

A Bibliography of BA Theses on Oral Literature
Submitted to the Department of Ethiopian
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This bibliography is an updated version of the one prepared in 1984 and included in the paper "Ethiopian Oral Literature: a preliminary review and bibliography", presented at the 8th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, held from Nov. 26-30/1984. In its earlier form, the bibliography included entries from the following sources: Ethiopian oral literature published in various European journals, books published in Ethiopian and foreign languages, theses, articles written on Ethiopian oral literatures, and a list of oral literature collections in the Department of Ethiopian Languages and Literature, and the Ministry of Culture. It tried to include the material obtained upto 1984. Here, only the theses of the Department on oral literature are presented.

2.0 THESIS

The staff and students of the Department have made considerable effort in the study of Ethiopian Languages and Literatures. The B.A. theses produced in the Department testify to this claim. However, these works are unknown to many Ethiopian and expatriate scholars although they are shelved in IES, Kennedy and ILS libraries in AAU. This is the first publication of a list of theses written on the oral literatures of Ethiopian nationalities. Further effort needs to be made towards the publication of the bibliography of theses on Ethiopian languages and literature submitted to the Department and the Department of Linguistics.

The theses on oral literature are written in Amharic. Almost all of them have an introductory section where they inform the reader about the nationality they write about: its history, geography, language, customs etc.

The oral literature material collected in the language of a nationality is transliterated in the alphabet used to write Geez, Amareña, Tegrēña etc. A translated version in Amareña (Amharic) is included in the appendix of each thesis along with the one written in the nationality language.

The bibliography is alphabetically arranged by language. When the entry under each language is more than one these are arranged chronologically.

The bibliography has 163 entries. Of these 87 are on various types of oral poetry (wedding songs, love songs, dirges, children's poetry, war chants, work songs, poems of litigation etc.): 15 are on proverbs, 14 on names, 12 on lullaby and riddles, 11 on idioms and customary sayings, 10 on folktales, 8 on blessings and curses, and 6 on jokes.

The distribution by language is as follows 73 on Amareña, 25 on Oromo, 12 on Tegrēña, 9 on Sidama, 7 on Guragē, 5 on Wālaytta, 5 on Kestané, 4 on Adārē, 4 on Hadiya, 3 on Kāmbata, 2 on Kāfa, 2 on Gamo, and one on each nationality language of Agāw, Ari, Burji, Māsqaṇ, Qottu, Gédēwo, Selté, Selté and Azārenāt Bārbārē, Gétu, Gofa, Somalé and Guji.

3.0 TRANSLITERATION

Attempt has been made to translate the titles of the theses for the benefit of the expatriate reader. The names of nationalities are presented here as they were presented in the titles. The symbols used for the transliteration of names in Ethiopian languages are as follows.

3.1 Vowels

ä	pronounce as the 'u' in 'burn'
u	pronounce as the 'u' in 'pull'
i	pronounce as the 'i' in 'fig'
a	pronounce as the 'a' in 'fag'
é	pronounce as the 'e' in 'bell'
e	pronounce as the second 'e' in 'even'
o	pronounce as the 'o' in 'scold'

3.3 Consonants

The following consonants are difficult to pronounce for speakers of English, French, Italian etc. The nearest alternative is given to provide these readers with slight clues of pronunciation.

q +	(read as 'k') eg. Fäqadä as Fäkadä
ṭ m	(read as 't') eg. ṭälla (meaning, 'a kind of home brewed beer') as tālla (meaning 'it rotted')

- č ʈ read as the 'ch' in 'chance'
 š ʃ (read as 's') eg. šállay (meaning 'one who prays') as sállay (meaning 'one who spies')
 ɲ ɣ read as the 'gn', in 'gagner', in French.

The following consonants are not so difficult to pronounce. The sounds the symbols represent are indicated below.

- ʃ ʃ read as the 'sh' in 'shame'
 č ʧ read as the 'ch' in 'chain'
 j ʒ read as the 'g' in 'genuflect'

Gemination of consonants is shown by doubling. Eg. Bāqqälä, tālla, etc.

4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The interest in oral literature has increased during the last fifteen years. Some books have been published. Proverbs, riddles, oral poems and short tales are published in newspapers and magazines, and transmitted in various radio programmes more frequently than before. Folk music and poetry have become the unacknowledged but the major sources of material and inspiration for the popular music recorded in cassettes for the market. Bibliographies of the books and articles published have been submitted as theses to the Department. There are other works too.

