

Intersections: Amazigh (Berber) Literary Space

Daniela Merolla

The interaction of artistic productions with several languages, literary markets and media is crucial in the Amazigh literary space. Focusing on writers who use the Amazigh (Berber) language, this study addresses contemporary directions in Moroccan Amazigh (Berber) artistic works set against the historical and literary background of the Maghreb as well as the Amazigh diaspora in Europe. It also discusses Amazigh elements in Dutch novels and short stories published by writers of Riffian heritage. The term “Berber” will be used throughout this essay to indicate the historical continuity of the field of study.

Amazigh (Berber) Literary Space

As in the past, manifold genres, languages, and media constitute the Amazigh (Berber) literary space of today. Writers since the beginning of the twentieth century CE have contributed to a contemporary literature written in one of the Amazigh language variants, while other authors of Amazigh heritage have published novels in French and Arabic.¹ Novels and plays published in Dutch by writers originating from the Rif have received public acclaim, while some Berber authors have started to write in Spanish. New waves of migration and migration patterns have produced works by Berbers in Italian and English as well.

This is not to say that literacy was unknown in the past. The contemporary developments in written literature are not isolated from broader innovations in the literary market; some Amazigh writers, storytellers and singers were and are involved in multiple circuits of written and oral literary production. If most narratives and poetry until the last century were orally created and transmitted, Amazigh speakers since antiquity have known forms of script (Lybian, Tifinagh) while traders and religious leaders were well versed in the area’s dominant languages.² Collections of tales and poems allow readers to enjoy elaborate oral literary traditions. Though some oral

genres seem to disappear along with their contexts of production, new forms have also arisen. Increasingly, the overwhelmingly varied and enormously popular genre of “modern songs” incorporates “classical” musical styles with inspiration and instruments from around the world. For example, the songs of Hindi Zahra, who sings in English, and Chleuh Berber incorporate Chleuh sounds with blues, jazz, American folk, Egyptian music, and the influence of African singers such as Ali Farka Touré and Youssou N’Dour.³ Another example is the music of the Tuareg band Tinariwen whose members play *teherdent* (lute), *imzad* (violin), *tinde* (drum) and electric guitar. Morgan⁴ argues that they merge the Tuareg style of *assouf* (“solitude” or “nostalgia”) with influences from Kabyle Berber contemporary songs, Malian blues, Algerian urban *raï* and Moroccan *chaabi*, pop, rock and Indian music.⁵

Another example may be seen in the revitalization of folktales in family settings and schools through films, novels, children’s books, and cartoons. Not only are folktales documented in past collections, but they also represent a still vigorous oral heritage responding to the new contexts of school education and exposure to various media.⁶ Thanks to international attention, storytellers again narrate folktales and perform comic pieces in town plazas. For example, Djamaa el-Fna Square in Marrakesh, where storytellers gather, was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001, while researchers, journalists, photographers and tour agencies have drawn attention to Arabic and Berber Moroccan storytelling in public squares and markets.⁷ Told, sung, written, video-recorded, and spread online,⁸ Amazigh oral literature is taking on a new life.

The notion of “literary space” can help us to understand long-term as well as more recent developments, which include multilingual, multimedia productions that intersect and interact with literatures produced in one of the vernacular forms of Amazigh (the Berber language).⁹ Across languages of creation and variations in individual positions, we see numerous oral and written works marked by their authors’ family language and by scenes and characters (partially) set in Amazigh environments. The nationalist critique in Morocco and Algeria¹⁰ and the debate over the literary use of languages other than the author’s “mother tongue”¹¹ notwithstanding, we see that the new political and intellectual climate of the Maghreb is leading to acceptance of the multilingualism that has resulted from long-term processes of expansion and migration. By recognizing the creative process that has resulted from interaction with other literatures and “literary spaces,” the umbrella notion of “Amazigh (Berber) literary space” transcends the distinction between “Amazigh literature” – i.e. created in one of the Amazigh vernaculars – and literary works in other languages.

Tamazigh/ Amazigh/ Imazighen in the Maghreb

Some notes on the denomination and geographical spread of the Amazigh (Berber) language may be useful at this point. Since the 1990s, the term “Amazigh” (or Amazigh language) has seen widespread use.¹² It has gradually replaced “Berber” in daily use; and it is accepted in academic discourse.¹³ Amazigh is used in the names of the institutes created to study the Amazigh language and culture in Algeria (Haut Commissariat à l’Amazighité, 1995) and in Morocco (Institute Royal de la Culture Amazighe, 2001). Other terms such as Tarifit, Tachelhiyt, Takbaylit and Tamashek describe some of the language variations spoken locally from Morocco to the Egyptian oasis of Siwa, along the Libyan border, and from the Mediterranean coast to Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and northern Nigeria. In Morocco people speak Tarifit in the Rif mountains, Tamazight in the Middle Atlas, and Tachelhiyt (or Chleuh) further south in the Souss region. Amazigh people are estimated to number between 12 and 25 million, which makes Amazigh the second language of the Maghreb after Arabic.¹⁴ As a consequence of migration, there are Amazigh (Berber) communities in France, Belgium, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada and the United States. An estimated two-thirds of Moroccan immigrants in the Netherlands speak Tarifit or come from a Berber-speaking region.¹⁵

We can speak of related Berber “languages” on account of the scattered nature of Amazigh linguistic communities in the Maghreb, the peculiarities of local variants, and because only a few speakers in the past were conscious of the linguistic unity of Amazigh. At the same time, scholars use the term Berber “language” to denote its unity at the meta-linguistic level and to indicate extended inter-comprehension.¹⁶ Today, the terms Amazigh and Imazighen indicate a new awareness among Amazigh speakers of their linguistic unity and cultural specificity.

The present position of the Amazigh language in the Maghreb varies widely. Though their language is recognized as a national language in Mali and Niger, the once nomadic Tuaregs have borne the brunt of the creation of modern nation-states and their insurmountable borders.¹⁷ The 2012 Tuareg-led rebellion and declaration of the independent state of Azawad in North Mali are linked to long-standing socio-economic marginalization.¹⁸ In Kadafi’s Libya, there was no room for language minorities, and the current situation remains far from clear.¹⁹ More open attitudes have prevailed in Morocco and Algeria, where academic institutes have been founded committed to the study of Amazigh and Amazigh courses of study have been open at major universities. In Morocco, the pilot projects of alphabetization in Amazigh have been launched by the Moroccan Royal Institute for Amazighity, and the Amazigh

language gained official status in the new Moroccan constitution of 2011. Nevertheless, Amazigh is not yet fully integrated into mass education, and contradictory policies affect government recognition of multilingualism.²⁰ Recent demonstrations in the Moroccan Rif in favor of economic, democratic and language rights have been met by military force.²¹ Although the demonstrations were part of a broader national movement for democratization, they also revealed the enduring difficulties experienced by regional minorities within centralized states.

