

An annotated bibliography of Arabic and Berber in Libya

“It is to be feared that atlases for such countries as *Libya* will never see the light of day.”¹

1. Introduction²

Both Arabic and Berber varieties in Libya are among the least studied of their respective linguistic groups. Although numerous works on Arabic and Berber saw the light of publication during the Italian occupation, from that period until the early 2000s only a single monograph-length scholarly publication appeared on any variety of either Arabic or Berber in Libya. Even now, despite a marked increase in the number of scholars who devote linguistic attention to Libya, the documentation and study of language in Libya still lags behind that of neighboring countries. Unfortunately, this state of affairs can largely be attributed to the fact that Libya has been very inaccessible for non-Libyan scholars over the past several decades. Meanwhile, the vast majority of Libyan students who studied linguistics abroad did not publish their work. In fact, we have found a total of 38 PhD theses on Libyan Arabic (37) or Berber (1) by Libyan students in European and American universities, as well as about a dozen master’s-level dissertations, all unpublished. This fact speaks, perhaps, both to the difficulty of Libyan scholars finding work in the West and to conditions in Libya which financially supported education abroad but restricted research and knowledge production at home.

The reasons for compiling the present bibliography are two. Firstly, bringing together references to whatever material exists for the study of these two languages and their varieties will benefit interested scholars. In this way, we also intend this work to be a sort of first step in the eventual compiling of Arabic and Berber dialectological atlases for Libya—a project, however, that will require much future fieldwork. Secondly, while we certainly intend to highlight the comparatively small published amount of work on Libyan Arabic and Berber, we also intend to draw attention to the unpublished studies of numerous Libyan graduate students abroad, as well as to relatively inaccessible works published in Libya. Though we have aimed to give as exhaustive a list as possible of the publications which do exist, we do not intend to comment on every one, but rather to give a general idea of the most important sources and studies while pointing out others which could be of use in further research. In this way, we hope that the main and numerous gaps in research may be seen and future avenues identified. We also initially intended to compile a bibliography containing works on all languages of Libya—perhaps overly ambitious given the paucity of work on Arabic—but were unable to locate even a single work about Libyan varieties of Hausa or Tubu, nor anything about the Greek variety still spoken by the *Grītlīya* community in eastern Libya.

2. Libyan Arabic

2.1. General

A few publications discuss the linguistic situation in Libya from a general perspective, among which are four main articles. Owens (1983) was the first to give an overview of

¹ P. Behnstedt, “Dialectology” in *The Oxford Handbook of Arabic Linguistics*, ed. J. Owens (Oxford: OUP, 2013), 321.

² The authors wish to thank Jérôme Lentin in particular for substantially enlarging this bibliography with many references and suggestions. We are also grateful to Slavomír Čéplö for digging up material in the Slavic languages and to Marijn van Putten for some Berber-related references.

multiple Arabic dialects in Libya; his short account was fieldwork-based and proposed a tentative classification of Libyan dialects into western, eastern, and transitional varieties. It was not until the 2000s that new publications on languages in Libya appeared: Larcher (2001) gives a historical overview of the different languages used in the territory which constitutes modern-day Libya, while Quitout (2004) similarly traces the linguistic situation in Libya throughout history, giving attention to the position of foreign languages such as English, Italian, and French. Pereira (2007) is the latest overview of Arabic dialects in Libya, written from a dialectological point of view and emphasizing comparatively more the description of Arabic.

Larcher, Pierre. 2001. Les langues de la Libye: passé et présent. *La revue des Deux Rives* 2, 43–51.

Owens, Jonathan. 1983 [1987]. Libyan Arabic dialects. *Orbis* 32/1-2, 97–117.

Pereira, Christophe. 2007. Libya. In *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics Vol. III Eg–Lan*. Leiden: Brill, 52–58.

Quitout, Michel. 2004. La situation linguistique en Libye. *Folia Orientalia* 40, 313–326.

2.2 Tripoli

The dialect of Tripoli is far and away the best documented variety of Arabic in Libya, whether in linguistic descriptions (the earliest being Stumme 1898, as well as many Italian authors such as Trombetti, Griffini, and Cesàro in the first half of the twentieth century), or works of historical, ethnological, or anthropological focus (notably those of Cerbella, Chiauzzi, and Rossi – see also section 2.7) which provide numerous corpora (poetry, proverbs, songs, sayings, riddles, etc.) that can be used by linguists. Italian researchers were productive during the Italian occupation of Libya, and were as a result of it able to publish works such as languages manuals for military officers, dictionaries (Griffini 1913), language textbooks (Farina 1912), and finally grammars and transcribed texts of a more linguistic approach (Trombetti 1912, Cesàro 1939). The end of Italian influence in Libya also meant that Italian scholarship on Libya decreased (the main exception is Gioia Chiauzzi, who carried out fieldwork from the 1960s to the 1990s). Studies on Libyan Arabic slowly started to appear again in the 1970s and 1980s, thanks to some doctoral theses by Libyan students in the USA (especially Abdu 1988, Elfitoury 1976, Elgadi 1986), and have continued to pick up pace as Libyan students complete MAs (e.g. Al-Ageli 1995, Algryani 2010-2014, Laradi 1972/1983) and PhDs (see further section 2.7) abroad. Unfortunately, as we have already mentioned, nearly all of these theses remain unpublished, and most such students return to Libya and do not continue to be active in the field.

The most substantial fieldwork in recent decades has been that of Christophe Pereira, who has carried out fieldwork in Tripoli since the early 2000s, culminating with the publication of a grammatical sketch of the Tripoli dialect (Pereira 2010a). His corpus of recordings obtained from young men have also allowed for the expansion of Libyan Arabic research into the areas of sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology (Pereira 2007, 2010b, fthc.). Now, thanks to the work of Najah Benmoftah (Benmoftah 2016, Benmoftah & Pereira fthc.), recordings obtained from women have also been brought into the available corpus of Tripoli Arabic.

Abdu, Hussein Ramadan. 1988. *Italian Loanwords in Colloquial Libyan Arabic as Spoken in the Tripoli Region*. PhD thesis, University of Arizona, Tucson. 327 p.

Abdulaziz, Ashour.

