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Neo-Colonialism in West Africa by Samir Amin

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the last two decades: John Kelly writes on sound systems in the Edo group, Richard A. Spears on tonal correspondences in Mende and Maninka, and John Ellington on tone and segmental sound change in Ngõmbe. The descriptive papers are marked by similar thoroughness in detail and methodology. Martha B. Kendall, Lyndon Harries, and Henry Rogers make interesting contributions to the study of the grammatical structure of Sonrai, Swahili, and Sherbro respectively, Herman Bell and N. V. Smith to the phonology of Nobiin Nubian and Bedik, and Gisele Ducos to ethnolinguistics and linguistic geography applied to Badiaranké. The volume also contains papers which give historical depth to African linguistics and link past and present researches. The data presented in *Polyglotta Africana* by S. W. Koelle are subjected to scrutiny and amplification by modern linguists: Udo E. Essien deals with Anang, J. David Sapir with Diola, and Kiyoshi Shimuzu with the Jukunoid group. J. O. Hunwick goes to even earlier linguistic documentation and discusses lexical items of Sonrai attested by Arab writers. Of considerable interest also is the documentation on Azayr in Arabic script, a language on the point of extinction, presented by H. T. Norris. Both Arabists and Africanists will find it very useful to read the archival note on unpublished materials in Khartoum prepared by P. E. H. Hair and R. C. Stevenson.

The study of the interrelation between English and African languages occupies a large part of the volume. David Dalby gives a general, one might say panoramic, view of the historical and social factors involved in the divergence and convergence between Black English and other forms of English, while J. L. Dillard gives a detailed study of the history of Black English in Nova Scotia and Roger D. Abrahams discusses the socio-dynamics involved in the use of Black English in America. Burr Angle demonstrates how by taking cognizance of the linguistic heritage of Black Americans one can enhance the practical goals in teaching 'standard academic English' in the U.S.A. Though in a different field, A. N. Tucker shows how linguistic expertise can contribute in practical matters: in his review of the present toponymic chaos he makes constructive suggestions for its alleviation.

B. W. ANDRZEJEWSKI

*An Outline of Gwandara Phonemics and Gwandara-English Vocabulary.* By SHUJI MATSUSHITA.

Tokyo: Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, series no. 3, 1972. Pp. 127, map.

OF the five dialects of Gwandara, the one here described is that of Karshi, the three informants being young men in their twenties working in a Kaduna textile mill. The Gwandara people have a particular interest: these ex-Maguzawa, after living several hundred miles, and several centuries, away from Hausaland are now unrecognizable as Hausa—until their speech is closely examined. In this study some aspects of their linguistic inheritance are revealed. The vocabulary occupies 114 of the 127 pages, but unfortunately no attempt is made in it to compare the Hausa forms or distinguish between recent loan-words and words deriving from a common proto-language; nor are any derivations suggested for the possible non-Hausa words. But as the author notes, that is where the problems (and the interest) really begin. None the less this study provides a useful starting-point.

MURRAY LAST

*Neo-colonialism in West Africa.* By SAMIR AMIN. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1973. Pp. xviii + 298, bibl. £0.70, paper.

THIS book, published in French three years ago, describes the economic development of nine francophone countries in West Africa from the late nineteenth century to the end of the 1960s. The former English colonies of Ghana and the Gambia are included for comparison.

The author discusses the groundnut economy of the Senegambia; the recent development of the Ivory Coast, compared with Ghana; mining enclaves in Mauritania and Guinea; the balkanization of Togo and Dahomey; and the anomalous 'undeveloped reserves' of Mali, Niger, and Upper Volta. After this brief historical excursion, he reviews the post-independence development performance and prospects of the various countries and concludes that their underdevelopment is a result of the enduring structures of production and trade established in the period of colonial rule.

The book is rather fragmented and looks hastily put together. There are eighty-three pages of statistical tables, the sources and reliability of which are rarely discussed. The author's judgements are generally sound and his arguments and proposals convincing; but they are much too abbreviated and the fact-laden analysis is frequently indigestible.

Samir Amin is right to chastise Africanists for their tendency to over-specialize, but he will not make many converts to his holistic cause with a book such as this. The scope of his subject matter, coupled with his desire to be quantitative, has turned a potentially fascinating exercise in political economy into a compendium of statistics and potted history. Amin's own study, *Le développement du capitalisme en Côte-d'Ivoire* (Paris, 1967) is a much better example of his approach, because of its more restricted focus.

Nevertheless, this volume will serve as a useful source of reference and ideas for students of development economics and non-specialists who seek a short, global introduction in English to the francophone economies of West Africa.

KEITH HART

*Benin Studies.* By R. E. BRADBURY. Edited by PETER MORTON-WILLIAMS. London: Oxford University Press for International African Institute. Pp. xxi + 293, bibl., ill., map. £4.00.

No more fitting memorial could have been devised for 'Brad' than this collection of his published articles into one volume. His major interest was in the political structure of Benin, that complex state which superficially might seem like the Yoruba kingdoms, but was seen when he had probed it to have institutions more like those of the Ibo with centralized authority imposed upon them. But he also discussed ritual, particularly mortuary ritual in its relation to the rules of succession and the tension between holder and heir that Fortes and Goody first brought to our notice. In addition there is an article on an *ikegobo* (shrine of the 'Hand') belonging to a hereditary war chief whom Bradbury knew; he evaluates its significance as historical evidence and also shows the contrast between the cults of the 'Head' and of Destiny, both of which refer to good or bad fortune for which the worshipper is not responsible, and that of the 'Hand', which is a form of self-congratulation on achievement. Finally there are three folk-tales illustrating the theme of destiny.

Bradbury's views on the anthropologist's relation to history are not quite those of the orthodox ethno-historian. He argues that if we need to 'know the past to understand the present', the historian of a society without detailed records needs to call in our understanding of the present to make sense of the past; this is what justifies such work as Balandier's reconstruction of life in the Kongo kingdom. The longest essay is a brilliant narrative account of British attempts to combine bureaucratic efficiency with the recognition of 'natural rulers', which shows how traditional rivalries were reproduced through the generations, and also what new forms of exploitation were made possible by British backing of the chiefs whom they recognized. He carries the story right up to the eve of independence and the creation of political parties, overtly divided in terms of 'tradition' and 'modernity', actually representing different interest groups.

The editing might well have been more thorough. Misprints in the original versions are repeated and compounded. References to material contained in the book are still given as