La Rochelle,
Newlands,
27, 5, 1932.

Dear Dr Doke,

I have answered the questions in your letter of the 16th May as well as I could. But it is difficult to give a critical review of literature that is so scanty. Most of the work is an attempt to do the best the writer could with a difficult subject under difficult circumstances, is valuable because there is no better work and very little likelihood of better being done.

As There are so many different Bushman languages and each one is spoken by a few hundred people only, there is no commercial; benefit to be obtained by the study, consequently very few people are able to devote any time to the matter, and generally only for a brief period.

I have not mentioned Lebzelter in the survey, because the few articles of his that I have seen contain little languistic matter, but his book which I have not seen may do so. However as he was chiefly dealing with the Hei//kum, it is more likely to treat of Nama than Bushman.

I take 1(f) to mean vernacular work only, in ethnology and history as well as customs, and (h) to mean translations into the vernacular.

Yours sincerely,

D. F. Bleeh

Answers to questions asked by the Inter-University Committee on African Studies.

Bushmen.

I (a) Southern Bushmen.

Those wishing to study the Language of the /xam Bushmen who are now practically extinct, will find an example of parsing of 91 words of a story in Specimens of Bushman Folklore 1by Dr Bleek, very clear but unfinished. Two attempts at a general survey of /xam grammar have been made, one by P. Meriggi 12, and one by D. F. Bleek 2. Meriggi's work is a very scholarly and detailed study of the texts in Specimens of Bushman Folklore. D. F. Bleek's work is clearer for learners though not so detailed.

For the language of the Free State Bushmen there is a sketch of a few pages by Wuras, 18 very valuable, as the people are almost extinct, though the orthography is puzzling.

A somewhat different language spoken near Kimberley has been well; and clearly recorded by Professor Meinhof 11.

"The Distribution of Bushman Languages in South Africa" 3 contains grammatical notes on six languages spoken by Southern Bushmen, /xam, //n, Batwa, /auni, Masarwa of Kakia, /nu-//en. Of the five last names tribes there are a small number living.

Northern Bushmen.

Vedder has written an excellent grammar of the a language of the !ku16. It is is very clear with good examples.

The above named work on the distribution of Languages 3 also contains notes on this language and on the aldied speech of the //k'au //en, of which latter a fuller but still slight sketch is contained in The Naron. 4

Central Bushmen

In "The Tati Bushmen (Masarwa) and their Language" 10 Dornan has given an outline of the speech of the Hie people. It is clear with plentiful examples, but the orthography is very unfortunate.

The Naron 4 contains a sketch of the grammar of thes language, on which there are also notes in "The Distribution of Bushman Languages" 3.

11ai language which is similar,

Südwest- Afrika 15.

In The Khoisan Peoples of South Africa 14 Schapera gives a general survey of the above named grammars. In the attached bibliography he refers to "A Comparative Grammar of the Khoisan Languages" by himself still in MS.

- I (b) No modern phonetical work has been done in the Southern and Central: groups, though most of the grammatical sketches have descriptions of sound in dealing with the orthography. Doke has published "An Outline of the Phonetics of the Tku Bushmen of the North-West BKalahari 9. If his work is correct, the hearing of ald previous workers in Bushman tongues must be incorrect. The orthography recommended is impracticable.
 - (c) There is a large MS dictionary of the /xam language in card form by W. H. I. Blæek with addiptions by L. C. Lloyd and D. F. Blæek. It needs completing and putting in order before publication is possible.

A selection of words from this MS has been published by D.F. Bleek in A Comparative Grannar of Bushman languages (5 with two Central: Bushan languages. One of the last named is the Hie speech taken from Dornon's work 10, which contains an extensive vocabulary.

Meinhof's grammatical sketch 11 contains a vocabulary both of Bushman into German and Vice versa.

A few pages of words spoken by Bushmen still living in the

Free State has not yet been published. Collected by D. F. Bleek.

Vedder's work on the !ku 16 contains a vocabulary of some 400 words. There is a fair sized MS vocabulary of this speech in card form based on Miss Lloyd's collection of texts, part of this is included in the Gomparative Vocabulary 5.

Werner 17 has given some lists of words in the original: Hei //kum language, not the low class Nama generally spoken by this tribe.

Schinz has a small vocabulary of Naron in his work 15 Die Buschmänner der Kalahari by Passarge contains lists of words of a number of little known tribes residing in thet district. The work is valuable as showing the outlines of linguistic boudaries, though the author evidently did not know much of the languages.

Doke includes a vocabulary in his phonetic work. 9

Specimens of Bushman Folklore 1 gives a large number of folk tales dictated by /xam Bushmen with exact translations. Many more are still unpublished. It also contains some tales and songs of the !ku Bushmen dictated by members of that tribe, likewise with exact translations. There are also some more of these in MS.

In The Mantis and his Friends 6 English translations of a furthur number of /xam folk tales are given. "Bushman Folklore" 7 contains several: / xam peems with translations.

Meinhof gives two folk tales in his grammatical sketch 11.

Dornon 10 publishes some songs and folk tales in the vernacular with translations, more in English only.

A very few folk tales and a song areincluded in The Naron 4

- 1 (e) I know of no proverb-lore in Bushman.
 - (f) A very little history and many descriptions of customs are included in the material collected by Dr Bleek and Miss Lloyd.

 A small portion of this has been published in Specimens of Bushman Folklore, some in "Customs and Beliefs of the /xam Bushmen" 8.

In the Naron language there are some descriptions of customs and traditions in the vernacular, the gist of which is published in English in The Naron.

Some !ku descriptions of customs are included in Specimens of Bushman Folklore, a few more are in MS.

- I do not know of any other important vernacular work.
- (h) Dornon has translated the 23rd psalm into the Hie speech in his work on the Tati Bushmen 10. I know of no other translations.
- 2 (a) Wuras made a slight study of the Bushmen on the Riet and Kafir rivers in the Free State.

Dr Bleek and Miss Lloyd thonoughly studied the /xam language and wrote down many texts in it.

Miss Lloyd studied the !ku language and wrote down texts in it.

Dr Vedder studied the language of the !ku of Gaub in the S.W.P.

The Rev. S. S. Dornon studied the language of the Hie Bushmen in S. Rhodesia. I do not think that either he or Vedder are in a position to do further Bushman research work at present.

I have obtained specimens of the languages of the ||n Bushmen, the Batwa of Lake Chrissie, the |auni of the Nossop, the "Masarwa" of Southern Bechuanaland, and the |nu||en of the S.W.P. I have made a more detailed study of the Naron language and a slighter one of that of the ||k'au||en;

Dr Doke has made a study of the Phonetics of the !ku .

Werner has done some research among the Hei || kum.

Schinz made a study of the || ai Bushmen.

Professor Meinhof studied a dialect at Phiel.

- (b) I do not know of any actual linguistic research work being carried out at present. I am engaged in working up past collections of material.
- The Languages in the northern part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate especially round Lake Ngami should be studied and recorded. Being a dry difficult country it is still the home of

A young man who is a good shot would be the best person to do this work, one who would live and hunt with the Bushmen as passarge did; but he should first train himself by the study of the available Bushman material.

It is hopeless to encourage the literary developement of the languages, as the people who speak them are rapidly being absorbed by stronger races or dying out.

D. F. Blieck.

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