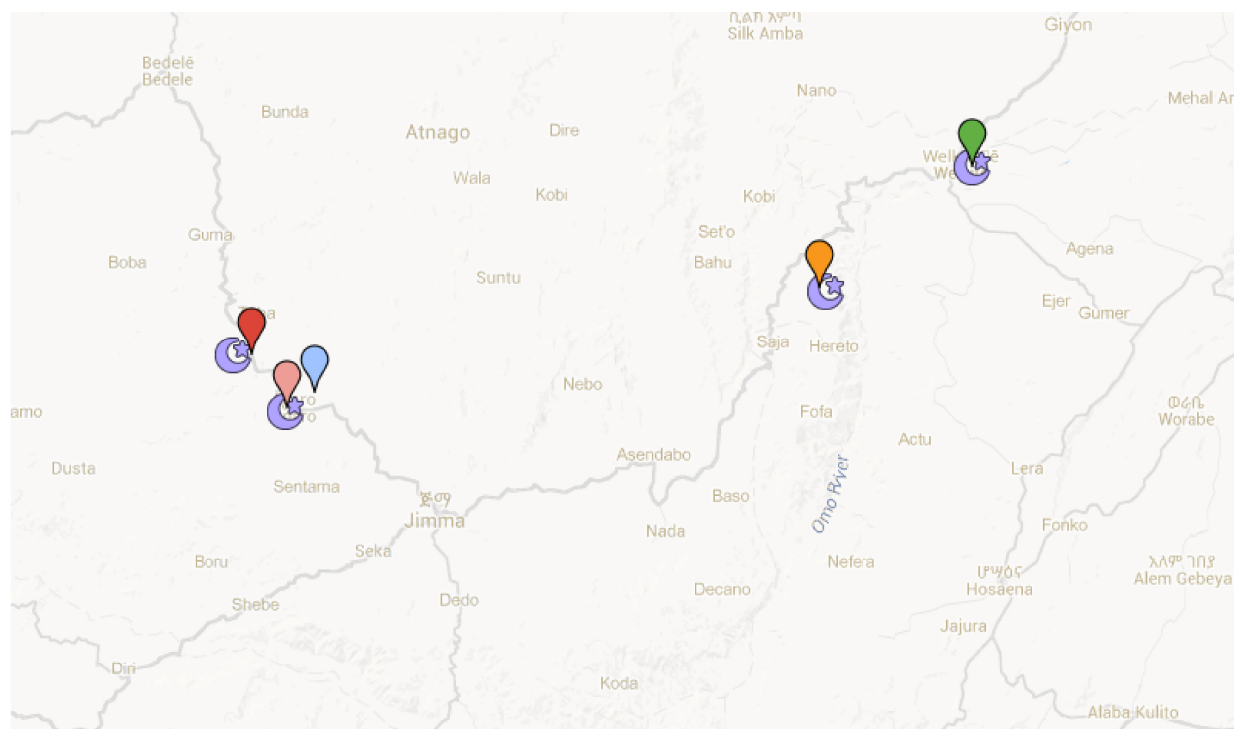
Comparative Analysis of Arabic Grammars' Traditions




-  Wolkite
-  Wolkite - Zāwiya
-  Wolkite - Maktaba
-  Seddeqa - Zāwiya and ḡāmi'a
-  Seddeqa - Custodian's house
-  Jimma
-  Warukko - Mosque and zāwiya
-  Warukko - Custodian's house
-  Suuse - Guardian's house
-  Tije - Mosque
-  Tije - Custodian's house
-  Harar



Manuscript Collections in Jimma Region



-  Wolkite - Zāwiya
-  Welkite - Maktaba
-  Seddeqa - Zāwiya and ḡāmi'a
-  Seddeqa - Custodian's house
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Sites of Manuscript Collections in Jimma Region

- Warukko (52 MSS):

The name from its eponym founder (18th century?) who is associated with the Islamization of the kingdoms of Gomma and Gumma.

- Tije (about 300 fragments):

Mosque and tomb (*qubba*) of the religious centre's eponym, the tiḡānī master Šayḡutā Tije al-Qurārī (d. 1917).

- Suuse (39 MSS):

Its eponym founder is Šayḡ Yūnus b. Sufyān; he was member of the Rašādiyya ṣūfī order, obtained at the end of the 1950s.



