



A Language-Study Based on Bantu: Or an Inquiry Into the Laws of Root-Formation, the Original Plural, the Sexual Dual, and the Principles of Word-Comparison (Paperback)

By Rev F W Kolbe

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.An excerpt from CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTORY. What is language? Essays on this ever-recurring question abound: their number is legion. From the earliest times there have not been wanting speculative minds who have endeavoured to solve this problem. Various theories have been propounded, but not one has led to an absolute certainty as to the true beginnings of human speech. Indeed, such is the mass of conflicting opinions on the subject, and such the obscurity which still envelops it, that a Linguistic Society in France is said to declare in one of its first statutes that it will receive no communication concerning the origin of language. But a resolution like this is evidently premature and unscientific. Is it possible then, in any science or art, to determine beforehand what can be discovered, and what not? And is it not so that comparative philology is a progressive science, and, compared with other branches of human knowledge, still in its infancy? What if, after all, in some obscure part of the globe, a language or family of languages...



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