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A grammar of Gaahmg, a Nilo-Saharan language of Sudan

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Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift
A Grammar of Gaahmg, a Nilo-Saharan Language of Sudan
door Timothy M. Stirtz

1. In Gaahmg, personal pronouns use vowel features to represent the person referred to, the three persons coinciding with the language's three vowel harmony pairs.
2. Gaahmg has body part locatives which are similar in form and meaning to inherently possessed body part nouns, but are a distinct lexical category. Unlike inherently possessed body part nouns, they do not have person reference and differ in tone.
3. Gaahmg has morphological marking for both perfect and imperfect aspect, which can both attach to completive and incompletive verbs.
4. In Gaahmg, tone replacement is used in the formation of genitives, antipassives, causatives, and verbal nouns.
5. A fortis/lenis consonant contrast in word-initial and intervocalic position is common in Southwest Surmic languages (De Jong 2004:145), but the word-initial contrast does not exist in the Surmic language called Laarim (Narim) of Sudan.
6. There are five case suffixes in Laarim (Surmic) which have polar tone—opposite tone from the stem-final tone.
7. Lumun, a Niger-Congo Kordofanian language of Sudan, uses pronouns and noun concord reference to distinguish one participant as being more important than another.
8. In Lumun narratives with one participant being more important than all others, the centers of orientation for direction words are locations that change according to the movement of that participant.
9. It is ideal and possible to both analyze an African language and train speakers in the grammar of their language at the same time.
10. Linguistic analysis of African languages opens new doors of amazing beauty which inspires a person to look more outside himself at the world around him.