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A RECORD
of the
Speech Sounds in Afrikaans
(as observed in Stellenbosch),
with
COMPARATIVE CHARTS
of
English and Afrikaans Sounds
(based on the above observations),

BY

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AFRIKAANS VOWELS.

MOUTH.	TONGUE.			DIPHTHONGS.	Other Combinations
	Front	Mixed	Back		
HIGH Close. } (y) i			(u)	[iə] [uə] ; [ui]	[uiə]
Half-close	(ø) e	ɪ e	(o)	[eə] [oə] ; [e'u] [o'i] [ou] [øə]	[e'uə] [ouə] [oiə]
Half-open	(œ) ɛ		(ɔ)	[ɛə] [œə] ; [œy] [ɔi] [ɔə] [ɛi]	[œyə] [ɔiə] [ɛiə]
Open } LOW		a	a:	[aə] ; [a'i] [ai] [au]	[aiə]

[y] High front, tense, rounded.

nuus [nys] *muur* [my:r] *ure* [y:rə]

[i] High front, tense.

sien [sin] *dier* [di:r] *vlië* [fli:ə] or [fli:]

[e] Half-close front, tense.

eet [eət] or [e't], *reël* [re:əl] or [re:l].

[ø] Half-close front, tense, rounded.

seun [sø:n] or [səøn], *teuel* [tø:əl] or [tø:l].

[ɛ] Half-open front, tense.

dê [dɛ], *weg* [vɛx], *wêreld* [ve:rɪt], *lêer* [lɛ:ər] or [lɛ:r].

[œ] Half-open front, tense, rounded.

put [pœt], *uurk* [fœrk], *brûe* [brœ:] or [brœ:ə].

[a] Low, open, mixed; short tense, long slack.

dag [dax], *klaar* [kla:r], *hael* [ha:l] or [ha:əl].

[ɔ] Half-open, back, rounded; short tense, long slack.

nog [nɔx], *môre* [mɔ:rə], *trôe* [trɔ:ə]

[o] Half-close, back, rounded; tense, but slack in [ou].

boom [boəm] or [bo:m], *bome* [bo:mə], *voël* [fo:əl] or [fo:l].

[u] High, back, tense, rounded.

toe [tu], *boer* [bu:r], *koël* [ku:əl] or [ku:l].

[ɪ] Half-close mixed tense, for *i* in accented syllables.

smid [smɪ:t], *wie* [vi:] or [vɪ:ə] or [vø:] (see note 5).

[ə] Half-closed mixed slack, for *i* and *e* in unaccented syllables.

vir [fər], *nodig* ['no:dɛx], *lepel* ['lə:pəl].

All Afrikaans vowels before *n* plus a consonant tend to become nasalized and are then half-lengthened:

e.g. *gans* [xã's], *mens* [mẽ's], *kuns* [kẽ's], *ons* [õ's], *eens* [ẽ:s], *konfyt* [kõ'feit], *beginners* [bẽ'xĩnẽrs], *vrouens* [frouẽ's], *tenminste* [tẽ'mĩ'stẽ] *vanmore* [fã'mõrẽ]

In the combination, vowel + *nd* + vowel, the first vowel is usually nasalized in rapid speech, [n] is retained and [d] is dropped:

e.g. *tande* [tã'nẽ], *wonder* [võ'nẽr], *onkunde* [õ'kũnẽ], *onder* [õ'nẽr] *eenders* [ẽ'nẽrs], *skinder* [skĩ'nẽr] or [skõ'nẽr], *hoender* [hũ'nẽr], *riende* [frĩ'nẽ].

[-i] diphthongs:

[ui]	—oei	[kui]	<i>koei</i> ,
[oi]	—ooi	[ro'i]	<i>rooi</i> ,
[oi]	—oii	[toi'ps]	<i>toings</i> ,
[œy]	—ui	[mœys]	<i>muis</i> ,
[ai]	—ai	[baie]	<i>buie</i> , [tai] <i>taai</i>
[a:i]	—aai	[fra:i]	<i>fraai</i> ,
[ei]	—ei	[vɛi]	<i>wei</i> ,
	—y	[rɛi]	<i>ry</i> ,

[-u] diphthongs:

[e'u]	—eeu	[le'u]	<i>leeu</i> ,
[ou]	—ou	[hout]	<i>hout</i> ,
[au]			<i>au!</i>



[i] ————— [ui]
 [oi]

ERRATA:

