



BRILL

Anthony Traill † (ed. by Hiroshi Nakagawa and Andy Chebanne, with a preface by Jill Traill), *A Trilingual !Xóǝ Dictionary. !Xóǝ-English-Setswana* (Quellen zur Khoisan-Forschung/Research in Khoisan Studies, 9). Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag, 2018, viii–318 pp. ISBN 9783896458810.

*A Trilingual !Xóǝ Dictionary* represents the commitment of a linguist and a man towards a language and its speakers. Anthony Traill started researching into !Xóǝ (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 Hiroshi Nakagawa and Andy Chebanne. Professor Hiroshi Nakagawa faced the daunting challenge of concluding the lexical part of the dictionary. The dictionary builds on a previous lexical description (Anthony Traill, *A !Xóǝ 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 !Xóǝ covering the main areas of the language. The fourth part is devoted to the trilingual dictionary: !Xóǝ-English (pp. 37–231), English-!Xóǝ (pp. 233–68), and Setswana-!Xóǝ (pp. 269–313). The appendix (pp. 314–18) contains five short !Xóǝ-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 !Xóǝ 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 !Xóǝ—“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, in M.S. Dryer, M. Haspelmath, eds., *The World Atlas of Language Structures 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 phonological 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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