



18.09.2017

Call for Papers

WORKSHOP ON THE TEACHING OF AMHARIC IN GERMANY

DATES AND VENUE: 1-2 FEBRUARY, 2018

ASIEN-AFRIKA-INSTITUT, HIOB LUDOLF ZENTRUM FÜR ÄTHIOPISTIK

ALSTERTERRASSE 1, 20354 HAMBURG

A. Background

Although the main area of research and publication within Ethiopian studies in Germany was classical Gə'əz, Amharic was also the subject of research at various universities and institutes within the field of Semitic studies. In 1905, Aläqa Tayyä, the first teacher of Amharic in Germany (who taught Gə'əz, too), was employed by the Department of Oriental Languages at the University of Berlin. In 1919/20, Wäldä Maryam Dästa began to teach Amharic at the University of Hamburg.

Over the past 120 years some important Amharic grammars, textbooks and dictionaries have been published by Franz Praetorius (1879), Ludwig Mahler (1906), Eugen Mittwoch (1907, 1910) August Klingenberg (1968), Renate Richter (1987), Josef Hartmann (1980), and Renate Richter and Mulugeta Eteffa (1994). Also in other countries such as England, Italy, France and Russia orientalists and enthusiasts of the Amharic language started to prepare teaching tools. At major European universities, namely Naples (IUO), Paris (IN-ALCO), London, St Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw, Berlin and Hamburg the interest in Amharic has gone beyond language teaching. The scholars have undertaken the study involving translation and analysis of letters, historical texts, literary works as well as oral tradition. Several Amharic course books have been produced by, among others, the following authors: Wolf Leslau (1967), David Appleyard (1997), Asnake Wolde Michael (2003), Bäzza Täsfaw Ayyalew (2005), Grover Hudson and Anbässa Täfärra (2007). Although they have positively contributed to the teaching of Amharic, there is a constant need for new innovative syllabi, up-dated effective methods and well-designed and relevant exercises which would help students to develop all linguistic skills and motivate them for further learning.

B. Aims

The aim of this workshop is to focus on Amharic as the language of teaching. Its main objectives are:

1. bringing together scholars who are engaged in teaching Amharic at various universities and institutes to share their experience
2. discussing new didactic methods and approaches in teaching Amharic
3. presenting efficient and meaningful teaching activities
4. providing a platform for collaboration between academic institutions, Amharic teachers, researchers and specialists of computer science to create digital dictionaries, grammar- and textbooks, database for different kinds of sources, texts, dialects, audio and video materials.

We welcome papers dealing with the practice of teaching Amharic. They can present new syllabi, explore methods of teaching a certain grammatical item/structure or vocabulary, focus on teaching a particular linguistic skill, and many others. There will be a 20-minute limit per paper. Additionally, each participant is invited to present one Amharic teaching activity which we will then be discussing together. This part of the presentation will be allotted 15 minutes followed by a 25-minute discussion. All in all, each participant will get one hour for her/his presentation.

The abstracts are due by **mid-November**, 2017.

The workshop will be accompanied by a display of Amharic teaching materials. The participants are most welcome to bring materials they have developed and present/share them. In the final discussion, besides concluding remarks, we would like to bring to your attention the issues that are mentioned in point 4 above.

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

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