- p. 2 and 6. for *vlië*, read *vlieë*.
- p. 2. for [vɛrlt], read [vɛrlt];
 for [rɛəl], read [rɛəl].
- p. 3. for [tai], read [tai]; for [kõ'feit], read [kõ'feit];
 for [tẽ'mĩ'stẽ], read [tẽ'mĩ'stẽ];
 for [fã'mõrẽ], read [fẽ'mõrẽ];
 for [võ'nẽr], read [võnẽr]. (The other nasalised vowels under this heading are also unaffected in length.)
- p. 3. for *riende*, read *vriende*.
- p. 5. for [hoəpci] read [hɔəpci].
- p. 5 and 8. [f v] are Continuants, not Stops.
- p. 6. for [a] A *nag* [nax], read [a] A *nag* [nax].
- p. 8. for [w] E [wɪl], read [w] E *will* [wɪl].
- p. 2 and 6. for *diphthong* read *diphthong*.

Addendum:

- p. 5. [t] *gids* [xɪts].

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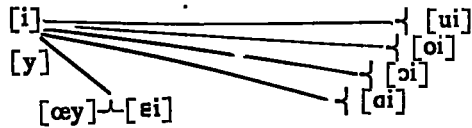
e.g. *gans* [xãːs], *mens* [mẽːs], *kuns* [kœ̃ːs], *ons* [õːs], *eens* [ẽːs], *konfyt* [kõːfeit], *beginners* [bẽːxĩnẽrs], *vrouens* [frouẽːs], *tenminste* [tẽːmĩːstẽ] *vanmore* [fãːmõrẽ]

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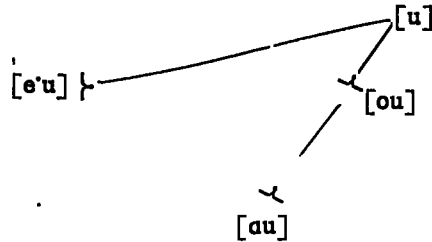
[-i] diphthongs:

[ui]	—oei	[kui]	<i>koei</i> ,
[oi]	—ooi	[roːi]	<i>rooi</i> ,
[ɔi]	—oii	[toːɪs]	<i>toings</i> ,
[œy]	—ui	[mœys]	<i>muis</i> ,
[ai]	—ai	[baɪə]	<i>baie</i> , [tai] <i>taai</i>
[aːi]	—aai	[fraːi]	<i>fraai</i> ,
[ei]	{ —ei	[vɛi]	<i>wei</i> ,
	{ —y	[rɛi]	<i>ry</i> ,



[-u] diphthongs:

[eːu]	—eeu	[leːu]	<i>leeu</i> ,
[ou]	—ou	[hout]	<i>hout</i> ,
[au]		<i>au!</i>	



OTHER COMBINATIONS:

—oue	[ouə]	<i>moue</i>	[mouə],	—aie	[aɪə]	<i>baie</i>	[baɪə]
—ooie	[oɪə]	<i>mooier</i>	[moɪər],	—eie	[ɛɪə]	<i>leter</i>	[leɪər]
—oie	[ɔɪə]	<i>ndientjie</i>	[nɔɪəpɔɪə],	—ye	[ɛɪə]	<i>wyer</i>	[vɛɪər]
<i>eeue</i>	[eːuə]			<i>uie</i>	[œyɪə]		
—oeie	[uɪə]	<i>goëie</i>	[xuɪə]				

Afrikaans Vowels.

	TENSE			SLACK			
	Front	Mixed	Back	Front	Mixed	Back	
High	y <i>maur</i> ure		u <i>voet</i>			ù half-slack <i>ou bou</i>	Rounded Lips
Half close	ɿ <i>neus</i>		ɔ <i>bome</i> so			o in [ou] hout	
Half open	ɿe <i>put</i>		ɔ <i>dom</i>			ɔ in [oi], <i>toings</i> o' <i>more</i>	
Low							
High	i <i>niet</i>			ɿ half-slack <i>koei</i>			Unrounded
Half close	ɿe <i>est</i> <i>rede</i>	ɿɿ <i>lit</i>			e <i>gewillige</i>		
Half open	ɿe <i>ver</i>						
Low		ɿa <i>nag</i>			a <i>vaal</i> <i>hael</i> <i>stasie</i> <i>au</i>		

ɿ denotes that the tongue is slightly raised from the normal position, ɿ lowered, ɿ fronted, ɿ backed-

Afrikaans Consonants.

