Naples, 13th November 2017

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The thesis is structured in five chapters with an additional conclusion.

Chapter One: “Expansion of Islam and Arabic in Africa”. After a general introduction devoted to the origin of Hausa poetry, the candidate describes the aims and goals of the thesis. In particular he starts with a methodological background, beginning with the spread of Islam in Ancient Ghana, generally associated with the Almoravids. He also devotes an interesting part of this chapter to West African literacy (pp. 14-26), examining the whole curriculum of a Qur’anic student, from the beginning of the study of the Holy Book, up to the last stage, i.e. learning it all by memory.

Chapter Two is devoted to “Literary traditions and scripts in Hausaland”, where he provides a detailed list of all terms related to Hausa literature and works of poetry composed in old times. He also gives the transcription of the whole Arabic alphabet into the Latin alphabet. We also find some tables showing how the Hausa letters and vowels, which do not exist in Arabic, are rendered in ajami Hausa. At p. 54, there is also an interesting - for political reasons - reproduction of two Nigerian banknotes: the first is a 500 Naira note, stamped before the 28th February 2007, when the Central Bank of Nigeria decided to remove the ajami script from the Nigerian currency, based on the reasoning that Arabic is not an official language in Nigeria. The second one, a Fifty Naira note, with its value written in Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba.

Chapter Three, entitled “Contemporary Hausa poets and their work”, is divided into two sections: the first one presents the common features of the manuscripts. Biographical
notes on the poets are given in the final section of the chapter. There are some reproductions of Hausa manuscripts, examined by the author, showing different types of papers, colours of writings, employed by each poet and, what is more interesting, the difference among poems composed in Warsh orthography in Maghribi script and those in the Hafs orthography in the standard Naskh script, which is also known as Modern Standard Arabic.

Chapter Four titled "Arabic metrical structure and patterns of Hausa poetry" analyzes the verse patterns, metre and rhyming scheme in contemporary Hausa poetry. Here are quoted some verses of poems collected by the author for his study: the verses are given in Arabic transcription, in Hausa boko, and in English translation.

Chapter Five titled "Content and stylistic features in contemporary Hausa ajami poetry". It concerns stylistic features and rhetorical devices found in the poems. In the annex, a list of manuscripts is presented. Besides, four samples of poems in ajami, with their transliteration in Boko and translation in English are presented.

The system of transliteration in the thesis is the following: Arabic examples have been transliterated according to the Library of Congress system, while Hausa ajami texts were transliterated into standard Hausa orthography, except sections 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 where verse patterns, metres and rhymes are analyzed. In this case, double vowel writing indicate a long vowel, for example, a long a is written as aa.

At the end, a summary of his work is given, where the author, carefully and expressively, provides us a panorama of his work. After the References, the thesis is very rich, as remarked in beginning. In Annexe I, all the 323 poems, which comprise the corpus of the study are listed, marking all information related to every single poem (author, name of the poem, date of composition, numbers of pages, numbers of verses, rhyming syllabic/word, and genre/topic). The thesis, in Annexe II, also gives some samples of Hausa poems in ajami.

After this short summary of the thesis here are my particular remarks.

1 - General remarks.

The thesis is well constructed and documented, as proved by References (pp. 271-295), where most of the works listed are quoted in a great number of notes. The text is written, I have to stress, in good English, although I sometimes noticed few a lapsus calami. To show my interest in the work, and not for pedantry, I would point out a couple of corrections; sauka (p. 20, line 7), and ba’a (p. 28, line 2) should be in italics. At p. 7, note 2, the candidate is quoting Adamec (2009:61): "Berber is a member of an indigenous people of northern Africa. They live primarily in Morocco and Algeria. Conversion to Islam has led to
the Arabization of some”. This is true: in Morocco and in Algeria there is still a high percentage of Berber speaking people. There are also numerous communities in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt.

The provision of these details as well as an increase in the number of texts and their consistency given in the thesis, could eventually lead to the publication of the work.

2. **Specific remarks.**

The study of ajami script, not only for Hausa, as remarked by the candidate at p. 33 (line two from bottom), is used for Kiswahili, Somali, Afrikaans, Amharic, Wolofal (? Wolof), Mande, Kanuri, Yoruba, Nufe (? Nupe), Fulfulde and Tamasheq languages. This interest of scholars towards such topics should be welcomed and supported, as they can be very important in understanding certain aspects of African culture, which otherwise will be lost.

The candidate gives an analysis of a copious material collected. i.e. 323 poems; he collected them directly from authors, which is a difficult task in such a short period assigned to him for a thesis. In fact, it would be interesting if he could continue this work. There is a question that could arise from his collection. The following are not clear to me in the thesis: which is the scope or content of the work?, and which criteria was used to choose such material if any? or it was simply due to the chance of getting the material?