Samuél Endalä's thesis (1990) has tried to examine the problem of oral literature terminology in various writings. The recent article by Säyfu Mättafärya (June 1993), published in Journal of Ethiopian Studies, discussed the problem of folklore terminology indicating the ground work he has done towards the preparation of a folklore dictionary. These two works, especially the latter, indicate how fast the field is expanding. Moreover the number of theses dealing with the creative use of proverbs, riddles, folktales, superstitions etc. in Amharic novels, plays, poems etc. is increasing. Some of the theses in the Department of Theatre Arts have started studying the folkloric nature of traditional drama. Since my bibliography focuses on the theses that collect and analyse oral literature these works are not included here. However, the bibliographies that bear the phrase 'oral literature' or 'folklore' are listed below for the benefit of researchers in these areas.

- 1983: Fäqadä Azäzä: "A survey, review, and bibliography of studies on Ethiopian oral literature." Mimeographed. 53 pages. Since the work deals with Ethiopian contributions to the field, only the

entries in Ethiopian languages are included. (The review, written in Amharic, is 42 pages long. The bibliography is eleven pages.)

- 1984: Fäqadä Azäzä: "Ethiopian oral literature: a preliminary review and bibliography." Eighth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Nov. 26-30/ 1984. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Mimeographed. 56 pages. (The review, written in English, is twenty pages long. The bibliography is thirty-six pages.)
- 1986: Däggessä Bullo, "An annotated bibliography of Amharic articles and books on oral literature." B.A. Thesis, Department of Ethiopian languages and literature.
- 1990: Élyas Ayällä: "An annotated bibliography of articles on folklore published in Yäkatit, Yäzarévetu Ityopya, and Addis Zämän - 1974-1988." (Yäkatit is an Amharic magazine; Yäzarévetu is a weekly newspaper in Amharic; Addis Zämän is a daily Amharic newspaper).
- October
1992: Umär Hussén: " An Annotated bibliography of articles on language and folklore published in Zéna Lessan and Zéna Bahe!." (Both are Amharic magazines published by the Ministry of Culture)

These bibliographies have methodological problems. Däggessä's thesis was submitted in 1986, two years after Fäqadä's bibliography. Since her work is closely related to a section of his bibliography, one expects her to start by reviewing an existing work. However, Däggessä simply mentions his work without recognising its contributions and/or its deficiencies. To make things worse, Élyas Ayala fails even to mention the work in his list of bibliographies prepared after Fäqadä's. Such kind of oversight, assuming it is, invites confusion in this budding area of research in the country. If it is deliberate, to say the least, it is unethical. It is hoped that future researchers, students or otherwise, will seriously note this. After all aren't we just starting?

ADĀRÉ

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 1981: Tāšomā W/Maryam, Adāré proverbs.
 1982: Hanim Ishaq, Poems of children's songs of Adāré nationality.
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 1991: Šādalā Kassa, The wedding ceremony and poems of wedding songs of Adāré nationality.

AGĀW

- June 1992: Alganāh Dässé, The formation of Agāw riddles.

AMHARA

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 1968: Arägga Haylä Mikaél, Honorary titles.
 1969: Taddäsä Mulat, Characteristics of Amharic proverbs
 1970: Negussé Tāfāri, Various formal characteristics of Amharic Proverbs.
 1970: Weddenāh Mānggestu, Amharic poems collected from Gojjam province.
 1971: Aklilu Gäbru, Plant names.
 1971: Berhané Tensaé W/Sā'nbāt, Weaver's tools and kitchen utensils.
 1971: Berhanu Kenfu, Amharic idioms.
 1971: Gulelat Abārra, Proper (personal) names of Gojjam.
 1971: Taddäsä Mānggestu, Gojjam dirges.
 1972: Gošu Mogās, Begging (Beggar's) songs in Amharic.
 1973: Šibāši Lāmma, The old esāt-agāba form of litigation.
 1976: Dānāqāw Asayā, Amharic poems from the province of Gojjam.
 1976: Māsfen Haylu, When poems of war chants become the manifestations of the feudal system, and voices of the peasantry.
 1976: Rātta Alāmayāhu, Qalleča poems in Amharic.
 1978: Zāwdu Bällāṭā, Poems of traditional Amharic songs in Māsāngo and Kerar (musical instruments).
 1979: Kenfa Gābrél Dāssalāñ, Blessings in Amharic from the province of Gojjam, the district of Dābrā Marqos.

