



Vortrag im Rahmen des Linguistischen Kolloquiums

**4. Juni 2013**

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## **The study of Amharic ajäm texts**

In my presentation I will talk about an ongoing research project on Amharic texts written in the Arabic script. A short overview of so-called ajami literature in Africa, i.e. African languages that are written in the Arabic script (called ajäm in Ethiopia), will provide a general comparative context of this specific project. Research of ajäm in Ethiopia is a very new field of study. The manuscripts which are subject of this project are material which hasn't been documented or studied until now.

In the talk I will address several linguistic aspects of these texts, such as the use of Arabic loanwords and their morpho-phonological incorporation into Amharic, the representation of Amharic sounds in the Arabic writing system, and features of the specific regional variety of Amharic.

I will also try to discuss sociolinguistic aspects of this specific form of Amharic, i.e. the question if the language of these texts is part of a continuum of different registers and or sociolects.

A further issue is connected to the role and the function of these texts in society. In order to address these questions I want to discuss the approach that is proposed by the „New Literacy Studies“ (Street 1993).

Reference:

Street, Brian V. 1993. "Introduction: The New Literacy Studies." In: Brian V. Street (ed.). Cross-Cultural Approaches to Literacy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1-21.

**Ort: Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften,  
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 410**

**Zeit: 16:15 Uhr**

**Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!**