- Aït-Oumeziane, Ramdane. 1986. Le statut de la fonction sujet dans deux parlers arabes: Constantine et Tripoli. *La linguistique (Revue de la société de linguistique fonctionnelle)* 22/1, 81–92.
- Al-Ageli, Hussein M. 1995. *Syllabic and Metrical Structure in Tripolitanian Arabic: A Comparative Study in Standard and Optimality Theory (Libya)*. PhD thesis, University of Essex. ix+264 p.
- Algryani, Ali. 2010. Preposition Stranding in Libyan Arabic Sluicing. *Newcastle Working Papers in Linguistics* 16, 1–22.
- Algryani, Ali. 2011. VP Ellipsis in Libyan Arabic. *Newcastle Working Papers in Linguistics* 17, 1–22.
- Algryani, Ali. 2012. *The syntax of ellipsis in Libyan Arabic : a generative analysis of sluicing, VP ellipsis, stripping and negative contrast*. PhD thesis, Newcastle University, 175 p.
- Algryani, Ali. 2012. Stripping and negative contact in Libyan Arabic. *Newcastle Working Papers in Linguistics* 18, 1–23.
- Algryani, Ali. 2013. On the Syntax of Stripping in Libyan Arabic. *International Journal of Linguistics* 5/5, 156–174.
- Algryani, Ali. 2014. Emphasis Spread in Libyan Arabic. *International Journal on Studies in English Language and Literature* 2.12, 30-38.
- Algryani, Ali. 2011-2012. Sluicing in Libyan Arabic. *Al-‘Arabiyya* 44/45. 41–63.
- Beguino, Francesco. 1911. Notizie sul dialetto arabo di Tripoli. *Rivista d’Africa* dicembre 1911, 681–684.
- Benmofteh, Najah. 2016. *Des ligateurs de cause : étude contrastive entre l’arabe parlé à Tripoli et le français parlé à Paris. Propriétés syntaxiques et fonctionnements pragmatico-discursifs*. PhD thesis, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3. 330 p.
- Benmofteh, Najah & Pereira, Christophe. fthc. Des connecteurs de cause en arabe de Tripoli (Libye). George Grigore & Gabriel Bițuna (eds). *Proceedings of the 11th AIDA Conference. Romano Arabica* 16. Bucharest: University of Bucharest.
- Borsley, Robert D. & Mohamed Krer. 2012. An HPSG Approach to Negation in Libyan Arabic. *Essex Research Reports in Linguistics* 61/2, 1–24.
- Cerbella, Gino. 1949. *Le feste musulmane in Tripoli. Appunti Etnografici*. Tripoli: Tipografia Commerciale Fratelli Barbiera, 88 p.
- Cesàro, Antonio. 1939. *L’Arabo parlato a Tripoli : grammatica, esercizi, testi vari* (Grammatiche e lessici delle lingue dell’Africa Italiana). Rome: Mondadori, 292 p.³
- Cesàro, Antonio. 1954. Racconti in dialetto tripolino. *Annali di Istituto Universitario di Napoli* 6, 49–59.
- Chiauzzi, Gioia. 1983. La spedizione di Napoli contro Tripoli d’occidente secondo il cronista tripolino Ḥasan Al-Faqīh Ḥasan Traduzione e osservazioni linguistiche. *Studi Magrebini* 15, 75–153.
- Chiauzzi, Gioia. 1984. La spedizione di Napoli contro Tripoli d’occidente secondo il cronista tripolino Ḥasan Al-Faqīh Ḥasan Traduzione e osservazioni linguistiche. *Studi Magrebini* 16, 91–178.
- Chiauzzi, Gioia. 1985. La spedizione di Napoli contro Tripoli d’occidente secondo il cronista tripolino Ḥasan Al-Faqīh Ḥasan Traduzione e osservazioni linguistiche. *Studi Magrebini* 17, 57–96.
- Chiauzzi, Gioia. 1986. La spedizione di Napoli contro Tripoli d’occidente secondo il cronista tripolino Ḥasan Al-Faqīh Ḥasan Traduzione e osservazioni linguistiche (Parte II : Indice italiano delle voci considerate nelle schede lessicali). *Studi Magrebini* 18, 69–90.

³ We were able to find a review of this early work: J. Cantineau, *Revue Africaine* 85 (1941) p. 130–134.