Manner	Lips		Lip-Teeth		Point Gum		Blade Gum		Front Back Palate		Uvular	Glottal	Organ
	p	b	f	v	t	d			c	k g			
Stop												ʔ	
Continuant.	(w)				s		ʃ		ç	j	x		h
Nasal	m					n			ɲ		ŋ		
Divided						l							
Trill								r				(ʀ)	

Voiced consonants are on the right, and breath consonants on the left of a column.

[p] *pad* [pat], -*b rib* [rɪp] [f] *af* [af], *voet* [fut],
 [b] *boek* [buk], [v] *w wiel* [vil].
 [t] *toe* [tu], -*d tyd* [teit] [k] *kyk* [kēik]
 [d] *die* [di]; [g] *burger* [bærgər], [ŋ] *ghienie* ['gini]
 [ç] *tj tjalis* [tʃli], *dj. meidjie* [mɛici]; [pc] *ndj handjie* [hɑŋci]
 [h] is breathed with the following written vowel sound or sounds,

e.g. *heil* [eɪl], but can be represented [hɛil].

[ʔ] denotes the forceful opening of the vocal chords before a vowel, and is rarely found in English; e.g. *een* [ʔeən].

[s] *sit* [sɪt], [ʃ] *sfef* [ʃɛf], [j] *jou* [jou], [x] *gaan* [xɑn] but [ç] is used for [x] before front vowels, e.g. *gieter* ['çitər].

[m] [n] *man* [man], [ɲ] *sing* [sɪɲ].

[l] As in English a forward [l] is used before front vowels and a backward [l] before back vowels; e.g. *leer* [leər], *lood* [loət].

[r] is trilled; *rus* [rɛs], *meer* [meər], but a burr [ʀ] used by some speakers is regarded as dialectal.

There is a tendency to insert [ə] or even [i] before the combinations, -*tjie* and -*djie*; e.g. *hondjie* [hɔ̃ɛci], *bootjie* [boici], *hoedjie* [huici].

[w] sometimes pronounced; e.g. *swart* [svart] or [svʌrt].

English and Afrikaans Vowels.

MOUTH.	TONGUE.			English Diphthongs and other Combinations.
	Front.	Mixed.	Back.	
High } Close. }	(y) i i or ɪ		(u) tense (ʊ) or (ʉ) slack	[ij]; [uw] [juw] [iə]; [ʉə] [jʉə]
Half-close.	(ø) e è	ɪ ə	(o)(o:) tense (ɔ) slack	[èi] [èiə]; [oʉ] [oʉə]
Half-open.	(œ) ɛ œ	ə: ʌ	(ɔ) tense (ɔ:) slack	[œə] [ɔi], [ɔiə], [ɔə]
Open } Low. }	a	ɑ	ɒ: tense ɒ slack	[aɪ] [aɪə]; [aʉ] [aʉə]

A = Afrikaans. E = English.

[y]	A <i>noot</i> [nyt]	A <i>mure</i> [myrə]
[i]	A <i>Piet</i> [pit]	A <i>vlië</i> [fli·ə]
[i]	E <i>peat</i> [pijt]	E <i>feet</i> [fijt] (see note 1.)
[ɪ] [ɪ]	E <i>bit</i> [bit] or [bɪt] (see note 3.)	
[e]	A <i>een</i> [eən]	A <i>leër</i> [le·ər]
[ø]	A <i>neus</i> [neʊs] (see note 4)	
[è]	E <i>pen</i> [pən]	E <i>tread</i> [tri·əd]
[ɛ]	E <i>there</i> [ðeə]	
[ə]	A <i>dè</i> [dɛ], <i>weg</i> [vɛx]	A <i>ver</i> [fɛ·r]
[œ]	A <i>bus</i> [bœs]	A <i>rûe</i> [rœ·ə]
[œ]	E <i>sad</i> [sœd]; [a] only occurs in English diphthongs (see page 7), but some Afrikaans speakers come near it in <i>swart</i> [svart].	
[a]	A <i>nag</i> [nax]	A <i>haal</i> [haəl] or [hɑ·l]
	E <i>father</i> [fɑ·ðə]	E <i>farther</i> [fɑ·ðə]
[ɒ]	E <i>on</i> [ɒn]	E <i>saw</i> [sɔ:] (see note 2.)
[ɔ]	A <i>pot</i> [pɔt] tense; A <i>sê</i> [sœ·ə] long slack;	
	E <i>mourn, morn</i> [mɔ:n]	} slack, long or short.
	E <i>boy</i> [bɔi].	

o] short slack, occurs only in diphthong [ou] in E. and A. (see below).

