

Acknowledgments

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It was the pleasure of the University of Oregon to host the 2006 (37th) Annual Conference on African Linguistics, simultaneously with the increased growth of African Studies on this campus. As this volume of *Selected Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference on African Linguistics* goes to press, a minor in African Studies has just been approved by the State Board of Education, drawing on Africanist faculty from a wide variety of disciplines and departments. The University of Oregon has recently increased efforts to make our African language offerings more robust in terms of number of languages offered, and number of years of academic course work available. And we have active study-abroad programs and internships for students in various parts of the African continent.

It is of interest to note that about 40% of Africa's approximately 2,500 languages belong to the Afro-Asiatic, Nilo-Saharan, and Khoisan phyla, while about 60% belong to the Niger-Congo phylum.¹ However, the disproportionate majority of the more than 80 papers presented at the 2006 conference were on Niger-Congo languages (and proportions for the 2007 conference cannot be much different). We note that this apparent research imbalance is equally reflected in this volume: only three papers on non-Niger-Congo languages. Nevertheless, the papers included here, which have been subjected to substantive peer-review, are significant for increasing the database of detailed studies of individual African languages. Several of the papers deal with contact among multiple languages and consequent areal effects, as well as language endangerment under contact. Additionally, all of the papers in the first section of the volume plus three of the morphosyntax papers are important for improving our understanding of historical dynamics in the languages and language families of the African continent.

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¹ Phyla as proposed by Greenberg (1963); percentage estimates derived from Gordon (2005).

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