Airstream Mechanisms Transcription Exercise

Linguistics 341

due: Friday, February 11th, 2022 by 10 a.m.

Enter Your Name Here:
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1 Amharic Examples

Amharic is an Afro-Asiatic language spoken by about 17 million people in east Africa. It is the national language of Ethiopia.

Amharic contains a series of ejective stops, ejective fricatives, ejective affricates, uvulars and alveolar trills. Also note that Amharic contains the vowel [ɨ] ("barred-i").

Listen to the Amharic examples first, and then transcribe the speech samples in the exercise below. (Note: don't worry about transcribing stress for these items.)

1. [p'ap'as]   'bishop'

2. [pʰakʰo]   'box'

3. [baba]   'feel sorry'

4. [t'ɨl]   'fight'

5. [tʰɨl]   'worm'

6. [dɨl]   'victory'

7. [k'ɨr]   'stay away'

8. [kʰɨr]   'thread'

9. [gɨr]   'gentle'

2 Amharic Exercises

Speaker 1

1. [ ]   'one who comes'
2. [ ]   name of a place
3. [ ]   name of a place
4. [ ]   'grace'
5. [ ]   'afraid'
6. [ ]   'kind hearted'
7. [ ]   'a corner'
8. [ ]   'woman'
9. [ ]   'give'

Speaker 2

10. [ ]   'to drink'
11. [ ]   'black'
12. [ ]   'word'
13. [ ]   'to look for something'
14. [ ]   'back'
15. [ ]   'mud'

3   Chichewa Examples

This is the Chichewa dialect of Nyanja, a Bantu language spoken in Malawi by about 7 million people. Chichewa is also spoken in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia.

Things to look out for: Chichewa has implosive bilabials and alveolars, as well as palatal and velar nasals. Note also that the Chichewa lateral is sometimes pronounced as a lateral flap ([ɺ]).

Note 2: it is not necessary to transcribe the sentences at the end of each sound file. You may, however, find them of interest to listen to. (And again, you don't need to worry about transcribing stress for these exercises.)

1. [pã:ndʒa]   'outside'
2. [t̪ʰuːpi]   'body'
3. [ɓuɭu]   'donkey'
4. [ɗiːso]   'eye'
5. [kʰoːsi]   'neck'
6. [kaɭu]   'dog'
7. [sĩŋãŋga]   'medicine man'
8. [zoːn̪a]   'truth'
9. [ɲãːma]   'animal'
10. [ŋõːma]   'drum'

4   Chichewa Exercises

1. [ ]   'cow'
2. [ ]   'house'
3. [ ]   'leg'
4. [ ]   'forest'
5. [ ]   'cut'
6. [ ]   'ear'
7. [ ]   'go to sleep'
8. [ ]   'bone'
9. [ ]   'canoe'
10. [ ]   'small'
11. [ ]   'thanks'

5 N|uu Examples

N|uu is a moribund language of the Khoisan family. It is currently spoken by about ten people in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. You can hear most of them recorded in these examples.

N|uu contrasts bilabial, dental, alveolar, palatal and lateral clicks. To simplify things, only the bilabial, dental and alveolar clicks are presented in this exercise. Do not be concerned with the accompanying articulations to each click (voicing, nasality, etc.)–unless they're really apparent to you. N|uu also distinguishes vowels on the basis of a secondary articulation known as "epiglottalization", which has been denoted for you.

Bilabial Clicks

1. [kʘoe]   'meat'

2. [ŋʘoa]   'cat'

Dental Clicks

3. [k|eː]   'wildebeest'

4. [k|ʰeː]   'grass'

5. [g|uː]   'to tell a lie'

Alveolar Clicks

6. [k!aː]   'heaven' (epiglottalized)

7. [k!ae]   'oryx'

8. [g!ae]   'springbok'

9. [ŋ!ʔuː]   'two'

6 N|uu Exercises

1. [ ]   'stone'

2. [ ]   'poison' (epiglottalized)

3. [ ]   'mid-day'

4. [ ]   'wood'

5. [ ]   'berry bush'

6. [ ]   'to run'

7. [ ]   'back' (epiglottalized)

8. [ ]   'aardwolf'

9. [ ]   'bow'