

GENE GRAGG is following up his Oromo dictionary (in process of publication by Michigan State University) by the preparation of an Afroasiatic cognate file. Afroasiatic is the large language family whose sub-families are Semitic, Egyptian, Berber, Chadic, Omotic, and Cushitic (Oromo is a member of the last). This file will serve on the one hand for an etymological supplement to the dictionary, and on the other for further work in Afroasiatic itself. In connection with the unaffiliated languages project (on Sumerian, Elamite, Hurrian, Urartian, Hattic), he has been investigating statistically more accurate ways of detecting and displaying areal-typological clustering of language features. This will ultimately appear in the summary chapter of the unaffiliated languages survey, but a preliminary version will be delivered as a talk next year.