CONNECTIONS

Posted on August 14, 2006 by Eddie

Category: Observations

Well, the workshop started pretty well. I have to admit that I was more than a little apprehensive; quite a few of the participants had said to me that they really didn't want to have to attend this week. I think that the first day has helped to get people past that point! I hope so anyway.

From my point of view it is great working with this group of people. One man is just about the only Christian from his people group in the south of the Sahara. I've known him for a number of years, from the time when he first regestered to take a degree in translation



in Abidjan and I was on the committee that vetted the applications. We certainly made the right choice in his case, he is brilliant - and a very nice guy. There is also a team working in a dialect of FulfuldÃ©. The first consulting trip I ever made was to help a team working in a Malian FulfuldÃ© language and I've had a soft spot for the group ever since. Another particpant taught me on one of our first linguistics courses in England in the mid eighties. Yet another was our supervisor when we first started working on the Kouya language. It seems rather strange me leading a workshop on a planning technique with her in the room.

The administration building is built in Sudanic style - though the dish (used for the Internet) is not quite traditional!