



## OBITUARIES

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**Hans-Jürgen Sasse**  
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Hans-Jürgen Sasse studied general linguistics, Balkanic, Indo-European and Semitic studies at the universities in Berlin, Thessaloniki and Munich. He graduated from the University of Munich in 1970 when he successfully defended his dissertation *Linguistische Analyse des arabischen Dialekts der Mhallamiye in der Provinz Mardin (Südost-türkei)* (Linguistic Analysis of the Arabic Dialect of Mhallami in Mardin Province, Southern Turkey), see 1971a. Between 1972 and 1977, he worked as a research assistant at the Institute of General and Indo-European Linguistics at the University of Munich. Here he habilitated in 1975 in the field of general linguistics with his work on the morphophonology of the Galab language (also known as Daasanach; see 1974a), and already in 1977 he was appointed a full professor of general and typological linguistics.

In the 1970s, he travelled to Ethiopia and Kenya where he performed field research on the languages Quimant, Daasanach (Galab), Boni, Dullay and Burji. In the 1980s, he studied the Albanian dialects of Northern Greece where he gained both material for a unique monograph (1991a) and a wife.

In 1987, he accepted an offer from the University of Cologne and went there to lead the Institute of General and Comparative Linguistics, where he would remain for the next 21 years. He replaced prof. Hansjakob Seilers, while his former position in Munich was assigned to prof. Michael Job. In 2001, Sasse was elected a regular member of the Academy of Sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia. After his retirement during the 2008/2009 winter semester, he was replaced by Nikolaus P. Himmelmann.

The linguistic interests of Hans-Jürgen Sasse were manifold and far-reaching as well. Hardly any linguist today is able to both claim a position among internationally leading specialists in both synchronic and diachronic linguistics and simultaneously deal with various language families. Besides his skills in the realm of general linguistics which

should be appraised by someone better qualified in this field than the authors of this article, three main areas of Sasse's interests can be defined: Albanian studies in a broader context of Balkan studies (cf. 1985a, 1991a, e, 1993c, 1995b), Iroquoian languages with a special focus on the Cayuga language (cf. 1988a, 1995c, 1997b, 1999a), Afro-Asiatic studies (generally 1981a, c, 1991b), and partly the Semitic languages (1971a, 1980b, 1984a, 2003a) and Cushitic languages (generally 1980b, 1981b, 1987a, 2003a; Central Cushitic: 1973a {Qimant}, 1974b; Eastern Cushitic: 1975a, b, 1976a, b, 1977a, 1979a, 1980a, b, c, 1982a, 1984b, 1993c, 1995e).

Especially his works on Eastern Cushitic comparative phonology (1975a, 1976a, 1979a), comparative morphology (1980b, 2003a) and etymology (1982a) present a solid basis for creating comparative grammars of Cushitic of the same standard as the comparative linguistics of Semitic or Indo-European languages. It is no accident that such a task was performed by a linguist with profound knowledge in these fields. Sasse's immense contribution to both the synchronic and diachronic knowledge of the Cushitic languages was proven at the organizational level as well. He arranged for the establishment of a monograph series *Cushitic Language Studies*, which was first published by Buske Verlag in Hamburg and later by Köppe Verlag in Cologne. Rüdiger Köppe himself, the owner of the publishing company, had a lively interest in this field as he had studied African linguistics as well.

Between 1982 and 2008, 26 volumes describing various Cushitic languages were published. The series was then renamed to *Cushitic and Omotic Studies*. In 2010-2013 another three volumes were published. These volumes were edited by Mauro Tosco, initially together with Hans-Jürgen Sasse (and later regrettably only by himself). Mauro Tosco, professor at the University of Turin, was awarded a scholarship for the years 1993-1994 from the Humboldt Foundation for a stay at the University of Cologne just as one of the authors of this contribution was. Our supervisor at that time was Hans-Jürgen Sasse. The following list of publications will be a small repayment of the debt we owe to prof. Sasse.

