

The Phonetic Evolution of Click Consonants

Jamie Robinson
PhD
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700, South Africa

Avery Brown
PhD
University of Botswana
4775 Notwane Rd, Gaborone, Botswana

Kai King
PhD
University of Namibia
340 Mandume Ndemufayo Ave, Pionierspark, Windhoek, Namibia

Abstract. This study delves into the phonetic evolution of click consonants, exploring their origins and transformations across various African languages. By employing a comparative linguistic approach, the research uncovers patterns of phonetic change that have shaped the current distribution of click sounds. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical linguistics of African languages and offer new insights into phonetic adaptation and language evolution.

Keywords: click consonants, phonetic evolution, African languages, historical linguistics, language evolution

Introduction

Click consonants are among the most fascinating and complex sounds in human languages, predominantly found in Southern Africa. This study investigates the phonetic evolution of these unique sounds, tracing their origins and examining how they have transformed over time. Using a comparative linguistic approach, we analyze click consonants across several African languages, identifying patterns of change that have influenced their current forms and distributions. This research not only enhances our understanding of the historical linguistics of African languages but also provides valuable insights into the processes of phonetic adaptation and language evolution.

This is a preliminary version. To read the full version of the article, please purchase a subscription.

References

1. Гурко О.В. Лексика графічного дизайну в українській мові кінця XX – початку XXI століття : дис. ... канд. філол. наук : 10.02.01. Дніпропетровськ, 2008. 185 с.