

KAY WILLIAMSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (KWEF)

Report to Trustees, September 2013 covering financial year 2012-2013

Roger Blench
Chief Research Officer

Summary

1. Situation in Nigeria

The situation in Rivers State remains very bad, and no direct work is possible. Security in Northern Nigeria is very poor with an acceleration of Boko Haram attacks, making

2. Activities in Nigeria

From the end of March to early May Roger Blench was in Nigeria, following up on his residence permit and working with ongoing KWEF projects.

3. Language survey

Language survey of East Kainji languages supported by KWEF

4. Website

Website redesigned and social media presence created

5. Jos Linguistic Circle (JLC) Support to Jos Linguistic Circle has continued and we have also official visits from the University of Calabar making enquiries about a formal relationship

6. Publications Support to publications is continuing and a volume of collected papers on Nigerian languages and a dictionary of Akòose have been published with KWEF support. A second volume is in preparation

7. Conferences attended 2012-2013 Roger Blench has attended a series of conferences to present the work of the Foundation

9. Support to researchers Support has been provided to researchers for fieldwork air-fares, and also to Ian Gardener for purchase of equipment towards an expanded Abuan dictionary

10. Books for Nigerian library resources Books for Nigerian institutions are being transferred to Nigeria and academic publications are being purchased in Nigeria and placed in reference libraries in Europe.

1. Situation in Nigeria

The security situation in Nigeria continues to deteriorate, with random attacks and suicide bombings all over the north, mostly as a result of ramped up activity by Boko Haram. This has made fieldwork riskier in remote areas, and caused the cancellation of at least one survey (see below)

2. Activities in Nigeria

Roger Blench was in Nigeria from the end of March to the end of April, working with existing KWEF projects.

3. Language survey

A team from Wycliffe was able to survey the Piti and Chawai languages using KWEF funds and vehicle and a full report is expected shortly

4. Website

The KWEF website has been redesigned, with a visual focus on publications. It continues to expand with more data posted and more links to audio-visual material

<http://www.rogerblench.info/KWEF/KWEF/KWEFOP.htm>

I have now opened Facebook sites for KWEF

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kay-Williamson-Educational-Foundation/147159102128443?fref=ts>

and Jos Linguistic Circle

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jos-Linguistic-Circle/157255621102227?ref=profile>

5. Jos Linguistic Circle (JLC)

This has been one of our most successful initiatives. Since its inception in 2006, KWEF has supported meetings of JLC with hire of rooms and refreshments, and has been able to bring together a growing number of enthusiasts for Nigerian languages. Appendix I gives papers presented during this past year.

6. Publications

KWEF supports a series of local publications in Nigeria (or in Cameroun if the language is also spoken in Nigeria). Published and projected volumes are given in the Appendix.

7. Conferences attended 2012-2013

Conferences make it possible to both present work done with KWEF funding and to distribute the flyer, and purchase books to improve Nigerian library resources.

The following conferences were attended to present the results of KWEF fieldwork between April 1st 2012 and March 31st, 2013.

[Youth language in rural Africa: some Nigerian examples.](#) Universität Köln, 31 May-2nd June, 2012

[The Saharan-Songhay subgroup of Nilo-Saharan.](#) Universität Köln, 1st June, 2012

[African crop history from the perspective of linguistics.](#) SAFA, Toronto, 18th June, 2012

[Reconstructing African agrarian prehistory by combining different sources of evidence: methodological considerations and examples for West African economic plants.](#) 7th International Workshop on African Archaeobotany, Vienna, 2-5th July, 2012.

[Developing analytic categories for idioms in African languages: examples from Central Nigeria.](#) 42nd CALL, Leiden, August 27-29th 2012

Powerpoints and papers associated with these talks are posted on the KWEF website or reached through the links in this document.

8. Papers commissioned based on KWEF work now in press

Language and archaeology: state of the art. *Chapter in the Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology*. N.J. Enfield, P. Kockelman, J. Sidnell eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. *The Bantoid languages*. Oxford Linguistics Online.

Books and articles published

2012. Blench, R.M. ed. *Out of the cactus: from darkness to light*. Jos: ECWA Miango.

2013. Methods and results in the reconstruction of music history in Africa and a case study of instrumental polyphony. *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa*, 48(1):31-64.

9. Support to researchers

KWEF supported air-fares for Nigerian attendees to the World Congress of African Linguistics, held in Buea in November 2012. KWEF had agreed to support survey of the Yendang languages in Taraba State by Wycliffe, but in the event, the security situation deteriorated too much, and the survey was postponed. It has been agreed that these resources would be diverted to a survey of the East Kainji languages, which is now under way.

10. Books for Nigerian library resources

Further purchases of books were made for Nigerian libraries and transmitted to them and DVDs and books published in Nigeria have been brought to England and distributed to libraries with reference collections. Of particular interest was the massive ethnography of the Chibuk people printed for local distribution, twelve copies of which were presented to KWEF for international distribution.

Accounts. Presented separately.

APPENDIX I

Publications in progress

International series

1. Kuteb grammar [published]
2. Mofu Dictionary [published]
3. Copy pronouns [published]
4. Mambai grammar [published]
5. Proceedings of the Jos Linguistic Circle, Volume I. [published]
6. Languages of the Nuba mountains [in press]

In the future

1. Berom dictionary
2. Mada dictionary
3. Tarok Dictionary
4. Muyang dictionary
5. Mambai dictionary
6. Kuteb dictionary
7. New map of Nigerian languages

Nigerian series

1. The Tarok language [printed]
2. Babanki dictionary [printed]
3. Ngwo dictionary [printed]
4. Akoose dictionary [printed]
5. Moghamo dictionary [printed]

APPENDIX II

Jos Linguistic Circle

Report of Meetings to Kay Williamson Educational Foundation

Speakers and Titles back to March 2012

| Speaker | Date | Title |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Gian Claudio | 15/8/12 | Bure language |
| Yun-Hsin Chang | 26/9/12 | Modal-Aspect: Complexes in Yoruba Future Time Reference in C'Lela with a report on the 7th World congress on African Linguistics |
| Steve Dettweiler | 24/10/12 | Sociolinguistic Survey of the Kambari languages in 'The hidden triangle' of Niger and Kebbi States |
| Marcus Love | 28/11/12 | Vowel Systems in Nigerian Languages |
| Matthew Harley | 23/1/13 | Developing the Orthography of Utugwang: How should we do it? |
| Ayugha E Kierien | 27/2/13 | African Elements in the English and Creole of Belize |
| Roger Blench | 10/4/13 | |

The organisers of the Jos Linguistic Circle wish to express their thanks to the Kay Williamson Educational Foundation for their interest and support for local linguistic meetings in the Jos area. The meetings serve students, researchers and development workers engaged in the study of linguistics and Nigerian languages. They provide a forum for presentation of work or research in progress and enable linguists and language development workers to engage in useful debate. Attendees include staff and students from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria Bible Translation Department; University of Jos (linguistics and mass communications departments); Nigeria Bible Translation Trust; Bible Society of Nigeria and others.

David Crozier, TCNN