

Book Reviews

Mena Lafkioui and Vermondo Brugnatelli (eds.): *Berber in Contact: Linguistic and Sociolinguistic Perspectives*. (Berber Studies vol. 22). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe, 2008. 231 pp. EUR 39.80.

Berber offers great opportunities for the student of language contact. After 1400 years, Berber is everywhere influenced by Arabic, while Arabic dialects from Mauritania to western Egypt show the effects of a Berber substratum. Contact with Romance has had a similarly long history, usually less intimate but intensified in the colonial era; education perpetuates a flow of loanwords and even code-mixing, while emigration to Europe has provided a new pathway for rather more intense contact. Less conspicuous but in need of more research are Berber contact with sub-Saharan languages and, not least, intra-Berber contact between different varieties. It was thus with high expectations that I opened *Berber in Contact: Linguistic and Sociolinguistic Perspectives*.

The long history of Arabic-Berber contact is underlined by two papers focusing on early Arabic-script sources. Nait-Zerrad's "Notes sur des termes berbères dans le *Nuzhat al-muštāq* d'El-Idrisi" places some of the Berber terms found in this twelfth-century geography in a comparative perspective. De Felipe's "Medieval linguistic contacts: Berber language through Arab eyes" discusses how Arabic-language medieval authors talked about Berber, revealing a multilingual situation on both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar, but also an often politically motivated anti-Berber discourse, sometimes countered by pro-Berber authors, that may have contributed to language shift.

This shift continues, but not without resistance, as several papers remind us. El Mountassir's "Le berbère dans un milieu urbain et plurilingue : la ville d'Agadir" notes the many Berber families who have shifted to Arabic in Agadir,