

BEJA LEXICOSTATISTICS

VÁCLAV BLAŽEK

ABSTRACT: Václav Blažek. *Beja Lexicostatistics*. Lingua Posnaniensis, vol. LV (1)/2013. The Poznań Society for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences. PL ISSN 0079-4740, ISBN 978-83-7654-273-7, pp. 21–35.

The Beja (Bedawye) language is the only representative of the North Cushitic branch of the Cushitic languages. Although there are several dialects, e.g. Amar’ar, Arteiga, Beni Amer, Bishari, Hadendowa, Halenga etc., scholars collecting the lexical data of the Beja language usually do not distinguish between individual dialects and frequently summarize material of two or more dialects (e.g. Reinisch: Beni Amer, Bishari, Hadendowa), or they determine only the area, where their data were collected (e.g. Wedekinds: Eritrea; Hudson: Port Soudan and Tokar). Roper indicated the dialect Hadendowa, but according to MORIN (1995: 22) it was a transitional interdialect of the Sinkat area. In this case it is impossible to separate specific lexicons of individual dialects and the only solution is to compare the lexical materials in dependence, who has collected them. Although there is only one distinctive phonetic isogloss dividing the Beja dialect continuum with typical *u* in the north vs. *i* in the south (VANHOVE 2006), the result of the present study demonstrates a relatively high internal diversity of the Beja lexicon. Two most incomplete or deviant sources, namely Munzinger and Bender, indicate the disintegration of common Beja to the 9th and 11th cent. respectively. The common share between the remaining idioms is c. 95% or higher, corresponding to the beginning of their disintegration around AD 1200. This younger dating better agrees with at least partial intelligibility between the tribal dialects of Beja.

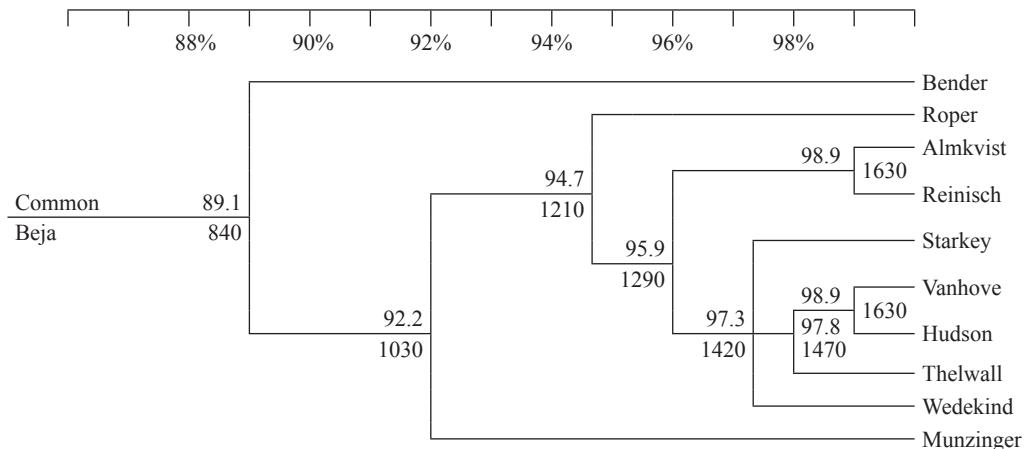
Václav Blažek, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, blazek@phil.muni.cz

The purpose of the present contribution is to confront the existing descriptions of the Beja lexicon. For practical reasons the comparisons are limited to the standard 100-word-list. To ten richest lists, namely by Munzinger, Almkvist, Reinisch, Roper, Thelwall, Bender, Hudson, Starkey, Wedekind, Vanhove, the test of so-called ‘recalibrated’ glottochronology (see STAROSTIN 1999/2000) was applied. Although their wordlists are usually not limited to the individual dialects, the authors usually described more dialects, the result can be interesting from the point of view of the internal diversity within the Beja dialect continuum.

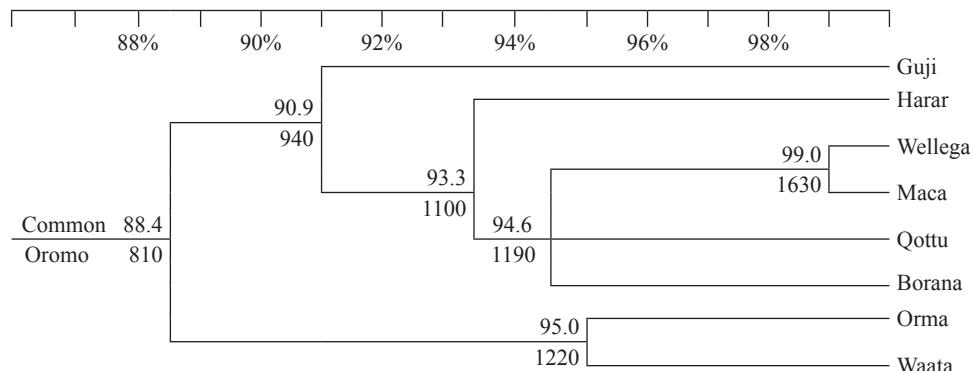
Table 1. Mutual percentages of common cognates on the basis of the standard 100-word-list, if loans are excluded

Author / %	Almkvist	Reinisch	Roper	Thelwall	Bender
Munzinger	75/79 = 94.9	78/81 = 96.3	74/85 = 87.1	66/77 = 85.7	65/76 = 85.5
Almkvist		87/88 = 98.9	83/88 = 94.3	80/85 = 94.1	72/80 = 90.0
Reinisch			93/97 = 95.9	87/90 = 96.7	77/83 = 92.8
Roper				82/90 = 91.1	76/84 = 90.5
Thelwall					68/79 = 86.1
Bender					
Hudson					
Starkey					
Wedekind					

