

REVIEW

Paul Newman & Roxana Ma Newman. *Hausa Dictionary: Hausa-English / English-Hausa, Kamusun Hausa: Hausa-Ingilishi / Ingilishi-Hausa*. Kano: Bayero University Press 2020, 627 pp. ISBN: 978-978-98446-6-1

Hausa lexicography, in the almost 170 year-old tradition of dictionary-making, has produced several extremely important works that testify to the achievements in research on the Hausa language and are a reflection of the communicative status of the language. The two great dictionaries published in the first half of the 20th century, i.e. Bargery (1934) and Abraham (1962 – first edition in 1947) remain inexhaustible sources of knowledge about vocabulary and phraseology that are thoroughly studied by the Hausa scholars. The last decades were marked by the production of dictionaries that include achievements of theoretical research on the language. Among them one of the most spectacular works is the Hausa-English dictionary by Paul Newman (2007). However, the required grammar competence necessary to use the dictionary is quite high. Therefore, the intended users of the dictionary are Hausa scholars and students at every level. In turn, the monolingual Hausa-Hausa dictionary (Sa'id et al. 2006) is a confirmation of research on the Hausa language conducted by native Hausa researchers and their contribution to lexicographic achievements. One of the fundamentals of this scholarly based tradition is marking tone and vowel length on Hausa words, as opposed to the convention adopted in traditional publications (press, literature) where these features are not marked.

The growing use of Hausa in intercultural communication, including a huge increase in number of Hausa texts published online, creates new challenges for lexicographers such as to produce dictionaries suitable for everyday use by both Hausa and non-Hausa speakers. In this approach, the information on communicative functions of the dictionary entries is particularly important, at the same time grammatical information is provided in an accessible manner. On the other hand, the task of such a dictionary is to popularize a standard norm among

users who have not received education in this language. While Hausa dictionaries were produced most often as bilingual Hausa-English ones, the English-Hausa versions did not provide comprehensive specimens until Ma Newman's dictionary (1990) was published.

The single-volume *Hausa-English / English-Hausa dictionary* by Paul Newman and Roxana Ma Newman combines and updates the content of the earlier two dictionaries and gives them an extended allocation „For everyday use – na Yau da Kullum”. The authors who see themselves as the „guardians of Hausa's rich lexicographic tradition” verified and updated the earlier versions using a panel of expert linguists, native speakers of the language. The dictionary respects bilingual convention in the text of Foreword and User's guide sections, which are written both in English and Hausa. A major change from the earlier versions are the target users who switched from the European English-speaking scholars to users from Nigeria and Africa in general. The dictionary was published in Nigeria by Bayero University Press.

The dictionary, consisting of two parts, H(ausa)-E(nglish) and E(nglish)-H(ausa), represents Standard Hausa, although some dialectal forms are also included (noted as *dial.*), mainly in the H-E section, e.g. **nau** (*dial.*) = **nawa**, **metso m** (*dial.*) 'stunted goat'. Loanwords from other languages, including from Arabic, which became naturalized in Hausa, are not indicated as such as it used to be customarily done in the previous Hausa dictionaries. There is an extended list of geographical names which are entered as headwords in the H-E part, whereas in the E-H part they are presented as a group in the Appendix. Apart from well established Hausa names of geographical places, such as **Habasha** 'Ethiopia', **Masar** 'Egypt', **Bahar Maliya** 'Red Sea', (Kogin) **Kwara** 'Niger' (river), many names appear for the first time in a dictionary of Hausa in their phonologically established variants. It is stated in the User's guide that the geographical names entered as headwords are „well-established Hausa designations”, however, they seem to be selected randomly. Neither Poland nor Ukraine are components of the dictionary entries, whereas both Holland and Netherlands (**Kasar**) **Holan** as well as North Korea **Koriya ta Arewa** and Cambodia **Kambodiya** are included.

The transcription system used in the dictionary is based on the standard alphabet. The most significant modification in comparison to the Hausa source dictionaries and Hausa lexicographic practices in general is a cease of the academic tradition of marking tones and vowel length. Tones and long vowels are indicated in phonetic transcription when necessary for disambiguation, e.g. the item **baki** has three separate entries, [bákí:] *adj* 'black', [báki:] 'letter of the alphabet' and

[bà:ki:] *pl* of **bako** 'guest, visitor'. As the number of minimal pairs differentiated only by tonal pattern is relatively small in Hausa, the communication implications of resigning from the marking of tones in the dictionary entries seem to be insignificant.

As far as organization of entries is concerned, the Hausa words and phrases are indicated in boldface in both parts of the dictionary. In the H-E part, headwords are differentiated into two categories: stems applied only to verbs and other entries represented by full words, both simple words and compounds.

