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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift
A Grammar of Tadakshak, a Northern Songhay Language of Mali
van Regula Christiansen-Bolli

1. In Tadakshak, verbal derivations of verbs whose basic roots have a Songhay origin always show suppletion by means of a Tuareg derived form.
2. The fact that the inflected verb has obligatory person/number agreement with the subject, even when a lexical subject is present, is an innovation of Tadakshak based on Tuareg patterns.
3. In Tadakshak a small part of the lexicon is of Songhay origin. What has been shown by Robert Nicolai for nouns is also the case for verbs: The Songhay cognates provide mainly general terms for basic actions.
4. The culture-specific part of Tadakshak vocabulary is mostly of Tuareg stock.
5. Government politics to sedentarize herding nomads fail to acknowledge that over-population in areas with year-round access to water will also have over-grazing as its consequence.
6. The extremely high rate of analphabetism among the Tadakshak is not only because of lack of opportunities of formal education in their area, but also stems from their reluctance to send their children away from the family at a young age for non-religious teaching.
7. Only the thorough linguistic study of a language can give well-founded input for an accurate and stylistically differentiated translation. Without knowledge of its syntactic system and the general and specific semantics of its components, it is very hard to render a reality in another language.
8. Elicitation alone cannot give the full array of possibilities to express a certain reality. Without relating them to a larger linguistic and extra-linguistic context it may be impossible to detect certain features or to analyze their function.
9. Non-government-sponsored development of minority languages often raises fears at a national level about the political stability and coherence for the area concerned, while it instills confidence and feelings of equality amongst the people who profit from such a program.
10. The use of the second person plural pronoun for the politeness form in the Swiss German dialect spoken around Bern, instead of the third person plural found in other Swiss dialects, is due to influence from French in this western part of the Swiss dialect continuum.
11. Ineffective communication in kindergartens and first grades at school in linguistically homogeneous areas is one consequence of the new language policy in the Canton of Bern in

Switzerland. This policy makes Standard German the only language of education, starting in kindergarten. The main purpose is to avoid unequal opportunities of education among children with different linguistic backgrounds and to enforce regular oral use of this generally only read and written language. Standard German deviates considerably (phonetically, lexically and grammatically) from the local Swiss German dialect and thus is a foreign language for most young children.