

## Orthography and the Standardization of Amharic Spelling in Teaching Amharic

Delombera Negga

[delombera.negga@inalco.fr](mailto:delombera.negga@inalco.fr)

Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), Paris

The teaching/learning of Amharic spelling is currently unsatisfactory: the teacher is torn between the tradition of writing inherited from the ancient classical Ethiopian language known as Ge`ez and an anarchical spelling as it is currently used and which students of Amharic as a foreign language at INALCO will encounter in books, newspapers and on the Web. In the absence of any standardization attempts due to the lack of an Amharic language authority in Ethiopia and abroad, a certain disorder prevails in the practice of Amharic writing, whether private and individual, or public and official. Thus, my presentation will be concerned with the questions of how we can make the spelling at least partially consistent and predictable to simplify its acquisition in the classroom.