Sites of Manuscript Collections in Wolkite and Gibe Valley

- Zabbi Molla (30 MSS):

Mosque and *zāwiya* founded by Šayḥ Muḥammad Rašād al-Qaqī (founder of the Rašādiyya *ṣūfī* order) and Šayḥ Kamal al-Dīn al-Ubbī.

- Seddeqa (ca. 50 composite MSS):

Eponym founder of the *zāwiya* is Šayḥ ‘Alī b. ‘Abd al-Fataḥ, born in Arsi in c. 1887; he resided in Seddeqa in the years 1925-1935 after having studied in Arsi, Harar, Wallo, Zabbi Molla and Shiro.



Sites of Manuscript Collections from Harar Region

- ‘Abdallāh Šarīf Museum in Harar (492 mss)
- Library of Muḥammad b. ‘Alī b. ‘Abd al-Šakūr, Sultān of Harar (1272-92/1856-75) [Drewes 1983] (99 mss)
- The mss of the IES collection which constitute the first inception of the IES and are evidently related to the city of Harar (50 mss)
- Mr Gerald Weiner's mss collection, in Chicago, Illinois, USA (total ca. 200 mss which probably come from Harar)
- Luigi Robecchi Bricchetti's collection in the Biblioteca Pubblica di Pavia, Italy (12 mss, XVIII-XIX sec.) [Traini 1974]
- The mss collected by Enrico Cerulli and left to the Vatican Library (8 from Harar, 5 from Somalia) [Levi Dalla Vida 1965]



First Pedagogical Grammars (5th/11th cent.)

- Ibn Bābašād (d. 1077), *al-Mufīd fī al-naḥw*
IES289;
- al-Ḥarīrī (d. 1122), *Mulḥat al-i'rāb*
SSE026; SSE038; IES309.5; USWE074;
 - al-Fākihī (d. 1565), *Kašf al-niqāb 'an muḥaddarāt Mulḥat al-i'rāb*
SED042; USWE028; ABDSH 196;
 - al-Ḥarīrī, *Šarḥ Mulḥat al-i'rāb*
ABDSH165;
 - Muḥammad b. Baḥraq al-Yamanī (d. 1524), *Tuḥfat al-aḥbāb wa-ṭurfat al-aṣḥāb*
USWE028;
 - Anonymous, *Ḥāšiyat Mulḥat al-i'rāb*
USWE054;



The Apogee of Pedagogical Grammars (7th/13th cent.)

- [Ibn al-Ḥāğib (d. 1249), *al-Kāfiya*]
 - al-Ğāmī (d. 1492), *al-Fawā'id al-ḍiyā'iyya*
ZABBI020.III; ABDSH393;
 - Anonym., *Šarḥ al-Kāfiya*
SHK49;
- Ibn Mālīk (d. 1274), *al-Alfiyya*
IES303; ABDSH400; USWE028; SHAK50;
 - Ibn Hišām (d. 1360), *Awḍaḥ al-masālik ilā Alfiyyat Ibn Mālīk*
SHAK80;
 - Al-Azharī (d. 1499), *al-Tašrīḥ bi-maḍmūn al-tawḍīḥ*
SHAK20;
 - Al-Suyūṭī (d. 1505), *al-Bahğa al-marḍiyya bi-šarḥ al-Alfiyya*
ABDSH1601;
- Ibn Mālīk, *Lāmiyyat al-afāl*
SSE014; TIJE002;



