

Some Comparative issues in Dime

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Dime is an endangered Language, and it belongs to the Omotic language family (Mulugeta, 2008, Fleming,1976)). The main objective of this study is to discuss and describe some peculiar features of Dime compared to other Omotic languages. The analysis mainly focuses on the phonological parts; however, it also treats a few grammatical perspectives. The data are collected using fieldwork from native speakers of the language in the area, and secondary data has been consulted from previous works. A qualitative method is employed. Dime reflects a few unusual features compared to related Omotic languages (Bender, 200:160, Mulugeta, 2008). For instance, the velar and uvular fricative sounds such as /x, ɣ, ɣ̣, ɣ̥/ are specific features of Dime. Phonemically these sounds do not occur in other related languages despite their phonetic existence. However, Melkenh (2011:24) pointed out that the sound (X and ɣ̥) has a phonemic contrast in Aari. This may show us the south Omotic languages such as Dime and Ari are many similar languages in contrast to the other Omotic languages. For instance, in relation to karo (Alemegena, 2018:32) reported the non-existence of these sounds. In Hamer-benna reported that the only occurrence of the velar fricative sound x (Tsegaye Lema, 2015, Moges and Biniyam, 2015)). Moreover, the palatal sounds (tʃ, ʒ) and the glide sounds (w, y) are rarely found in Omotic languages. However, in Dime, these sounds occur in any position of the word. Dime has additional affricates such as /ts/ which is the feature of northern Omotic and also misses the implosive sound /ɓ/ which is considered a proto aroid sound (Moges, 2013). Furthermore, in Omotic across the languages, five vowel system is reported. However, in Dime, we identified nine vowel systems (Mulugeta, 2008). Even Moges (2007, 2015) claims that 10 vowel systems across the south Omotic languages. Dime has grammatical gender, which is abandoned in other Omotic languages. In addition, Dime adjectives constitute a separate word class. They are characterized by gender agreement whereas nouns and verbs are not marked for gender. There is a Uniquely Adjectival Morpheme –**id** for plural agreement. Thus, the masculine and feminine gender distinction and plural agreements is a unique features of adjectives compared to nouns and verbs. Some features of the Dime prefix is also peculiar to Dime which is not attested in other Omotic languages. Dime demonstratives represent a rare pattern in the family. Omotic languages are head-final. Word order is Subject-Object-Verb in all of them. Nominal modifiers are followed by nouns and main verbs, which are always final. However, in Dime word order of nouns and noun modifiers is not restricted compared to some other Omotic languages. Word order is also not restricted to verbal sentences in verbs and adverbs alternate their order without changing meanings. The specific linguistic feature may lead our attention to its original relation to the other Nilotic and Surmaic languages (Mulugeta, 2008, Moges, 2013). In the current study, some more comparative issues of the Dime with related languages will be treated well.