

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
CENTRE FOR LINGUISTIC AND HISTORICAL STUDIES BY ORAL TRADITION
NIAMEY

FINAL REPORT OF :

MEETING OF UNESCO'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON HAUSA
TRANSLATION OF THE ABRIDGED VERSION OF
VOLUME VII OF THE GENERAL HISTORY OF AFRICA,
HELD AT CLHSOT, NIAMEY, FROM 13th TO 15th MARCH, 1989.

FINAL REPORT OF :

Meeting of UNESCO'S Sub-Committee on Hausa Translation
of the Abridged Version of the General History of
Africa, held at the Centre for Linguistic and Historical
Studies by Oral Tradition (CLHSOT), Niamey, from 13th to
15th March, 1989.

I. OPENING SESSION

I . PRESENT AT THE MEETING

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (i) | Professor Mahdi Adamu, | Chairman,
Usmanu Danfodiyo
University, Sokoto,
Nigeria. |
| (ii) | Professor Dalhatu Muhammad, | Department of Nigerian
and African Languages
Ahmadu Bello University
Zaria, Nigeria. |
| (iii) | Professor Djibo Hamani, | Department d'Histoire
Université de Niamey
Niamey. |
| (iv) | Dr. Boubé Gado, | I.R.S.H.
Université de Niamey
Niamey. |
| (v) | Malam Umaru Balarabe Ahmed, | Centre for Nigerian
Cultural Studies,
Ahmadu Bello University,
Zaria, Nigeria. |
| (vi) | Malam Abubakar Dogo, | Usmanu Danfodiyo Univer-
sity, -
Sokoto, Nigeria. |
| (vii) | Professor E.A. Ayandele, | Regional Adviser on Cul-
ture in Africa, Represen-
ting the Director General
of UNESCO. |

(viii) Dr. Diouldé Laya,

ISC, CELHTO
Niamey.

2. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE :

Dr. Ibrahim Yaro Yahaya, Centre for the Study of Nigerian
Languages,
Bayero University, Kano
Nigeria.

3. WELCOME SPEECHES

The meeting began at 11.00 a.m. on monday 13th March, 1989. It continued, morning and afternoon until wednesday 15th March 1989 when it ended.

The Director of CELHTO, Dr. Laya delivered the Opening address in which he welcomed members of the Sub-Committee, and the Regional Advisor on Culture in Africa and the representative of the Director General of UNESCO, Professor E.A. Ayandele.

He then thanked the Vice-Chancellors of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto ; Bayero University, Kano ; Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria ; and the University of Niamey, for the support they have been giving to Unesco's Project and translating into Hausa of the abridged versions of the General History of Africa. He also thanked the experts involved for their committment despite their busy schedules in various callings.

In his remarks, Professor Ayandele conveyed a goodwill message from the Director-General of Unesco in which he expressed his appreciation to the Universitiesⁱⁿ Nigeria and Niger for the workshops on Hausa terminologies which they organised in Sokoto and Niamey. Special thanks go to the Council of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, through the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

He also challenged the Usmanu Danfodiyo University press to finish the work of printing Volume II on time and ready for presentation at the General Conference of Unesco coming up in October this year.

Professor Ayandele formally welcomed members to the meeting on behalf of the Director-General of Unesco. He thanked the Government of Niger and the OAU for the excellent relationship existing between them and Unesco.

After formal opening the invited guests and the media then left the Conference hall. The Special Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony was the ^{Vice-Chancellor} of the University of Niamey Professor A. Sidikou. It was after their departure that the agenda was adopted and the meeting began. Professor Mahdi Adamu was elected to be the Chairman.

II. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING :

Members discussed the various issues that arose from the last meeting which was held from 26th to 30th January, 1987. It was held at CLHSOT Niamey.

The Chairman and Vice-Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University reported that three workshops on translating terminologies and concepts into Hausa had already taken place, two at Sokoto (Feb. 1987 and Jan. 1988) and one at Niamey (Dec. 1988).

The fourth one is scheduled to take place at Kaduna, Nigeria, 15-19 May, 1989. The workshop has now become a regular feature which attracts huge participation from the Universities, the mass media and other Professions. It has greatly enriched the translations of Volumes I, II and VII of the General History of Africa.

It is hoped that Volume III and the other subsequent Volumes will also benefit from this work. In the case of Volume III, volunteers will be asked to pick the terminologies from the text available at CLHSOT and present them at the Kaduna workshop for translation.

To quicken the work of translating Vol. III it was agreed that all words adopted in the last three workshops arranged in alphabetical order by the Cibiyar Nazarin Hausa (Hausa Studies Centre) in Sokoto, shall be made available at the Kaduna meeting. This interim

dictionary will give wider publicity to the work done.

The issue of definitive text of Volume II came up next for discussion. The Chairman who is also the Editor, of the volume, reported that the volume was being retyped, preparatory to sending the manuscript to press by the end of March, 1989. A Carbon copy of it will be sent to Unesco Headquarters in Paris through Dr. Laya. He also gave an undertaking that the volume will be printed by the end of September, 1989 so that the Director-General of Unesco could present it to the General Conference of Unesco in October 1989.

The meeting noted that the delay in retyping the volume was caused by lack of a typewriter which has the Hausa hooked letters. It was then agreed that Unesco should supply a good typewriter or two fully equipped with all the Hausa letters and vowels. It will be kept in Sokoto where the typing of the final versions of the translated texts will continue to be typed. The terminology workshop project will also benefit from it since Sokoto is the base of the project. The Chairman will send the request for the typewriters to Professor Ayandele for action.