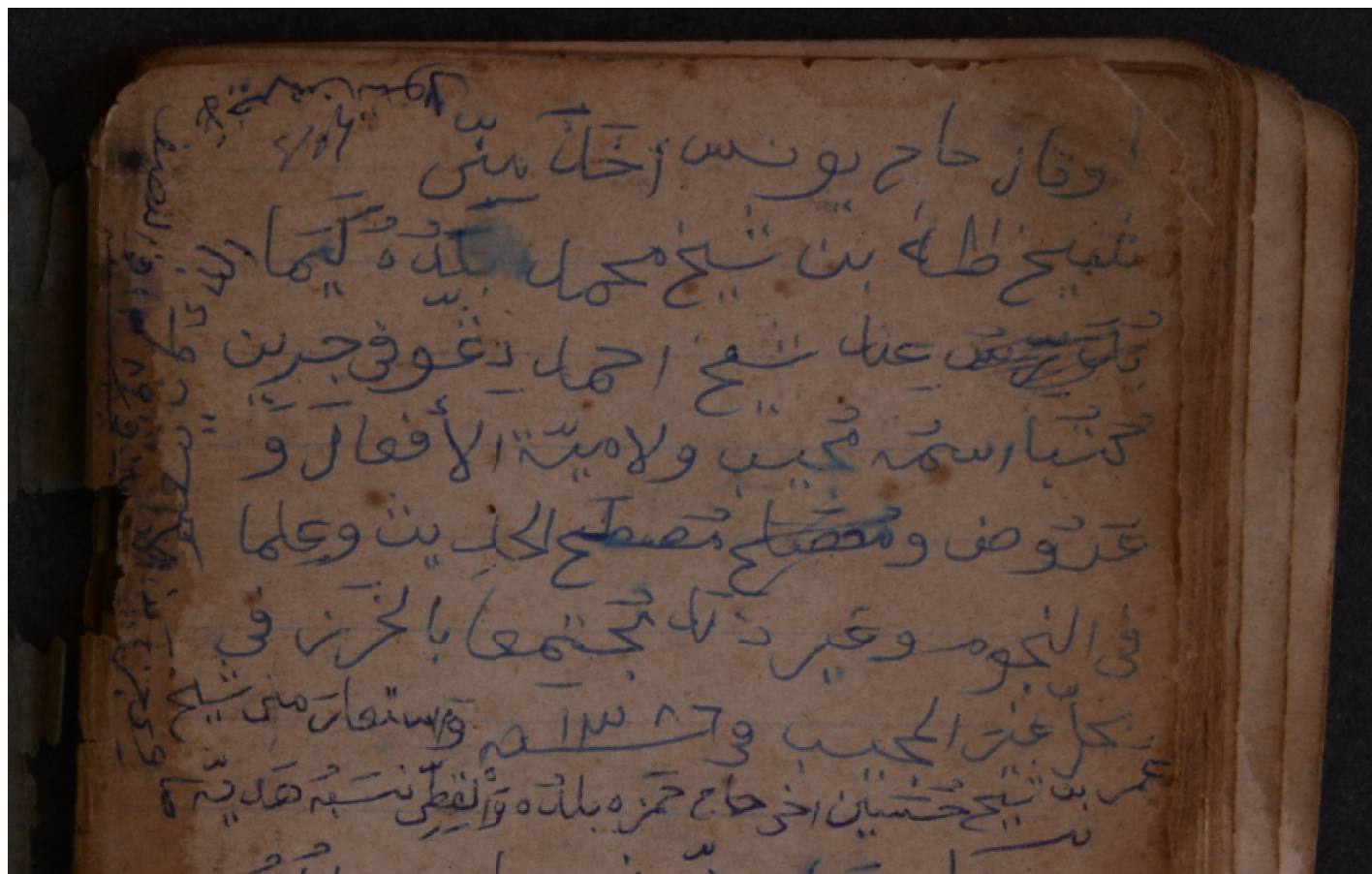
The Last Classical Pedagogical Grammars (8th/14th cent.)

- Ibn Hišām (d. 1360), *Qaṭr al-nadā wa-ball al-ṣadā*
SED042;
 - al-Fākihī (d. 1564), *Muğīb al-nidā' fī šarḥ Qaṭr al-nadā*
SSE005; SHAK42; IES304.1; IES305.3; USWE070;
- [Ibn Hišām, *al-I'rāb 'an qawā'id al-i'rāb*]
 - al-Azharī (d. 1499), *Muwaṣṣil al-ṭullāb ilā qawā'id al-i'rāb*
IES305; ABDSH162;
- Ibn Āğurrūm al-Ṣanhāğī (d. 1327), *al-Muqaddima al-Āğurrūmiyya*
SSE024; SSE026.III; SED042;
 - al-Azharī, *I'rāb al-Āğurrūmiyya*
ZABBI011;
- al-Azharī (d. 1499), *Hudūd al-naḥw*
ZABBI020.IV;



A Note on the Loan of Books

Susse, MS SSE005, f. 54v



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Thank you for your attention!