Author / %	Hudson	Starkey	Wedekind	Vanhove
Munzinger	73/80 = 91.3	68/73 = 93.2	75/80 = 93.8	78/82 = 95.1
Almkvist	81/85 = 95.3	74/80 = 92.5	82/86 = 95.3	90/92 = 97.8
Reinisch	93/95 = 97.9	80/84 = 95.2	91/94 = 96.8	94/96 = 97.9
Roper	91/95 = 95.8	79/84 = 94.0	89.5/93 = 96.2	91/95 = 95.8
Thelwall	86/87 = 98.9	73/80 = 91.3	81.5/87 = 93.7	87/90 = 96.7
Bender	73/82 = 89.0	70/78 = 89.7	72/84 = 85.7	78/84 = 92.9
Hudson		79/82 = 96.3	88.5/92 = 96.2	92/93 = 98.9
Starkey			84/87 = 96.6	84/85 = 98.8
Wedekind				91/93 = 97.8



Tree diagram 1. The diagram depicts the internal diversity of the Beja dialect continuum constructed on the basis of Table 1



Tree diagram 2. The diagram depicts the result of the same test applied to Oromo dialects (BLAŽEK 2010)

Appendix 1. Recent and (almost) complete wordlists

Author gloss	Reinisch 1895	Roper 1928	Thelwall 1970	Bender 1971	Hudson 1995/64 ⁺	Starkey n.d.	Wedekind 2007	Vanhove 2008
11a.	<i>nūg</i>	(<i>nugw</i> teat)	<i>nnigw</i>		<i>nūkw</i>	<i>nig, negwab</i>	<i>nigw</i>	<i>nigw</i>
11b. = 40	<i>gính/a</i>		<i>ginha</i>					<i>ginha</i>
11c.		<i>daba</i>						
11d.		<i>degát</i>					<i>digat</i>	
11e.				<u><i>tuutēb</i></u>				
11f. = 11b?						<i>agra</i>		
12a. burn	<i>luw</i>	<i>liw</i>	<i>eetliin</i>	<i>əllúw</i>	<i>leūw</i>	<i>lau(w), liw</i>	<i>lawa</i>	<i>liw</i>
12b.	<i>balōl</i>							
12c.						<i>borbia</i>		
12d.						<i>tib'(a)</i>		
13a. claw	<i>ne'āf</i>	<i>n(ə)'af</i>	<i>nn'af</i>	<i>n'af</i>	(<i>naf</i> nail)	<i>naf</i>	<i>n'aaf</i>	<i>n'af</i>
13b.	<i>ěša</i>							
14a. cloud	<i>lēso</i>			<i>lasáa</i>				<i>lasi/lasu</i>
14b.	<i>áfra</i>	<i>afrad</i>			<i>affratt</i>			
14c.	<i>šāy</i>				<i>šōwōw</i>			<i>šuwaw</i>
14d.	<i>alák</i>							
14e. = f+d	<i>ba'elük</i>						<i>b'aluuk</i>	<i>b'alooki</i>
14f.	<i>bāl</i>	<i>bāl</i>	<i>baal</i>		<i>bal</i>			<i>bal/bali</i>
14g.	<i>mágwa</i>							
14h.	<i>gēm</i>						<i>too-gim</i>	
14i.	<i>sahāb</i>	<u><i>sahāb</i></u>						
15a. cold	<i>lá'a</i>	<i>l'a</i>	<i>l'aabi</i>		<i>la'</i>	<i>láhab, ilāb</i>	<i>tu-l'aanaay</i>	<i>l'aa</i>
15b.		<i>'ákil</i>					<i>akil</i>	
15c.		<i>'am'akwera</i>		<i>mokwaráab</i>		<i>akwara</i>	<i>um'akwara</i>	<i>m'akwara</i>
16a. come	(<i>y</i>) <i>i'</i>	<i>'i</i>		<i>ɛ'a</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>iy</i>	<i>y'i aa</i>	<i>'i</i>
16b.	<i>má'a!</i>		<i>m'a</i>		<i>ma!</i>	<i>ma'a</i>	<i>m'aa</i>	<i>m'a</i>
16c.					<i>m-s- s⁺</i>			
17a. die	<i>yā'i</i>	<i>ya(y)</i>	<i>iyaa</i>	<i>iyá'</i>	<i>yaiy = '-y-y⁺</i>			<i>yaay</i>
17b.					<i>n-s- s</i>	<i>insis</i>	<i>misisa</i>	<i>misis</i>
18a. dog	<i>yās</i>	<i>yās</i>	<i>yas</i>	<i>ɔyás</i>	<i>yas</i>	<i>oyás</i>	<i>yaas</i>	<i>yaas</i>
18b.						<i>oghüs</i>		
19a. drink	<i>gw'</i>	<i>gw'(a)</i>	<i>gwiini</i>	<i>g^wɔyé'</i>	<i>gwa</i>	<i>gwa!</i>	<i>gw'aa</i>	<i>gw'a</i>
19aa.						<i>gwir</i>		
19b.		<i>gibit</i>					<i>gibita</i>	(<i>gibit</i> drink milk)
19c.					<i>š-f-y⁺</i>	<i>šifɔy</i>		(<i>šifi</i> drink milk)
20a. dry	<i>ěša</i>					<i>ěša, ōšia</i>		<i>eešaan</i>
20b.	<i>bálama</i>	<i>balama</i>	<i>balamaabi</i>	<i>balamáa</i>	<i>balam v.</i>	<i>bal(amab)</i>	<i>balamaa</i>	<i>balama</i>
20c.					<i>amar</i>			
20d.						<i>letit</i>		
20e.								<i>dimma</i>
21. ear	<i>angwīl</i>	<i>angwīl</i>	<i>angwiil</i>	<i>angwiil</i>	<i>angwīl</i>	<i>angwil</i>	<i>angwiil</i>	' <i>angwiil</i>
22a. earth	<i>būr</i>	<i>būr</i>			<i>bur</i>		<i>buur</i>	
22aa. earth							<i>barar</i>	
22b.		<i>hāš</i> = 70	<i>haaš</i>		<i>haš</i>	<i>haš</i>	(<i>haaš</i> soil)	<i>haaš</i>
22c.						<i>daiyay</i>	(<i>tu-dayaay</i> ground)	<i>daayaay</i>

