Khoisan

African languages: classification, history, typology
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Khoisan

- Presentation
  - Preliminaries
    - Clicks!
    - Where?
    - Linguistic / social situation?
  - Classification
    - Greenberg
    - Güldemann & Vossen
- Typology
- Areal features
Preliminaries: Clicks!

- Clicks sounds
  - Ø bilabial
  - I dental
  - ! alveolar
  - † palatal
  - ll lateral

- Variety of co-occurring features
  - nasal, glottalized, aspirated, etc.
Preliminaries: Where?

- Spoken in southern Africa
- Hadza and Sandawe spoken in Tanzania
- Most languages endangered, moribund or extinct
Preliminaries

• "The Khoe and San languages of South Africa are virtually extinct. With the exception of the Nama variety still spoken in the Richtersveld and along the !Gaript and about fourteen speakers of N|u scattered through Gordonia, Khoisan languages are no longer spoken in South Africa." —Anthony Traill (2007)
Preliminaries: Speaker situation

- Ethnologue (Greenberg's classification)
  - Hatsa (Hadza) — around 800 speakers
  - Sandawe — 40,000
  - Southern Africa
    - Central — ranging from under near extinct to over 200,000 (Nama)
    - Northern — Ju|'hoan 33,600, Vasekela Bushman 61,300.
    - Southern — !Xóõ over 4000, otherwise near extinct
Classification

- Greenberg (1963)
  - “Lumping”
  - Heavily criticized
- Güldemann & Vossen
  - Khoisan as a pragmatic term, only Khoe-Kwadi a geneologically proven group
Classification: Greenberg

- Subgrouping of "Khoisan" according to Greenberg (1963)
  - Hadza
  - Sandawe
  - South African Khoisan (= SAK)
    - Northern Khoisan (= Ju)
    - Central Khoisan (= Khoe)
    - Southern Khoisan (= Tuu)

- "Heavily flawed, but formative influence on 'Khoisan' perception among non-specialists"
Classification: Güldemann & Vossen

• “Khoisan languages are best classified into three **pragmatically oriented** groups:
  - (A) the two East African languages, which show little evidence for being related to each other or to Khoisan languages in southern Africa;
  - (B) the *genealogical* Khoe-Kwadi group in southern Africa; and
  - (C) the *non-genealogical*, typologically based entity Non-Khoe, also in southern Africa, which consists of two families and one undetermined language.”
Classification

• (A)
  – Hadza (Hatsa)
  – Sandawe

• (B)
  – Khoe-Kwadi

• (C)
  – Ju (= Northern Khoisan, DC)
  – (≠Hõa) single language probably related to Ju
  – Tuu (= Southern Khoisan)
Classification: (A)

- Hadza: single language (Hatsa)
- Sandawe: single language (potentially related to Khoe-Kwadi)
Classification: (B)

- **Khoe-Kwadi (possibly related to Sandawe)**
  - Kwadi†: single language (newly affiliated to Khoe)
  - Khoe (= Central Khoisan)
    - Khoekhoe (Hottentot)
      - North: Eini†, Nama-Damara (Nama), Hai||'om
      - South: !Ora†(Korana), Cape varieties†
    - Kalahari
      - East
        - Shua: Cara, Deti†, |Xaise, Danisi, Ts’ixa, etc.
        - Tshwa: Kua, Cua (Hiechware), Tsua, etc.
      - West
        - Kxoe: Kxoe, ||Ani, Buga, G|anda, etc.
        - G||ana: G||ana, G|ui, ±Haba, etc.
        - Naro: Naro (Naron), etc.
Classification: (C)

- Ju (= Northern Khoisan, DC)
  - Northwest: !'O!Xũu, !Xũu (!Kung)
  - Southeast: Juǀ'hoan, ǂKx'auǁ'e (Au-en)

- (ǂHõa) single language probably related to Ju

- Tuu (= Southern Khoisan)
  - Taa: !Xõo, Nǀamani†, Nǀuǁ'en† (/NuǁEn = Nusan), Kakia† (Masarwa) (DC)
  - Lower Nossob: |'Auni† (/Auni), |Haasi† (DC)
  - !Ui: Nǁng, ǂKhomani, Nǁhuki (DC); ǂungkue†; |Xam† (/Kam) (DC); ||Xegwi†
Classification: Khoe-Kwadi

- Attempts of establishing a proto language based on
  - Voßen’s (1997) Proto-Khoe reconstructions
  - Westphal’s limited field notes on extinct Kwadi
- Pronoun system and some 14 good lexical item correspondences (and ten additional candidates)
- Suggests that Kwadi is closer to common ancestor
Classification: Khoe-Kwadi-Sandawe?