Stems are written out in capital letters. All variants are listed sequentially and provided with an indication of category known as „grades” (marked *v0*, *v1*, *v2*...*v7*), e.g. TAR- **tara** (-i, -e) *v2* 'intercept, interrupt', **tare** *v4* 'block, ward off', **tarar (da)** *v5* 'catch up'. The system of grouping the grade forms of the same verbs in the same entry under an abstract stem is an innovative system introduced initially in Newman (2007). This system is based on language-specific grammatical competence necessary to benefit from the dictionary which can be problematic for the language learners, especially when the verb form differs from the verb stem, e.g. **diba** 'dip out' is identified under the stem **ḐEB-** where the forms preceding object **ḑebi/ḑebe** are listed. Nevertheless, the authors listed the altered forms separately and cross-referenced them to the stem, therefore **ḐIB** = **ḐEB**. Some innovative solutions have been applied in the presentation of the entries, e.g. **nutse** is primarily directed to **nitse** 'sink, submerge down' which is consistently listed under the stem **NITS-**. A well-established spelling convention of some verbs which contain the diphthong -ai- (confirmed in the texts) has been changed in the dictionary entries to -e-, as in **REN-** **rena** *v1* 'align, deprecate; have contempt for, look down on; underestimate'. The verb is better identified in an orthographic norm as **raina** (**rena** 'care for a child' is therefore a realization of another stem **REN-**). The stem alternation also functions as **RAIN-** see **REN-** (but not as a regular change, *vide* **DAIN-** **daina** *v1* 'quit doing, cease'). Some problems may be created by the morpho-phonological process termed as palatalization. It is well recognized in the language description and is clearly presented through the variant forms of the lexical items, but the users searching for English equivalents of the item **gaji** must be familiar with the grammar rules to choose a meaning belonging to either the stem **GAJ-** or **GAD-**. It is a more general point that listing the units belonging to one part of speech is different from other units, which can be problematic for a dictionary defined as "For everyday use". In the E-H part, the verbs are listed independently as headwords with grade numbers assigned to them.

Information about the morphosyntactic categories of verbal nouns is reduced to their lexical representation. Irregular and unpredictable forms are presented as

independent lexical units, therefore **nema** *m* 'seeking, trying', while NEM- **nema** (-i/-e) v2 1. a. 'look for, seek', b. 'try to'. Similarly, **shiga** *f* 'entry' (SHIG- **shiga** v3 'enter, go in'); **jifa** *m* 'throwing' (JEF- **jefa** (-i/-e) v2 'throw at'). Regular verbal nouns ending with -*wa* are not listed at all.

Nominal items have the forms of their grammatical categories (such as gender and number) listed together with a headword. It is worth adding that the lexicographic method of indicating plurals by plural codes only, which was adopted in the Newman's earlier dictionary (2007), was replaced here by presenting the full forms, i.e. **jiki** *m* <**jikuna**> 'body'. Compounds are bold-face entries that are listed in the dictionary as separate entries and transcribed with a hyphen. It concerns both regular genitive phrases (**gidan-abinci** 'restaurant') and verb-based compounds (**ja-gaba** *m* 'guide, leader', **ka-ce-na-ce** *m* 'argument, dispute'). With this convention, **sa hannu** 'sign one's name' (*lit.* 'put hand') is listed as a sub-entry of **sa** 'put, place', whereas **sa-hannu** 'signature' is a separate entry. This is a proposal of data presentation known from the previous two dictionaries (Newman 2007, Ma Newman 1990), but not used elsewhere.

The original graphic design of the book cover is also worth attention. It is stylized as an oriental book-binding and leather-like cover featuring a recurring Hausa decorative motif.

The dictionary is valuable for many groups of users, not only the university students. Comparing to their previous works the authors have made significant changes in the adaptation of academic standards of transcription and orthographic conventions to the needs of the users who are speakers of both Hausa and English. The dictionary will have a normative function in terms of spelling rules and will be conducive to promoting the *standard* norm of the Hausa language. The Hausa learners who have been using Hausa dictionaries for many years may be surprised by the choice of the term *Ingilishi* in the Hausa version of the title (*Hausa-Ingilishi / Ingilishi-Hausa*) as compared to *Turanci* used in "The Hausa illustrated dictionary" (*Kamus na Turanci da Hausa*) by Neil Skinner (1965) and many other publications afterwards. The term *Ingilishi* was recognized by the authors of the discussed dictionary as a primary equivalent of English, although in the previously published separate parts of the dictionary, the term **Tūrāncī** was indicated as a basic equivalent for English, while **Ingilishī** was mentioned as a term for the English language in Hausa used in Niger (Ma Newman 1990). On the other hand, in Newman (2007) the two equivalents of **Tūrāncī** are 1. 'English language', 2. [Niger] 'French language'. This shows the evolution of the term *Turanci* from the equivalent of 'a white man's language', perceived respectively as English in Nigeria and French in Niger, to any European language. The term

Ingilishi for the English language seems to be more precise in relation to *Turanci* which is ambiguous.

The authors of any Hausa dictionary oriented at contemporary language have to solve the problem of verifying the lexical resources and to decide which items (phrases) should be included in such a dictionary and which should be omitted due to the change in the communication needs of the language in relation to its traditional profile. From this perspective, *The Hausa-English / English-Hausa dictionary* corresponds to the adopted label „For everyday use“. However, rapid development of the language creates a new vocabulary which becomes basic means in communication.

If we look at the press articles or especially the language of Hausa literature, some of the terms used there will not be explained in the dictionary, such as (*abin ci na*) *kwalam* 'fast food'; (*halin*) *ha'ula'i* 'difficult (conditions)' or newly created phrases based on regular phraseological patterns, e.g. *ci gashin kansa* 'be independent', *ci zaɓe* 'win election'. This means that work on expanding the vocabulary of modern Hausa language should be continued in correlation with the contemporary language transformations.

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