Amazigh Literary Space in Morocco and the Netherlands: Novels and Short Stories

References to Amazigh languages and communities appear in the French and Arabic works of renowned Moroccan writers such as Mohamed Khair-Eddine, Mohamed Choukri and Ahmed Toufiq.²² Most known for its Chleuh setting is Khair-Eddine's *Légende et vie d'Agoun'chich*.²³ In the first part of this novel, the narrator discovers and describes an impoverished region and its inhabitants whose minority culture is threatened by colonial and post-colonial economic and political systems.²⁴ The narrator's deep attachment to the Chleuh language and land takes form in a narrative that reconstructs a forgotten past from the perspective of a Chleuh outlaw villager. The recreation of tales and myths in a poetic and oneiric style questions the homogenizing and manipulative vision of cultural identity promoted by centralized power and politics.²⁵ The initial narrator's voice recollects long-term continuity and "métissage" in Africa, while the narrative is marked by violence, local and international conflicts, and loss of personal and social identity.²⁶

The tales of storyteller and painter Mohamed Mrabet present a particular form of oral-written interaction and take on an international, multilingual, and urban form in Paul Bowles' English translation and "recreation".²⁷ Mrabet's memories of the Rif and his attachment to his heritage are narrated in the first chapter of his autobiographical work with Eric Valentin.²⁸ More recently, we find elements of Khair-Eddine's oneiric approach in Mohamed Nadrani's visual representation of social and historical themes in the cartoons "The Sarcophagus of the Complex: Enforced Disappearances,"²⁹ on political repression in Morocco under King Hassan II, and "Emir Abdelkrim,"³⁰ on the Republic of the Rif, claiming independence from Spain and the Moroccan Sultan in 1921.

A number of authors from the Rif have achieved public and critical acclaim for their works in Dutch, including Abdelkader Benali, Khalid Boudou, Said El Haji,

and Mustafa Stitou. Benali received major literary awards including the Geertjan Lubberhuizen Award in 1997, the Libris Prize in 2003, and the Best Foreign Novel in 1999 for the French translation of *Bruiloft aan zee* (*Wedding by the Sea*).³¹ Khalid Boudou won the Gouden Ezelsoor Prize in 2002 for *Het schnitzelparadijs* (*The Schnitzel Paradise*),³² while Mustafa Stitou received the prestigious VSB Poëzieprijs in 2004 for his poems *Varkensroze ansichten* (*Pink Pigs Postcards*).³³

The written production in Amazigh has grown in recent years thanks to Chleuh and Riffian writers. Although academic institutions do not yet consistently support them, cultural associations across the territory have supported the publication of poems and novels in Amazigh.³⁴ Two of the oldest associations, AMREC (Association Marocaine de Recherches et Échanges Culturels) and ANCAP – Tamaynut (Association Nouvelle pour la Culture et les Arts Populaires – The New One), as well as the Agadir Summer University (AUEA), have played key roles in organizing cultural meetings for artists, activists, and scholars to discuss linguistic and literary themes. Since the 1970s, both AMREC and Tamaynut have published periodicals such as *Amud* (Seeds), *Anaruz* (Hope), *Arraten* (Documents), *Tamunt* (Togetherness), and *Tasafut* (Torch).³⁵ Nevertheless, contemporary written literature involves acute problems of marketing given the size of the reading public. Whereas theater and stand-up comedians are able to bridge the communication gap and attract larger audiences,³⁶ Amazigh novels and short stories are often self-financed and scattered across the small or ephemeral periodicals of cultural associations.

Chleuh

The first contemporary novel written in Chleuh was Mohammed Akunad's *Tawargit dimik* (*A Dream and a Little More*) published in 2002.³⁷ It addresses a "classical" dilemma of Islamic preaching in the Chleuh area: the need to use the language of the villagers to communicate religious ideas and values.³⁸ But unforeseen consequences explode when the cleric Si Brahim begins to preach in Chleuh. The villagers want him to speak about government land-grabbing and corruption. Understanding the sermon, women do not recognize themselves in the feminine images derived from classical texts and ask him to preach about their actual lives and present needs. Si Brahim, under pressure from political and religious authorities, faces a new dilemma: give up his initiative and preach in Arabic or abandon his position as *fqih* of the village.³⁹ By focusing on individual experience and avoiding didactic discussions of language rights, the novel joins a stream of Maghrebian works that explore the rural world. In

contrast to the works of Khair-Eddine and Ahmed Toufiq, *Tawargit d imik* focuses on the contemporary time and world.

Before Akunad, Mohamed Moustauoui, Hassan Id Belqasm and Ali Sedki-Azayku and others had published collections of poems in Chleuh in the 1970s, while Ali Mimoun Essafi published the first Chleuh play in the 1980s.⁴⁰ According to several members of the writers' association Tirra (Writing),⁴¹ there are discernible differences between older and younger generations of writers. Earlier authors, who usually began writing in Arabic and later switched to Chleuh, were influenced by Chleuh manuscripts and traditional poetry and rhythms. Younger generations tend to write in "standard" Amazigh, often in Latin or in Tifinagh characters, and make use of neologisms as well as the other Amazigh language variants of Morocco and Algeria. As there was no school curriculum in Amazigh, the acquisition of a "standard" written language is one of the effects of the remarkable activism of cultural associations that offered courses and information across the country. These younger generations do not necessarily follow Chleuh styles and rhythms, even though the language question is central in their work. The choice to write prose can also be seen as a significant departure from previous publications. One of the long-term debates on Amazigh has concerned the kind of language that could or should be used for literary, academic, and factual writing: a unified (non-existent in the spoken form) Amazigh, a standardized vernacular "purified" of loan words from Arabic and French (replaced by neologisms and outmoded terms), or a relatively standardized literary form close to the spoken language. The discussion becomes even more complex in the case of artistic expression since "working on the language" and innovation are themselves part of the literary project. Akunad's *A Dream and a Little More* seeks a difficult balance between vernacular and standardized literary forms.⁴²

Currently there are some fifty novels and collections of short stories published in Chleuh, including *Muzya*⁴³ and *Amussu numalu*⁴⁴ by Lahacem Zahour, *Ijjigen n tidi* by Mohamed Akunad,⁴⁵ *Ijawwan n tayri* by Brahim Lasri Amazigh,⁴⁶ and *Igdad n Wihran* by Lahoucine Bouyaakoubi.⁴⁷ Some of the titles seem to express, consciously or unconsciously, a position in the language debate since the writers choose neologisms and obsolete terms.⁴⁸ Bouyaakoubi suggests that the titles of the younger generation more generally signal literary intervention as they innovate on daily language use.⁴⁹