- D'Anna, Luca & Pereira, Christophe. fthc. Italian loanwords in Western Libyan Arabic: phono-morphological analysis and semantic considerations. *Arabic in Contact*. S. Manfredi, M. Tosco & G. Banti (eds.). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Elfitoury, Abubaker Abdalla. 1976. *A Descriptive Grammar of Libyan Arabic*. PhD thesis, Georgetown University, 292 p.
- Elgadi, Abdalla Salem. 1986. *Tripolitanian Arabic Phonology and Morphology: A Generative Approach*. PhD thesis, Georgetown University, 252 p.
- Farina, Giulio. 1912. *Grammatica araba per la lingua letteraria con un'appendice sul dialetto tripolino*. Bologna: Giulio Groos.
- Geist, Stephen. 1980. *Esquisse du parler Arabe de Tripoli (Libye)*. Maîtrise dissertation, Université Paris 3, 136 p.
- Geist, Stephen. 1981. *La situation linguistique à Tripoli (Libye)*. DEA dissertation, Université Paris 3, 46 p.
- Grand'Henry, Jacques. 1985. Un texte arabe de Tripoli (Libye). In *Mélanges à la mémoire de Philippe Marçais*. Paris: Adrien Maisonneuve, 67–73.
- Griffini, Eugenio. 1913. *L'Arabo Parlato della Libia: cenni grammaticali e repertorio di oltre 10.000 vocaboli, frasi e modi di dire raccolti in Tripolitania; con appendice: primo saggio di un elenco alfabetico di tribù della Libia italiana*. Milan: Ulrico Hoepli., lii+378 p. [Reprint Milano: Cisalpino-Goliardica, 1985.]
- Hoenerbach, Wilhelm. 1959. *Das nordafrikanische Schattentheater*. Mainz: Rheingold Verlag. [Includes a study of shadow plays in Tripoli, with some transcribed and translated texts in Tripoli Arabic (pp. 87–165)]
- Laradi, Widad J. 1972. *Negation in Colloquial Tripoli Arabic*. MA dissertation, University of Leeds, 44 p.
- Laradi, Widad J. 1983. *Pharyngealization in Libyan (Tripoli) Arabic: An Instrumental Study*. PhD thesis, University of Edinburgh, 362 p.
- Laria, Massimo. 1992. Some Phonological and Phonetic Features of the Definite Article in the Spoken Arabic of Tripoli (Libya). *Quaderni di dipartimento di linguistica* 3, 71–75.
- Pavlovic, Ena. 2015. *Osnovne odlike zapadnih libijskih dijalekata: dijalekat Tripolija* [Basic Characteristics of Western Libyan Dialects: The Dialect of Tripoli]. MA dissertation, University of Belgrade [in Serbian].
- Pereira, Christophe. 2001. *L'arabe de Tripoli (Libye). Etat des lieux et nouvelle approche*. Maîtrise dissertation, INALCO.
- Pereira, Christophe. 2003. Le parler arabe de Tripoli (Libye): Etat des lieux d'après les travaux de Hans Stumme, Antonio Cesàro, Eugenio Griffini. *Estudios de Dialectología Norteafricana y Andalusí* 7, 7–57.
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- Pereira, Christophe. 2006. Eléments de description du parler arabe de Tripoli. In *L'arabe dialectal: enquêtes, descriptions, interprétations. Actes d'Aida 6*, ed. S. Mejri. Tunis: Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Economiques et Sociales, 371–385.
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- Pereira, Christophe. 2008. *Le parler arabe de Tripoli (Libye): Phonologie, morphosyntaxe et catégories grammaticales*. PhD thesis, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris.
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- Pereira, Christophe. 2009. Processus de grammaticalisation et innovations dans le parler arabe de Tripoli (Libye). *Revue d'Etudes Berbères*. 2009/1. [Online: bit.ly/1So0X0x]
- Pereira, Christophe. 2010a. *Le parler arabe de Tripoli (Libya)*. Zaragoza: Instituto de Estudios Islámicos y del oriente Próximo. 551 p.
- Pereira, Christophe. 2010b. Les mots de la sexualité dans l'arabe de Tripoli (Libye): désémantisation, grammaticalisation et innovations linguistiques. *L'Année du Maghreb* VI, 123–145.
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- Pereira, Christophe et al. 2013. Arabic Dialects within CorpAfroAs. *Alf lahğa wa lahğa: Proceedings of the 9th AIDA Conference*. O. Durand, A. Langone & G. Mion (eds). Berlin. LIT Verlag. 32–46.
- Pereira, Christophe et al. 2015. The Intonation of Topic and Focus: Zaar (Nigeria), Tamasheq (Niger), Juba Arabic (South Sudan) and Tripoli Arabic (Libya). In *CorpAfroAs: A Corpus for Afro-Asiatic Languages. Vol. I: Data Analysis*, eds. A. Mettouchi et al. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 63–115.
- Pereira, Christophe et al. fthc. La construction socio-langagière du genre : jeunes hommes libyens, jeunes femmes marocaines et rapport à la masculinité. In *D'une rive de la Méditerranée à l'autre : approche comparée des parlers jeunes en milieu urbain (Maroc – Libye – Espagne – France)*. M. Gasquet-Cyrus, Ch. Pereira, C. Trimaille, K. Ziamari (eds). Grenoble: ELLUG.
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- Rossi, Ettore. 1925-1926. Poesia popolare della Tripolitania. Canti storici II. *Rivista della Tripolitania* II/2, 91–97.
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- Rossi, Ettore. 1925-1926. Esplicazione dei vocaboli tripolini contenuti nel precedente articolo (note a Les arts tripolitains). *Rivista della Tripolitania* II/5, 292–293.
- Rossi, Ettore. 1925-1926. Poesia popolare della Tripolitania. I cavalli. La vita del deserto. *Rivista della Tripolitania* II/6, 387–401.
- Rossi, Ettore. 1931. La poesia popolare araba della Tripolitania. *Atti del primo Congresso di Studi Coloniali (Firenze 8–12 aprile 1931)*, vol. IV, 191–201.
- Rossi, Ettore. 1935. Vocaboli stranieri nel dialetto arabo della città di Tripoli. *Atti del III Congresso internazionale dei linguisti (Roma, 19–26 settembre 1933)*, eds. B. Migliorini & V. Pisani. Firenze: F. Le Monnier, 186–193.
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- Shitaw, Abdurraouf Elhashmi. 2014. *An instrumental phonetic investigation of timing relations in two-stop consonant clusters in Tripolitanian Libyan Arabic*. PhD thesis, University of Leeds, 570 p.

- Stumme, Hans. 1984. *Tripolitanisch-tunesische Beduinenlieder*. Leipzig: J.C. Hinrich'sche Buchhandlung, 153 p. [only about 100 verses can be attributed to western Tripolitania, territory of the Maḥāmid, acc. to Rossi]
- Stumme, Hans. 1898. *Märchen und Gedichte aus der Stadt Tripolis in Nordafrika. Sammlung transkribierter prosaischer und poetischer Stücke in arabischen Dialekt der Stadt Tripolis nebst Übersetzung, Skizze des Dialekts und Glossar. I–II*. Leipzig: Hinrich'sche Buchhandlung, x-76-125p.
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- Suwayd, 'Abdallah. 1981. Ordering and Directionality of Iterative Rules in the Tripoli Dialect of Libyan Arabic. *Al-'Arabiyya* 14, 38–50.
- Suwayd, 'Abdallah. 1984. *luġat al-'išāra al-'arabiyya: luġat aṣum*. Tripoli: al-Manša'a al-'āma.
- Trombetti, Alfredo. 1912. *Manuale dell'arabo parlato a Tripoli. Grammatica, letture e vocabolario*. Bologna: L. Beltrami, 175 p.
- Vaccari, Alberto. 1912. *L'Arabo scritto e l'arabo parlato in Tripolitania. Grammatica elementare pratica*. Torino: G.B. Paravia & C., viii+187 p.
- Wagnon, Adrien. 1894. *Chants des bédouins de Tripoli et de la Tunisie, traduits d'après le recueil du Dr. H. Stumme*. Paris: Ernest Leroux, vii+37 p. [Translation of selected texts from Stumme 1894].

