



DAKAR INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON LINGUISTICS
First edition

MARCH 16 to 18, 2023
CHEIKH ANTA DIOP UNIVERSITY
DAKAR, SENEGAL

Linguists from Cheikh Anta Diop University (CLAD, IFAN, Department of Linguistics) will organize the first International Colloquium on Linguistics (CilDak-1). This symposium will gather linguists working on African languages and the languages spoken in the African continent. It will be held from March 16 to 18, 2023 in Dakar (Senegal). The topic for this colloquium is:

***" LANGUAGE DESCRIPTION IN AFRICA:
DATA AND THEORIES"***

The description of a language can be a tricky work for whoever undertakes it. The pieces of this puzzle, which is called '(general) system of language', only come together in a coherent whole after long observations and analyses and, sometimes even, after cross-checking with other languages.

The linguist is sometimes in a situation which questions his/her distancing, especially if he/she works on one of the languages he/she speaks. This has often been and continues to be the case in African linguistics. It is very common for Africanist linguists to work on their own language(s).

Whether he speaks the language he/she describes or not, the linguist is conditioned by his linguistic substrate. It is from various phonological, morphosyntactic and cultural filters screens, among others, that he will apprehend his object of study. Linguistics as a science has developed techniques of objectification for the acquisition of knowledge, allowing access to a descriptive approach free of the biases mentioned. Culioli (1999: 68) defines linguistics as the science that apprehends language through the diversity of natural languages. It shares with other human and natural sciences the activity of describing data in units. Describing in the sense of representing, goes back to the first reflexes of drawing, arrangement, annotation, constitution of lists which today still preoccupy the history of ancient documents. Botany, for example, has long remained a science of description, classification, and use of plant species.

One of the precepts of language description is increasingly based on a multidisciplinary approach which can be built on the following statement "to fully understand languages, they must be apprehended in their social and cultural environment" (Bouquiaux and Thomas: 1971). It cannot be about downplaying the historical and socio-cultural significance of the descriptive activity by reducing the objectives of the study of languages to a comparison with living organs, to labelling or to pure taxonomy.

It is also not about trivializing the historical and socio-cultural stakes of descriptive activity by reducing the purposes of linguistic studies to comparison with living organs, to pure taxonomy. The observation of language facts in the context of their system and their history makes it possible to prioritize the times and tasks of description. The formal, functional, and cognitive approaches of contemporary linguistics do not doubt the fact that the linguistic description of a given language must take into consideration all the components of that language. Linguistics has been enriched by enlarging its object of study to that of variation, discourse, enunciation, dialogue, and the building of meaning.

The nature of data in linguistics and the principles governing their constitution has become central in recent years, and this is clearly demonstrated by the importance that corpus linguistics has gained over years. In addition, data are often collected using tools developed within a particular and well-defined theoretical framework. This raises the question of whether conducting research within a particular theoretical framework influences the collection and use of data, or whether the data may dictate the application of one theory, or an eclecticism aimed at borrowing tools from several theories. Thus, one can wonder whether the fact of carrying out research in a theoretical framework influences the collection and exploitation of data or whether the data can impose the application of a theory, or there is an eclecticism which borrows tools from several theories.

We propose to reflect on the articulation of data and theory, insofar as seeing that the relationship between these two elements is essential to the linguistic analysis and description of languages, particularly in Africa.

The topic of the colloquium, "The description of languages in Africa: theories and data", is intended to be the subject of a constructive reflection on the state and the dynamics of the challenges of languages description in African spaces. We invite proposals on the articulation between data and their analysis in a theoretical framework. Contributions may relate, but not exclusively, to the methods of constitution and collection of data, to their processes of exploitation, the influence that a theory can have on data and, conversely, the influence that the latter may have on a theory.

Contributions will cover the following areas:

Topic 1: Morphology and Morphophonology

Topic 2: Syntax and Morphosyntax

Topic 3: Language acquisition

Topic 4: Typology

Topic 5: Semantics

Topic 6: Enunciation and discourse analysis

Topic 7: Sociolinguistics and language teaching

Topic 8: Language documentation

Topic 9: Sign languages



Bibliography

BOUQUIAUX Luc & THOMAS Jacqueline M. C. (éds), 1971, *Enquête et description des langues à tradition orale*, Numéro spécial 1, Paris, SELAF.

CULIOLI, Antoine, 1999, *Pour une linguistique de l'énonciation 2*. Paris, Ophrys.

SUBMISSION

Papers should be formatted as follows: electronic format in Word or rtf files. Abstracts should be between 1500 to 2000 characters long, spaces included, and in Times New Roman, 12.

Abstracts should be sent to: cildak@ucad.edu.sn

- An anonymous file will contain: the title, the abstract and the bibliography are gathered in a separate sheet.
- Another file will contain: the surname(s) and first name(s) of the author(s), affiliation, contact details (e-mail and postal contact), the title of the paper

French is the preferred language for the colloquium, but presentation in English may be accepted.

REGISTRATION FEES

Pre-registration should be completed before 10-01-2022.

- Scholars: XOF 50,000 (€75)
- Doctors: XOF 25, 000 (€40)
- PhD and Master students: XOF15,000 (€25)
- Other participants: XOF 30,000 (€45)

N.B. These fees cover the registration, food services (coffee break, and lunch) and publishing costs.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission closes: October 15, 2022
- Notification of acceptance: November 30, 2022
- Pre-registration: October 15 to December 31, 2022
- Colloquium date: March 16 to 18, 2023

PUBLICATION OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The conference proceedings will be published, after a selection of papers and according to the following agenda:

- Submission of final versions of articles (articles to be examined for publication): May 2023.
- Publication of conference proceedings: December 2023.



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