If the language debate continues to inform chosen titles and themes, as in Akunad's first novel, new writers, under the influence of international poetry and philosophy, focus on urban life and topics.⁵⁰ For example, Brahim Lasri Amazigh's "The Siroccos of Love" treats the social censure of sexual relationships out of wedlock and the consequences for a young woman, symbolically named Tilelli (Freedom), when

she gets pregnant and looks for someone to shelter her in the months preceding childbirth.⁵¹ Bouyaakoubi explains that this subject, when spoken of openly, is usually off limits in Amazigh literature. Moreover, the language of sexuality and the body used by Lasri is both upsetting and a renewal; instead of using classical Arabic or French, he uses Chleuh terms for the body that are only used in private.⁵²

Tarifit

Migration, travel, and memory are central themes in Riffian novels. There is significant continuity between the Rif and the diaspora in France, Belgium, Spain, and the Netherlands, with the first novels and short stories written in Tarifit appearing in Morocco, the Netherlands, and Spain. In the Netherlands, writers from the Rif who publish in Dutch have won public recognition, while those who choose to or are able to write in Tarifit are known among the activist circuit or in the larger Moroccan migrant community when they combine writing with theater and music. A number of short stories and collections of songs have appeared in Spanish thanks to Mohamed Toufali.⁵³ Many Riffian artists, in particular singers and musicians, are active in Melilla, the multilingual and multicultural Spanish outpost in Morocco.⁵⁴ Institutional support for Amazigh language, literature, and music is however lacking in Spain, which seems to indicate ignorance of, or disinterest for, the historical richness of reciprocal influences and the more recent colonial past.⁵⁵

While Fouad Azeroual, theater-maker from Nador, wrote seven plays and a novel in the mid-1990s, the first novel published in Tarifit was Mohamed Chacha's *Reẓ ṭṭabu ad d teffegh tfukt*.⁵⁶ Chacha also published another novel and four collections of short stories and poems.⁵⁷ Mustafa Ayned, musician, singer, actor, and writer, brought out ironic and tender short stories in *Reḥriq n tiri*.⁵⁸ Other writers have produced both novels and theater pieces, including Mohamed Bouzaggou, *Jar u jar*,⁵⁹ and Said Belgharbi, *Aṣwaḍ yebuyebhen!*.⁶⁰ Several collections of short stories have also been published in Arabic script by Bouzian Moussaoui and Mohammed Ouachikh.⁶¹

Among women writers, Fatima Bouziane has published several short stories in Arabic,⁶² while *Tasrit n weẓru* by Samira Yedjis⁶³ is the first novel in Tarifit written by a woman.⁶⁴ Its title refers to an oral tale, the story of a young bride kidnapped by the jinns and transformed into a rock. This is largely a story seen through women's eyes though it also contains elements of a family saga spanning three generations. The first part concerns the village life and difficult marriage of Hniyya, the young female protagonist. The second describes the fighting spirit and military resistance of

Hniyya and her family during the war against Spain. The third part closes on a more optimistic note, following the difficulties experienced by the protagonist in adapting to urban life and her pain of separation from her children and grandchildren due to migration.⁶⁵

Dutch

As mentioned above, authors of Riffian heritage have won critical acclaim in the Netherlands. Tarifit is present as a literary element in some of the works of authors such as Abdelkader Benali, Khalid Boudou, Said El Haji, and Mustafa Stitou. For example, “The Days of Satan” by Said El Haji addresses the lack of historical consciousness in the Rif.⁶⁶ In a satirical dialogue between Satan, the village imam and elderly immigrants from the Rif, the reader is made to understand that they have never heard of the Berber King Juba II or other figures of ancient history and that they have also forgotten Abdelkrim El-Khattabi,⁶⁷ the founder of the Republic of the Rif. “Nobody knew these names – and that said enough”, concludes the scene.⁶⁸

Abdelkader Benali’s first novel *Weddings at Sea* takes on Rif migrants who try to cement their ties to their land of origin through marriage.⁶⁹ The main character, Lamarat, is a young man who goes to the Rif for the wedding of his sister and uncle.⁷⁰ His young uncle flees to a nearby town, and Lamarat is sent by his father to bring the bridegroom back, but the bridegroom’s temporary refuge in the local bordello irreparably wounds the pride of the bride, Rebekka, leading to a paradoxical end. The story is woven around an intricate sequence of events, past and present, narrated during Lamarat’s taxi ride from the house by the sea to the town. The inter-related themes that organize the narrative are introduced at the beginning of the novel: migration and the return to the “land of origin,”⁷¹ men’s fear of marriage, impoverished and degrading villages, and the cultural distance of returning migrants from their native villages represented by Lamarat’s tourist-like gaze.⁷² The family house built by Lamarat’s father deteriorates over the course of the narrative; its final collapse coincides with the failure of the wedding and the impossibility of recovery from the consuming consequences of emigration/immigration.⁷³ Different literary styles – childlike in some episodes and a stream-of-consciousness mode in others – submit the Dutch language to various forms of deterritorialization.

In Benali’s novel, the stereotype of the Rif’s backwardness is a recurrent theme treated with light irony. Lamarat’s birth and the love story between his father and mother are reminiscent of rural folktales.⁷⁴ When Lamarat goes to Morocco, he dis-

covers that he is the only one who does not understand his Tarifit-speaking grandmother, and is therefore the ignorant (“illiterate”) one in the family. The narrator playfully recollects a meeting between Lamarat and a Dutch salesman who wants to sell him plastic chairs. The vendor addresses Lamarat in a rather offensive mix of Berber, Arabic and Dutch, because he “knows” that he must address Berber highlanders in a “rustic” way. With Lamarat speaking standard Dutch and the Dutch salesman speaking coarse Arabic and Berber, the scene offers another ironic subversion of the expected ignorance of Riffian characters.⁷⁵

As these examples show, the references to the Rif and the Amazigh language are not part of folkloric presentation, regionalism, or didactic teaching. These elements are involved in the narrative of contradictory pulling forces through plays on words, irony, and an often phantasmagorical style, while the characters construct, de-construct, and re-construct their social and personal lives in the Netherlands as well as their memories from an elusive “home country”. If deep “horseradish” roots⁷⁶ counter the estrangement of migration, in these texts Morocco tends to become a place for summer holidays.

