

1 Background

+ basic assumptions and their implications:

(I) Kalahari Basin was effectively populated fully at the time when food-producing groups expanded into this territory

(II) Some areas were also populated by pastoral Khoe-Kwadi speaking groups when agro-pastoral Bantu speakers expanded into this territory

> implies that all areas populated and dominated today by food-producers hosted

indigenous forager and/or possibly non-Bantu herder populations

> major historical-linguistic problem: what languages did these populations speak before their language shift, also in relation to lineages attested today

+ signals possibly diagnostic of language shift, recurrently but not necessarily co-occurring:

- distinct ethnic identity
- different profile in terms of physical and molecular anthropology
- divergent speech variety vis-à-vis “mainstream” language
- musical traditions
- relevant archeological records

2 Major KB areas without linguistic data on foragers

2.1 Northernmost Namibia and southern Angola

+ forager groups known under various ethnographic terms like (Ova)Twa, (Ova)Tjimba, (Ova)Kwisi, (Ova)Kwambundyu etc.

> speaking today Bantu varieties of the Kuvale-Herero complex (R10~R30)

Literature

Almeida 1964, 1965; Cardoso 1967; Estermann 1956, 1962, 1969; Fisch 1997, 2008; Hartmann 1987; Kubik 1984; MacCalman and Grobbelaar 1965; Warmelo 1951

2.2 Southern Zambia, Caprivi, and northern Botswana

+ entirely assimilated to several Bantu groups

+ genetic “Khoisan” signals which point to groups quite diverse from extant ones

Literature

Barbieri et al. 2013; Clark 1951; Fagan and van Noten 1971; Fisch 1997, 2008; Hartmann 1987; Hasler 1996; Nurse and Jenkins 1977; Reynolds 1972

2.3 Eastern flank in the RSA, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe

Literature

Kubik 1998

2.4 Botswana-RSA border region

+ commonly known under such terms as (Ba)Lala, Vaalpens, and Kattea referring also sometimes to such diverse attested groups as Kgalagadi, Tuu (including little known Lower Nossob languages), and possibly Kalahari Khoe

+ mostly acculturated by Tswana-speaking groups

Literature

Breutz 1958

2.5 Southern and western flank of the RSA and Namibia

+ widely attested phenomenon of Khoekhoe speakers not being part of Nama identity

“Strandloper”

Literature

Jerardino 2013; Sydow 1973

San of southern Namibia

Literature

Hahn 1897; Schultze 1907; Trenk 1910; Laidler 1924; Wendt 1975, 1981; Guenther 2005; Güldemann 2006; Vedder 1997

Damara and other potential shifters to Khoekhoe in the north

Literature

Haacke 2002, 2007; Knussmann 1969; Knussmann and Knussmann 1969/70; Krenz 1971; Lévy-Bruhl 1972; Moritz 1971, 1972; Nurse, Lane and Jenkins 1976; Pickrell et al. 2012; Soodyall and Jenkins 1993; Vedder 1923

3 Summary

+ forager languages in about half of the KB territory entirely unknown with respect to their linguistic profile, in particular their genealogical affiliation!

+ concerns often coastal regions which can be expected to host remnant populations and are known to do so in comparable areas on other continents like South America (Viegas Barros 2005) and Australia (Bownern 2012)

> real possibility that KB hosted in the not-so-remote past entirely unknown linguistic lineages on top of the three known ones

+ “incomplete” assimilation leaving anthropological signals seems to correlate with a pastoralist contact pattern:

- Kuvale-Herero
- Tswana
- Khoekhoe