



Vortrag im Rahmen des Linguistischen Kolloquiums

21. Mai 2013

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Dissertation: “Dialect diversity in south-eastern Ju varieties - a documentation of #Kx’ao-ll’ae: Dialect divergence in (con)text”

#Kx’ao-ll’ae is a South-Eastern Ju language variety, part of the Ju language-continuum (Kx’a family). It is spoken by approximately 2000-4000 people across both sides of the Namibian border to Botswana, in the Omaheke and Ghanzi regions respectively. This region is home to all three language families subsumed under Khoesan. Due to its geographical position, #Kx’ao-ll’ae is in close contact with languages from both of the other Khoesan language families; Naro (Khoe-Kwadi family) and to a lesser extent Taa (Tuu family). South-Eastern Ju traditionally encompasses three dialects: Tsumkwe Jul’hoan, #Kx’ao-ll’ae (also known as Gobabis Jul’hoan), and Dikundu Jul’hoan, although sufficient data for the latter two dialects is lacking. Dialect disambiguation on the basis of comparisons with available data for the most well documented variety, Tsumkwe Jul’hoan, is difficult and can be deceiving as documentation was carried out in regions common to more than one variety.

The aim of this presentation is to quantify some of the most prominent features of #Kx’ao-ll’ae using naturalistic texts from various #Kx’ao-ll’ae language consultants and comparing these with naturalistic texts by Tsumkwe Jul’hoan speakers. I will demonstrate that there are regular lexical, morphosyntactic, and phonological differences between #Kx’ao-ll’ae and Tsumkwe Jul’hoan. However, the naturalistic texts also indicate that divergence is not evenly distributed across the entire region and they do not suggest intelligibility would necessarily be impaired, two points which will be duly discussed. By reviewing variation quantitatively and with a better understanding of its geographical distribution, this presentation will also briefly re-evaluate the current classification of South-Eastern Ju and explore some of the possibly more appropriate solutions

**Ort: Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften,
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 410**

Zeit: 16:15 Uhr

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!