



ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

College of Humanities, Language Studies, Journalism and Communication

Department of Linguistics and Philology

Historical and linguistic Analysis of *Gädlä Estifanos*

By: Guesh Solomon Teklu

Advisor: Shimelis Mazengia (Ph.D)

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Arts in Philology**

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

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Abstract

Gädlä İstifanos is a hagiography, narrating the life and passion of Saint *İstifanos* (St. Stephen), who figures prominently in the sixth and seventh chapters of the Biblical Acts of the Apostles. The thesis is concerned with a comparative study of two selected manuscripts on the martyr and provides codicological, paleographic and philological accounts. The selected manuscripts contain previously unknown episodes such as the combat of the saint against two pagan magicians and the discovery of his remains which are not stated in Acts of the Apostles. The diachronic development of the hagiography, the life and passion of the martyr, and its significance are stated in the study. From the perspective of linguistics, the thesis presents some morphological descriptions.

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List of Abbreviations

AAU Addis Ababa University

A.D. Anno Domini

C Century

E.C. Ethiopian calendar

EMML Ethiopian Manuscripts Microfilm Library

f. Folio

ff. Folios

IES Institute of Ethiopian Studies

LDM Lideta Manuscript (the manuscript I used from Lideta church)

MS Manuscript

MSS Manuscripts

NALA National and Library Archives of Ethiopia

NLM NALA Manuscript (the manuscript I used from National and Library archives of

r. recto

St.saint

v. verso

Transliterated Ethiopic Symbols used in the thesis

I Consonants

No.	letter	transcription	NO.	letter	transcription
1	ሀ	/h/	15	ወ	/w/
2	ለ	/l/	16	ዕ	/'/
3	ሐ	/h̄/	17	ዝ	/z/
4	ም	/m/	18	ይ	/y/
5	ሥ	/s̄/	19	ድ	/d/
6	ር	/r/	20	ግ	/g/
7	ሰ	/s/	21	ጥ	/t̄/
8	ቅ	/q/	22	ጭ	/č'/
9	ብ	/b/	23	ጸ	/P'/
10	ት	/t/	24	ፅ	/š/
11	ኅ	/h̄/	25	ጻ	/s̄/
12	ን	/n/	26	ፍ	/f/
13	አ	/'/	27	ፐ	/p/
14	ከ	/k/	28	ዝ	/z/

II Vowels

Oreder	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Vowel	/ü/ (ħ)	/u/ (ħ̣)	/i/ (ħ̣)	/a/ (ħ)	/e/ (ħ̣)	/ə/ (ħ̣)	/o/ (ħ)

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