

Ju of Kx'a

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“Speaking (of) Khoisan” Symposium

MPI-EVA Leipzig

14-16 May 2015

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

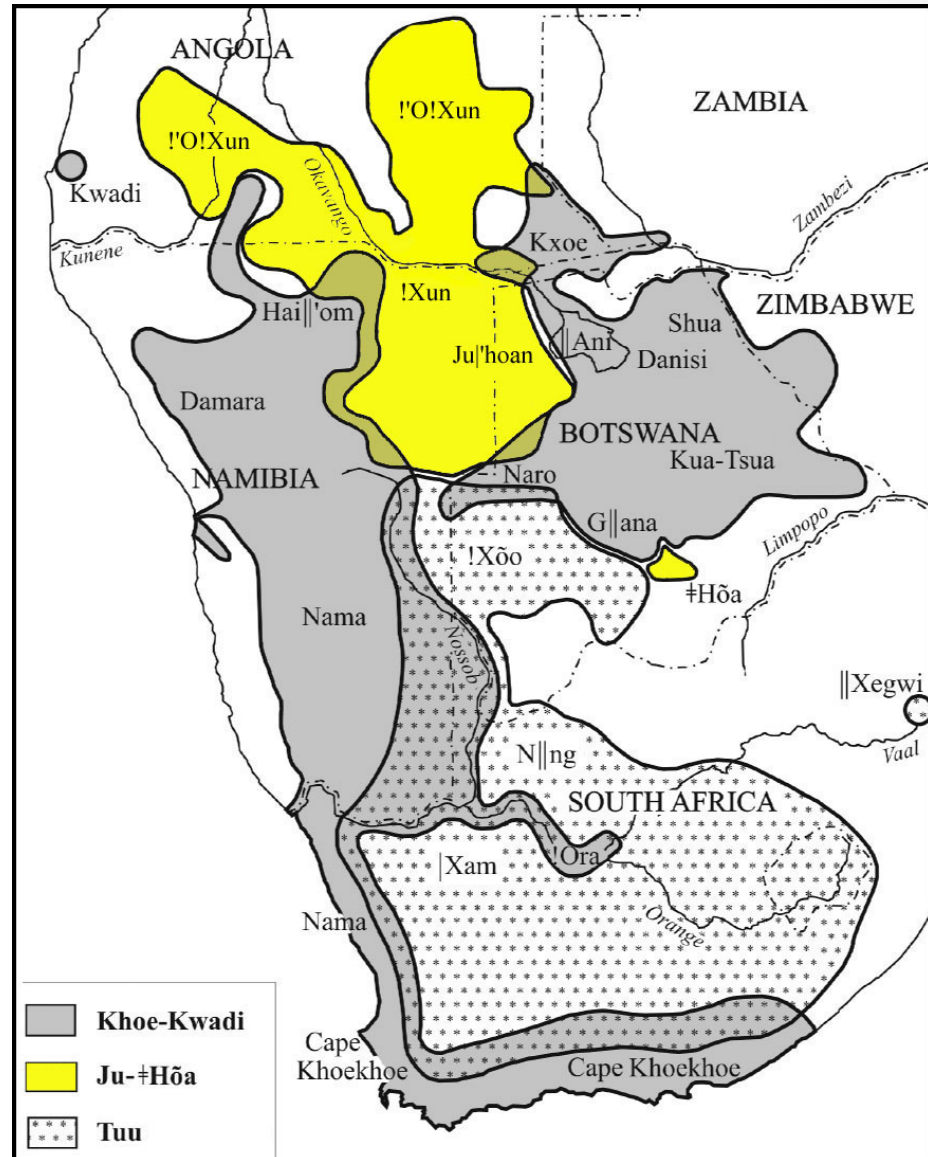
1. Geographical distribution

Kx'a:

(Heine and Honken 2010)

(former Ju-≠Hoan)