Conclusion

The rich and diversified literary production included under the umbrella notion of “Amazigh literary space” gives us a glimpse of a world in transformation. Thanks to cultural baggage developed in the multiple languages learnt at home, school or in emigration, Amazigh writers develop their artistic creativity and give poetic form to the difficulty of daily living in rural and urban contexts; they portray, mix, and reconstruct socially and individually scathing issues. A common trait is that, whether the setting of the works is an Amazigh region or not, the reference to the Amazigh language is not ethnographic or didactic, but rather integrated in the characterization and the narrative. The main difference occurs when migrant writers, such as those writing in Dutch, adopt a tourist gaze. Within the Amazigh literary space, there is a definite effort to create a written literature in Amazigh. Writers build on the experience of their predecessors, whether they used Amazigh, French, or Arabic. As the production of novels in Amazigh becomes increasingly “normal,” the language question is less and less explicitly treated. We also see that artistic effervescence – the myriad of cultural, journalistic, and academic activities together with the personal effort of diffusion – encounters difficulties known to all literary writing in Morocco.⁷⁷ However, these difficulties are made more acute by

the extreme limitation of audience and the scarce funds for Amazigh publishing houses. In this respect, the situation does not appear to have changed over the last decade: songs and theater in Tarifit are widespread at the popular levels, and while the increasing use of new media – whether radio, television or the Internet – is certainly important, it does not yet fully support the publication of artistic writing in Amazigh.

Notes

- 1 Among others, Mouloud Feraoun, the Amrouche family, Mouloud Mammeri, Nabile Farès (in French) and Belaïd Ali Ait, Aliche, Si Amar-ou-Saïd Boulifa, Saïd Said and Amer Mezdad (in Kabyle) from Algeria; the poet Hawad (in Touareg and French) from Niger; and the novelist Ibrahim Al-Koni (Arabic) from Libya.
- 2 Bilingual stelae (Libyan / Punique or Latin) date from the sixth century BCE. The famous writer Apuleius wrote in Latin but was born in the Berber town of Madaura (M'daourouch in Algeria today) about 123–125 CE. The themes of Berber folktales have also been found in manuscripts written in Arabic and in Berber traced back to the sixteenth century CE (Henri Basset, *Essai sur la littérature des Berbères*, Carbonel, Algiers, 1920. Repr. Awal – Ibis Press 2001, 55 note 3; Abdellah Bounfour, *Manuscripts berbères en caractères arabes*, *Encyclopédie Berbère*, 30, 2010: 4554–4563; Gabriel Camps, *Avertissement. Etre berbère*, *Encyclopédie Berbère*, Vol. I, 1984: 7–48; Salem Chaker, *Libyque: écriture et langue*, *Encyclopédie Berbère* 28–29, 2008: 4395–4409; Emile Dermenghen, *Le mythe de Psyché dans le folklore nord-africain*, *Revue Africaine*, 1945: 41–81; Lionel Galand, *Les alphabets libyques*, *Antiquités Africaines* 25 (1989): 69–81; Paulette Galand-Pernet, *Littératures berbères, des voix, des lettres*, Paris: PUF, 1998, 26–27; Jean-Pierre Laporte, *Manuscripts latins d'Afrique*, *Encyclopédie Berbère*, 30, 2010: 4563–4568; Tadeusz Lewicki, *Quelques textes inédits en vieux berbère*, *Revue des études Islamiques*, 1934, 3: 275–296, 282, 288; Ouahmi Ould-Braham, *Lecture des 24 textes berbères médiévaux extraits d'une chronique ibadite par T. Lewicki*, *Littérature orale arabo-berbère*, 1987: 87–125). Historical overview in Michael Brett and Elizabeth Fentress, *The Berbers*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1996. Other languages known among Amazigh speakers in Morocco today are dialectal Arabic, French, and Spanish. French and Spanish spread in the Maghreb through European expansionism and colonization.
- 3 See the interview with Hindi Zahra published on *Aujourd'hui le Maroc*: “Je m'intéresse à toutes les cultures et j'ai envie que ma musique soit universelle et réunisse des gens de divers horizons. Je voudrais qu'elle s'inscrive dans la pluralité [All cultures interest

me; I want my music to be universal and unite people from various backgrounds. I hope my music belongs to all]" (Amine Harmach, Interview with Zahra Hindi: "J'ai envie de promouvoir l'amazigh à travers mon chant [I want to promote the Amazigh through my music]," *Aujourd'hui, Le Maroc* (Jan. 29, 2009), <http://www.aujourd'hui.ma/maroc-actualite/magazine/zahra-hindi-j-ai-envie-de-promouvoir-l-amazigh-a-travers-mon-chant--61657.html>; See also Samriddhi Tanti, Hindi Zahra – Music for the Soul, *EF News International* (21 September 2011), <http://www.efi-news.com/2011/09/hindi-zahra-music-for-soul.html>.)

- 4 Andy Morgan, *Tinariwen – Sons of the desert*. In *Andy Morgan writes ...* (Website, January 6, 2011) (<http://www.andymorganwrites.com/tinariwen-sons-of-the-desert/>), first published in *Songlines* 29, 2007.
- 5 See also Peter Culshaw, "Desert Storm [Tinariwen]," *Songlines* 42 (March–April, 2007): 20–25. www.eyefortalent.com/eft-press/T-N%20SonglinesMarApr07.pdf; Tinariwen, Aman Iman, Documentary, Berber/French, www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOu4fdlPiWI
- 6 Daniela Merolla, *De l'art de la narration tamazight (berbère). 200 ans d'études: état des lieux et perspectives* (The art of Amazigh storytelling; Two-hundred years of research: the current status and perspectives) (Paris/Leuven: Peeters, 2006).
- 7 On the Djamaa el-Fna Square, see the UNESCO World Heritage List, 2001. http://www.unesco.org/bpi/intangible_heritage/morocco.htm. See also Thomas Ladenburger, *Al-Halqa: In the storyteller's circle*, Documentary, Germany 2010, 90min, <http://www.alhalqa.com>, and Thibaut Dantéur, *L'authenticité par la mise en scène. Analyse dialogique des activités touristiques et culturelles de la place Jemaa el Fna*, *Via@, Les imaginaires touristiques*, n°1, 2012. URL: <http://www.viatourismreview.net/Article7.php>; Rachele Borghi and Claudio Minca, *Le lieu, la place, l'imaginaire: discours colonial et littérature dans la description de la Jamaa el Fna, Marrakech*, *Expressions Maghrebins* 2: 155–174, 2003; Ahmed Skounti and Ouidad Tebbaa, 2005, *La place Jemaa El Fna: patrimoine culturel immatériel de Marrakech, du Maroc et de l'Humanité* (Rabat: Éditions de l'UNESCO).
- 8 Daniela Merolla, *Digital Imagination and the 'Landscape of Group Identities': the Flourishing of Theatre, Video and 'Amazigh Net' in the Maghrib and Berber Diaspora*, *Journal of North African Studies* 7.4 (2002): 122–131; Mena Lafkioui and Daniela Merolla, eds., *Oralité et nouvelles dimensions de l'oralité: Intersections théoriques et comparaisons des matériaux dans les études africaines* (Orality and new dimensions in orality: intersections and theoretical comparisons in African studies) (Paris: Inalco, 2008).
- 9 See Merolla *De l'art*, 71–74, 183–195. Tamazight, the feminine and singular form, means "Amazigh woman" and the vernacular spoken in the Moroccan Middle Atlas. As languages are usually feminine in Berber, "Tamazight" also indicates the "Amazigh language" as a whole. In Morocco, the masculine form Amazigh (instead than the femi-

