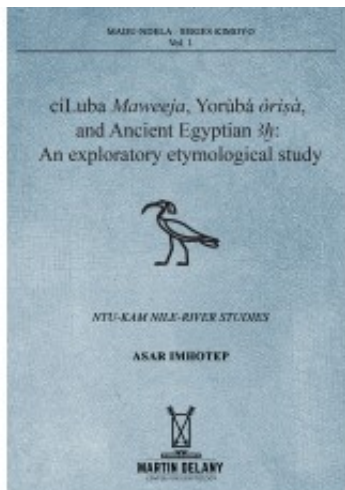


ciLuba Maweeja, Yoru?ba? o?ri??a?, and Ancient Egyptian Ax



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Short Description

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The present text is an exploratory linguistic study with the objective of establishing an accurate etymology for the names for divinity *Maweeja* and *òrì?à/òrìsà* among the Baluba and Yoru?ba?, respectively, using the historical comparative method. While these two names are common titles for the Divine or divinity in many West and Central African languages, a concise etymology has yet to be established for both terms. The present study seeks to fill in this gap by deducing the etymology based on comparative philology, a critical analysis of the thought and practice of the principal cultures under examination, as well as establishing the necessary sound ‘laws’ based on the regularity of sound-meaning correspondences between ciLuba, Yoru?ba?, and ancient Egyptian. Our conclusion is that *Maweeja* and *òrì?à* are variations of the same historical lexeme. However, the term *Maweeja* may be a borrowing into ciLuba. We also note the various cognates and doublets in the ancient Egyptian language: e.g., Ax. This study helps to confirm the argument in Imhotep (2020a) that Africa, essentially, has a single semantax for “God,” rooted in a primo-lexeme for “limb; foot, leg” > “to propagate” > “to do, to make” > “god, spirit.”

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