1. Introduction

Grammars of Hebrew written in Europe in the Renaissance by Christians could benefit from the Hebrew grammatical tradition. Johannes Reuchlin (1455–1522) quotes in his *De rudimentis hebraicis* (1506) Priscian and ‘Rabbi David’ (i.e. Qimhi) as well (Law 2002, 247–248). In grammars of Sanskrit written in Europe we see also that the framework of grammatical description has been derived from the Indian grammatical tradition. The German Jesuit Heinrich Roth (1620–1668), as Hauschild (1988, 13–14) observes, ‘uses with perfect familiarity the technical terms of Indian grammar […]’ Roth stands entirely within the Indian grammatical tradition, and probably he used the practical grammar of Anubhúti Svarúpácárya, called the *Sárasvata Vyákarana*, which was in general circulation in Hindustán, Bihâr and Benares. […] Another candidate, though a less likely one, would be the grammar called *Mugdhabodha*, which was composed in the second half of the 13th century by Vopadeva, but the usage of which was more common.
in Bengal… The work of Roth was a ‘masterpiece,’ which does not differ considerably from current grammars, which similarly depend on the linguistic achievements of India’s own grammatical tradition’ (Hauschild 1988, 13–14). In the grammars of Japanese written by the Portuguese Jesuit João Rodrigues (1561–1634), particularly in his description of particles and verbal endings, we can also find information concerning the study of ‘tenifa’ or ‘tenivofa’ (the study of particles and verbal endings) from contemporary Japanese scholars (Maruyama 2004, 155). As has been demonstrated by Gregory James (2007), some missionaries describing the Tamil language, such as Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg (1682–1719), were familiar with some ancient Tamil works on grammar. These missionaries worked under favourable conditions compared to their colleagues who described languages, particularly Amerindian and Austronesian, without any written tradition or an adequate ‘indigenous’ grammatical framework they could rely on.

The use of Arabic grammatical terms in the first grammar written in Europe of vernacular Arabic, the Arte para ligeramente saber la lengua arábiga (1505) of Pedro de Alcalá (Order of St. Jerome) has been the subject of an article written by William Cowan (1981). In de Alcalá’s grammar, some technical terms were incorporated in the descriptive framework, including terms such as damir, temiz, masdar, amr and xucla. In this article, Spanish grammars of Arabic—vernacular and classical—written by Franciscans in Damascus and completed, copied, or printed in Spain in the 18th century occupy our attention, particularly the grammars of Francisco Caballero and Juan de la Encarnación (18th century) and Francisco Cañes (1730–1795). Of the first we have an unpublished manuscript, which has escaped the attention of researchers until today, and of the second a printed work has been conserved,2

2 Bibliographical information concerning Francisco Cañes can be found in Schnurrer (1811, 79, no. 113) BICRES III, and in Monroe (1970) we find some historical background. However Cañes is not mentioned by Fück (1955), Dannenfeldt (1955), and Killean (1984) and particularly the grammar of Caballero has been neglected by all.

After a century-long period of silence and total neglect, an important monograph on Bernardino González appeared recently, together with a facsimile edition of the dictionary (Intérprete arábico) and his grammar (Epítome) (Lourido Díaz 2005), not long after this paper had been delivered in Hong Kong. When the proofs were almost ready for publication, I received a copy of this monograph, courtesy of Emilio Ridruejo. Lourido Díaz (2005, I, 21–22) had traced seven manuscripts of the dictionary, and six copies of Epítome de la gramática árabe made by Bernardino González’ pupils, probably for their own use. One copy was completed by Blas Francisco de Salamanca in 1704, the second by Lucas Caballero and Juan de la Encarnación between 1709 and 1710, the so-called Tingstadius copy. Two copies were compiled in 1719, one from the El Escorial