
*A Trilingual !Xóõ Dictionary* represents the commitment of a linguist and a man towards a language and its speakers. Anthony Traill started researching into !Xóõ (Southern Bushman, East Taa, ISO code 639-3 <nmn>, Glottocode <huaa1248>, 24°12’S, 20°48’E) in 1969, and the trilingual dictionary was the project he was working on when he passed away in 2005. The task of completing the dictionary was taken on by Hirosi Nakagawa and Andy Chebanne. Professor Hirosi Nakagawa faced the daunting challenge of concluding the lexical part of the dictionary. The dictionary builds on a previous lexical description (Anthony Traill, *A !Xóõ Dictionary*, Quellen zur Khoisan-Forschung/Research in Khoisan Studies 9, Köln 1994) and extends it by including also Setswana (Tswana, Narrow Bantu, ISO code 639-3 <tsn>, Glottocode <tswa1253>), the regional language. The volume can be divided into four main sections: an introductory part, a “users’ guide” section, a grammatical sketch, and the dictionary. The first part includes a preface by Jill Traill (pp. vii–viii) where the author describes the steps that led to the publication of the present volume as well as its scientific position in Anthony Traill's career and life. The second part (pp. 1–9) gives some data about the genesis and the evolution of the dictionary along with indications on the order of the lexical entries and the phonology-oriented orthography adopted in the volume. The third part (pp. 10–36) consists of a grammatical sketch of !Xóõ covering the main areas of the language. The fourth part is devoted to the trilingual dictionary: !Xóõ-English (pp. 37–231), English-!Xóõ (pp. 233–68), and Setswana-!Xóõ (pp. 269–313). The appendix (pp. 314–18) contains five short !Xóõ-English glossaries related to five different semantic fields: birds, botanical species, smells, sounds, and swearing. The dictionary is the outcome of two different stages in Traill’s scientific life: the author started describing !Xóõ devoting his attention to the phonological aspects of the language. Only at a later moment, Traill decided to expand his basic-vocabulary wordlist of about 1300 items with the aim to compile an extensive dictionary. Among the factors that brought Traill to consider a thorough lexical description as a necessity there was the observation that !Xóõ—“the last vital Southern Bushman language” (p. 1)—was (and is) threatened, i.e. the author observed signs of rupture in the inter-generational transmission chain. Given
the absolute complexity of the phonological system of !Xóõ—depending on
the level of analysis of vowel phonemes, !Xóõ displays a number of contrastive
segments ranging from 126 to 141 (see I. Maddieson, Vowel Quality Inventories,
Online, Leipzig, 2013 [http://wals.info/chapter/2]; UPSID, UCLA Phonological
Segment Inventory Database, 2018 [http://web.phonetik.uni-frankfurt.de/
upsid.html])—it is no surprise that special attention is paid to the phonologi-
cal dimension of the language. Nevertheless, this dictionary—in spite of the
urgency dictated by lexical erosion—does not intend to provide a standard
orthography: the main concern of the author is the consistency with linguistic
structures, i.e. phonological phenomena. The scientific community welcomes
the Trilingual !Xóõ Dictionary as an excellent piece of research as well as a true
token of outstanding scholarship.

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