

Cushitic in the mountains of Taita, Pare, and Kilimanjaro

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Ehret and Nurse (1981) argue for the former presence of Cushitic in the Taita hills on the basis of numerous South Cushitic loans in Davida and Saghala, the two Bantu languages in the area. Mulder (2021) re-assesses their findings using updated South Cushitic reconstructions (Kiessling & Mous 2003) and concludes that there are enough convincing cognates to confirm this fact. Nurse (1979) identifies numerous non-Bantu and specifically Cushitic loans in the Chaga languages. Mous (2000) analyses the mixed language Ma'á as a construct of a parallel lexicon after a shift from a Cushitic language to a Pare variety and hence there must have once been a Cushitic language spoken in the Pare mountains.

The team has evaluated this evidence, in particular for the Taita mountains, added numerous other non-Bantu words in the Taita Bantu languages and identified a number of lexical strata in Saghala and Davida, one of which is a South Cushitic source.

The exact relation between Taita-Cushitic and proto-Tanzanian Cushitic is still unclear. But we present an evaluation of the Cushitic evidence in the Taita-Kilimanjaro-Pare mountain area.

Ehret, Christopher & Derek Nurse 1981. The Taita Cushites. *Sprache und Geschichte in Afrika* 3:125-168.

Kießling, Roland and Maarten Mous. 2003. *The lexical reconstruction of West Rift (Southern Cushitic)*. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.

Mous, Maarten 2003. *The making of a Mixed Language. The case of Ma'a/Mbugu*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Mulder, Sophie, 2021. The Taita Cushites revisited. BA scriptie Taalwetenschap, Leiden University.

Nurse, Derek. 1979. *Classification of the Chaga dialects: Language and history on Kilimanjaro, the Taita Hills, and the Pare Mountains*. Hamburg: Helmut Buske.