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A Grammar of Awjila Berber (Libya) : based on Umberto Paradisi's material

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A Grammar of Awjila Berber (Libya)

Based on Umberto Paradisi's Material

van

Marijn van Putten

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1. Contrary to other Berber languages, the vowel /ə/ in Awjila is fully phonemic: it may stand in open syllables and can receive phonemic accent.
2. Awjila has a phonemic accent which is a grammatical feature of the perfective and may be a lexical feature of nouns.
3. A unique Awjila verbal formation, known as the sequential perfective, marks a sequence of actions that has occurred in the past.
4. Arabic loanwords in Awjila show linguistic features which do not exist in modern Libyan Arabic dialects. This allows us to reconstruct features of an Arabic dialect of which all evidence has been lost in Arabic of the region.
5. The history of the Berber language is marked by much internal contact and influence. This tests the limits of the comparative method, but does not mean that the comparative method cannot give us meaningful insights into the prehistory of the Berber languages.
6. The symptomatic disregard of the Proto-Berber consonants *ʔ and *β and vowels is detrimental to the advancement of Proto-Afro-Asiatic research.
7. In Berberology, more attention for Eastern Berber languages will give us new insights in the structure of Berber languages, and will show that the Berber language family is less homogenous than one would deduce from studying only the Western dialects.
8. While the formation of the Berber verb is quite well-understood, much is still unknown about the structure and derivational patterns of the noun. An in-depth study would significantly increase our understanding of the linguistic history of Berber.
9. A Dutch spelling that allows more grammatical and orthographic variation would enrich the Dutch written language rather than endanger it.
10. Attempting to come up with a final, humorous proposition is a waste of time.