- nine form Tamazight) is used, to avoid confusion with the Middle Atlas vernacular. I follow this use in the present article.
- 10 The nationalist critique saw many “Berber” characterizations as regrettable forms of French acculturation, and these works were often accused of lacking patriotism. See Mostefa Lacheraf, *La Colline oubliée ou la conscience anachronique*, in Philippe Lucas and Jean-Claude Vatin, eds., *L’Algérie des anthropologues* (Paris: Maspéro, 1975), 231–232, texte 65, first published in *Le Jeune Musulman* (13 February, 1953); See also Christiane Achour, *Littérature et apprentissage scolaire de l’écriture: influences réciproques, Littératures du Maghreb, Itinéraires et Contacts de cultures 4–5* (Paris: Centre d’Etude des Nouveaux Espaces Littéraires, 1984): 15–56; Jacqueline Kaye and Abdelhamid Zoubir, *The ambiguous compromise: Language, literature, and national identity in Algeria and Morocco* (London and New York: Routledge, 1990); Mohamed Saïd El Zemouri, *Berbérisme dans la littérature maghrébine d’expression française (les cas de Driss Chaïbi, Mohamed Khaïr Eddine, Yacine Kateb, Nabil Farès)* (Tétouan: Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines, 1997).
 - 11 Jean Déjeux, *Francophone literature in the Maghreb: the problem and the possibility*, *Research in African Literatures* 23.2 (1992): 5–19; Mouloud Mammeri, *Littérature berbère orale*, *Les Temps modernes* 33.375 (Oct. 1977): 407–418; Mouloud Mammeri, *Poèmes kabyles anciens* (Paris: Maspéro, 1980); Albert Memmi, *Portrait du colonisé, précédé du portrait du colonisateur* (Paris: Buchet/Chastel, 1957); ObiajunwaWali, *The Dead End of African Literature*, *Transition* 10, (1963): 330–335.
 - 12 In Arabic and European languages, the terms “Berber / Barbar / Breber” have been known since the Eighth and Sixteenth Centuries CE respectively. The term “Berber” became established under the impetus of colonial ethnography of the nineteenth century CE. It is increasingly rejected in North Africa because “Berber” derives from the Greek βάρβαρος and the Latin barbarus, and meaning “uncivilized.” See also Chantal de la Veronne, *Distinction entre arabes et berbères dans les documents d’archives européennes des XVIe et XVIIe siècles concernant le Maghreb*, *Actes du premier congrès d’études des cultures méditerranéennes d’influences arabo-berbères* (Algiers: SNED, 1973), 261–265.
 - 13 Amazigh is the singular form of Imazighen, usually translated as “free (noble) men” and is also used as an adjective (Amazigh language). The term Amazigh was known in Morocco and Libya and is nowadays accepted in Algeria and in areas where it was not previously used. Linguistically, Amazigh belongs to the Afro-Asiatic family along with languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, Amharic, Hausa, Oromo, and ancient Egyptian. See also Salem Chaker, *Amazigh (le/un) Berbère*, *Encyclopédie Berbère* 4 (1987): 562–568.
 - 14 Its speakers number between 30 and 40% of the Moroccan population (Rif, Middle and High Atlas, Sous). In Algeria, between 14 and 25% of the population speaks local

forms of Amazigh (Kabylia, Aurès, Mزاب). The Tuaregs, who live in a wide Saharan and sub-Saharan area across Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria, are estimated to have around two million speakers. In Tunisia there are small pockets of Berber speakers on the Isle of Djerba and in the south (Chenini, Douz, Tozeur), while larger communities live in Libya (an estimated 3 % of the Libyan population). The range of estimates indicates that censuses, when taken at all, have not inquired about language use, and any existing sources are old or unreliable. See also Salem Chaker, *Le berbère*, in Bernard Cerquiglini, ed., *Les langues de France*. (Paris: PUF, 2003), 215–227; Joseph H. Greenberg, *Studies in African linguistic classification: IV, Hamito-Semitic, Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 6 (1950): 47–63; M. Paul Lewis, ed., *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (Dallas: SIL International, 2009), Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/>; Lamara Bougchiche, *Langues et littératures berbères des origines à nos jours. Bibliographie internationale*, (Paris: Ibis, 1997).

- 15 Abderrahman El Aissati and Petra Bos, Arabic and Berber in the Netherlands and France, in Guus Extra and Jeanne Maartens, eds., *Multilingualism in a multicultural context. Case studies on South Africa and Western Europe. Studies in Multilingualism* 10. (Tilburg: Tilburg UP, 1998), 179–195; Salem Chaker, *La langue berbère en France*, in Mohamed Tilmatine, ed., *Enseignement des langues d'origine et immigration nord-africaine en Europe: langue maternelle ou langue d'Etat?* (Paris: Inalco, 1997), 15–30; Mohamed Chafik, *Amazighen* (Amsterdam: Bulaaq, 1989); Magreet Dorleijn and Jacomine Nortier, *Van de hand en de handschoen*, in Ad Backus, et al., *Artikelen van de Zesde Anéla-conferentie* (Delft: Eburon, 2009), 83–92; Guus Extra and Jan Jaap de Ruiter, eds., *Babylon aan de Noordzee: Nieuwe talen in Nederland* (Amsterdam: Bulaaq, 2001), 60–77; Guus Extra and Jan Jaap de Ruiter, *The sociolinguistic status of the Moroccan community in the Netherlands*, *Indian Journal of Applied Linguistics* 20.1–2 (1994): 151–176.
- 16 Kossmann (1999) indicates two (northern and southern) Berber “dialect continua.” See Maarten Kossmann, *Essai sur la phonologie du proto-berbère* (Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 1999); See also Salem Chaker, *Unité et diversité de la langue berbère, Unité et diversité de tamazight*, *Actes du Colloque international* (Ghardaïa 20–21 avril 1991), Tizi-Ouzou, FNACA, 1992, 129–142; Jeannine Drouin, *Unité et pluralité littéraires dans les sociétés berbérophones*, *CIUDT* 1 (1992): 115–128; Lionel Galand, *La langue berbère existe-t-elle?* in Christian Robin, ed., *Mélanges linguistiques offerts à Maxime Rodinson* (Paris: Geuthner, 1985), 175–184; Miloud Taïfi, *Unité et diversité du berbère: Détermination des lieux linguistiques d'intercompréhension*, *Études et Documents Berbères* 12 (1994), 119–138.
- 17 Hélène Claudot-Hawad, *Le Touaregs: portait en fragments* (Aix-en-Provence: Edisud, 1993); Hélène Claudot-Hawad, ed., *Berbères ou Arabes? Le tango des specialists* (Paris: Irenam,

