

more concerned with the relationship of people to each other, and the (LI—)—MA— class (5/6) to their status in the community' (p. xxvi).

It is quite a good notion, but as Mr. Haddon knows well enough, it is not acceptable to the formal grammarian. Here is another example:

'In Swahili all Animates, including the names of animals, birds, fish, reptiles or insects, normally require the Personal Concord. Whether this is due to the characteristic personification of animals, etc. in tales of the Brer Rabbit type, combined with the influence of Islam, which regards all created life as sacred, is not certain' (p. xxv). I should think not indeed! But it is a charming idea. This is notionalism, or what Mrs. Ashton has called 'the idea approach' to the *n*th degree. In the Swahili field Mr. Haddon cannot really be blamed for leaving the straight and narrow, for no one has written a Swahili grammar on formalist lines. But in the field of comparative Bantu there are some very reliable signposts. One important principle is that a nominal is classified by the agreements which it controls, and not primarily by the shape of its prefix.

There are a few misprints in the Lessons, e.g. *akikubaki* for *akikubali* on p. 70, and *chakua* for *chukua* on p. 75. The Lessons are a useful addition to what is already a well-worked field.

LYNDON HARRIES

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