2.3 Tripoli Jewish

The Jewish community of Tripoli, which unfortunately now exists only in diaspora, spoke an urban (“pre-Hilali”) dialect, distinct from that spoken by Muslims by features such as the retention of *q as [q] and the realization of *t as [č] (where the Muslim dialect has [g] and [t] respectively). Initial descriptive overviews were made by the anthropologist Harvey Goldberg (1974, 1983); Cohen (1930) contains some transcribed texts in Judeo-Arabic, and Simon (1989) contains some sociolinguistic observations. The most detailed, and indeed authoritative, study of this dialect is Sumikazu Yoda's monograph (Yoda 2005), based on fieldwork undertaken among the diaspora in Israel, which includes a lexicon and one transcribed text.⁴ Yoda continues to publish research on aspects of the dialect (2012, 2013, 2015). Also needed is research on Judeo-Arabic documents produced in Tripoli over the past hundred years. Yoda (2004) offers a few comments on written texts. An archive of both Judeo-Arabic and Hebrew documents was kept in Tripoli until recently, as some researchers have informed us, and were even known to the orientalist Sylvestre de Sacy, who cited a Judeo-Arabic manuscript from Tripoli in his *Grammaire Arabe* (1830, I, planches IVb, Va, Vb). The Arabic varieties that were once spoken by other Jewish communities in Libya, including that of the second-largest community in Benghazi, have remained completely undocumented. Fieldwork with elderly members of the diaspora communities is urgently needed.

- Cohen, Mordekhai. 1928. *Gli Ebrei in Libia. Usi e costume. Tradotto e annotato da Martino Mario Moreno*. Roma: Sindicato Italiano Arti Grafiche. 191 p.
- Goldberg, Harvey E. 1974. A pilot study of the culture and language of Tripolitanian Jewry. *Lešonenu* 38, 137–147. [In Hebrew]
- Goldberg, Harvey E. 1983. Language and Culture of the Jews of Tripolitania: A Preliminary View. *Mediterranean Language Review* 1, 85–102.

⁴ The audio recording of this text may be found online at the *Semitisches TonArchiv*: bit.ly/1nsh2Xi

- Simon, Rachel. 1989. Language Change and Sociopolitical Transformations: The Case of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Libyan Jews. *Jewish History* 4/1, 101–121.
- Yoda, Sumikazu. 2004. Notes on the Literary Idiom of Tripolitanian Jewish Arabic. *Kansai Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies* 4, 63–75. [in Japanese]
- Yoda, Sumikazu. 2005. *The Arabic Dialect of the Jews of Tripoli (Libya): Grammar, Text and Glossary*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz (Semitica Viva 35), 367 p.
- Yoda, Sumikazu. 2012. The Arabic Dialect of the Jews of Tripoli (Libya). In *Survey of the African Languages*. Osaka. 109–121. [in Japanese]
- Yoda, Sumikazu. 2013. Judeo-Arabic, Libya, Hebrew Component in. In *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, ed. G. Khan et al., vol. 2, 393–397. Leiden: Brill.
- Yoda, Sumikazu. 2015. Negation in Modern Tripolitanian Judaeo-Arabic. *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies* 13, 63–85. [in Japanese]

2.4 Western dialects

Compared to the dialect of the city of Tripoli, documentation and studies scarcely exist for Arabic varieties spoken in the region of Tripolitania, or western Libya. The few existing works mainly provide linguistic descriptions of the vernaculars of urban centers such as Misrata (Elramli 2012, D’Anna fthc.), Al-Khums (Benmofteh & Pereira fthc.) on the Tripolitanian coast, as well as inland towns such as Zliten (Abumdas 1985) and Jadu (Pereira 2012). Thanks to Ras Ali (Ras Ali 2015) who is currently preparing a PhD about the Miṣrāta dialect based on a corpus of female consultants (under the direction of Christophe Pereira), a study of the speech of women—on which no study at all exists for Libya—will be available. The brief description of Jadu Arabic was only possible thanks to the texts published by Gioia Chiauzzi (1971). Some new data has come to light based on work iwth informants resident in Europe: Klimiuk (fthc.) treats a comparative topic and includes data from the dialect of Msallāta near Tripoli, while D’Anna (fthc.) is based on data from the Miṣrāta dialect. Of great necessity are studies on Arabic-Berber language contact in Zwara and the Nafusa mountains, as well as further documentation of rural and urban varieties from this area, especially that of Miṣrāta, Libya’s third-largest city.

- Abumdas, Abdul Hamid Ali. 1985. *Libyan Arabic Phonology*. PhD thesis, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. ix+300 p. [Discusses the variety of Zliten in western Libya]
- Benmofteh, Najah & Christophe Pereira. fthc. Preliminary remarks on the Arabic spoken in Al-Khums (Libya). In *Tunisian and Libyan Arabic Dialects, Common trends, Recent developments, Diachronic aspects*, V. Ritt-Benmimoun (ed.). Zaragoza: IEIOP.
- Chiauzzi, Gioia. 1971. Intervista nel Nefūsa. *Oriente Moderno* 51, 834–853.
- D’Anna, Luca. fthc. Two texts in the Arabic dialect of Miṣrāta, with preliminary notes and observations. *Mediterranean Language Review* 24.
- Elramli, Yousef Mokhtar. 2012. *Assimilation in the phonology of a Libyan Arabic dialect: a constraint-based approach*. PhD thesis, University of Newcastle, xi+187 p. [Misrata dialect]
- Elramli, Yousef. 2012. Phonological assimilation of the prefix /t-/ in Misrata Libyan Arabic. *Newcastle Working Papers in Linguistics* 18, 38–51. [Based on data from Miṣrāta.]
- Harrama, Abduljalil Mohamed. 1993. *Libyan Arabic Morphology: Al-Jabal Dialect*. PhD thesis, University of Arizona, 251 p. [Data from an unspecified village in the Nafusa mountains]
- Klimiuk, Maciej. fthc. The particle rā- in Libyan Arabic dialects. In *Tunisian and Libyan Arabic Dialects, Common trends, Recent developments, Diachronic aspects*, V. Ritt-Benmimoun (ed.). Zaragoza: IEIOP.

- Pereira, Christophe. 2012. L'arabe de Žādū (Žébel Nefûsa). In *Dynamiques langagières en Arabophonies : variations, contacts, migrations et créations artistiques. Hommage offert à Dominique Caubet par ses élèves et collègues*. A. Barontini et al. (eds). Zaragoza: IEIOP. 164–199. [Dialectological analysis of the data presented in Chiauzzi 1971b].
- Ras Ali, Hawa. 2015. *L'arabe de Misurata (Libye)*. MA dissertation, INALCO.

