Paradigm Survival and Innovation in Cushitic
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The relation between the prefix and suffix conjugation paradigms of Cushitic, had been noted since the first letters of the explorer Antoine d'Abbadie (1843), immediately commented on by Heinrich von Ewald (1844). It was given a coherent diachronic formulation by Leo Reinisch (1890) and propagated to the wider scholarly world by Franz Praetorius (1894). It came into focus again in the 1970's with the notable contributions of David Cohen (1970), Andrzej Zaborski (1975), and Robert Hetzron (1980), and has been a staple of Afroasiatic and Cushitic- Omotic gatherings ever since, including a comprehensive overview of the data which first excited d'Abbadie by Hayward & Owens (1991).

Meanwhile in relatively recent years the notions of paradigm, grammaticalization, and regional typology have been the object of considerable reevaluation, as witness, among others, the work of Bisang (1998), Finkel & Stump (2009), and Joseph (2014), and the collections in which these articles have appeared. It seems then an appropriate time to revisit one of the classical cases of paradigm reformulation and spread.

In my communication, taking advantage of a (provisionally operational!) morphological database (http://aama.github.io), I will examine how the relative ordering of innovations and survivals in features of inflection class, and tense-mood work together to shape the characteristic paradigmatic gestalt of the major branches of Cushitic.


