

## Book Reviews

Rainer Voßen: *Die Khoe-Sprachen: Ein Beitrag zur Erforschung der Sprachgeschichte Afrikas*. (Quellen zur Khoisan-Forschung 12) Cologne: Köppe 1997. 536 pp. EUR 65,45

This work, the Habilitationsschrift of the author, is a major milestone in Khoesaaan comparative studies and an indispensable reference material for anyone working on a language of the Central Khoesaaan or “Khoe” (sub-)family. For the first time a comprehensive overview becomes available of what is left of the living languages of this family. As such the book will prove extremely valuable not only for further comparative studies but also for the better understanding of individual languages.

The study, unfortunately only accessible to those with a reading knowledge of German, deals with South African Khoesaaan as spoken in Botswana and Namibia today, as well as the now extinct !Ora (Korana) and Xiri (Griqua) from South Africa; it does not cover Kwadi of Angola (practically extinct and hardly documented), and Sandawe of Tanzania. The book comprises four parts: I, An Introduction giving a handy historical account of the debate about the classification of Khoe languages, and a chapter delimiting the aims and field of research to be covered; II, a description of the phonology and morphology of the respective languages; III, a comparative treatment and reconstruction of the phonology and morphology of (Proto-)Khoe; IV, a genetic classification of the languages. These parts are followed by a major Appendix listing the comparative vocabulary with 400 reconstructed proto-forms. Five reversed indexes facilitate the finding of Khoe-German entries in the various proto-stages. Vossen (Voßen elsewhere) deals with some nineteen languages. According to his genetic classification, Proto-Khoe (PK) subdivides into Proto-KHOEKHOE (PKK) and Proto-Non-Khoekhoe (PNK, spoken mainly in Bot-