2.5 Benghazi & Eastern dialects

The first study of the Arabic dialect of Benghazi was that of the Italian scholar Ester Panetta, whose fieldwork in the 1930s and 1940s led to a grammatical sketch (Panetta 1943) and were the basis for a later attempt at an Italian-Benghazi Arabic dictionary (Panetta 1958–1980) which only reached the letter E. Meanwhile, her contemporary Elpidio Iannotta provided a description of a rural variety of eastern Libya near al-Bayḍa (Iannotta 1933). Both were classical descriptive works in that they provided a grammar, transcribed texts, and lexical material. The next fieldwork undertaken was that of T.F. Mitchell among Bedouin near Šaḥḥāt (Mitchell 1952, 1957, 1960). In the 1970s, Jonathan Owens' fieldwork in Benghazi resulted in the most recent grammar of an eastern Libyan variety (Owens 1984)—although referring to “Eastern Libyan Arabic” in the title, the variety described therein is more representative of Benghazi than of rural dialects. The only recent fieldwork in Benghazi has been carried out since 2010 by Adam Benkato, who gives accounts of the dialect within the framework of Maghrebi dialectology (Benkato 2014, fthc.). This dialect is then treated in a comparative study of mutual intelligibility, the first of its kind, in Čéplö et al. (fthc.). Finally, if not for a few PhD theses by Libyan authors—Abdunnabi (2000) for the Jabal Akhdar and Aurayieth (1982) for Derna—we would have no data from any other eastern Libyan dialects. As it is, documentation of both rural and urban speech throughout eastern Libya would be a great boon for Arabic dialectology, and sociolinguistic and gender analyses for the Benghazi dialect are completely lacking.

- Abdunnabi, Awad Wanis. 2000. *A Descriptive Grammar of Libyan Arabic (A Structural Approach)*. PhD thesis, University of Exeter. 2 vols. [On the Arabic variety of the Jabal Akhdar region in eastern Libya, providing the only recent data from that region.]
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Numerous varieties of Arabic, all largely undocumented, are spoken in the southern regions of Libya, usually referred to as the Fezzān. The main resource for Arabic in this region is the text collection of renowned Arabist Philippe Marçais (2001), which was published posthumously but contains work done between the 1940s and 1970s. It contains a number of transcribed and translated texts representing different nomadic and sedentary varieties, but lacks a substantial grammatical analysis. The wealth of material provided therein has formed the basis for all recent studies of Arabic in the Fezzān; see Caubet (2004) for a dialectological analysis and Bettini (2004), Caubet (fthc), and D'Anna (fthc) for analysis of specific aspects of grammar and morphology.

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2.7. Miscellaneous

Finally, we devote a “miscellaneous” section to collect further works for the sake of completeness. Some of these works are linguistic studies which describe “Libyan Arabic” without specifying any variety, and as such are less useful for dialectological research, but may nevertheless be useful for their approaches (e.g Ahmed 2008, Gaber 2012, Gaddafi 1990, Kriba 2010). Others here are written for general audiences, are too generic to be used in research, or are textbooks which are outdated or impossible to find, again citing “Libyan Arabic” while mixing forms and idioms from different varieties. The two most recent textbooks are Dickinson (2004) and Le Quellec (2006)—pedagogy is yet another area where new materials are an urgent desideratum. A number of proverb collections also exist: see Abdelkafi 1968, Ali 2001, Ashiurakis 1978, Chambard 2002, Elmaamri 2013, al-Miṣrāī 2002, Quitout 2006. Chambard’s work especially provides 1957 proverbs transcribed and translated, along with a lengthy French-Arabic glossary. Brief linguistic analyses of some of Qaddafi’s speeches can be found in Larcher (1997) and Mazraani (1997). We mention again that works such as those of Cerbella, Chiauzzi, and Rossi (see 2.2) in particular provide, in their works of primarily ethnological or anthropological focus, corpora in various varieties of Libyan Arabic. The most important resource in this regard, however, may be the 42-volume *Encyclopedia of Accounts of the Jihād (mawsū‘at riwāyāt al-jihād)* published between 1983 and 2002 by the Libyan Studies Center in Tripoli, containing several thousand pages of transcribed interviews with participants in the resistance against the Italian occupation and representing a number of older and previously unrecorded varieties of Libyan Arabic.

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3. Libyan Berber

Languages of the Berber (or Tamazight) family, indigenous to northern Africa, are spoken throughout Libya by a small percentage of the population. The number of Berber speakers in Libya is difficult to estimate, and there are no reliable figures. The most numerically significant, as well as vibrant, Berber-speaking communities are those of Zwara along Libya’s northwest coast and the Nafusa mountains in the west. Other communities include Ghadames and the Touareg in southwestern Libya, and the oases of Sokna el-Foqaha, and Awjila in the central Sahara. It will be noticed that new fieldwork is a necessity for every variety of Libyan Berber and linguistic aspect thereof.

3.1 Berber in Libya – General and Comparative

The following are studies which deal with general aspects of the Berber language in Libya or include significant Libyan Berber data in a comparative study.

- Ashour, Abdulaziz. 2014. *Code Switching between Tamazight and Arabic in the first Libyan Berber News Broadcast: An application of Myers-Scotton’s MLF and 4M Models*. MA dissertation, Portland State University.
- Asker, Adel & Marilyn Martin Jones. 2013. ‘A classroom is not a classroom if students are talking to me in Berber’: language ideologies and multilingual resources in secondary school English classes in Libya. *Language and Education* 27/4, 343–355.
- Beguino, Francesco. 1914. *L’area linguistica berbera*. Rome: Ministero delle Colonie.
- Beguino, Francesco. 1930. Per gli studi di toponomastica libico berbera. In *Atti dell’XI Congresso Geografico Italiano* vol. 3. Napoli, 243–247.
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- Beguino, Francesco. 1935. Studi linguistici nel Fezzân. *Bollettino della Reale Società Geografica Italiana* XII, 660–665.

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- Kossmann, Maarten. 1999. Cinq notes de linguistique historique berbère. *Études et Documents Berbères* 17, 131–152.
- Souag, Lameen. 2013. Sub-Saharan lexical influence in North African Arabic and Berber. In *African Arabic: Approaches to Dialectology*, ed. M. Lafkioui. Berlin, 211–236. [Lexical items of a number of Libyan Arabic and Berber varieties discussed.]