- 2006). Tuaregs live in a vast area across Algeria, Libya, Mali, Niger, northern Burkina Faso and northern Nigeria.
- 18 Tuareg-led rebellion in north Mali, *Aljazeera Explainer* (03 April, 2012), www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/03/201232211614369240.html; Mali Tuareg rebels' call for independence rejected, *BBC News* (03 June, 2012), www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17640223; see also the Tuareg site of the MLNA, *Mouvement National de libération de l'Azawad*, www.mnlamov.net/english.html.
 - 19 See, for example, Peter Fragiskatos, Will Gadhafi defeat bring new freedom for Berbers in Libya?, *CNN Opinion* (26 August, 2011), http://articles.cnn.com/2011-08-26/opinion/fragiskatos.berber.language_1_tamazight-berber-minority-berber-culture?_s=PM:OPINION; Christopher John Chivers, Amid a Berber reawakening in Libya, fears of revenge, *The New York Times* (8 August, 2011), <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/09/world/africa/09berbers.html?pagewanted=all>; Christopher John Chivers, Libya clashes: "at least 14 dead" around Zuwara, *BBC News* (3 April, 2012), <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-17602343>; Glen Johnson, In post-Kadafi Libya, Berber minority faces identity crisis, *Los Angeles Times* (22 March, 2012), <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/mar/22/world/la-fg-libya-identity-20120323>.
 - 20 A commission in Morocco proposed the Amazigh language as an official national language only after the 2011 "Arab Spring" in which Berber speakers participated in Libya and across the Maghreb.
 - 21 On protests in the Rif area in March 2012 see, for example, Paul Schemm, Protests spread in Morocco's north Rif mountains, *The Guardian* (3 December, 2012), <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/10139625>; Abdelhafid Marzak, Province d'Al Hoceïma, Casseurs en uniforme, *Actuel* 133 (16 March, 2012), www.actuel.ma/Societe/Province_dAl_Hoceima_Casseurs_en_uniforme/955.html; Pedro Canales, El Rif marroquí se rebela contra el abandono, *El Imparcial* (13 Mar, 2012), <http://www.elimparcial.es/contenido/100992.html>.
 - 22 Mohamed Choukri, *For Bread Alone*, trans. Paul Bowles (London: Peter Owen, 1974); Mohamed Choukri, *Zoco Chico*, trans. Mohamed El Ghoulabzouri (Paris: Didier Devillez, 1996); Ahmed Toufiq (also transcribed as Al-Tawfiq), *Shajarat al-hinna ' wa-al-qamar / L'arbre et la lune* (*The tree and the moon*), trans. Philippe Vigneux (Paris: Phébus, 2002).
 - 23 Mohammed Khaïr-Eddine, *Légende et vie d'Agoun'chich* (*The Legend and Life of Agoun'chich*) (Paris: Seuil, 2010).
 - 24 "Quand vous débarquez dans un pays que vous n'avez jamais vu ou que vous avez déserté depuis longtemps, ce qui vous frappe avant tout, c'est la langue ... Eh bien! le Sud, c'est d'abord une langue: la tachelhit (When you land in a new country or one you left long ago, what strikes you first and foremost is the language ... Well! In the

- south, there is one primary language, Tashelhit)" Khaïr-Eddine (1984/2010), 3; "Cela [le problème de la pérennité culturelle] touche essentiellement les cultures de tradition orale, les langues minoritaires dont la richesse s'estompe faute de pouvoir échapper à l'oubli par simple retranscription ... En dehors du Sénégal, qui commence à codifier ses quatre langues nationales, les autres pays d'Afrique ont tendance à dédaigner leurs attaches (The problem of cultural continuity primarily affects oral cultures, whose wealth is unable to escape oblivion by simple transcription ... Outside of Senegal, where the four national languages have begun to be codified, many African countries have a tendency to show disdain for their languages)" Khaïr-Eddine (1984/2010), 7.
- 25 Zohra Mezgueldi, *Légende et vie d'Agoun'Chich, Itinéraires et contact de cultures* 15–16.1–2 (1992): 121–126; Zohra Mezgueldi, *Oralité et stratégies scripturales dans l'œuvre de Mohammed Khaïr-Eddine*, Thesis, Université Lumière-Lyon 2 (2001), Dir. Charles Bonn and Marc Gontard; See also Ali Chibani, *Légende et vie d'Agoun'chich. L'effacement*, <http://la-plume-francophone.over-blog.com/article-31308167.html> (12 May 2009).
- 26 "[La ville] C'est le point de convergence heureuse de deux cultures, la berbère et la négro-africaine. Cet art ce manifeste dans les moindres choses, les plus infimes gestes ... À travers lui, on discerne le génie de ces peuples qui essayent d'oublier la haine, la traite ancienne et actuelle et qui pratiquent le métissage biologique et culturel sans arrière-pensée [The town is the point of convergence for two happy cultures, the Berber and the Black African; Here art manifests itself in the smallest gestures ... Here we discern the spirit of people who are trying to forget hatred, who are trying, without reservation, to understand their past and present conditions, both biological and cultural]" Khaïr-Eddine (1984/2010), 16.
- 27 Critical analysis of the artistic "collaboration" between Bowles, Choukri, and Mrabet is discussed in Khalid Amine, Paul Bowles' *Tangier: An Ambiguous Compromise*, in Ralph M. Coury and R. Kevin Lacey, eds., *Writing Tangier* (New York: Peter Lang, 2009), 59–74; R. Kevin Lacey, *The Writers/Storytellers of Morocco and Paul Bowles: Some Observations and Afterthoughts*, in Ralph M. Coury and R. Kevin Lacey, eds., *Writing Tangier* (New York: Peter Lang, 2009), 75–94; Salah Moukhlis, *Localized identity, universal experience: celebrating Mohamed Choukri as a Moroccan writer*, in Ralph M. Coury and R. Kevin Lacey, eds., *Writing Tangier* (New York: Peter Lang, 2009), 21–34.
- 28 Mohamed Mrabet and Eric Valentin, *Mémoires fantastiques* (Paris: Rouge Inside, 2011).
- 29 2005.
- 30 2008.
- 31 Saïd Belgharbi, *Aṣwaḍ yebuyebhen! (The Hoarse Look!)* (Berkane: Trifagraph, 2006).
- 32 Khalid Boudou, *Het schnitzelparadijs (The Schnitzel Paradise)* (Amsterdam: Vassallucci, 2001).