### Selected bibliography<sup>11</sup>

#### 1971

- (a) *Linguistische Analyse des arabischen Dialekts der Mhallamīye in der Provinz Mardin (Südosttürkei)*. München: Inaugural-Dissertation zur Doktorgrades der Philosophischen Fakultät der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität zu München 1971.

#### 1973

- (a) Bemerkungen zum „Language Survey of Ethiopia“. *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländische Gesellschaft* 123, 1973, 117-128.

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<sup>11</sup> The present bio- & bibliography was prepared thanks to the grant of the The Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), P406/12/0655.

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#### 1975

(a) Galla /š/, /s/ und /f/. *Afrika und Übersee* 58, 1975, 244-263.

(b) The Extension of Macro-Somali. Paper presented at the *Colloque international sur les langues Couchitiques et les peuples qui les parlent* (Paris, Sept 1975). Unpublished ms.

#### 1976

(a) Weiteres zu den ostkuschitischen Sibilanten. *Afrika und Übersee* 59, 1976, 125-142.

(b) Dasanech. In: *The Non-Semitic Languages of Ethiopia*, ed. M. Lionel Bender. East Lansing (MI): African Studies Center, Michigan State University 1976, 196-221.

#### 1977

(a) (+ H. Straube) Kultur und Sprache der Burji in Süd-Äthiopien: Ein Abriss (součástí je H.-J. Sasse: Grammatische Skizze des Burji). In: *Zur Sprachgeschichte und Ethnohistorie in Afrika*, ed. Wilhelm J. Möhlig et al. Berlin: Reimer 1977, 239-266 (248-266).

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#### 1980

(a) (+ Hermann Amborn & Gunter Minker) *Das Dullay: Materialien zu einer ostkuschitischen Sprachgruppe*. Berlin: Reimer 1980.

(b) Ostkuschitische und semitische Verbalklassen. In: *Studien aus Arabistik und Semitistik Anton Spitaler zum 70. Geburtstag von seinen Schülern überreicht*, eds. Werner Diem & Stefan Wild. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 1980, 153-174.

(c) Textproben der Boni-Sprache. *Afrika und Übersee* 63, 1980, 79-101.

#### 1981

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(b) Kuschitisch. In: *Die Sprachen Afrikas*, Band 2. *Afroasiatisch*, ed. Thilo Schadeberg. Hamburg: Buske 1981, 187-215.

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#### 1982

(a) *An etymological dictionary of Burji*. Hamburg: Buske 1982.

- (b) **Subjektprominenz.** In: *Fakten und Theorien. Festschrift für Helmut Stimm*, eds. Sieglinde Heinz and Ulrich Wandruszka. Tübingen: Narr 1982, 267-286.

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- (a) Case in Cushitic, Semitic and Berber. In: *Current progress in Afro-Asiatic linguistics. Papers of the Third International Hamito-Semitic Congress*, ed. by J. Bynon. Amsterdam: Benjamins 1984, 111-126.
- (b) The Pragmatics of Noun Incorporation in Eastern Cushitic Languages. In: *Objects: Towards a theory of grammatical relations*, ed. Frans Plank. London: Academic Press 1984, 243-268.

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- (a) Christian Lehmann's der Relativsatz. *Lingua* 69(1), 1986, 121-138.

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- (a) Kuschitische Sprachen. *Studium Linguistik* 21, 1987, 78-99.
- (b) Thethetic/categorical distinction revisited. *Linguistics* 25(3), 1987, 511-580.

#### 1988

- (a) Der irokesische Sprachtyp. *Arbeitspapier*, N.F. 9 (Institut für Sprachwissenschaft, Universität zu Köln) = *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft* 7, 1988, 173-213.
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- (e) *Aspekte der Albanologie. Akten des Kongresses „Stand und Aufgaben der Albanologie heute“* (3.-5 Okt.1988, Universität zu Köln), Herausgegeben von Walter Breu, Rolf Ködderitzsch und Hans-Jürgen Sasse. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 1991.

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- (b) Scales between Nouniness and Verbiness. In: *Language Typology and Language Universals: An International Handbook*, eds. Martin Haspelmath, Ekkehard König, Wulf Oesterreicher & Wolfgang Raible. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter 2001, 495-509.

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