3.2 Zwara

Commensurate with its status as one of the Libyan Berber varieties with the most speakers, the variety of Zwara (Zwari *tawilult* ‘Zwaran’) has also been the subject of comparably numerous studies. The English scholar T.F. Mitchell carried out fieldwork there in the 1940s and managed to bring informants to London for further work; two studies were published while he was alive (Mitchell 1953, 1957), and his texts were collected and published as monographs posthumously (Mitchell 2007, 2009). In the 1960s, the Italian scholar Luigi Serra also carried out fieldwork there, and has published a number of studies focusing on the Zwaran lexicon and its relationship with other Berber varieties. Both Paradisi (1964) and Serra (1990) discuss the festival of Awussu.

- Hamp, Eric P. 1959. Zuara Berber Personals. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 21, 140–141.
- Mitchell, Terence F. 1953. Particle–noun complexes in a Berber dialect (Zuara). *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 15/2, 375–390.
- Mitchell, Terence F. 1957. Some Properties of Zuara Nouns with Special Reference to Those with Consonant Initial. In *Mémorial André Basset*. Paris: Maisonneuve, 83–96.
- Mitchell, Terence F. 2007. *Ferhat: An Everyday Story of Berber Folk in and Around Zuara (Libya)* (Berber Studies 17). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- Mitchell, Terence F. 2009. *Zuara Berber (Libya): Grammar and Texts* (Berber Studies 26). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- Paradisi, Umberto. 1962. I pescatori berberi della penisola di Fàrwa (Tripolitania). *L’Universo (Istituto Geografico Militare)* 42, 293–300.
- Paradisi, Umberto. 1964. I tre giorni di Awússu a Zuara (Tripolitania). *Annali. Nuova Serie* 14, 415–419.
- Serra, Luigi. 1964. Testi berberi in dialetto di Zuara. *Annali dell’Istituto Orientale di Napoli* 14, 715–726.
- Serra, Luigi. 1964. Su alcune costumanze dei Berberi ibaditi di Zuara (Tripolitania). *Atti del congresso Studi arabi e islamici*. Napoli, 623–632.
- Serra, Luigi. 1968. Due racconti in dialetto berbero di Zuara (Tripolitania). *Studi Maghrebini* 2, 123–128.
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- Serra, Luigi. 1971. Gli uomini più venerati dai Berberi Ibaditi di Zuara (Tripolitania). *Studi Maghrebini* 4, 65–75.
- Serra, Luigi. 1973. Le vocabulaire berbère de la mer. In *Actes du 1er Congrès d'Études et cultures d'influences arabo-berbère* 1, 111–120.
- Serra, Luigi. 1976. Concordanze dialetti italiane con voci arabe e berbere e voci italiane in un dialetto berbero tripolitano. *Bollettino dell'Atlante Linguistico Mediterraneo* 13-15, 433–448.
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- Serra, Luigi. 1979. I 'nomina actionis' in un dialetto berbero orientale (Zuara–Tripolitania). *Aiōn. Annali del Seminario di Studi del Mondo Classico, Sezione Linguistica* 1, 213–255.
- Serra, Luigi. 1985. À propos de la mer et de la fête d'Awussu chez une population berbère : notes ... *L'homme méditerranéen et la mer. Actes du 3e Congrès d'Études, Jerba, 1981*. Tunis, 499–506.
- Serra, Luigi. 1990. L'awussu à Zouara (Tripolitaine). *Encyclopédie berbère* vol. 8, 1199–1200.
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3.3 Jabal Nafusa

The Nafusa mountains (Ar. *žabal nafūsa*, Nafusi *adrar n ənfusən*) contain a chain of towns and villages many, but not all, of which are Berber speaking. Little is currently known about the exact distribution of speakers and the status of the different dialects, though some information has come to light recently via social media outlets, and more fieldwork is an urgent desideratum.⁵ The northernmost Berber-speaking town seems to be Yefren, the variety of which is undocumented save for a few words. Moving southwards, the variety of Jadu has been the subject of the majority of published work (Buselli 1921, 1924; Cesàro 1949; Provasi 1973), including Beguinot (1931), the standard reference grammar for 'Nafusi' Berber. The southernmost varieties, also undocumented, of the Nafusa mountains seem to be the towns of Nalut near, and Wazzin on, the Libyan-Tunisian border. Ghadghoud (2013) seems to be the most recent fieldwork-based study of a Nafusi variety.

- Beguinot, Francesco. 1917-18. Il gergo dei Berberi della Tripolitania. *Annuario del Istituto Napoli Orientale*, 107–112.
- Beguinot, Francesco. 1925. Saggio di fonetica del Berbero Nefûsi di Fassâto. *Rendiconti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei* 6/1, 304–330.
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- Beguinot, Francesco. 1931. *Il Berbero Nefûsi di Fassâto. Grammatica, testi raccolti dalla viva voce, vocabolarietti*. Roma: Istituto per l'Oriente. [2nd ed. revised, 1942].
- Buselli, Gennaro. 1921. Testi berberi del Gebel Nefûsa. *L'Africa Italiana, bollettino della Società Africana d'Italia* fasc. 1, 26–34.

⁵ A few blogposts discussing data obtained from such outlets can be found at the following links: “‘Hand’ in NW Libyan/S Tunisian Berber” <http://bit.ly/1mYE4Vp>, “Towards a Libyan/Tunisian Berber dialect atlas” <http://bit.ly/1RQhavj>, and “Intra-Berber borrowing in Yefren” <http://bit.ly/1RHwCvz>.

- Buselli, Gennaro. 1924. Berber Texts from Jebel Nefûsi (Žemmari Dialect). *Journal of the African Society* 23, 285–293.
- de Calassanti-Motyliniski, Gustave Adolphe. 1898. *Le Djebel Nefousa. Transcription, traduction française et notes avec une étude grammaticale*. Paris: Ernest Leroux.
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- de Guiraudon, Th. G. 1893. Dyebayli Vocabulary, from an Unpublished MS. A.D. 1831. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*. 669–698.
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- Ghadgoud, Khawla M. 2013. *Jespersen’s Cycle in Libyan Arabic and Nafusi Berber*. MA dissertation, University of Manchester.
- Naït-Zerrad, Kamal. 2012. Nefoussa: Langue. *Encyclopédie Berbère* 33. Louvain: Peeters, 5363–5369.
- Provasi, Elio. 1973. Testi berberi di Žâdu. *Istituto orientale di Napoli* 33, 501–530.
- van Putten, Marijn. 2015. Reflexes of the Proto-Berber glottal stop in Nefusa and Ghadames. *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 105, 303–314
- Vycichl, Werner. 1954. Der Umlaut im Berberischen des Djebel Nefusa in Tripolitanien. *Annali dell’Istituto Universitario Orientale* 6, 145–152.