Author gloss	Reinisch 1895	Roper 1928	Thelwall 1970	Bender 1971	Hudson 1995/64 ⁺	Starkey n.d.	Wedekind 2007	Vanhove 2008
22d.						(ard land)		('ard land)
22e.								tiün
23a. eat	tam	tam	tamiini	təmmiia	tam	tam(a`)	tamisama	tam
23b.	am	~ām						('aam devour)
24. egg	kw(á)hi	kuhī/khwī	kwiib	kwiip	kwahi, acc. kwhāb	kwēb pl. qwīb	oo-kwhi	kwhi
25a. eye	gwad/j	gw'ad			gwod	egwad	gw'aj	gw'ad pl.
25b.	līlī	līlī	liiliib	leelit	līli	līlīi/(o)	tu-liili	liili
26a. fat n.	semūm						simuum-t	sumum
26b.	lā'	l'a						l'aa
26c.	dāh	daha	dhaab		dah v.		(dha-ab adj.)	(dha gros)
26d.	émfu							
26e.				goob	gōb			
27a. feather					anbir / ambir	kilayi amboor		'ambuur
27b.	rīš		riiš			rieš	riiš	
27c.	hámō = 36							
27d.		timba						tan/mba-at
27e.		lāt = 46a						
28. fire	n'a, n'e	n'e	mn'eet	ne'et	n'q	nait	too-n'i	n'i
29a. fish	hūt				hut			
29b.	āša/e	āši	aašob	aššáb	ašo	ašoob	w'aašu	'aaši
30a. fly v.	fīr						fīraa	
30b.	bīr	bir'īk	birr'ikiini		bir birrik	obearti	biiraa biir'iikaa	bar'iik
30c.	kil							
30d.	serār → 6b							
31a. foot					sukenga	sikwina		
31b.	ragád	ragad		regéd	ragad	r/lagad	ragad	ragád
31c.			dambet			(dambe sole)	(danbi sole)	
32a. full	atāb	átāb	ataabi		atāb	atart?	ataab	'atáab
32b. full								amrama
32c. full								'atil v.
33a. give	hi	hi(w)	iniiyu	yihī'	hi		hiya	hiw
33b.	nūn	nūn			nun	nunia	nuunaa	nuun
34a. good	šebōb	šibi			šibōb		šibooba v.	šiboob v.
34b.	(en)day	dā(y)	dyiibi	dayib	enday	dai(-b/t)		daa / daayi
34d.	(en)dáwre							
34e.	adil							
34f.						gadut		
35. green	sōtay/-d-	sota	sootai		so:tā:y ⁺ (satq vegetation)	sot'aiy	sootaay	sootay
36a. hair	hámō	hami	hamot	hemóob	hamo	hamaut tihamu	tu-hamu	hami / hamoot
36b.						hardugwi		
36c.						tifta		
37a. hand	ay	eyi / ayi	ayeeb	ayéeb	aiy	(aeyi arm)	w-'ayi	'ay

Author gloss	Reinisch 1895	Roper 1928	Thelwall 1970	Bender 1971	Hudson 1995/64 ⁺	Starkey n.d.	Wedeckind 2007	Vanhove 2008
37b.	kákwi							
37c.						kuſa		
37d.						owšiba?		
38a. head	gírmá/gú ^o	girma	girmaab	girmá	gūrmq	agir(i)ma	u-girma	girma
38b. = 55a?						rhiba		
39. hear	māsuw	māsi(w)	eemsiu	maasu	masūw		maasiwa	maasiw
40a. heart	gính ^o a	gin'a	gin'a	gmáa'	ging	gin'a	gina'	gin'a
40b.	lēb							
40c. = 40a?						ogria		
41a. horn	da ^o /da ^o	d'a	d'aab	daaqb	da ^o		oo-d'a	d'a
41b.	kōs							
42. I	aní, áne	ane	aneeb	anuu	ani	'anēb	ani	áni
43. kill	dir	dir	darri	idi'r	dir	d'ir	dira	dir
44a. knee	gúnba/-m-	gumba			gūmba	gumba	oo-gwumba	g(w)umbá
44b.	gundif		gindif		gundif	gindif	gindif	gandif
45a. know			ikteeni			iktaīn		
45aa.	kan	kan		nkén	kan	ti-kane 2sg	kana	kan
46a. leaf	rāt/lāt	lāt	laat	laat	rat / lat	lat, erat	raat	rat
46b.	báya	beyi/báyi						
47a. lie	émbi'	b'(a)	n'atib'iini		ba		b'iya	b'a
47b.							m'ana	
48a. liver	sē	se, si	seeti		si	sait	too-si	si
48b.				tɔnkɔla'				
49a. long	gʷəmād	gúmad	gumadi		gumad	gwimud	gwimad	gwimád
49b.	serāra	sarāra				sararab	saraaraab/t	saraar
49c.				ragáagab				ragaag
50a. louse	se				(se camel tick)	(sāt tick)		
50b.	tāt	tāt	taat	taat	tat		(tateeyaa be lousy)	tat pou
50c.	íbab				'i:bā:b ⁺			
51a. man	tak		tak		ták ⁺	tak	tak	tak
51b.		rába						(raba male)
52a. many	gúda	gwud	gwidaaba	gwodáab	gudāb	goodaba	(too-gwud plenty)	gwid v.
52b. many								win(n)eet ^{5a}
53a. meat	šā ^(o)	šā	šaat		šq	ša	too-ša	ša
53b.				doof		dof		(doof morceau de viande)
54a. moon	terig	terig	eetrikt	teri'g	tirig		(tirig month)	tirig
55a. mountain	réba/-i-	reba	(ribaab hill)	rebáb	rēbq	rebab	oo-rba	riba
55b. mountain	konbūl						kambuul	
56. mouth	yāf	yaf	yaf	yef	yēf	yáf	yaf	yaf
57. name	sim/sum	sim	sim	sim	'oo-sim	sim	sim	sim
58a. neck	ála	ála	alaat	t'ala'	alla	'alat	tu-'ala	'ala
58b.	mágé	m'ágé			m'aggi	m'ageb		m'agi
58c.	mōk					mokt		