- ≠'Amkoe
(aka ≠Hoan)
- Ju

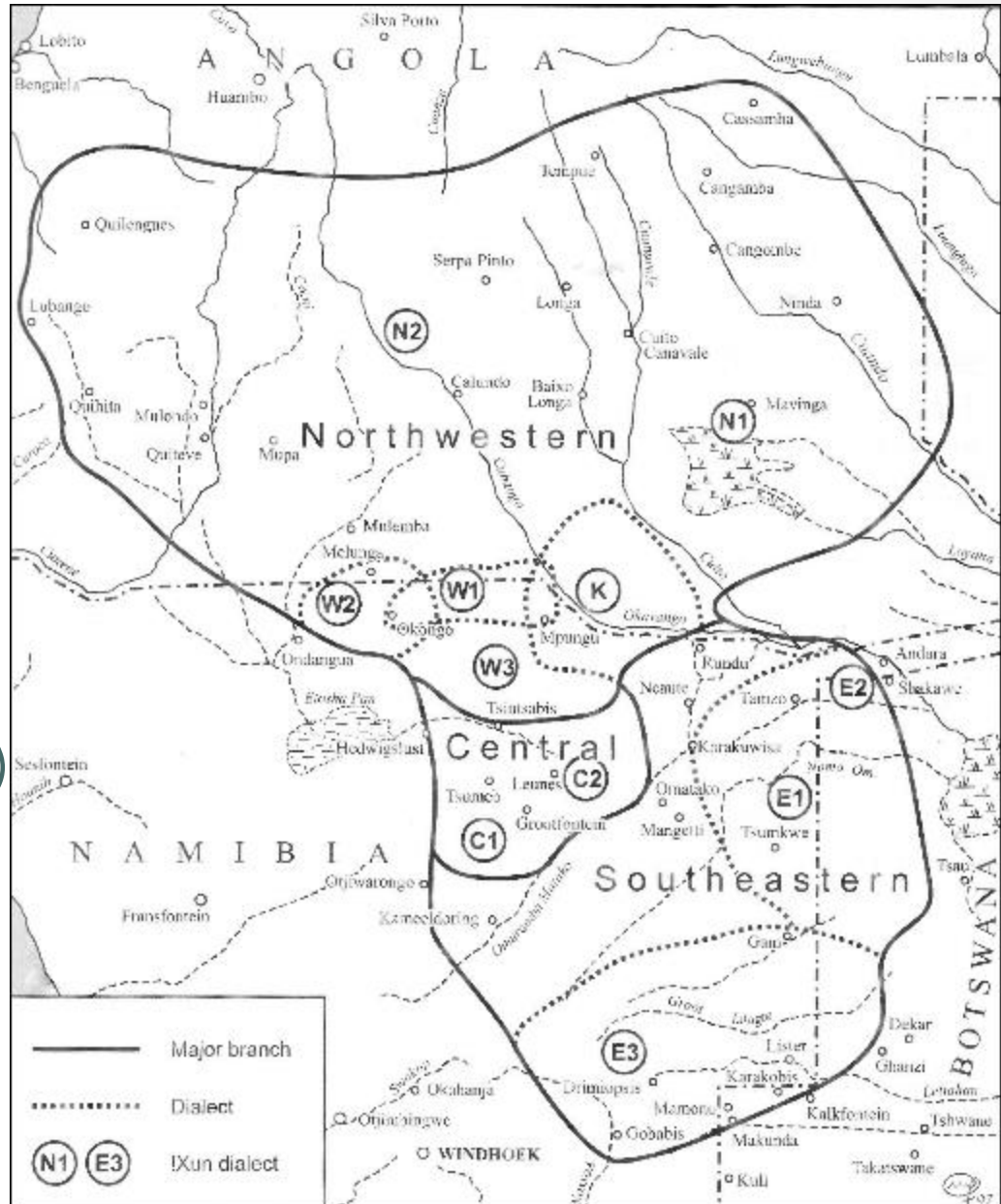


2. INTERNAL CLASSIFICATION

2. Classification

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

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

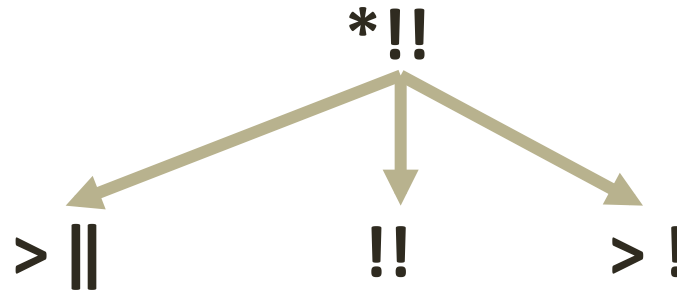


2. Classification

- Two main dialectal groups:
 - Northwestern
 - Southeastern
- Status of Central dialects uncertain (very little documentation)

2. Classification

- Different reflexes of Proto-Ju retroflex click



Proto-Ju	North	N-Central	Central	Southeast	
*g!!a	g à	g à	g!!à	g!à	'rain'
*!!o	ó	ó	!!ó	!ó	'older brother'
*g!!ai	g àè	g àé	g!!àé	g!ái	'puff adder'

(Sands 2010 and ref. therein)

2. Classification

- Relative clause marker (cf. Lionnet 2014):
 - Southeastern: =à clitic (< Proto-Ju pronoun *hà)

Jú=à mí !'hàn
person=REL I know
'the/a person I know' (Dickens 2005)

- Northwestern: è (< Proto-Ju proximal demonstrative *è)

gùmǐ (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)