3.4 Ghadames

The oasis of Ghadames (Ar. *ġadāmis*, Ghadamsi ‘*ademās*), home to about 10,000 people, is located near where Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria meet. Famed for its unique vernacular architecture, it is also home to a unique variety of Berber. The language was already known to the early Berberologist Calassanti-Motyliniski (1903, 1904; for discussion of earlier mentions of the oasis see 1904:171–312) who based his work primarily on written materials. The first extensive *in situ* study of Ghadamsi was that of Jacques Lanfry, a Catholic missionary who stayed in Ghadames from 1944–45 and produced an ethnographic and linguistic sketch (Lanfry 1968) and a lexicon of about 2,000 words (Lanfry 1973). All subsequent work, including Kossmann’s (2013) detailed grammatical sketch, is based on Lanfry’s materials—with one exception. A hitherto overlooked resource for Ghadamsi is the thesis of Yedder (1982), containing nearly one hundred transcribed texts, detailed ethnological information, and a number of unique color photographs. Finally, Hārūn (n.d.) provides an account of the language in Arabic, along with 484 sayings and prayer formulas.

- Aymo, J. 1959. Notes de sociologie et de linguistique sur Ghadames [Libye]. *Bulletin de Liaison saharienne* 10/34, 129–157.
- Aymo, J. 1959. Les cris de Ghadames. *Bulletin de liaison saharienne* 10, 21–26.
- Basset, André. 1945. A propos du parler berbère de Ghadames. *Travaux de l’Institut de recherches sahariennes*.
- de Calassanti-Motyliniski, Gustave Adolphe. 1903. Note sur la mission dans le Souf pour y étudier le dialecte berbère de R’adamès. *Journal Asiatique* II, 157–162.
- de Calassanti-Motyliniski, Gustave Adolphe. 1904. *Le dialecte berbère de R’adamès*. Paris.
- Despois, J., J. Lanfry, & Karl-G. Prasse. Ghadamès. *Encyclopédie Berbère* vol. 20. Aix-en-Provence: Édisud, 3067–3082. <http://encyclopedieberbere.revues.org/1913>
- Hārūn, Abu Bakr. n.d. *Al-sahl wa al-masīr fī ta’allum al-luġa al-amāzīġiyya bi-lahjat ġadāmis*. Tripoli: Dar al-Firjani.

- Kossmann, Maarten. 2000. La futur à Ghadamès et l'origine de la conjugaison verbale en berbère. In *Études Berbères et chamito-sémitiques. Mélanges offerts à Karl-G. Prasse*, eds. S. Chaker & A. Zaborski. Louvain: Peeters, 237–262.
- Kossmann, Maarten. 2001. The origin of the glottal stop in Zenaga and its reflexes in the other Berber Languages. *Africa und Übersee* 84, 61–100. [Mostly about Ghadames, with comparative data from other Berber languages]
- Kossmann, Maarten. 2013. *A Grammatical Sketch of Ghadames Berber (Libya)* (Berber Studies 40). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- Lanfry, Jacques. 1957. Deux notes grammaticales sur le berbère de Ghadamès. In *Mémorial André Basset*. Paris: Maisonneuve, 57–60.
- Lanfry, Jacques. 1968. *Ghadamès I: Étude linguistique et ethnographique*. Algiers. [Reprinted with corrections in 1971]
- Lanfry, Jacques. 1972. Deux notes sur le berbère de Ghadamès. *Comptes rendus du Groupe Linguistique d'Études Chamito-Sémitiques* 16, 175–184.
- Lanfry, Jacques. 1973. *Ghadamès II: Glossaire (parler des Ayt Waziten)*. Algiers.
- Lanfry, Jacques. 2011. *Dictionnaire de berbère libyen (Ghadamès)*. Tizi-Ouzou: Éditions Achab. [Reprint of Lanfry 1973.]
- Prasse, Karl-G. 1984. The origin of the vowels O and E in Tuareg and Ghadamsi. In *Current progress in Afro-Asiatic linguistics. Papers of the Third International Hamito-Semitic Congress*, ed. J. Bynon. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 317–326.
- Rohlf, Gerhard. 1872. Die Zahlzeichen der Rhadamser. *Ausland* 29, 695–696.
- Vycichl, Werner. 1952. Das berberische Ziffernsystem von Ghadames und seine Ursprung. *Rivista di Studi Orientali* 27, 81–83.
- Yedder, Abdurahman M. 1982. *The oral literature associated with the traditional wedding ceremony at Ghadames*. PhD thesis, SOAS, University of London.

3.5 Sokna & El-Foqaha

The oases of Sokna and El-Foqaha are located in central Libya. Sokna belongs to a cluster of three oases, the other two being the more populous Houn and Waddan, which lies approximately 250km from both the Mediterranean coast to the north and Sebha to the south. In the 19th-century, European travelers through the Libyan desert stopped by the oasis of Sokna and gathered a few word-lists: Lyon (1821) contains a list of about 142 words constituting the oldest published source, while the vocabularies of Richardson made in 1850 were never published and were only recently rediscovered and analyzed by Souag (fthc a, fthc b). The first and to-date only linguistic fieldwork to have been conducted on Sokni was that of the Italian military ophthalmologist Tommaso Sarnelli in the 1920s. Sarnelli, working with an informant in Tripoli, published six texts, all folk literature, in a detailed though idiomatic phonetic transcription with Italian translation, along with an Italian-Sokni wordlist of some 500 items (Sarnelli 1924). Later sketches of Sokni (Prasse 1982) are based on this material. Recently, a Berber speaker from Yefren travelling to Sokna was able to gather a wordlist of about 200 items from an elderly resident, many of which agree with those in Sarnelli (S'id n Yunes 2010a, 2010b).

- Lyon, George Francis. 1821. *A Narrative of Travels in Northern Africa in the years 1818, 19, 20*. John Murray: London. [Sokni words on pp. 314-316]
- Prasse, Karl-G. 1982. Sokni (Fezzan). *Encyclopédie berbère* vol. 31. Aix-en-Provence: Édisud, 1–3.