- Personal pronouns (handout)
  - Sandawe lacks any kind of inclusive ~ exclusive distinction
  - both show a distinction between predominantly simplex forms for speech-act participants and morphologically complex forms for 3rd persons
  - the 3rd-person forms are composed of
    - an invariable pronoun base and
    - a set of gender-number suffixes
    - in both, the gender opposition is masculine vs. feminine and the number features are singular and plural.

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Classification: Khoe-Kwadi-Sandawe? (cont.)

- Limited lexical comparison between proto-Khoe
- Some probable Khoe-Sandawe correspondences extend into Kwadi
- “The lexical evidence is modest and meagre, to say the least, and the verdict not proven, circumstantial evidence perhaps”
Typology: Khoe-Kwadi

• a) basically head-final in clause and noun phrase, though deviant patterns widespread
• b) rich verb derivation system with suffixes (largely reconstructed to Proto-Khoe)
• c) some languages with verb suffixes cross-referencing objects (but not subjects)
• d) many other grammatical functions in the verb phrase encoded by particles
Typology: Khoe-Kwadi (cont.)

• e) nominal morphology characterized by integration of (partly bound) markers of person, gender, and number (largely reconstructed to Proto-Khoe); marking on the noun and agreement often not obligatory and exploited for derivational functions

• Kwadi with considerably deviant structure, but genealogically related
Typology: Non-Khoe

- Basic structure surprisingly homogeneous, historical significance unclear
- a) SVO clause order, head-initial noun phrase except head-final genitive
- b) little morphology, importance of constituent order, particles, analytical constructions
- c) verb serialization encompassing encoding of participants, predication operators, etc.
Typology: Non-Khoe (cont.)

- d) special type of relational gram as a default marker of valence-external participants
- e) complex and irregular number marking in both nominal and predicative expressions
- f) special type of noun classification
- g) general inclusive-exclusive opposition in 1st-person pronouns
Areal features

• Central Kalahari
  – !Xõo (Tuu), ṚHõa (undetermined Non-Khoe), Gǀui (Khoe) - high phonological complexity
Areal features

- Cape:
  - a) comparably small size of consonant inventory, but high phonological load on clicks
  - b) inclusive/exclusive distinction in pronominal system
  - c) similar semantics, morph type, and position of grams marking tense, aspect, etc.
  - d) lexically complex predicates
Areal features

• Cape (cont.):
  – e) clausal pronoun pivot
  – f) syntactically, rather than semantically triggered marking of participants
  – possible substrate explanation for distinct character of Khoekhoe vis-à-vis Kalahari branch
Areal features

- SAK: ("Kalahari Basin": a linguistic area before Bantu expansion?)
  - a) high reliance on clicks as phonemic speech sounds, backbone of consonant system
  - b) root formation with preferred phonotactic pattern: C1V1C2V2(clicks in C1)
  - c) tone languages
  - d) mostly host-final morphology
Areal features

• SAK:
  - e) head-final genitive despite different clause word order, grammatically productive noun compounding (> nominal suffixes)
  - f) common existence of noun classification (but distinct types)
  - g) neutral alignment for pronoun and noun inflection
  - h) no subject cross-reference on the verb
Conclusion

• Khoisan is a pragmatic term much like Altaic
• Established families
  – Khoe-Kwadi (with possible addition of Sandawe)
  – Ju (former Northern Khoisan)
  – Tuu (former Southern Khoisan)
• Heavy areal tendencies
• Dialect clusters without discrete boundaries abundant
Thank you!

- This and other slides / handouts available at http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/~eniirane/africanlgs/
Bibliography


Bibliography
