ASPECTS OF THE PHONETIC AND PHONOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF
THE G|UI LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

This study describes selected aspects of the phonetic and phonological structure of the G|ui language, a poorly documented endangered Khoe (Central Khoisan) language spoken in Botswana. It conducts instrumental phonetic investigations, namely analyses of palatograms and linguograms, aerodynamic recordings, sound spectrograms, spectra, waveforms, and pitch measurements, in order to provide an objective basis for a detailed description of phonetic features of consonants, vowels, and tones. The description includes phonetic and phonological topics, involving consonants, vowels, and tones, and in addition, it deals with relevant morphological phenomena, such as compound verbs, verbal reduplication and verbal suffixes.

This research also explores some theoretical issues, such as the unitary nature of clicks and their accompaniments, the integration of clicks and non-clicks within a single set of features, and the correct interpretation of tonal structure. Two types of historical sound shifts are also dealt with: namely, palatalization that is involved in the non-click consonant system, and click replacement that is involved in the click consonant system. In addition to the phonetic and phonological topics, selected aspects of the sociolinguistic profile of this endangered language are also documented.
Declaration

I declare that this thesis is my own, unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

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_______________ day of _____________________________, 2006.
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Af: affricated
Al: alveolar
AS: /a/-suffixation
BVC: the Back Vowel Constraint
CA: cluster analysis
CKGR: the Central Kalahari Game Reserve
CMPV: compound verb construction
CSR: causative reduplication
C1: consonants in the initial position of the phonological root
C2: consonants in the medial position of the phonological root
DOM1: the domain for the tonal melodies
DOM2: the domain for the non-melody tonal contrast
Dt: dental
EUA: extended version of Beach’s unit analysis
EGR: egressive (i.e. non-click)
FF: flip-flop
FFT: Fast Fourier transform
FTV: food-texture verbs
Gl: glottal
IGR: ingressive (i.e. click)
Lb: labial
Lt: lateral
MCA: moderate cluster analysis
MOA: manner-of-articulation
MUA: Miller-Ockhuizen’s (2003) unit analysis
NS: /ná/-suffixation
PAR: persistent action reduplication
PGN: person-gender-number marker
Pl: palatal
POA: place-of-articulation
RCA: radical cluster analysis
RI: /t/-insertion
RS: the source root (in reduplication construction)
R1: the first element (in reduplication construction)
R2: the second element (in reduplication construction)
TBU: tone bearing unit
UA: unit analysis
UPSID: UCLA phonological segments inventory database
Uv: uvular
vd: voiced
VDR: verb-deriving reduplication
VI: velar
vl: voiceless
VR1: the first verb root (in compound verb construction)
VR1': the alternated form of the first verb root (in compound verb construction)
VR2: the second verb root (in compound verb construction)
V1: the first vowel in the phonological root
V2: the second vowel in the phonological root
**A NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION**

Notation used in this thesis is based on the framework of the International Phonetic Association (IPA 1999). The systematic transcription for the click accompaniments employed in the present study includes different notations from other IPA-based transcriptions used in previous studies on Khoisan phonetics and phonology. The table below compares my transcription with other representative IPA-based transcriptions for the alveolar clicks of G\|ui.

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