

**A GRAMMAR OF THE KAFFIR
LANGUAGE. SECOND EDITION,
AUGMENTED AND IMPROVED,
WITH VOCABULARY AND
EXERCISES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649040377

A Grammar of the Kaffir Language. Second Edition, Augmented and Improved, with Vocabulary and Exercises by William B. Boyce & William J. Davis

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM B. BOYCE & WILLIAM J. DAVIS

**A GRAMMAR OF THE KAFFIR
LANGUAGE. SECOND EDITION,
AUGMENTED AND IMPROVED,
WITH
VOCABULARY AND EXERCISES**

A GRAMMAR
OF
THE KAFFIR LANGUAGE.

BY WILLIAM B. BOYCE,

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY.

SECOND EDITION,

AUGMENTED AND IMPROVED,

WITH

VOCABULARY AND EXERCISES

BY WILLIAM J. DAVIS,

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY:

SOLD AT THE CENTENARY HALL, BISHOPSGATE-STREET-WITHIN;

SOLD ALSO BY JOHN MASON,

96, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1844.

IL
532
12.1
1514

ENTERED AT STATIONERS'-HALL.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY JAMES NICHOLS,
ROXTON-SQUARE.

TO
THE REV. WILLIAM SHAW,
WESLEYAN MINISTER.

DEAR BROTHER,

MY respected brethren in the ministry, as well as myself, feel that to no one could this, the *first* Kaffir Grammar ever printed, be inscribed with more propriety than to the *first* Wesleyan Missionary in Kaffraria.

We do not, however, view you merely as our Pioneer in the moral wilderness in which we labour; we have reason thankfully to acknowledge the measure of success with which the Divine blessing has accompanied your various plans for the extension of the work of God, both in the Colony, and among the tribes beyond the Colonial Frontier. While we ascribe the praise and glory to Him, to whom alone praise and glory are due, we feel no small pleasure in honouring you as the *instrument* by whose agency so much good has been effected; and we rejoice in this, that, in addition to the affectionate regards with which our private friendship would prompt us to address you, we are also bound highly to respect and honour you for your work's sake.

I remain,

For myself and brethren,

Your affectionate and obliged,

W. B. BOYCE.

Graham's-Town, February 5th, 1834.

ERRATA.

PAGE.

12	line	5	for um-tu	read <i>um-ntu</i> .
33	.....	18	... ti	..... <i>si</i> .
44	.....	19	... 28	..... 22
109	.....	18	... shwkazeka	..... <i>shwakazeki</i>
123	....	6	... is	..... <i>si</i>
135	.....	5	... gayi	..... <i>gayo</i>
145	.....	2	... umkohlisi	..... <i>inkohliso</i>
171	., ...	12	... 'downye	..... 'dawaye
176	.....	3	... inyanga	..... <i>inyanda</i>
216	.....	26	... indicative	..... <i>indefinite</i>

INTRODUCTION.

THE *first* Grammar of a language has peculiar claims on the indulgence of future labourers in the same field of inquiry. The man who has the moral courage to dare to expose at once the extent of his knowledge and of his ignorance, with no other object in view than that his colleagues and successors may profit by both, is entitled to a candid and courteous reception of his labours from the few who alone are qualified to form an estimate of their utility. Excepting the hope of being useful, there is nothing in South Africa to stimulate philological inquiry. The languages of the Aboriginal tribes offer no literary treasures for the amusement or edification of the student. A few war-songs are extant in every tribe: among the Amapondos, even satirical songs may be occasionally heard; and among the Amazulu, songs embodying sentiments indicative of a more than ordinary sensibility, are said to exist: but, generally speaking, the African intellect does not appear to advantage in the exercise of the imaginative faculties. In forensic debates, in legal pleas and cross-examinations, the native talent of a Kaffir and Mochuana appears to advantage, and no one can witness such

displays of intellectual gladiatorship without being convinced that, in their case, intellect has not been affected by the distinction of colour or clime. In Europe no curiosity appears to exist among even the curious in philology respecting South-African dialects ; as a proof of which, it is only necessary to refer to the article " Language," in the seventh edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* published in 1836, in which the writer appears to have been totally unacquainted with the philological labours of the Portuguese Missionaries in Congo and Angola in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as well as of more modern Missionaries in South Africa since the beginning of the present century. If the South-African dialects were mere barbarous jargons, unsusceptible of cultivation, and defying all attempts at systematization, some excuse might be made for voluntary ignorance, where knowledge would be productive of no profit ; but since, on the contrary, these languages are regular in their formation, copious and harmonious in a high degree, and so peculiar in their construction as to have excited the curiosity of a writer so well known as the candid and learned LICHTENSTEIN, one naturally expected, that in a work professing to give the results of the discoveries and inquiries of the last twenty years, some reference would be made, in an article devoted to *Language*, to the singularities of the dialects of South Africa, and the present state of our information respecting them. Under such circumstances of voluntary ignorance on the part of the learned, and of perfect indifference in all other quarters, the man who industriously devotes his energies

to the labour of systematizing an African dialect, cannot expect to be cheered on his way by the scantiest portion of approbation from the literary organs and directors of public opinion. His task may be as difficult as the labour of unravelling half a dozen of the written dialects of India, where assistance from learned natives can easily be procured; but as his sphere of action is comparatively unnoticed and unknown, his industry is alike undervalued and unrewarded. In India, the Honourable Company patronize munificently every attempt to facilitate the acquaintance of the native tongues; and, what is of still greater importance, require of their civil servants a certain degree of familiarity with the languages of the people with whom they are obliged to have daily intercourse in the discharge of their official duties. In the Cape colony, men are sent to fill offices of importance in the civil and legal departments, who remain, during the whole period of their service, ignorant even of the Dutch language, spoken by a majority of the inhabitants of the colony; a respectable knowledge of which might be acquired in a few months. No wonder that the study of the native dialects has been quite neglected, and that all the important transactions between the colonial functionaries and the Kaffir and Bechuana tribes have been conducted through the medium of interpreters, who, until very lately, were chiefly selected from native convicts, undergoing, for various crimes, the doubtful process of reformation at Robben Island, the common receptacle of Cape irreclaimables. Within the last few years a more respectable class of native and