Author gloss	Reinisch 1895	Roper 1928	Thelwall 1970	Bender 1971	Hudson 1995/64 ⁺	Starkey n.d.	Wedekind 2007	Vanhove 2008
58d.	<i>ê</i>							
59. new	<i>gáyi</i>	<i>geyī</i>	<i>gayiibi</i>	<i>geyiib</i>	<i>gayī^t</i> (<i>gai'</i> now)	<i>geyiny</i>	<i>gayiib/t</i>	<i>gayi</i>
60a. night	<i>hawád</i>	<i>hawād</i>	<i>hawaad</i>	<i>háwad</i>	<i>hauwād</i>	<i>hawadt</i>	<i>hawaad</i>	<i>hawáad</i>
60b.	<i>amás</i>				<i>amass</i>			(<i>amas</i> at night, yesterday night)
60c.	<i>títa</i>							
60d.					<i>akwīt</i>		<i>tu-'akwhi</i>	(<i>akwhi</i> evening)
61. nose	<i>genūf</i>	<i>ginūf</i>	<i>ginuuuf</i>	<i>gonu'f</i>	<i>génūf</i>	<i>og(i)nuf</i>	<i>ginuuuf</i>	<i>gunuuuf</i>
62a. not	<i>ba-</i>	<i>bā!</i>			<i>ba-</i>	<i>bā</i>	<i>ba-!</i>	<i>baa-</i>
62b.	<i>k-</i>	<i>k-</i>			<i>ka</i>		<i>k-</i>	<i>ka-/ki-</i>
63. one	<i>gāl/gār</i> <i>éngal/r</i>	<i>gal</i>	<i>gaali</i>	<i>ŋgá</i>	<i>gal / gar</i>	<i>úngāl</i> <i>ngaă:</i>	<i>gaal</i> <i>gaat</i>	<i>gaal</i> <i>gaat</i>
64a. person			<i>m'aadamiib</i>		<i>adāni</i>		<i>m'aadamiib</i>	<i>m'addáami</i> = women+men
64b.	<i>ha</i>							
64c.	pl. <i>da</i> men	pl. <i>da</i> men			pl. <i>dēhay</i> people	pl. <i>dehá'y</i> people	pl. <i>dehay</i> people	
64d.		<i>tak = 51</i>		<i>tk</i>				
65a. rain n.	<i>bire/-l-</i>	<i>bire</i>	<i>bireeb</i>	<i>bréb</i>	<i>birri/ billi</i>	<i>bireb</i>	<i>oo-bri</i>	<i>bíri</i> r., sky
65b.						<i>mitwai</i>		
66. red	<i>ádaro/-l-</i>	<i>adarí/-li</i>	<i>adarob</i>	<i>adarób</i>	<i>adarób</i>	<i>adaráb</i>	<i>adaroob/t</i>	<i>'adaroo-b/t</i>
67a. road	<i>deráb/^ib</i>	<i>darab</i>			<i>darqb</i>	<i>dariib</i>	<i>darab</i>	<i>darab</i>
67b.	<i>lági</i>	<i>lagi</i>			<i>leggi</i>			
67c.	<i>sálla/sála</i>	<i>salal</i>	<i>salal</i>		<i>sallal</i>		<i>salal</i>	
67d.				<i>sikáb</i>				<i>sikka</i>
67e.					<i>doi</i>	<i>doy</i>		
68a. root	<i>gadám</i>	<i>gádam</i>	<i>gadam</i>		<i>gadum</i>	<i>radam</i>	<i>gadam</i>	<i>gadam</i>
68b.	<i>ádala</i>							
68c.	<i>arág</i>							
68d.		<i>day</i>						<i>qaay</i>
68e.				<i>sər</i>				
69a. round	<i>debála</i>							
69b.	<i>kwalál</i>	<i>kwádād</i>			<i>k^w-d-d^w v.</i>		<i>kwalaal</i>	<i>kwaadaqá</i> <i>kwalaal</i>
70b. sand	<i>(h)issa(y)</i>	<i>asse / isse</i>	<i>asseet</i>		<i>issi</i>		<i>tu-'issi</i>	<i>'assi</i>
70c. = 22b				<i>haš</i>				<i>haaš</i>
70d.								<i>giisan</i>
71a. say	<i>di/yad</i>	<i>di</i>	<i>indi</i>	<i>'adər</i>	<i>di</i>	<i>di'abo</i>	<i>diya</i>	<i>di</i>
71b.								<i>soodi</i>
71c.	<i>an</i>				<i>n-y^t</i>			<i>n</i>
71d.						<i>ihi</i>		
72a. see	<i>erh</i>	<i>erh</i>	<i>rhiini</i>	<i>riyhah</i>	<i>rēh</i>		<i>rhaa</i>	<i>rha</i>
72b.	<i>šebib</i>	<i>šibib</i>			<i>šibib</i>			(<i>šibib</i> look)
72c.	<i>'ára</i>							
72d.						<i>hadwd?</i>		
73a. seed	<i>deráz/ s-</i>	<i>terá</i>	<i>teerab</i>	<i>terá</i>	<i>tora</i>		<i>u-teera</i>	<i>teera</i>