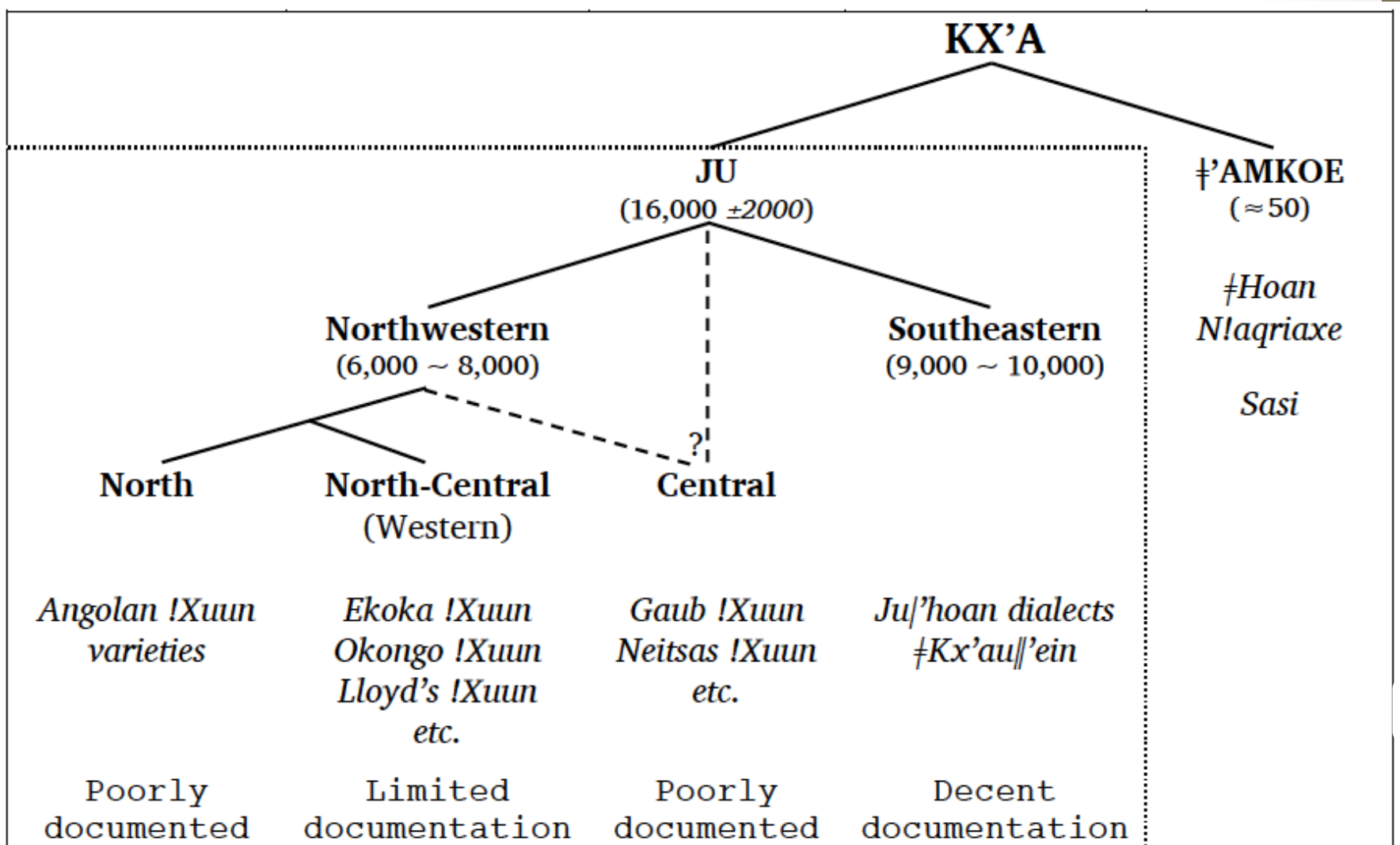
2. Classification

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):



2. Classification

- Tentative conclusions:
 - Ju - Ꞥ'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 Ꞥ'Amkoe:

- Westphal (1974: 246):
 - Kx'a homeland = Ghanzi area in Western Botswana (now Naro and SE Ju speaking)
 - Southeastward migration → Ꞥ'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 items in Köhler 1973/1974.

3. Ancient presence in Kalahari.

LATER PRE-KHOE:

Pers.	Sg.	Du.	Pl.
1	* <i>ti</i> , * <i>ta</i>	* <i>(?)</i> - <i>mu</i>	* <i>e</i> -! <i>a</i> - <i>e</i>
2	* <i>sa</i>	* <i>o</i> - <i>da</i> - <i>o</i>	* <i>o</i> -! <i>a</i> - <i>o</i>
3m	* <i>stem</i> - <i>(?)</i> - <i>V</i> [<i>fr</i>]	* <i>kho</i> - <i>da</i>	* <i>stem</i> -! <i>a</i> - <i>u</i>