Sarnelli, Tommaso. 1924. Il dialetto berbero di Sokna: materiali lessicali, testi manoscritti in caratteri arabi, con trascrizione e traduzione. *Supplemento all’Africa Italiana*. [The only published description of the language of Sokna.]

Souag, Lameen. fthc a. Sokna re-examined: Two unedited Sokna Berber vocabularies from 1850. *Quaderni di Studi Berberi e Libico-berberi No. 3: Hommages Francesco Beguinot*.

Souag, Lameen, fthc b. Le parler berbère de Sokna (Libye) à la lumière de nouvelles données. *Etudes et Document Berbères*.

S’id n Yunes. 2010a. Tutlayt Tmaziyt n Sukna (1). Tawalt. <http://www.tawalt.com/?p=5047>.

S’id n Yunes. 2010b. Tutlayt Tmaziyt n Sukna (2). Tawalt. <http://www.tawalt.com/?p=5390>.

El-Foqaha is an oasis about 200km to the south of Sokna. Only in 1934 did the Italian orientalist Francesco Beguinot find out that a Berber language was spoken there; working with a woman from El-Foqaha living in Zighen (a town near Sebha), he gathered a short wordlist on the basis of which he suggested the language’s proximity to Sokni (Beguinot 1935 in section 3.1). However, no further research was carried out until 1960, when Umberto Paradisi was able to meet two speakers residing in Tripoli. His fieldwork resulted in the publication of five transcribed folktales with an Italian-Berber lexicon (Paradisi 1961) and a grammatical sketch (Paradisi 1963). He reports that only three people could speak Berber effectively at that time, with ten or so more being able to understand it. Paradisi also provided a brief comparison with Sokni material, confirming the proximity of the two (1961:296–302). Prasse (1996) is based on Paradisi’s material.

Paradisi, Umberto. 1961. El-Fógāha, Oasi Berberofona del Fezzân. *Rivista degli Studi Orientali* 36, 293–302.

Paradisi, Umberto. 1963. Il Linguaggio Berbero di El-Fógāha (Fezzân). *Istituto Orientale di Napoli* 13, 93–126.

Prasse, Karl-G. 1996. El-Foqahā. *Encyclopédie berbère* vol. 19. Aix-en-Provence: Édisud. 2886–2889. <http://encyclopedieberbere.revues.org/1953>

3.6 Awjila

The oasis of Awjila (Ar. *awjila*, Awjili *ašal n awilān*) in eastern Libya, about 250 km south of Ajdabiya, is home to the easternmost Berber language spoken in Libya. The language was known to early researchers (Basset 1935, 1936, Zanon 1932), but the first extensive work on the language did not appear until Umberto Paradisi’s fieldwork in the late 1950s, which resulted in an Italian-Berber lexicon (Paradisi 1960) and 15 transcribed texts with Italian translation (Paradisi 1961). More recently, Marijn van Putten compiled an extensive grammatical description of the language based on the materials collected by Paradisi (van Putten 2014). The language is certainly still in use, primarily by those middle-aged and older (see van Putten & Souag fthc), but it has been difficult to estimate the number of speakers since recent fieldwork has not been possible.

Basset, André. 1935. Siwa et Aoudjila, problème verbal berbère. In *Mélanges offerts à Gaudefroy-Demombynes par ses amis et anciens élèves*, eds. W. Marçais et al. Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 279–300.

Basset, André. 1936. Siwa, Aoudjila et Imeghran à propos d’un rapprochement. *Annales de l’Institut d’études orientales de la Faculté des Lettres de l’Université* 2, 119–127.

Basset, André. 1949. Sur une notation berbère de G.F. Lyon. *Annali dell’Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli* 3, 379–381.

- von Beurmann, Carl Moritz. 1862. Brief des Herrn von Beurmann an Professor Fleischer. *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 16, 563–565. [Contains notes about Awjila with a few words].
- Brugnatelli, Vermondo. 1985. Il problema verbale di Siwa e Augila. *Atti del Sodalizio Glottologico Milanese* 26, 8–11.
- Müller, Frédéric. 1827. Vocabulaire du langage des habitants d’Audjelah. In *Relation d’un voyage dans la Marmarique, la Cyrénaïque et les oasis d’Audjelah et de Maradeh*, ed. J.R. Pacho. Paris: Firmin-Didot. 317–357.
- Paradisi, Umberto. 1960. Il Berbero di Augila, Materiale Lessicale. *Rivista Degli Studi Orientali* 35, 157–177.
- Paradisi, Umberto. 1961. Testi Berberi di Augila (Cirenaica). *Annali Istituto Univeritario Oriente di Napoli* 10, 79–91.
- Paradisi, Umberto. 1963. Sul nome del ‘topo’ nel Berbero di Augila e una voce Libica citata da Erodoto. *Rivista degli studi orientali* 38, 61–65.
- van Putten, Marijn. 2014. *A Grammar of Awjila Berber (Libya). Based on Paradisi’s Work* (Berber Studies 41). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- van Putten, Marijn. 2013 [2014]. Some Notes on the Development of Awjila Berber Vowels. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 22/4, 236–255.
- van Putten, Marijn. 2014. Some notes on the Historical Consonantism of Awjila. *Folia Orientalia* 51. 257–274.
- van Putten, Marijn & Adam Benkato. fthc. The Arabic Strata in Awjila Berber. In *Arabic in Context*, ed. A. AlJallad. Leiden: Brill.
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3.7 Libyan Touareg

The Touareg language, a variety of Berber, is spoken throughout southwestern Libya. While varieties outside of Libya have received comparatively greater attention, Touareg in of Libya is scarcely documented and the only published accounts (Krause 1884, Nehlil 1909) are over one hundred years old. These focus on the variety of Touareg spoken in Ghat (Ar. *gāt*), a city of about 20,000 inhabitants near Libya’s border with Algeria. Touareg live in many other cities of the region as well, such as Ghadames, Ubari, and Murzuq, but linguistic studies have never been carried out in those locations and the number of Touareg speakers cannot be ascertained. Estimates are further complicated by the fact that many Touareg move across the borders. Regarding Ghat it should also be noted, as Ines Kohl kindly informs us, that Hausa is widely spoken by the different ethnic groups. Finally, Brulard (1958) gives a few lexical items but is mostly an ethnological study, while the *Encyclopédie Berbère* entry on Ghat contains only historical information (linguistic information on Touareg in general is included under the entry “Ajjer”).

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