Author gloss	Reinisch 1895	Roper 1928	Thelwall 1970	Bender 1971	Hudson 1995/64 ⁺	Starkey n.d.	Wedeckind 2007	Vanhove 2008
73b.		<i>habba/hī-</i>			<i>habba</i>		<i>tu-habba</i>	
73c.					<i>bilay</i>			
74a. sit	<i>sā'</i>	<i>s'(a)</i>	<i>eest'i</i>	<i>'əssá</i>	<i>sā = s-²⁺</i>	<i>sa'a</i>	<i>sa'a</i>	<i>s'a</i>
74b.					(<i>ʃay be</i>)			
74c.					(<i>hai be</i>)			
74d.	<i>kemis</i>						<i>kimisa</i>	
74e.						<i>taṭama</i>	<i>taṭaa</i>	
75a. skin	<i>āda</i>	<i>'ade</i>		<i>adeeb</i>	<i>addi</i>	<i>'adēb</i>	<i>w-'adi</i>	<i>'aade</i>
75b.		<i>sar</i>			<i>sár⁺</i>	<i>sir; sár</i>	<i>sar anim.</i>	<i>sar</i>
75c.		<i>gale</i>			<i>galō</i>		<i>tu-galu</i>	<i>gali / gari</i>
75d.			<i>bašar</i>					
75e.							<i>u-gana hum.</i>	
76a. sleep	<i>duw</i>	<i>diw</i>	<i>diwiini</i>	<i>dewiyáa</i>	<i>du(w), tu</i>		<i>diwaa</i>	<i>daadiw</i>
76b.	<i>embi' = 47</i>							<i>b'a</i>
76c.						<i>naiy</i>	<i>naay</i>	<i>naa</i>
77a. small	<i>dis</i>	<i>disi</i>			<i>dis</i>	<i>diš</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>dis</i>
77b.	<i>dábal/r/no</i>		<i>dabaloob</i>	<i>deblúu</i>	<i>debalōb</i>	<i>dabalot</i>	<i>dabaloob/t</i>	<i>dabal,-i/-oo</i>
77c.	<i>di'</i>							
77d.					<i>enkalūs</i>			
77e.					<i>enkqtūt</i>			
77f.						<i>dimnut</i>		
77g.						<i>śilitk</i>		
77h.						<i>dagiga</i>		
78a. smoke n.	<i>éga/-rd/d-</i>	<i>éga / eda</i>	<i>eeda</i>		<i>éga / édə</i>		<i>w-'eega</i>	<i>'eeda/'eega</i>
78b.				<i>kwaraar</i>			<i>tu-kwaraar</i>	
78c.						<i>dorhan</i>		
79. stand	<i>en-/negād</i>	<i>gad</i>	<i>iŋgadi</i>	<i>'ingēd</i>	<i>negād</i>	<i>inged</i>	<i>gada</i>	<i>(n)gad</i>
80. star	<i>hayúk</i>	<i>hayúk</i>	<i>hayuuk</i>	<i>hayúk</i>	<i>haiyūk</i>		<i>hayiikw</i>	<i>hayuukw</i>
81. stone	<i>áwe</i>	<i>'áwe</i>	<i>aweep</i>	<i>aweep</i>	<i>auwi</i>	<i>'oweb</i> <i>ohawē</i>	<i>w'awi</i>	<i>'awi</i>
82. sun	<i>(y)īn</i>	<i>yīn</i>	<i>yint</i>	<i>yiint</i>	<i>yīn</i>		<i>too-yin</i>	<i>yiin</i>
83a. swim	<i>bedif</i>						<i>(badif</i> <i>swimming)</i>	
83b.	<i>ōm</i>		<i>uumiini</i>	<i>umiyya</i>			<i>uumaa</i>	<i>uum</i>
83c.					<i>nidab</i>			
83d.							<i>kwibaha</i>	<i>kwabh</i>
83e.							<i>bifa</i>	
84a. tail	<i>níwa</i>	<i>nīwa</i>	<i>niīwaab</i>	<i>niwa</i>	<i>nīwq</i>	<i>niwab</i> <i>onewa</i>	<i>tu-niiwa</i>	<i>niīwa</i>
85. that	<i>ba-</i>	<i>be-/ba-</i>	<i>beeb</i>		<i>bē-n -t</i>	<i>be-n /-t</i>	<i>bee-n/-t</i>	<i>bee-n/-t</i>
86. this sg. m.: f. pl.	<i>ūn : tūn</i> <i>ān : tān</i>	<i>ūn : tūn</i> <i>ān : tān</i>	<i>oon</i>	<i>ɔnɔ</i>		<i>ūn : tūn</i> <i>ān : tan</i>	<i>uun : tuun</i> <i>aan : teen</i>	
87. thou m. f.	<i>barūk</i> <i>batūk</i>	<i>barūk</i> <i>batūk</i>	<i>baruuk</i>	<i>berook</i>	<i>barūk</i> <i>batōk</i>	<i>baruuk</i>	<i>barúuk</i> <i>batúuk</i>	
88. tongue	<i>mida(la)</i>	<i>mīdalāb</i>	<i>miidaab</i>	<i>midaláab</i>	<i>mīdāb</i> <i>midāla</i>	<i>mida(la)b</i>	<i>miid(al)aab</i>	<i>miidala</i>
89a. tooth	<i>kʷəle ~</i> <i>kʷəre</i>	<i>kwire</i>	<i>kwiireeb</i>	<i>kwi'reet'</i>	<i>kwiri</i>	<i>quiraut</i>	<i>oo-kwri</i>	<i>kwili dim.</i> <i>kwiri</i>
89b.	<i>kōs</i>							

Author gloss	Reinisch 1895	Roper 1928	Thelwall 1970	Bender 1971	Hudson 1995/64 ⁺	Starkey n.d.	Wedekind 2007	Vanhove 2008
89c.	<i>nad</i>							
89d.					(<i>dq</i> molar)			(<i>d'aa</i> molar (<i>n)d'a</i> teeth)
90a. tree	<i>hinde/i</i>	<i>hindī</i>	<i>hindib</i>	<i>indiib</i>	<i>hindī</i>	<i>hindī</i>	<i>w-hindī</i>	<i>hindī</i>
91. two	<i>mál(l)o</i>	<i>mále</i>	<i>maloooba</i>	<i>malóob</i>	<i>mahlō⁺</i> <i>mālō</i>	<i>mahlō:</i>	<i>maloob/t</i>	<i>mhale</i> <i>mallí</i>
92a. walk	<i>bāy</i>	<i>ba(y)</i>			<i>bai = b-y⁺</i>			<i>bay</i>
92b.	<i>gīg</i>	<i>gīg</i>		<i>giūg'i</i>	(<i>gīg</i> go away)	<i>giga</i>		(<i>giig</i> go away)
92c.	<i>sak</i>	<i>sak</i>			<i>sák⁺</i>	<i>saka</i>	<i>sakaa</i>	<i>sak</i>
92d.	<i>hirēr</i>	<i>hirer</i>	<i>hireeriini</i>		<i>herēr</i>	<i>hirer</i>	<i>hiireeraa</i>	<i>hireer</i>
92e.		<i>dif</i>	<i>difa</i>		<i>d-'f⁺</i> (<i>dif</i> go away)	<i>difi</i>	(<i>difa</i> go away)	(<i>dif</i> go away)
92f.						<i>yeki</i>		
92g.						<i>dirink?</i>		
92h.						<i>ande I go</i>		
93a. warm	<i>néb'a</i>	<i>nab'a</i>	<i>nab'ai</i>	<i>nebá'</i>	<i>nabq</i>	<i>naba</i>	<i>naba'</i>	<i>naab'a</i>
93b.					<i>na'a</i>			
93c.						<i>sara</i>		
93d.								<i>hami</i>
94. water	<i>yam</i>	<i>yam</i>	<i>yam</i>	<i>yam</i>	<i>yam</i>	<i>yum</i>	<i>yam</i>	<i>yam</i>
95. we	<i>hanán/-in</i>	<i>henen</i>	<i>hinin</i>	<i>hanén</i>	<i>hanin</i>	<i>hini</i>	<i>hinin</i>	<i>hinin</i>
96. what	<i>nán(a)?</i>	<i>nā?</i>	<i>naanaati</i>	<i>nan</i>	<i>nā</i>	<i>naa</i>	<i>naan</i>	<i>naan</i>
97a. white	<i>éra / éla</i>	<i>era / ela</i>	<i>eerabi</i>	<i>eeráb</i>	<i>ērab/ ēlab</i>	<i>é:rāb/é:lāb</i>	<i>eeraab/t</i>	<i>eera /</i> <i>eela dim.</i>
97b.					' <i>adaro/-l⁺</i>	<i>adaro,-lo</i>		
98. who	<i>aw?</i>	<i>aw?</i>	<i>aabi</i>	<i>aab</i>	<i>au</i> <i>ay</i>	<i>aī</i> <i>ābu,</i> <i>āi</i> whose	<i>aaw</i> <i>aab</i> <i>aayi</i>	<i>aw</i>
99a. woman	<i>takát</i>	<i>takat</i>	<i>takat</i>	<i>tekeet</i>	<i>takat</i>	<i>takat</i>	<i>takatt</i>	<i>takat</i>
99b.					pl. <i>mq</i>			pl. <i>m'a</i>
99c.								(<i>kwaat</i> female cf. <i>kwa</i> sister)
100a. yellow					(<i>dērūb /-l-</i> brown)			-
100b.	<i>ásfar</i>					<i>asfar</i>		
100c.		<i>ádarsótai</i>						
100d.		<i>əlay</i>						
100e.			<i>kwirkumi</i>			<i>kurkum</i>		