f	* <i>stem</i> - <i>sV</i> [<i>fr</i>]	* <i>stem</i> - <i>da</i>	* <i>stem</i> - <i>dì</i>

JUU-†HOAN, e.g. Ju|'hoan:

Pers.	Sg.	Du.	Pl.
1 in.		<i>m</i> (<i>tsá</i>)	<i>m</i> (! <i>á</i>)
ex.	<i>mí</i>	<i>è</i> (<i>tsá</i>)	<i>è</i> (! <i>á</i>)
2	<i>à</i>	<i>ì</i> (<i>tsá</i>)	<i>ì</i> (! <i>á</i>)
3 hum.	<i>hã</i>	<i>sì</i> (<i>tsá</i>)	<i>sì</i> (! <i>á</i>)

- compound pronouns:

<i>hã-mà</i>	<i>hã-dì</i>	<i>hã-dì-mà</i>
3Hum-DIM	3Hum-F	3Hum-F-DIM
'the small one'	'the female one'	'the small female one'

PROTO-Khoe-Kwadi

Pers.	Minimal	Augmented
1 + 2(in)	* <i>mu</i>	(?)
1ex	* <i>ti</i> , * <i>ta</i>	(?)
2	* <i>sa</i>	* <i>o</i> or * <i>u</i>
3 m	* <i>stem</i> - <i>(?)</i> <i>V</i> [<i>fr</i>]	* <i>stem</i> - <i>(?)</i> <i>u</i>
f	* <i>stem</i> - <i>sV</i> [<i>fr</i>]	* <i>stem</i> - <i>(?)</i> <i>V</i> [<i>fr</i>]