- 33 Mohamed Stitou, *Varkensroze ansichten (Pink Pigs Postcards)* (Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij, 2003).
- 34 Louisa Dris-Aït-Hamadouche and Yahia Zoubir, The Maghreb: Social, Political and Economic Developments, in Mehdi Parvizi Amineh, ed., *The Greater Middle East in Global Politics* (Brill: Leiden, 2007), 249–278; Moha Ennaji, *Multilingualism, Cultural Identity, and Education in Morocco* (USA: Springer, 2005), 73; Abderrahmane Lakhsassi, État de la culture Amazighe après 50 ans d'indépendance: Théâtre, Cinéma-Vidéo, Roman, Poésie, in Mohamed Tozy, *50 ans de développement humaine & Perspectives 2025, Rapport Thématique, Cinquantenaire de l'Indépendance du Royaume du Maroc* (2006), 113–129, <http://www.rdh50.ma/fr/pdf/contributions/GT9--6.pdf>; Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, *The Berber Identity Movement and the Challenge to North African States* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2011); Merolla, *Digital Imagination* 122–131.
- 35 See also the conference proceedings of the AUEA. The first associations were located at Sous, Rabat, Casablanca and in the Rif (Al-intilâqa). The local or regional associations Izuran (Roots) at Ouarzazate, Tilelli (Liberty) at Goulmima, Ilmas (Source) at Nador and Numidya at Al Hoceima are more recent. They participated in the “Agadir Charter for Linguistic and Cultural Rights” in 1991. Some of these groups belong to the umbrella organization CMA (Congrès Mondial Amazigh/ Amazigh World Congress). Currently some 40 associations are active in Morocco. See: <http://www.europemaroc.com/assoc.html>.
- 36 On theater see Abderrahmane Lakhsassi, État de la culture Amazighe après 50 ans d'indépendance: Théâtre, Cinéma-Vidéo, Roman, Poésie, in M. Tozy, *50 ans de développement humaine & Perspectives 2025, Rapport Thématique, Cinquantenaire de l'Indépendance du Royaume du Maroc* (2006): 113–129, <http://www.rdh50.ma/fr/pdf/contributions/GT9--6.pdf>; See also Merolla, *Digital Imagination*; Daniela Merolla, *De la parole aux vidéos. Oralité, écriture et oralité médiatique dans la production culturelle amazigh (berbère)*. *Afrika Focus* 18.1–2 (2005): 33–57; Merolla, *De l'art*.
- 37 Mohammed Akunad. *Tawargit d imik (A Dream and a Little More)* (Rabat: Tizrigin Bouregreg, 2002).
- 38 Nico Van den Boogert, *Muhammad Awzal and the Berber literary tradition of the Sous*, Leiden (thèse), 1995.
- 39 Mohammed Akunad. *Un youyou dans la mosquée, Tawargit d imik*, trans. Lahcen Nachef (Maroc: Edilivre, 2012); M. Akunad, *Un youyou dans la mosquée*, traduit de l'amazigh par Lahcen Nachef (Maroc: Edilivre, 2012); Afulay 2003, www.mondeberbere.com/litterature/akunad/indexc.htm. A *fqih* or *faqih* is an expert in religious law, or a person with religious knowledge.
- 40 Moustauoui's first collection was *Iskraf* (1976); Ali Mimoun Essafi's pieces are *Ussan sem-*

miYnin (Cold Days) (Casablanca, 1983) and Tighrit tabrat (Reading a letter) (Casablanca, 1994); An overview of Amazigh publications in Morocco is in Lakhssassi: <http://www.rdh50.ma/fr/pdf/contributions/GT9--6.pdf>; An anthology of Amazigh poetry is in Abdellah Bounfour and Amar Ameziane, *Anthologie de la poésie berbère traditionnelle* (Harmattan: Paris, 2010).

- 41 Interview with Mr. Akunad, Mr. Arejda, Mr. Bouyaakoubi, Mr. Lahacem, and Mr. Oussous at the Hotel Aferni, Agadir (18 July, 2010). I would like to thank Lahoucine Bouyaakoubi, a young researcher and writer, for his help.
- 42 Interview with the author in 2002.
- 43 Lahacem Zaheur, *Muzya* (Agadir, 1994).
- 44 Lahacem Zaheur, *Amussu n umalu* (The Movement of the Shadow) (Agadir: Aqlam, 2008).
- 45 Mohammed Akunad, *Ijjigen n tidi* (Flowers of Toil) (Agadir: Aqlam, 2007).
- 46 Brahim Lasri Amazigh, *Ijawwan n tayri* (The Siroccos of Love) (Marrakech: Association Imal, 2008).
- 47 Lahoucine Bouyaakoubi, *Igdad n Wihran* (Birds of Oran), (France: privately printed, 2010).
- 48 'Une autre catégorie [qui] se caractérise par l'emploi de néologismes ou de mots tombés en désuétude dans la langue amazighe, tels *Imula n tmekwit* (Ombres de mémoire) d'El Khatir Aboulkacem-Afulay ou *Aggad n tidt* (Ovaire de vérité) de Taieb Amgroud' [A category characterized by the use of words or neologisms fallen into disuse in the Amazigh language, such as Shadow memory (El-Khatir Aboulkacem Afulay) or Ovary truth (Taieb Amgroud)], Lahoucine Bouyaakoubi, *Ijawwan n tayri* de Brahim Lasri Amazigh. Un sujet tabou dans une langue taboue [A taboo subject in a taboo language] (2009), <http://www.amazighnews.net/20090109289/Ijawwan-n-tayri-de-Brahim-Lasri-Amazigh.html>.
- 49 Bouyaakoubi (2009) writes: "Depuis le début des années 1990 ... [le titre] ne tire pas son authenticité de l'héritage culturel commun mais de 'l'étrangeté' de la combinaison des mots. Il apparaît comme une expression littéraire formulée de façon à s'éloigner du langage courant; 'Ijawwan n tayri' se compose de deux mots connus dans l'air tachelhit. Ijawwan (Siroccos) et tayri (Amour) liés par la préposition 'n' (de). Dans cette combinaison de mots qui n'est pas courante, cette expression apparaît comme une pure invention littéraire pas très éloignée du langage quotidien sans pour autant lui appartenir [Since the early 1990s, the title has not determined authenticity but rather the common cultural heritage of 'foreignness' in certain combinations of words. This appears as a literary expression, formulated to depart from contemporary language ... 'Ijawwan n tayri' consists of two known words in Tachelhit: Siroccos and Tayri (love) linked by the preposition "n" (of). In this rare combination of words, the expression is purely literary invention: not far from everyday language yet not belonging to it]."

