Ethiopia Field School

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Title of Lecture: The Consequences of Language Contact in Ari, Southwest Ethiopia

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Keywords: language, contact, Ari, Gama, influence

Summary

The language of Ari is spoken in South-west Ethiopia. Contact of Ari with Gama started in the 19th

century by the advancement to the Southern parts of Ethiopia. Ari people call Gama who speaks

Amharic. Contacting with Gama, Ari's language was influenced in following three main points;

change of name as meaning, change of name as sound, change of words in conversation.

Occupied by Gama, some Ari people were changed their names which mean slave or jail. Some Ari

made name to resist or fight, such as "do not obey" or "resist." Also, Ari names which ends a, i, or

consonants changed into Gama names which end u, e, or o. Influenced by Amharic, Ari people

sometimes use several Amharic words in their Ari language conversation. But Ari people do not

speak by only Amharic.

Reporter: YAMASE Yasuhiro