Appendix 2. Old and fragmentary wordlists

	Seetzen	Salt Krockow	Burckhart Linant	Kremer Lucas	Thompson	Watson Huber	Munzinger	Almkvist
1a. all		^k <i>cass[o]</i>		<i>kassó</i>			<i>kess[a]</i>	<i>kar(i)s</i>
2a. ashes	<i>netásch</i>						<i>net hash</i>	<i>nēthāš</i>
2ac.				<i>né'ed-dól</i>				
3a. bark							<i>te'edf</i>	<i>ádif</i>
3b.							<i>o'demo</i>	
4a. belly	<i>[o]phéh</i>		<i>ofy</i>		<i>oofé</i>		<i>o'fi</i>	<i>fi, fe</i>

	Seetzen	Salt Krockow	Burckhart Linant	Kremer Lucas	Thompson	Watson Huber	Munzinger	Almkvist
4b.		<i>o calaho</i> ^K [eh]kalawah						kálawa
5a. big	wuinnu[u]	win		uenn[u]			wuun	win
6a. bird	[o]jklá	kelai	kilay	ókla	oklai		to'kelei	k(e)láz y
7a. bite	phinnik-						ēfnek	fénik
8a. black	haddál	([o]hadal brun)	haddal ^L wohaddul	haddal			haTel	hádal
8d. = 35			^L sotago					
9. blood	[o]jóih		[o]boy				o'boi	bōy
10. bone	[t]mitát		[ti]mita		pl. te-mitát		to'mitát[t]	míz ta
					miak'a			
11b. breast	onúk						o'hug	nūg
11c. = 40	[é]gná							
11d.				adtaba	o-dābá			
11g.							te'gibab	
12a. burn						elú	lū, luw	
13a. claw	[e]nég					o'naff	naf	
14a. cloud						o'lesso		
14b.								áfrat
14c.								šay/šwa
14i.	<u>saháb</u>							
15a. cold			([tu]la warm!)				la	lé'a
15c.	mocquara				mak"ir			
16a. come								í
16b.						máa		má'a!
17a. die						toyét	-yayá-	ya(i)
18a. dog	oyás	woyas	oyas	óyas ^L wayas		oyás	o'yas	yās
19a. drink	guanéh 1sg.		goa	gua			güye	gʷa
20a. dry							eša	
20b.								bélama
21. ear	[w]ongwil	ongueloh	[to]ngy	oónquil		wankuil	o'anguil	ángʷil
22a. earth		tobút					to'but, pl. te'bura	bür
22c.?				totayáh				
23a. eat	támanéh		tam[a]			tama	danya	tam
24. egg	[o]keh						kuhi(b)	kúhi(kʷ)áhi
25a. eye	egoát						o'guedj	
25b.	telele	tilyly	teléle			telil		ílli
26a. fat n.	tószmúm						semúm	
26b.								la'
26d.			^L to omfou					
27. feather							anbor	(ánbür wing)
28. fire	[tó]n-ih	to ne ^K dohnè	[to]ney[t]	tona		twané	to'ne	na
26a. fish								hüt
29b.	uáscho	wa assu						
30a. fly v.							ferya	fīr

