Eastern Kalahari Khoe: Shua

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Kalahari

Khoekhoe

Khoe

Kalhari Khoe

Kwadi†

Khoe-Kwadi

Khoekhoe

West

Naro

Gǁana

Khwe

Ts’ixa

Naro

Ts’aö

ǂHaba

Gǁui

Gǁana

Caprivi

ǂAni

ǂBuga

(Handa)

(Hiiyoo)

Shua

Tshwa

Nata

Danisi

Deti

Kua

Tsua

Cua (Tshwao)

Shua

- formerly in eastern Chobe National Park as well as Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan National Park in northeast and east-central Botswana, along the Botletle and Nata Rivers
- present-day distribution: Gweta, Nata, Pandamatenga, Rakops, individual families on cattle posts as far west as Maun
- “Kuakhoe” as frequent term of self-reference (!!!note that one dialect of Tshwa is often referred to as “Kua”!!!)
- longstanding history of contact with cattle-herding Kalanga speakers
- seriously endangered, no young speakers
Dialects and Documentation

- dialect situation unclear, author’s own fieldwork suggests differentiation between a western (Danisi) and an eastern variety (Nata Shua); a third variety, Deti, is substantially different from the other two, but is commonly treated as part of the cluster; further varieties identified by Köhler, Westphal and Vossen are either extinct or denote ethnic subgroupings, rather than linguistic entities
- mostly undocumented, some material in Vossen (1997, 2013) and Westphal’s (n.d.) field notes; Danisi and Deti materials in field notes of Fehn (2011-2013) and McGregor & Fehn (2013);
- ongoing work of William B. McGregor on Nata Shua (see, e.g., McGregor 2014a-b); ethnographical work by Cashdan (1986a-b)
Classification History

• Köhler (1962, 1963, 1971) identifies a dialect cluster Shua, consisting of eleven dialects (1971: Shuakhoe, ǁAye, Danisa, Tshumakhoe, ǁKoreekhoe, /Xaise, Tçaiti, Hura, Deti, Ts’ixakhoe, Borekhoe)

• Westphal (1971) calls the same cluster Tshu-Khwe northern-central and lists 10 dialects (Gǁoro, Nǁoo, fua, ǁ?aiye, Danisi(-n), Tshuma, ǁoree, /haise, Tfidi, Mahura); he treats Deti as independent linguistic variety and groups Ts’ixa (referred to as Handa) with the Khwe cluster

• Vossen (1997) establishes a dialect cluster Shua within Kalahari Khoe East and lists Cara, Danisi, /Xaise, Deti and Ts’ixa as individual dialects

• reconsideration of status of Ts’ixa (Fehn 2014)
Some Features

• alveolar and palatal clicks dropped or replaced by non-click consonants (i.e., less click sounds than most other Kalahari Khoe languages)

• suffixes mark nominal gender on personal names, and sporadically on [+animate] nouns to distinguish biological sex. Nominal gender marking is neither obligatory (like in Naro or Khoekhoe), nor does it serve the function of specific articles (like in Khwe and Ts’ixa)

• Deti, like the ||Ani dialect of Khwe, indexes a subset of its direct objects on the verb

• Although some word order variation is possible (W.B. McGregor, p.c.), Shua adheres rather strictly to a SOV word order pattern
References and Literature


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