Ju of Kx’a

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Introduction

• Ju:
  • former Northern Khoisan
  • one of the two languages that form the Kx’a family (Heine and Honken 2010)

• This presentation:
  • Summary of what we know of the history of the language and language family
  • Caveat: mostly hypothetical
Introduction

1. Geographical distribution
2. Internal Classification
3. Ancient presence in Kalahari
4. Northern Fringes: Ju in Northern Namibia and Angola
1. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION
1. Geographical distribution

**Kx’a:**

(Heine and Honken 2010)

(former Ju-ǂHoan)

- ǂ’Amkoe
  
  *(aka ǂHoan)*

- Ju
2. INTERNAL CLASSIFICATION
2. Classification

- Grammatical criteria:
  - Northwestern
    - North
    - Western
  - Central
  - Southeastern

(Heine & König in prep., König & Heine 2001, 2008)
2. Classification

- Sound correspondences:
  - Northern (N)
  - North-Central (NC)
  - Central (C)
  - Southeastern (SE)

(Snyman 1997, Sands 2010)
2. Classification

• Two main dialectal groups:
  • Northwestern
  • Southeastern

• Status of Central dialects uncertain (very little documentation)
2. Classification

- Different reflexes of Proto-Ju retroflex click

![Diagram showing the classification of retroflex clicks]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proto-Ju</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>N-Central</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*g!!a</td>
<td>gǁà</td>
<td>gǁà</td>
<td>g!!à</td>
<td>g!à</td>
<td>‘rain’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*!!o</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ó</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*g!!ai</td>
<td>gǁàë</td>
<td>gǁàé</td>
<td>g!!àé</td>
<td>g!áï</td>
<td>‘puff adder’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sands 2010 and ref. therein)
2. Classification

• Relative clause marker (cf. Lionnet 2014):
  • Southeastern: =à clitic ( < Proto-Ju pronoun *hà)
    Jú=à mǐ!’hàn
    person=REL I know
    ‘the/a person I know’ (Dickens 2005)

  • Northwestern: è ( < Proto-Ju proximal demonstrative *è)
    gùmũ(hà) è g|è má n||ā’à
    cow.1 PRO1 REL come TOP be.big
    ‘The cow that is coming is big.’ (Ekoka !Xuun; König & Heine 2001:119)
2. Classification

Dialectal divergence looks fairly recent:

• Ju = one language complex, dialect chain (König & Heine 2001, 2008; Heine & König in prep.)

• Even the distinction between NW and SE dialects seems to be relatively recent
2. Classification

- Cumulative summary (nb. of speakers from Brenzinger 2013):

```
KX’A
  /\  \\
JU  f’AMKOE
  \  /
(16,000 ±2000) (= 50)
 / \   /
North Northwestern North-Central (Western) Central
   / \     / \      / \ 
Angolan !Xuun varieties Ekoka !Xuun Gaub !Xuun Ju/’hoan dialects
Okongo !Xuun Neitsas !Xuun Neitsas !Xuun Kx’au//’ein
Lloyd’s !Xuun etc. etc. etc.
Poorly documented Limited documentation Poorly documented Decent documentation
```

Sasi

Note: The tree diagram and textual information provide a classification of KX’A languages, with details on the number of speakers and documentation levels for different dialects and varieties.
2. Classification

• Tentative conclusions:
  • Ju - Ḩ’Amkoe divergence looks old
  • Ju internal diversification looks relatively recent
  • Main split: between NW and SE dialects
3. ANCIENT PRESENCE IN KALAHARI
3. Ancient presence in Kalahari

- Kx’a + Tuu = Non-Khoe, typologically very similar
  - SVOX
  - head-initial NP, but head-final genitive construction
  - little morphology, analytical construction
  - Largely pre-verbal TAM markers
  - verb serialization and compounding
  - default marker of valence-external participants
  - Complex and irregular number marking on nouns and verbs
  - Special type of noun classification
  - inclusive-exclusive opposition in 1st pl.