	Seetzen	Salt Krockow	Burckhart Linant	Kremer Lucas	Thompson	Watson Huber	Munzinger	Almkvist
30b.								bīr
31a. foot						te šókena		
31b.	reggét	rugădok	ragad	ragad		reked		ragád
31d.			^o andarthe					
31c.	(/te]démbe sole)			tadembé		(e'dembi calf)	(dámba sole)	
31e.					o-šawa			
32. full	attāb[to]			atab[tj]				átāb
33a. give	hitókeneh					hiá		hi & au
34b. good						shebób	šeboúb	
34b. good	(dái[bo] gesund)	a daiuwa ^daib			dayé, dayíb	dai		dāy
35. green		(sotago black)	(^osotáy yellow)	ssóto				sótay
36a. hair	[ta]hamú	tamo ^tjammeh	(/e]hamo wool)	[te]háma		tahmé	te 'hamo	hámú
37e. hand	tedembetón				(te-dumbé palm of hand)			
37a.			oya	‘uaya		ayeb	o 'eye	ay
38a. head	ógürmá	iggrema (^girmah front)		gurma		akermá	o'agurma	gúrma
39. hear			[te]msyra ^emsiwoh				omásu	mássu
40a. heart	ginna-	^eh]gnah					o'gena	gína
41a. horn	[o]da							
42. I				ane		aneb	ane	áne
43. kill	addirro	dir(-na)	dera				éder	der; dir
44a. knee		^oh gummba					o'gumba	
44b.	[e]géndef							gínduf
45. know		^ektenah					ékdén kenan n.	kan
46a. leaf	tolát						to 'rat	
47. lie								
48a. liver	tószéh				tó-si		to 'sē	sa
49a. long	(gummet[to] tief)						gemed	gúmad
50a. louse							to 'se	
50b.	totát						to 'tat	tāt
51a. man	oták	gal-tuk ^o]teek	[o]tak			téki	o'tekk	tak
52. many	guda[bo]	guddowa ^guddah					guda[bj]	gužda
53a. meat	tóschá	^k[doh]sharr	[to]sha	toscha			to 'sha	ša
54a. moon	totrig			eterri(g)		totrek	o'ědrik	térig
54b.		te dai	ondjim					
55a. mountain	[o]rba	orba ^órba	[o]rbay	órba			o'orba	réba
56. mouth	[o]yéf		[o]yaf	oyeff		oyéf	o'yeff	yef, yaf
57. name							o'sem	sim

	Seetzen	Salt Krockow	Burckhart Linant	Kremer Lucas	Thompson	Watson Huber	Munzinger	Almkvist
58a. neck							tále	ále
58b.	[em]magéh							mágé
58c.			^l to móć	[to]mo(k)				mók
59. new	geyi[bo]						gi	gái
60a. night	[fwu]hauád	ouad					o'hauad	hawád
61. nose	[o]gnúf	ognuf	[to]genouf	[o]gnuff		kenuf		geníf
62b. not							kike es ist nicht	
62c.			^l lano					(lau nein)
63. one	nkál	en-gat	engaro	nga(t)		kal	engar/l,-t	(en)gál m. (en)gát f.
64a. person								ádame
64c.	odéiy							
65a. rain n.	[fó]bre	o berrah	ōbra	óbra			o'berē	bíre
66. red	addaro	wo druf	adaro[bj]				aderō	ádarō
67a. road	déreb							déreb
67c.			^l osala					
67e.						pl. ^h dōiā		
68a. root							gedem	
69a. round							debala	debálu
69b.	kwállalábo		^l qualal[ho]					kʷalál
70a. sand								dába
71a. say							di	di
71b.							soiya	sō
72a. see							rehya	rēh
72b.			shebabó ^l chebbat				eshib	šébib
73a. seed	tarteh							
74a. sit			sa[á]			sá	esá	sa'
75a. skin	[wu]adéh [f]ade[to]	^K worhade	(^l to hadah body)				o'ade	áde
75b.			osar ^l o serre					sar
76a. sleep	dauádenéh			ana duane			duya	dū
77a. small								des
77b.	dábaló[bu]	dubalowa dabálöh		tabalo[bj]				dábal/r/no
78a. smoke n.	[wu]éga				o-dé		o'äge	éga
79. stand						kéda	enget	(é)nígad
80. star	iéheiýuk	haiék		hayúk		whayok	o'heyok	hayúk
81. stone	[wu]auiy	owee ^K wauéh	awey				o'auē	áwe
82. sun	toin	to een	toyn	toi	^t o-i, to-yin	toín	to'ein	ín / yin
83a. swim							beddefya	
83b.								úm
83c.					nidába			
84a. tail							enníwa	níwa
84b	[wu]haggeh							
85. that							bē-n/-t	

	Seetzen	Salt Krockow	Burckhart Linant	Kremer Lucas	Thompson	Watson Huber	Munzinger	Almkvist
86. this sg. m. : f. pl.								<i>ūn : tūn</i> <i>ān : tān</i>
87. thou						<i>berok</i>		<i>barúk</i> m. <i>bātāk</i> f.
88. tongue	[e]midap	medābo	^L o midab	mida		<i>imidab</i>	<i>o'midala[b]</i>	mída
89a. tooth	tékoréh pl.	^K [deh] kurre	^L to courah	togura	<i>to-k^uirrē</i>		<i>to'kole,</i> pl. <i>te'kore</i>	kóra
89b.						<i>ekosé</i>		
90a. tree	uhinde		hindy	ohindi			<i>o'hindi</i>	hinde
90b.		^K gahl						
91. two	malloba	máloob	molobo	maló		<i>maluba</i>	<i>meló</i>	malōb
92a. walk							<i>béya</i>	bay
92b.					<i>giga</i> (men)	<i>gíge</i>	<i>gigya</i>	gīg
92c.			saka	sakká	<i>saka</i> (dogs)	<i>saká</i>	<i>sakya</i>	sak
93a. warm	nebba			^L nabah[o]			<i>neba</i>	néba'
93c.		houeet						
94. water	éyem	<i>o yum</i>	ayam	^E yam ^{Lu} aeer!		<i>yém</i>	<i>o'yem</i>	yōm
95. we						<i>henena</i>		hénen
96. what				^L nan-		<i>nanaté</i>		nān(a)
97a. white	(erab[o] licht)						<i>era</i>	érā
97c.			wodana					
98. who						<i>a'ab</i>		au
99a. woman	(tetakkát Weib)	tukut ^K takat	[ta]taket			<i>tekét</i>	<i>te'kekék</i>	tákat
99b.							<i>te'ma</i>	pl. ma
100b. yellow					<i>teta(bba)</i>			ásfar
100f.								
100g. = 35				^L osotāy				

Note: The underlined words are loans. The round brackets indicate the etymologically related words, but with shifted semantics. Such parallels were not included in calculation.

