

Clicks and voice quality in !Xóõ

!Xóõ is a Southern Khoisan language spoken in Botswana

By no means all of its many clicks are shown here (see separate demo specifically on **clicks**).

The language is also remarkable for its wide range of contrastive voice qualities. These are illustrated here.

The transcriptions in the example below have been slightly simplified.

| = dental click, ! = alveolar click, || = lateral click

Clicking on the phonetic transcription will play the speaker used in the corresponding demo on the CD accompanying Ladefoged's "Vowels and Consonants" (this demo does not include types 3 and 4 below).

Clicking on  will play all 10 speakers from Ladefoged's Phonation Types tape.

Related demos: **Voice quality**, **Mpi** (tone language with voice quality differences), **Laryngealization**

References

J. Esling (1996). "Pharyngeal consonants and the aryepiglottic sphincter". J. Int. Phonetic Association, 26(2), 65-88.

For video clips illustrating the articulatory possibilities discussed in this paper (but not specifically for Xoo) see <http://web.uvic.ca/ling/research/phonetics/jipa26.htm> Also here ==>

P. Ladefoged & I. Maddieson (1996). "The sounds of the world's languages", especially pp. 306-313.

!χóõ

Notes

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|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>plain voiced</i> | aa | ▶ “camel-thorn tree” | Type 3: g before click symbol indicates voicing during click |
| 2. | <i>breathy voiced</i> | !a̰o | ▶ “slope” | Types 3 and 4: The laryngealization involves a <i>transition</i> to a “glottal catch”, hence the superscript glottal stop after the vowel (simultaneous breathy voicing and laryngealization is impossible). |
| 3. | <i>plain, laryngealized</i> | g a ^ʔ je | ▶ “bend” | |
| 4. | <i>breathy voiced, laryngealized</i> | a̰ ^ʔ je | ▶ “wait for him” | Type 5: In Esling’s terms the vowel is modified in the manner characteristic of a voiced pharyngeal (aryepiglottic) approximant [ʕ]. |
| 5. | <i>pharyngealized</i> | qa _̣ ^ʔ a | ▶ “long ago” | Type 6: The subscript ≈ is not a standard diacritic. It is used by Ladefoged to indicate extreme pharyngealization (epiglottalization). In Esling’s terms a voiceless pharyngeal fricative with aryepiglottic trilling [ħ] here functions as a kind of phonation type. |
| 6. | <i>strident</i> | !a̰ _̣ o | ▶ “base” | |
- Types 5 and 6:** Probably have a raised larynx position.