

PLACE OF ARTICULATION IN !XOO CLICKS

!Xóõ is a Southern Khoisan language from Botswana.

Example from Ladefoged, Course in Phonetics. Transcriptions slightly simplified.

bilabial	dental	alveolar	palatal	lateral
ʘʘoo	 ʔaa	!ʔaa	ɕʔaa	 ʔaa
▶ “get stuck”	▶ “die”	▶ “be seated”	▶ “shoot you”	▶ “not to be”

See L & M (pp. 246-259) for description (with diagrams) of how these basic places of articulation are actually realized in clicks, and for discussion of their acoustic properties.

See SoWL for more extensive examples from other languages (Nama, Zulu, Xhosa).

Click (of course!) here for demo of voice quality in !Xoo (with further click examples).

See next page for notes on sonagrams.

Notes on the sonagrams

In the sonagrams all the clicks appear very “pulse-like”. This is partly because in all the examples given here the clicks are accompanied by a glottal stop, giving a long period of silence between release of the click and onset of the following vowel. The glottal stop is not a necessary accompaniment to the click, but simply one of many possible accompaniments (see L & M for extensive discussion and SoWL for examples).

In fact, there are characteristic differences in the release phase of the clicks:

palatal, alveolar: more abrupt (more transient-like)

bilabial, dental, lateral: less abrupt (more affricate-like)

Characteristic spectral differences are:

dental, palatal: Main energy concentration higher than 2.5kHz

alveolar, lateral: Main energy concentration lower than 2.5kHz

bilabial: Wideband noise