[o]	A <i>loop</i> [loəp]	A <i>oë</i> [o·ə]	
[ù][ʊ]	E <i>push</i> [pùʃ] or [pʊʃ]	E <i>good</i> [gùd]	
[u]	E <i>food</i> [fuwd]	E <i>rude</i> [ruwd]	
[u]	A <i>goed</i> [xut]	A <i>vroëër</i> [fru·ər]	
[i]	for <i>i</i> in accented syllables	} e.g. A <i>gewillig</i> [xə'vɪləx]	
[ə]	for <i>i</i> and <i>e</i> in unaccented syllables		
[ə]	E <i>mother</i> [mʌðə]	A <i>te</i> [tə]	E <i>bird</i> [bɜ:d]
[ʌ]	E <i>run</i> [ɹʌn]	E <i>young</i> [jʌp]	

In Afrikaans diphthongs the stress is equal on each of the vowel components, except where one is longer than the other. To English ears an Afrikaans diphthong appears to have the stress on the second component, because English diphthongs are stressed on the first component.

For Afrikaans diphthongs, see p. 2.

English diphthongs and other combinations:

fear	[fiə]	poor	[puə]	fewer	[fjuə]
go	[gou]	mower	[muə]		
day	[deɪ]	prayer	[preɪə]		
there	[ðeə]	door	[dɔə], or [dɔ:] or [dɔə]		
oil	[ɔɪ]	annoyer	[ə'noɪə]		
fly	[flaɪ]	light	[laɪt]	higher	[haɪə]
how	[haʊ]	hour	[aʊə]		
deed	[di:d]	food	[fuwd]	brute	[bruwt]
she	[ʃij]	few, due, you,	[fjuw], [djuw], [juw]		

English and Afrikaans Consonants.

Manner	Lips		Lip-teeth		Point-teeth		Point-gum		Blade-gum		Palate		Glottal	Organ
	Front	Back	Front	Back	Front	Back	Front	Back	Front	Back	Front	Back		
Stop	p	b	f	v			t	d			c	k	g	ʔ
Continuant	ɱ	w			θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ	ç	j	x	h
Nasal		m						n				p	ɸ	
Divided							l							
Trill									r					

- [p] E *Pa* [pa:], A *Pa* [pɑ] [f] E *foot* [fʊt],
A *faal* [fa:l], A *voet* [fut]
- [b] E *bow* [boʊ], A *bou* [bou] [v] E *veal* [vi:l], A *wit* [vit]
- [t] E *two* [tuw], A *toe* [tu] [c] A *tjank* [caŋk]
- [d] E *day* [dèi], A *doen* [dun] [ç] A *giet* [git]
- [k] E *cold* [koʊld], A *kat* [kát] [x] A *glas* [xlas]
- [g] E *give* [giv], A *erger* [ɛrɔ:ɐ]; [m][n] E *name* [nèim], A *neem* [neem]
- [s] E *sing* [sɪŋ], A *sing* [sɪŋ] [ɹ] A *kleintjie* [kleiɲci]
- [z] E *his* [hiz] [j] E *you* [juw], A *jou* [jou]
- [θ] E *thorn* [θɔ:n] [ʃ] E *shove* [ʃʌv], A *sjef* [ʃɛf]
- [ð] E *then* [ðèn] [z] E *measure* [ˈmèzə], E *zeal* [zi:l]
- [x] E *dry* [drai] [r] A *reg* [rɛx]
- [ɱ] E *whence* [wɛns]
- [w] E [*wil*]
- [h] in English is breath expelled before a vowel, and in Afrikaans is breathed out with the vowel;
e.g. E *hang* [ˈhæŋ], represented [hæŋ],
and A *hoog* [ˈoːx], represented [hoːx].

NOTES:—

() denotes lip-rounding;