His analysis of how a Qur’anic student learns the Holy Book by heart, step by step is interesting, and the details of each step in the process.

This work, whose thorough analyses of a great amount of poems, offers a serious attempt at studying a modern production of the Hausa ajami texts of today. For this reason, in conclusion I may state that the thesis meets the requirements of a Ph.D. theses, and therefore I recommend it for the successive steps of the doctoral procedure.
CONTRACT TO PERFORM THE WORK 
OF WRITING A REVIEW IN DOCTORAL DEGREE, HABILITATION DEGREE 
OR PROFESSORSHIP CONFERRAL PROCEDURE

Concluded in Warsaw on 16 October 2017 between: 
The University of Warsaw with its seat in Warsaw at 26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście, 
hereinafter referred to as “The University”, represented by prof. Piotr Taracha, 
Dean of the faculty of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw who is acting on the 
authorisation of the Rector 
and prof. Sergio Baldi who is not an employee of the University, hereinafter referred to as 
“The Referee,” 
domiciled at University of Naples, Italy, Palazzo Corigliano, 5th Floor Piazza S. 
Domenico Maggiore, 12 80134 Napoli 
PESEL number: .........................

§ 1

1. The University commissions and the Referee undertakes to write by the deadline of 26 
November 2017 a review of the dissertation written in course of doctoral degree / 
habilitation degree/ professorship ** awarding proceedings, entitled: Traces of the Arabic 
literary tradition in modern Hausa ajami poetry by Jibril Shu’aibu Adamu 
title of the dissertation)

2. The review shall contain an evaluation of the subject content and methodology of the 
dissertation, an assessment of the academic achievements of the candidate, and a general 
conclusion.

3. The Referee states that he/she has sufficient qualifications to prepare the review, which is 
simultaneously a work within the meaning of the Act of 4 February 1994 on Copyright 
and Related Rights (Journal of Laws No 80 item 904, as amended), and hereby transfers to 
the University the material copyrights in said work, in the following areas of exploitation: 
1) putting the work in permanent form and replicating it by means of any technique, 
2) dissemination of the work, including licenses to and public performance of the work.

4. The Parties have set the deadline by which the review shall be delivered to the seat of the 
University at 26 November 2017

§ 2

* The sample applies to contracts concluded with external supervisors chosen by the Council of a faculty as 
doctoral thesis supervisors (§1 of the ordinance of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of 14 Sept. 
2011 – Journal of Laws No 206 item 1219)
** As appropriate
1. For the writing of a review compliant with the criteria set out in § 1, the Referee shall receive a one-time remuneration in the gross amount of 1832.60 zlotys, say one thousand eight hundred and thirty two 60/100 in accordance with the rate defined in the ordinance of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 14 September 2011 on the amounts and conditions of remuneration payable to thesis supervisors and authors of reviews and opinions written in course of doctoral degree, habilitation degree and professorship conferral procedures (Journal of Laws, No 206 item 1219). The remuneration shall also include the fee payable for the transfer of the author’s material copyright to the University.

2. The remuneration defined in item 1 shall likewise include re-evaluation of a revised or supplemented dissertation.

3. The remuneration shall be paid into a bank account identified by the Referee within 30 days of receipt by the University of an invoice issued by the Referee.

§ 3

1. In the case of a delay in the performance of the work, the University shall be entitled to a contractual penalty of 5% of the agreed remuneration for each day of the delay.

2. In the case of a delay exceeding 30 days, , regardless of the penalty defined in item 1, the University shall have a right to terminate the agreement and commission another person to perform the work, upon notifying the Referee,

§ 4

In matters not regulated by this Agreement, provisions of the Civil Code, the Law on Copyright and Related Rights of 4 February 1994 (Journal of Laws of 2000, No 80 item 904, as amended), the Act of 14 March 2003 on academic degrees and title as well as art degrees and title (Journal of Laws No 65 item 595, as amended), and the ordinance of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of 22 Sept. 2011 on specific manner and conditions of conducting doctoral degree, habilitation degree and professorship conferral procedures (Journal of Laws No 204 item 1200, as amended) shall be applicable.

§ 5

All disputes arising from this Agreement shall be first settled amicably. In the matters not settled amicably, the competent court shall be the general court with jurisdiction over the seat of the University.

§ 6

All amendments to this Agreement shall be made in writing as annexes hereto under pain of invalidity.
§ 7

The Agreement has been drawn up in two counterparts, one for each of the Parties.

§ 8

The Agreement has been concluded under Article 4 section 8 of the Public Procurement Law.

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