PRE-KHOE

Kwadi

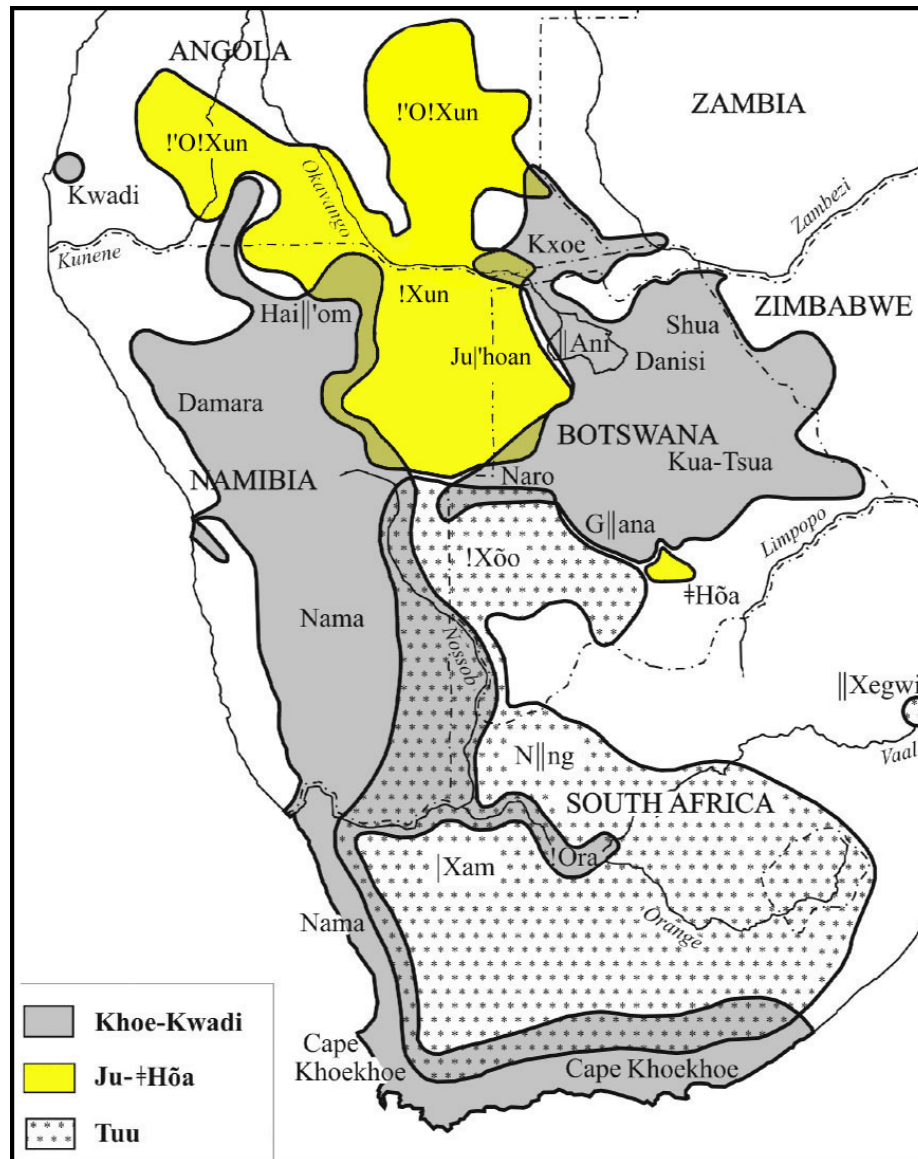
PROTO-KHOE-KWADI

3. Ancient presence in Kalahari

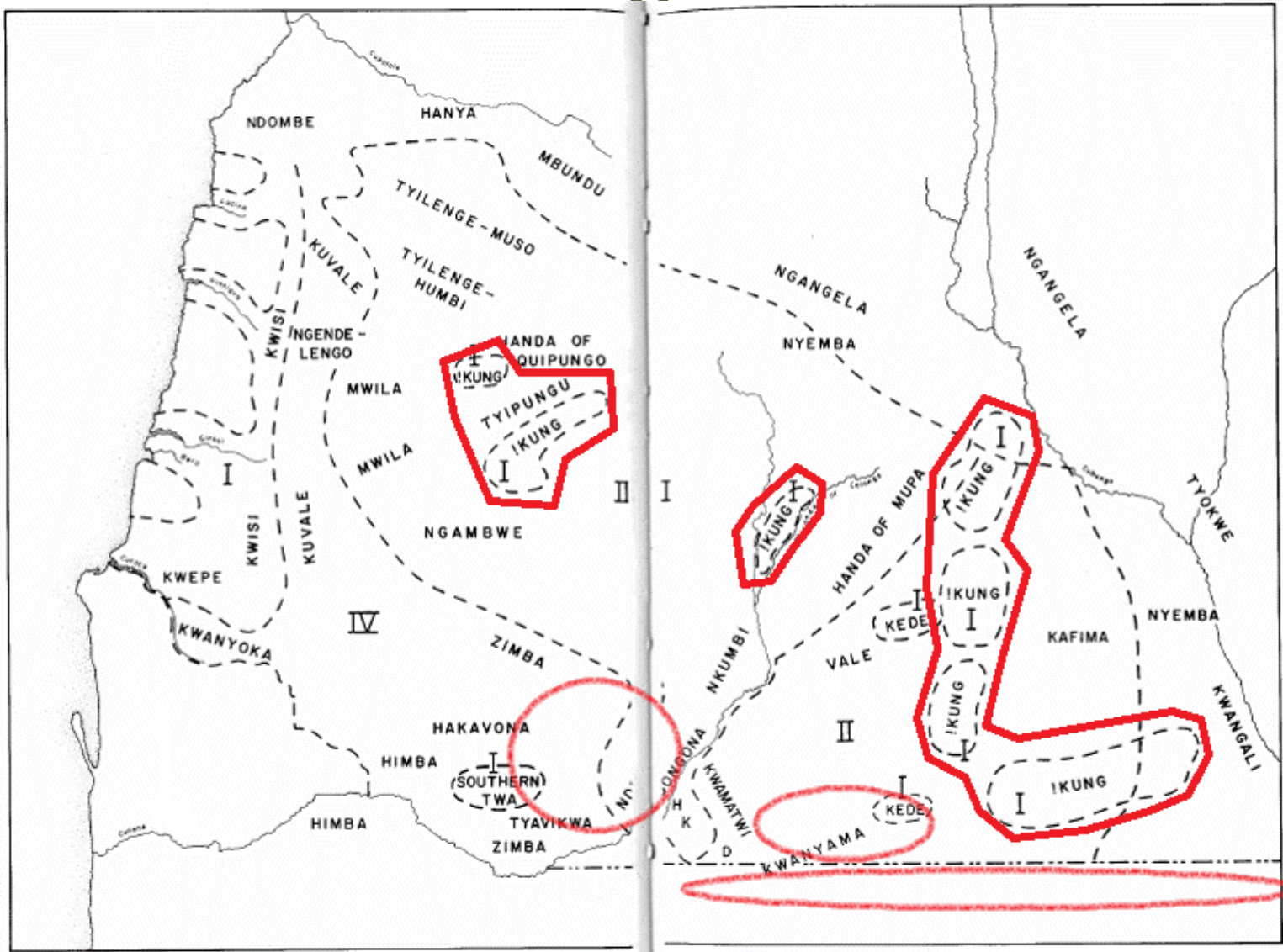
- Conclusion:
 - Kx'a language(s) (more than one?) were already spoken in the Northern Kalahari Basin ca. 2,000 BP.
 - Kx'a influence on Khoe looks more like Ju than like Ꞥ'Amkoe (at least in the pronominal system)
 - → The language in question may have been (Pre-/Proto)-Ju

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)

	Proto-Ju	SE Ju	NC Ju
Adjectives, Demonstratives, Interrogative 'which'	verb	verb	Both predicative and adnominal modifier

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 †'Amkoe)

Tentative conclusions

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

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