[:] a colon indicates that the preceding vowel is long,

[.] one dot indicates half length,

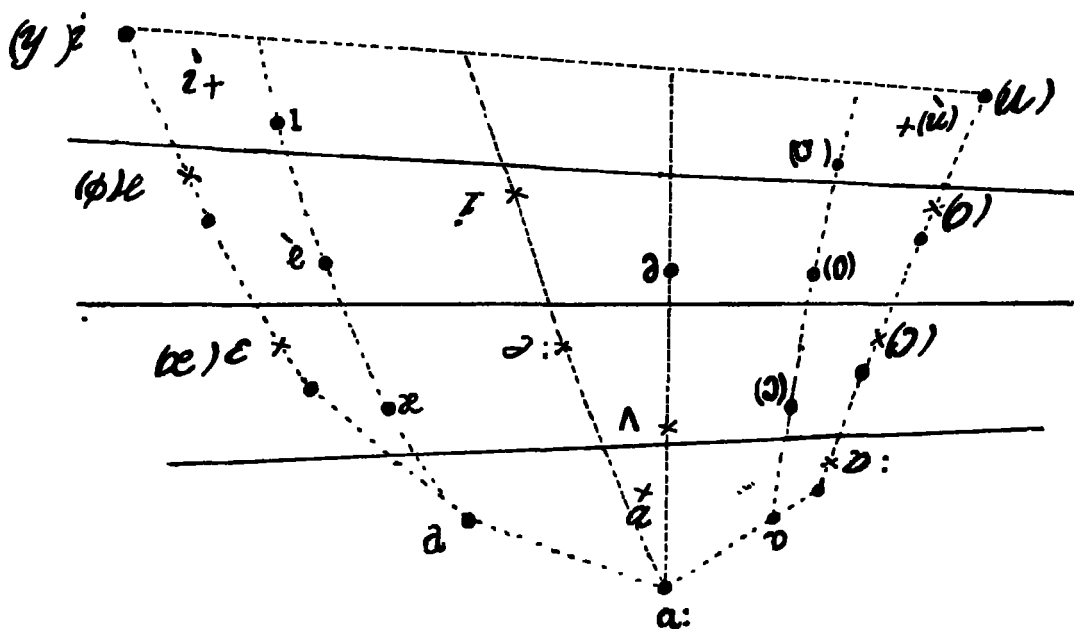
['] an acute accent is used before a stressed syllable, e.g. ['æpkəl].

1. In English phonetic readers [ij] is represented by [i:], and [uw] by [u:]; in these charts [i:] and [u:] are used for the pure Afrikaans sounds.
2. The narrow transcription [ɒ], long and short, is used for [ɔ] of English phonetic readers, and [ɔ] is retained for the more rounded half-open sound in Afrikaans and English, e.g.
English: long [lɒp], Afrikaans: bod [bɔt], E boy [bɔi],
law [lɒ:] môre [mɔrɔ]. E corn [kɔ:n].
3. [˘] The grave accent to denote laxity, used in narrow transcription, is retained for short English [ɪ], short English [ʊ] (unless these are written [ɪ] and [ʊ] respectively), and for English half-close [ɛ̃], to distinguish them from Afrikaans sounds, [i], [u] and [e] respectively; but accents are omitted where no ambiguity arises.
4. Diphthongs ending in [ə], in the chart on page 1, are better described as having an off-glide [-ə].
In the sounding of -əu, i.e. [ø̃] or [eø̃], the latter script denotes that rounding of the lips is slightly delayed.
5. The symbols used are those of the Phonetic Association, with the exception of [ɪ], which is a raised tense form of slack [e].
6. Some English speakers use [p:] or [pə] for [ɔ:] or [ɔə], e.g. door [dɔpə], born [bɔ:n], and in this case [p:] can be regarded as an unrounded form of [ɔ:] and [p] as lowered unrounded slack [ɔ].

English Vowels.

		TENSE			SLACK			
		Front	Mixed	Back	Front	Mixed	Back	
Rounded Lips	High			ʊ (w who half-slack)			ʊ good	
	Half close						o in [ou] go	
	Half open						ɔ in [ɔi] · boy ɔ: forlorn	
	Low							
Unrounded	High	ɪ (j feel half-slack)			ɪ bit			
	Half close				è pen	ə above		
	Half open	ɪɛ (e their)	ɪə: sir		æ ban	ʌ above		
	Low			ɪɔ: lawn	a in [ai] ride -a in [au] now	a: father	ɒ on	

The Relative Positions of English and Afrikaans Vowel Sounds in the Mouth.



English vowels are printed in red, Afrikaans in blue, and vowels common to both languages in black.

Tense vowels are in italics, and slack vowels in romics.

It will be seen that several vowels are not in their normal positions. They are accurately represented as follows, (*l* indicates that the vowel is raised):

[*l*ɪ], [*l*ɛ], [*l*æ], [*l*ɛ], [*l*ɔ:],

Afrikaans tense [*l*ɔ], Afrikaans tense [*l*ɔ].

[ɪ] and [ɪ] are the second component of Afrikaans diphthongs, and the first component of English [ɪj] and [ɪw], and are both half tense.

For purposes of phonetic script, the chart on page 6 is sufficient to bring out the differences in vowel sounds between Afrikaans and English.

