

The multitude of Cushitic and Nilotic contacts

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There was transfer of Proto Omo-Tana into Proto South Nilotic, showing cultural dominance of Proto Omo-Tana in particular because of the paradigm of decimal numbers that Proto South Nilotic borrowed from Proto Omo-Tana but also other numbers, 6-10. In addition, at least four relatively basic verbs in Proto South Nilotic are of Proto Omo-Tana provenance and both aspects, verb and basic, point to intense contact. There was some transfer from Proto West Omo-Tana into Proto South Nilotic. Although the number of borrowed words is low, the fact that two of them refer to male domestic animals may be a significant indication for the nature of the West Omo-Tana cultural influence on Proto South Nilotic. There was some transfer from Proto East Omo-Tana into Proto Kalenjin. This is partly a consequence of our decision to take those items that could have been transferred at earlier stages at donor and receiving side to be evidence of that earlier contact event with the advantage of regularising Omo-Tana – South Nilotic versus East Omo-Tana - Kalenjin contact events. There was very little transfer from an Oromoid source into Proto Kalenjin; too little to draw any conclusions from as yet and the same is true for scarcity of evidence for Yaaku/Dullay transfer into any of the Southern Nilotic languages. We do not accept the evidence for a separate Omo-Tana language Baz as proposed by Heine, Rottland and Vossen (1979), on the basis of the presented Cushitic loans in South Nilotic. Not assuming one source for these loans made it possible for us to suggest a number of different contact scenarios, see Mous and Rapold (under review). Re-assessing Ehret (1970)'s proposal of South Cushitic influence on South Nilotic shows that there must indeed have been intense contact between Kalenjin and South Cushitic as evidenced by some 50 cognates as well as between Tanzanian South Cushitic and Datooga through their common history, Kießling, Mous and Rapold (in prep).

Ehret, Christopher. 1970 [1969]. *The Southern Nilotes to 1600 A.D.: A Linguistic Approach to East African History*. PhD Northwestern University, 1969. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms Inc.

Heine, Bernd, Franz Rottland & Rainer Vossen. 1979. Proto-Baz: Some Aspects of Early Nilotic-Cushitic Contacts. *Sprache und Geschichte in Afrika* 1. 75–91. Kießling, Roland, Maarten Mous and Christian Rapold (in prep). South-Cushitic and South Nilotic contact.

Mous, Maarten and Christian Rapold (under review). Cushitic loans in South Nilotic revisited.