- 1979: Wedenäh Alāmu, Sayings that reflect systems (i.e. socio-economic and political).
- 1980: Boggalā Tāfāri, Šéh Husén and his poems.
- 1980: Dārrebé Mamo, Jokes told in Amharic.
- 1980: Matābé Ayalēw, Amharic dirges and songs collected from the province of Gondār.
- 1980: Tāsāmmā Mārša, Traditional poetic dialogue in Āmharic
- 1981: Aklilu Ayālā, Children's poetry in Amharic.
- 1981: Berhanu Mākonen, The Content and use of imagery in Amharic dirges.
- 1981: Mā'aza Abābā, Amharic riddles.
- 1981: Milliyo Seyum, Amharic poems reflecting the life and profession of the peasant.
- 1982: Almaz Abābā, The Azmari (ministrel) and his poems in Yājju district.
- 1982: Atalālāč Dāssalāñ, Poems about belief in Sof Umār.
- 1982: Balkāw Čārenāt, A study of Mānz dirges.
- 1982: Bāllāṭā Abābā, Jokes told in Amharic on Guragē nationality.
- 1982: Čalačāw Andargē, Poems of love, wedding and hunting songs from Ṭana.
- 1982: Elsabēṭ Gāsāsā, Jokes told by Alāqa Gābrā Hanna.
- 1982: Engeda W/Sāmayat, Folktales I heard in Amareña in the district of Čelalo.
- 1982: Gāddefāw Walā, A study of blessings from Gondār province.
- 1982: Halima Muḥammād, Poems composed in honour of Šéh Hussén of Balé (province).
- 1982: Mākonen Bāqqālā, Superstitions sayings in Amharic.
- 1982: Mākonen Alāmayāhu, Amharic poems from Wag district.
- 1982: Negusé Aklilu, Poems of funeral songs sung in honour of heroes collected from Menjar and Šānkora.
- 1982: Sālāmon Tāklé, Study of poems sung for the tabot (Ark of the covenant).
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- 1986: Webešāt Assāfa, Names of ladies' dresses and jewellery in Amhara tradition.
- 1986: Yāsāwdāg Gétačāw, A comparative study of the style of description in the oral poetry of the four districts of Yāqola Dāga Damot.
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- 1988: Ṭelahun Gābrā Sadiq, A study of folktales transmitted in the children's program of Revolutionary Ethiopia Television.
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GOFA

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1989: Zennaš Täsämma, Wedding tradition among the Säbat Bét Guragé.
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- 1981: Šäggayé Gäda, Guji proverbs.

HADIYA

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1982: Tasaw Taklé, Traditional wedding ceremony and poems of Kestané nationality.
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OROMO

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1982: Abdurahim Adäm, Love songs of the Oromo nationality in Balé province, the district of Mänddäyo.
1982: Aysanaw Haylu, Poems of the wedding songs of the Oromo nationality in Wälläga province, the district of Näqämté.
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- 1982: Habtamu Alāmu, Songs of the Oromo nationality of Čābo and Guragé district heard during wedding ceremonies.
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- 1989: Šemāles Ejjeju, Traditional oral sayings heard on the wedding ceremonies of the Oromo nationality of Harārgé province, in the district of Čārčār.
- 1990: Amsalu Qānno, Names of domestic animals and wild game in Horru Gudru district.
- 1990: Lāččissa Āsafa, Belief about spirit possession and poems reflecting it in Čāliya district.
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- 1992: Dārājā Asbot, The orality of "Oromo beggars' language" in the district of Habro.

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- 1992: Wāndu Assāged, A study of the contents of Šāggoyé poems of Oromo nationality in Western Harārgé province in the district of Afdām.

QOTTU

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SELĖ AND AZARENĀT BĀRBĀRĖ

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1990: Māngāša Māšāna, The oral literature of sidama nationality related with wedding (collected from the vicinity of Hagārā Sālam)
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1982: Dāhab Tequ'e, Tegrēña folktales.
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1988: Tāklu Aqwar, Jokes told in Tegrēña.
1990: Mā-aza Tāsfay, Analysis of dirges and funeral rites in Agamā district.
1990: Roman Gābrā Amlak, Content analysis of poems of worksongs of Adwa district.
June 1992: Alāmsāggād Amarā, Names of domestic animals in Endārta district.

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 June 1992: Zämānfäs Baraki, The traditional features of marriage agreements in Keltä Awla'elo district.

WĀLAYTA

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