With regard to illustrations for Volume II, it was noted that they were not attached to the English text translated. The Representative of the Director-General undertook to send them to the Editor as soon as he returned to Dakar.

State of Progress of Volume I.

The translation has been completed except for chapters 25 and 26 assigned to Dr. Boubé Gado. These too are now being typed and will be ready by the end of this week.

In view of the progress reported it was then recalled that Readers have already been appointed as follows :

Readers

1. Malam Abubakar Dogo

Chapters : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5-6, 7-8, 9, 10, 16

Total of pages : 121.

2. Dr. Ibrahim Mukoshy

Chapters : 11, 12, 13-14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28

Introduction, Conclusion.

Total of pages : 118.

3. Professor Muhammadu Hambali Jinju

Chapters : 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

Total of pages : 102.

Time Schedule :

- (a) Readers will receive their chapters by the end of this week (mid-march 89)
- (b) Readers to return the ^{finished} chapters to Chairman by 13th May, 1989.
- (c) Chairman to submit to Editor by 15th May, 1989.
- (d) Editor to finish by mid-July, 1989.
- (e) Sub-Committee to meet in Niamey 11th-13th September, 1989 to approve the final text.

Members to attend the meeting in Niamey in September 1989 from Nigeria are as follows :

Professor Mahdi Adamu

Dr. Muhammadu Hambali Jinju

Dr. Ibrahim Mukoshy

Malam Mohammad Rabi'u Zarruk

Malam Abubakar Dogo.

Publication :

Information was given that of the five publishing companies short-listed four were interviewed at Sokoto on 13/1/88. Out of them the University of Sokoto Press Limited was selected to print and publish Volume II. The challenge now is meeting the deadline of getting the book ready by October, 1989.

In respect of the above, Professor Ayandele gave the following information :

- That the University has to put in some money into the project and agree to meet Unesco's objective of selling the book at affordable prices.
- That some percentage has to be paid to Unesco as royalty, and it is now 6 %/°.
- That the Universities in the Hausa speaking sub-region should consider the books to be published as their joint handwork and cooperate in giving it the maximum publicity possible.

The meeting also took note of the contract awarded by Unesco to Mauclert Bookshop, Niamey for the distribution of all Unesco books. It was decided that in the long term interest of the project CLHSOT should be the sole distributor in Niger of all the books to come out of this project.

All copies meant for Niger Republic will be sent to CLHSOT for distribution. They will arrange with Bookshops the Ministry of Education, the media and all available means to ensure that the books get to the people at affordable prices.

Dr. Laya, Director CLHSOT, gave his Undertaking that the Centre will do the job as requested by the Sub-Committee.

It was agreed that the text of printed volumes will carry the names of translation Editors and the list of translators, with their addresses.

III. APPROVAL OF THE TEXT OF VOLUME VII

This volume is the first to benefit directly from the translation workshops on Hausa terminologies. It has now been translated, read and edited. The Sub-Committee saw and approved the definitive text of Volume VII and authorised that the final typing be done at Sokoto, to be paid by ^{CLHSOT whose} duty technically it is to retype the final versions.

IV. NOMINATIONS FOR VOLUME III

Having approved the final version of Volume VII, the Sub-Committee then discussed the distribution of responsibilities for Volume III and decided as follows :

Translators

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. B. Umar, Chapt's : 1,2,3,5 | (80 pages) |
| 2. Abubakar Dogo, Chapt's : 4,6,7,9 | (80 pages) |
| 3. Shekarau Maikafi, Chapt's : 8,10,11,12 | (80 pages) |
| 4. Iawal Sambo, Chapt's : 23,25,26 | (45 pages) |
| 5. Dr. Ibrahim Yaro Yahaya, Chapt's : 13,14,15,19,20 | (81 pages) |
| 6. Halilu Ahmed Getso, Chapt's : 24,27,28 | (48 pages) |
| 7. Rabi'u Mohammad Zarruk, Chapt's : 16,17,18,21,22 | (80 pages). |

Readers :

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Professor Dalhatu Muhammad, | Chapt's 1-14 | (286 pages) |
| 2. Umaru Balarabe Ahmed, | Chapt's 15-28 | (288 pages). |

Editor :

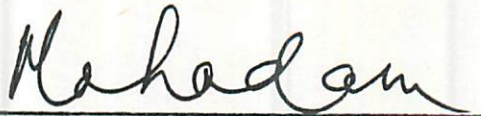
Professor Mahdi Adamu

To quicken the pace of work translators can start work using the un official text, pending the arrival of definitive text with

the understanding that any extra work will not be paid. Plates and figures are expected to come along with the definitive text.

It was agreed that the Chairman will ask the Cibiyar Nazarin Hausa (Hausa Studies Centre) of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto to pick out new terminologies from Volume III and make them available for translation at the Kaduna workshop scheduled for 15th-19th May, 1989. The Zaria group will do the same for the next abridged volume.

Before the meeting closed members expressed their gratitude to the Director-General of Unesco for sponsoring the meeting and to CLHSOT for hosting it. The moral support of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Niamey was also appreciated.



Professor Mahdi Adamu

Chairman

15th March 1989.

1989-03-13

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