CONCLUSION

In the present study the core lexicon of Beja (*Bedawie*) is collected from both (almost) complete or modern and from fragmentary or outdated records. From them ten richest sources served as a base of the lexicostatistic comparison with a glottochronological interpretation. The result, i.e. the beginning of disintegration dated to the early 9th century (Tree Diagram 1), is fully comparable with the time depth of the Oromo dialect continuum (Tree Diagram 2). On the other hand, it is apparent that the correlation between almost complete lexicons with synonyms is higher in comparison with the wordlists (Bender, Thelwall) or incomplete lexicons (Munzinger, partially Almkvist, Starkey), where the results are a little distorted. It is also necessary to take into account that some authors included in their lexicons the data of some of their predecessors (Almkvist, Reinisch, Wedekind), not always with indication. So, if two most incomplete or deviant sources, namely Munzinger

and Bender, are excluded, the common share for the remaining idioms is c. 95% or higher. It implies the beginning of their disintegration around AD 1200. This younger result better agrees with at least partial intelligibility between the tribal dialects of Beja.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Martine Vanhove, who kindly mediated her unpublished lexical data for this study and corrected my English, and to Andrzej Zaborski, who first drew my attention to Beja. Thanks to Bernd Heine and Heinz-Jürgen Sasse I had a unique chance to collect the data for the *Etymological Dictionary of Beja* in Cologne in 1993–94 and 1998. The recalibrated glottochronology used here was developed by Sergei Starostin, who was very interested in research of Beja. The final version of this contribution originated thanks to the grant of the The Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), P406/12/0655.

REFERENCES

- ALMKVIST H. 1881–1885. *Die Bischari-Sprache (Tu Beđawie) in Nordost-Afrika I–II*. Uppsala–Berlin.
- BENDER M. Lionel. 1971. “The Languages of Ethiopia. A New Lexicostatistic Classification and Some Problems of Diffusion.” *Anthropological Linguistics* 13(5), 165–288.
- BENDER M. Lionel. 1976. *The Non-Semitic Languages of Ethiopia*. East Lansing: Michigan State University.
- BLAŽEK Václav. 2010. “Glottochronological Classification of Oromo Dialects.” *Lingua Posnaniensis* 52(2), 27–42.
- BURCKHARDT J.L. 1819. *Travels in Nubia*. London: Murray.
- HEUGLIN M.T. von 1858. *Reise in Nordost Afrika und längs des Rothen Meeres*. Gotha.
- HUDSON Richard A. 1964. *A Grammatical Study of Beja*. London: PhD. Diss. of the School of Oriental and African Studies.
- HUDSON Richard A. 1976. “Beja.” In: BENDER 1976: 97–132.
- HUDSON Richard A. 1996. *A Dictionary of Beja*. Cambridge: Ms. prepared by Roger Blench.
- KREMER A. von. 1863. *Aegypten: Forschungen über Land und Volk während eines zehnjährigen Aufenthalt*. I. Leipzig: Brockhaus.
- KROCKOW C. von. 1867. *Reisen und Jagden in Nordost-Afrika*. II. Berlin.
- LINANT DE BELLEFONDS Louis M.A. 1868. *LEtbaye, pays habité par les Arabes Bicharieh. Géographie, ethnologie, mines d'or*. Paris: Bertrand.
- LUCAS L. 1876. “On Natives of Suakin and Bishareen Vocabulary.” *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 6(II), 191.
- MEINHOF Carl. 1919. “Sprachstudien im egyptischen Sudan. D. Eine Hamitensprache: 44. Bedauye.” *Zeitschrift für Kolonialsprachen* 9, 246–255.
- MORIN Didier. 1995. “Des paroles douces comme la soie”. *Introduction aux contes dans l'aire couchitique (bedja, afar, saho, somali)*. Paris: Peeters.
- MUNZINGER Johann A.W. 1864. *Ostafrikanische Studien*. Schaffhausen.
- REINISCH Leo. 1893–1894. “Die Bedauye-Sprache in Nordost-Afrika, II. and III.” *Sitzungsberichte der Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philol.-hist. Classe* 128(VII), 130(VII).
- REINISCH Leo. 1895. *Wörterbuch der Bedauye-Sprache*. Wien: Hölder.
- RENFREW C., McMAHON A., TRASK L. 2000. *Time Depth in Historical Linguistics*. Vol. 1. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 223–265.
- ROPER E.M. 1928. *Tū Beđawie*. Hertford: Herts.
- SALT Henry 1816. *Voyage en Abyssinie*. Paris: Imprimerie de Demonville.
- SCHULER E. von. 1989. XXIII. *Deutscher Orientalistentag* (Würzburg 1985). Stuttgart: Steiner.
- SEETZEN U.J. apud Vater J.S. 1816. *Proben Deutscher Volks-Mundartan*. Dr. Seetzen's linguistischer Nachlass und andere Sprachforschungen und Sammlungen, besonders über Oststudien, Herausgegeben. Leipzig: Gerhard Fleischer.
- SHEVOROSHKIN Vitaly, SIDWELL Paul. 1999/2000. *Historical Linguistics & Lexicostatistics*. Melbourne: Association for the History of Language, Science & History of Languages 3, 3–50.
- STARKEY Janet. n.d. *Amarar Lexicon*. University of Durham: Ms.

- STAROSTIN Sergej. 1999/2000. "Comparative-historical Linguistics and Lexicostatistics." In: SHEVOROSHKIN & SIDWELL 1999/2000: 3–50; also in: RENFREW et al. 2000: 223–265.
- THELWALL Robin E.W. 1970. *Linguistic Investigations in the Sudan: Beja Wordlist*. Khartoum: Ms.
- THOMPSON C. 1910. "Some Hadendoa Words hitherto unpublished." *Man* 95, 164–167, 99–100, 180–182.
- VANHOVE Martine. 2006. "The Beja Language Today in Sudan: The State of the Art in Linguistics." In: *Proceedings of the 7th International Sudan Studies Conference, April 2006, Bergen, Norway*. Bergen: CD Rom (University of Bergen), http://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/docs/00/06/52/11/PDF/Beja_State_of_the_Art_Bergen.pdf.
- VANHOVE Martine. 2008. *Field records from Sinkat (Sudan)*. Unpublished lexical data kindly offered to the author.
- WATSON C.M. 1888. *Languages Spoken at Suakin: Arabic, Hadendoa, Beni-Amer*. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.
- WEDEKIND Klaus & Charlotte, MUSA Abuzeinab. 2007. *A Learner's Grammar of Beja (East Sudan). Grammar, Texts and Vocabulary (Beja-English and English-Beja)*. Köln: Köppe.
- ZABORSKI Andrzej. 1989. "Der Wortschatz der Bedscha-Sprache – eine vergleichende Analyse." In: SCHULER 1989: 573–591.

Allatum die 1 mensis Februarii anno 2012