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4. Discussion: Reanalyzing sprachbunds 5. Conclusions; Abbreviations; References; Case Marking and Linguistic Geography; 1. Introduction; 2. Case studies: Cushitic languages; 2.1. Accusative languages; 2.2. Marked Nominative languages; 3. Diachronic observations; 4. Conclusions; Abbreviations; References; Can Ethiopian Languages be Considered Languages in the African Linguistic Area? The Case of Highland East Cushitic, particularly Sidaama and Kambaata; 1. Introduction; 2. Literature Review; 3. Should HEC Languages be Considered as Languages in the African Linguistic Area?

3.1. African Properties in HEC Languages 3.2. Challenges to the Quantitative Approach to Defining Linguistic Areas; 4. Conclusion; References; Proto-Bantu and Proto-Niger-Congo: Macroareal Typology and Linguistic Reconstruction; 1. Bantu and Niger-Congo in their macro-areal context; 1.1. Introduction; 1.2. The Macro-Sudan belt; 1.3. The Bantu spread zone; 2. Towards the early typology of the Bantu clause; 2.1. Introduction; 2.2. The early verb stem structure of Bantu; 2.3. The early predicate structure of Bantu; 3. Towards the role of Bantu for the reconstruction of Niger-Congo; Abbreviations

References Explaining Convergence and the Formation of Linguistic Areas; 1. Introduction; 2. Definitions of linguistic areas; 3. What is convergence?; 4. Inferred and attributable meanings; 5. An emergence scenario for linguistic areas; References; Is Kumam a Creole Language? -A Mechanism of Linguistic Convergence in the Southern Lwo Area; 1. Introduction; 2. Morphosyntactic convergence in the southern Lwo area; 2.1. Development of nominal prefixes; 2.2. Development of tense morphemes; 2.3. Development of the verbal system in Kumam; 3. Concluding remarks; Abbreviations; References

The Continuum of Languages in West Tanzania Bantu

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Is Africa a linguistic area (Heine & Leyew 2008)? The present volume consists of sixteen papers highlighting the linguistic geography of Africa, covering, in particular, southern Africa with its Khoisan languages. A wide range of phenomena are discussed to give an overview of the pattern of social, cultural, and linguistic interaction that characterizes Africa's linguistic geography. Most contributors to the volume discuss language contact and areal diffusion in Africa, although some demonstrate, with examples from non-African linguistic data, including Amazonian and European languages,

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