

## Heibanian and Talodian (Kordofanian) : towards a comparative approach

Heibanian and Talodian are two branches of the Kordofanian grouping (for recent discussion about Kordofanian, see Blench 2011 and Dimmendaal 2011 and references therein). To date, the most complete comparative study for those languages remains Schadeberg (1981a, b). However, during the last decade, significant progress has been made in the description of several Heibanian languages such as Heiban (e.g. Schadeberg & Kossmann 2010), Koalib (e.g. Quint 2006, 2009, 2010), Moro (e.g. Jenks & Rose), Tira, Ko and Werni (several fieldworks by Quint in 2006 & 2008) as well as Talodian languages such as Dagik (e.g. Vandervelst, forthcoming), Lumun (e.g. Smits, forthcoming). This increasingly bigger amount of new data allows us to resume a comparative approach of Heibanian and Talodian languages.

In this communication I intend to deal with three matters. First, I will give a state of arts of comparative studies already available on Heibanian and Talodian languages and the methodological problems (scarcity of data, varying quality of the available material) raised by such studies. Second, I will present some data of all three sub-branches of Heibanian languages (i.e. East-Heibanian, West-Heibanian and Central Heibanian), using a comparative approach to underline the main phonetical and lexical peculiarities of each of these sub-branches. Thirdly, I will present some Talodian data and try to contrast them with our Heibanian data. Then I will conclude about the perspectives offered by the application of the comparative method to Kordofanian languages.

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