- 50 See book reviews by Bouyaakoubi at <http://www.amazighnews.net/20080802227/L-Histoire-contemporaine-de-Souss.html>; <http://www.amazighnews.net/2007063021/Ijjigen-n-tidi-de-Mohammed-Akunad.html>; and www.akunad.com/net/.
- 51 Brahim Lasri Amazigh, *Ijawwan n tayri (The Siroccos of Love)* (Marrakech: Association Imal, 2008).
- 52 Lahoucine Bouyaakoubi, *Ijawwan n tayri de Brahim Lasri Amazigh: Un sujet tabou dans une langue taboue* (2009), <http://www.amazighnews.net/20090109289/Ijawwan-n-tayri-de-Brahim-Lasri-Amazigh.html>.
- 53 Mohamed Toufali, *Escritores Rifeños Contemporáneos. Una Antología de Narraciones y Relatos de Escritores del Rif*. (Editorial Lulu, 2007), www.lulu.com. Toufali published five short stories written in Spanish by himself, Karima Toufali, and Mohamed Lemrini El Ouahhabi. He mentions Abdelkader Ouariachi and Mohamed Tamsamani as the precursors of Castilian literature of the Rif, 8. See also Mohamed Toufali, *Literatura Rifeño-Andaluza ...?* (Reflexiones sobre la existencia de una literatura rifeña de expresión castellana), *Volubilis, revista de Pensamiento*, UNED 7 (March 1999): 114–124; Mohamed Toufali, *Igennijen ed Izran en Arrif (Canciones y versos del Rif)*. (Mrtich, 2011).
- 54 Melilla, geographically in North Morocco, is part of Spain but obtained Autonomous City Status in 1995. Its 65,000 inhabitants include Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and (small) Hindu communities. Besides Spanish, many residents also speak Arabic and Tarifit.
- 55 Until recently, Spanish literary criticism paid little attention to African writing in Spanish, see Sabrina Brancato, “Voices Lost in a Non-Place: African Writing in Spain,” in Elisabeth Bekers, Sissy Elff and Daniela Merolla, eds., *Transcultural Modernities, Narrating Africa in Europe* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009), 3–17.
- 56 Mohamed Chacha, *Rež ttabu ad d teftegh tfukt (Breaking the Taboo and Let the Sun Appear)* (Amsterdam: Izaouran, 1997).
- 57 Chacha also published another novel and four collections of short stories and poems. His first attempt at writing was in Arabic before he arrived in the Netherlands as a refugee in the 1970s.
- 58 Mustafa Ayned, *Rehriq n tiri (The Pain of the Shadow)* (Amsterdam: Izaouran, 1996).
- 59 Mohamed Bouzaggou, *Ticri x tama n tsarrawt (Walking on the Edge of the Lace)* (Berkane: Trifagraph, 2001); M. Bouzaggou, *Jar u jar (Between the Two)* (Berkane: Trifagraph, 2004).
- 60 Saïd Belgharbi, *Aṣwad yebuyebhen! (The Hoarse Look!)* (Berkane: Trifagraph, 2006).
- 61 Abderrahman El Aissati and Yahya E-rramdani, “Berbers,” in Guus Extra and Jan Jaap de Ruiter, eds., *Babylon aan de Noordzee: Nieuwe talen in Nederland* (Amsterdam: Bulaaq, 2001), 60–77.
- 62 Personal interview, 2005. Toufali (2007) published, among others, a Spanish translation of a short story by Fatima Bouziane, “Normal,” in Mohamed Toufali, *Escritores Rifeños*

Contemporáneos: Una Antología de Narraciones y Relatos de Escritores del Rif (Editorial Lulu, 2007), 14–17, www.Lulu.com.

63 Samira Yedjis n Idura n Arrif (pseudonym), *Tasrit n wezru* (The Bride of the Rock) (Oujda: Anakhla, 2001).

64 Though two chapters of Fatima Merabti's Kabyle novel *Yir Tagmat* (Bad Brotherhood) were published in 1997 and 1998 by the journal *Tizir*, the novel remains unpublished: Fatima Merabti, *Yir Tagmat* (Bad Brotherhood), *Tizir* (Nov. 1997): 36–40 et (Jan. 1998): 35–38; the first novel published in Taqbaylit by a woman writer is Lynda Koudache, *Adecciw n tmes* (The Fire Shelter) (Tizi-Ouzou: Editions Tasekla, 2009); many novels and poems by women writers from Kabylia (Algeria) have appeared in French, among them the well-known autobiography of Fadhma Amrouche and four novels by her daughter Taos Marguerite Amrouche.

65 Abdel Mottaleb Zizaoui, L'écriture et le défi dans le roman "*Tasrit n wezru*," *Ayamun CyberRevue de littérature berbère* 34 (July, 2008), <http://www.ayamun.com/juillet2008.htm>.

66 Saïd El Haji, *De dagen van Sjaitan* (The Days of Satan) (Amsterdam: Vassallucci, 2000).

67 "Abdelkrim El-Chattibi" in the text by El Haji De dagen, 143.

68 Saïd El Haji De dagen, 144.

69 Abdelkader Benali, *Bruiloft aan zee* (Wedding by the Sea) (Amsterdam: Vassallucci, 1996).

70 Writer and scholar Fouad Laroui notes that this is a quite unusual marriage for Moroccan customs (personal communication); it can be interpreted as pointing to the author's lack of knowledge of Moroccan marriage mores or to his voluntary "unsettling" choice.

71 "The taxi driver ... [could have told] that the young man was linked to the region in a certain way, a kind of fat horseradish that oddly enough only got fatter the further it grew up from the root and tenaciously went on growing in a landscape that was otherwise bone-dry" (Benali, *Bruiloft* 5). This and following quotations are Daniela Merolla's translation.

72 Distance is signaled for example by Lamarat's inability to recognize the sounds of cicadas and local customs, such as the rear-view mirror placed in a downward position as a form of respect to one's passengers.

73 "In this town Lamarat's father ... had ordered a house to be built, a house with five pillars and a water pipe that soon clogged with cockroaches and crumbling mortar" (Benali *Bruiloft*, 6). "But ten years later, when Lamarat came back to the region ... he was told by everyone that after his house had fallen down many others had followed, everything is empty, the houses are in ruins and everybody is busy in the town (which is much more enjoyable, with all those casual contacts, etc.)" (Benali *Bruiloft*, 160).

- 74 “Lamarat ... had been born one sunny Saturday to a father and mother who, before they were married, had lived in two houses one on top of the other in the centre of the village of Touarirt on the Mediterranean coast; at a faraway time for the one and only yesterday for the other, but far, far, far away from Thalidomide children and birth control” (Benali Bruiloft, 7).
- 75 “Salaam mulaykum, keen bak vic dhar!” “What you mean is that I should understand Arabic,” Lamarat said, thinking out aloud, “but unfortunately I do not understand that language of yours.” “Well, then, I’ll put it another way: ehlel ye sehlel ouid wewesch e mis n tefkecht” (freely translated from Berber to Dutch: Good morning, go fetch your father, son of a king-sized portion of spite). “Floor knew that you should always treat Berbers insolently, rudely, otherwise you do not get your message across” (Benali Bruiloft, 65).
- 76 Benali, Bruiloft.
- 77 Fouad Laroui, *Le drame linguistique marocain* (Casablanca: Le Fennec, 2011).

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