- But: no evidence for genealogical relationship
- Most likely hypothesis: ancient contact in Kalahari Basin.
3. Ancient presence in Kalahari

Geographical (and linguistic) distance between Ju and ǂ’Amkoe:

- **Westphal (1974: 246):**
  - Kx’a homeland = Ghanzi area in Western Botswana (now Naro and SE Ju speaking)
  - Southeastward migration → ǂ’Amkoe
  - But no evidence provided

- **Güldemann (2008, 2014:19), (see also Heine & Honken 2010):**
  - Kx’a family widely spread across Northern Kalahari basin in the past
  - Khoe expansion reduced its territory, explaining the considerable geographical distance between the two Kx’a branches known today.
3. Ancient presence in Kalahari

• Proto-Khoe-Kwadi spoken North of Kalahari ca. 2000 BP (Güldemann forth., cf. also Westphal 1980)

• Then Pre-Khoe speakers migrated southward through the Kalahari

• Contact between Kx’a and pre-Khoe
  → Old Kx’a features in all Khoe languages, e.g. pronominal system (cf. Güldemann forth.)
  → Other Traces of contact between Kxoe and Ju, cf. 150 shared lexical item in Köhler 1973/1974.
3. Ancient presence in Kalahari.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATER PRE-KHOE:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUU=HOAN, e.g. Ju’hoan:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 hum.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- compound pronouns:

  - hā-mà | hā-dì | hā-di-mà
  - 3Hum-DIM | 3Hum-F | 3Hum-F-DIM
  - ‘the small one’ | ‘the female one’ | ‘the small female one’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROTO-Khoe-Kwadi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 + 2(in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Ancient presence in Kalahari

• Conclusion:

  • Kx’a language(s) (more than one?) were already spoken in the Northern Kalahari Basin ca. 2,000 BP.

  • Kx’a influence on Khoe looks more like Ju than likeǂ’Amkoe (at least in the pronominal system)

  • → The language in question may have been (Pre-/Proto)-Ju
4. NORTHERN FRINGES: JU IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA
4. Northern fringes
4. Northern fringes

(Adapted from Estermann 1976)
4. Northern fringes

- All Bantu groups of southern Angola and Northern Namibia consider the Ju speakers (Kwankala, Sekele) to be autochthonous.
  - e.g. Ovambo and Herero mythologies, cf. Williams 1991: 85, and ref. therein

- The ancestors of these Ju speakers have lived in Southern Angola / Northern Namibia since at least before the Bantu migration waves (1200 – 2000 BP, cf. Pakendorf et al. 2011, Mitchell 2002)
4. Northern fringes

• If they already spoke Ju → remarkable stability of the Ju language:
  • Spoken for at least 1200 years over a vast area
  • But degree of dialectal variation looks rather shallow and recent
  • Interconnectedness of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer communities → slow down pace of language change?

• Alternative hypothesis:
  • The ancestors of Angolan Ju speakers did not speak Ju
  • → Ju recently wiped out former (Kx’a?) linguistic diversity among pre-Bantu foragers of the region?
4. Northern fringes

- NB: many features setting Northern Ju apart can be attributed to recent Bantu influence:
  - **Lexicon**: numerous Bantu loanwords in North and North-Central dialects (lexical replacement)
  - **Phonology**: Click loss in Northern dialects (e.g. Mupa !Xuun, Fehn p.c.)
  - **Grammar**: Bantu influence is a possible cause of the depredicativization of Proto-Ju non-canonical predicative categories (?) (cf. Lionnet 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proto-Ju</th>
<th>SE Ju</th>
<th>NC Ju</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives, Demonstratives, Interrogative ‘which’</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>Both predicative and adnominal modifier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS
Tentative conclusions

• Proto-Kx’a:
  • Relatively old (long contact with Tuu in Kalahari Basin)
  • Probably spoken somewhere in the Northern Kalahari basin

• Kx’a languages have been spoken for a very long time across a large area in the Northern Kalahari Basin
  • at least before ca. 2000 BP (beginning of Khoe migration south across the Kalahari → geographical separation between Ju and ǂ’Amkoe)
Tentative conclusions

• Split between Ju and ‡’Amkoe is probably old
  • May have already occurred ca. 2000 BP (Kx’a influence on pre-Khoe pronominal system looks more Ju than ‡’Amkoe)

• Proto-Ju
  • may have originated from a region between Northeastern Namibia and Western Botswana
  • Diversified relatively recently into Northwestern and Southeastern dialectal groups, and even more recently into sub-dialects (still one language complex)
  • If Northwestern speakers migrated into S-Angola from the original Namibia/Botswana homeland, they did so before the arrival of the Bantu groups now inhabiting the area.
THANK YOU!
REFERENCES


REFERENCES


