



# Afrikaans Children's Speech Development

# **AFRIKAANS**

## **Multilingual Children's Speech Development**

**Presented by: Mia le Roux**

# Afrikaans

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# Afrikaans

## ■ Commonly spoken in

- South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and in diaspora in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, UK, USA, and Patagonia

## ■ Variants

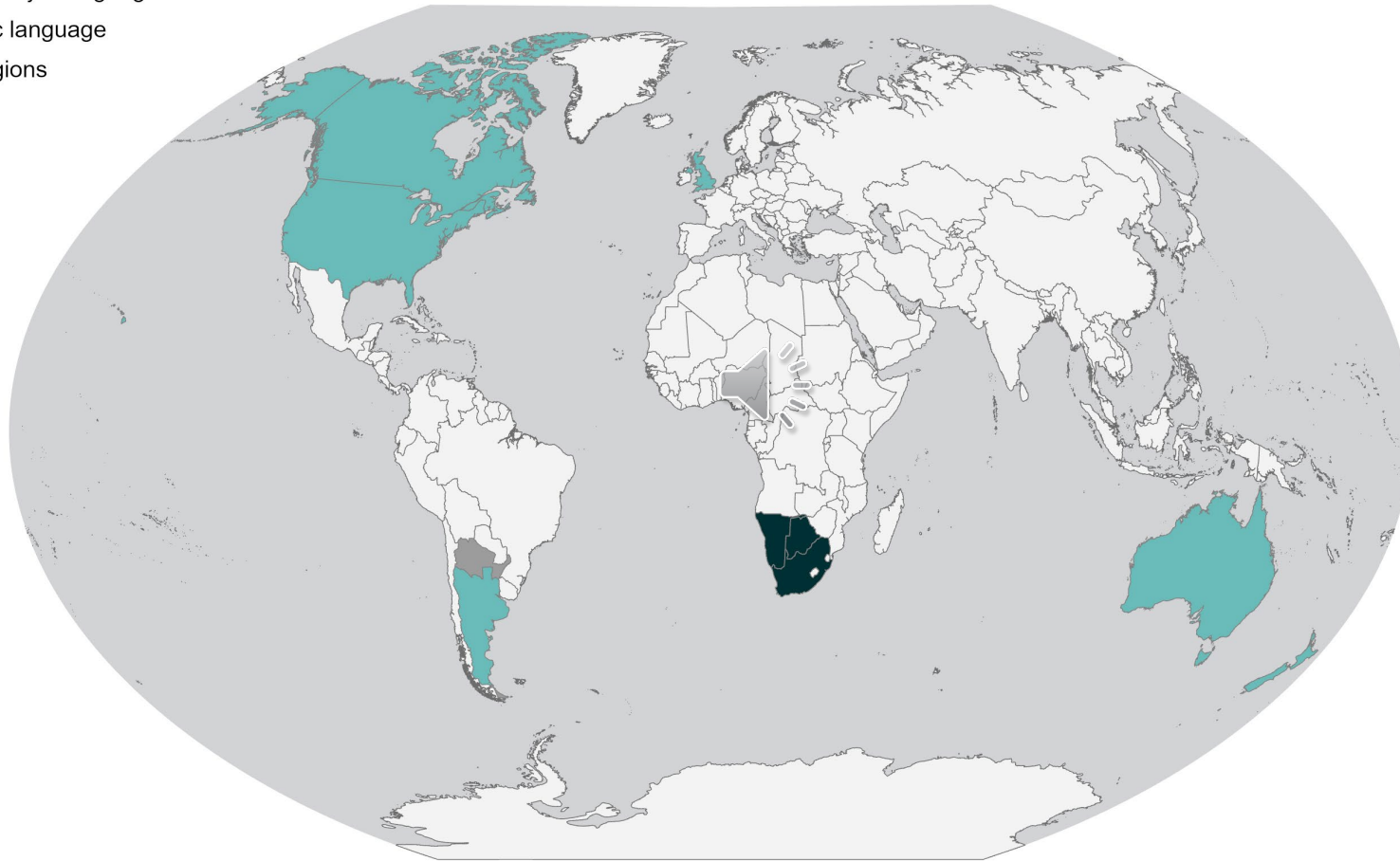
- Standard Afrikaans and non-Standard Afrikaans (Cape Afrikaans including Muslim Afrikaans; Eastern Border Afrikaans (Karoo-Afrikaans); Tswana-Afrikaans; Tsotsitaal; and Orange River Afrikaans (Griekwa-Afrikaans and Namakwalands)

## ■ Writing

- Left to right. Latin alphabet (Roman script)
- Afrikaans spelling is characterized by orthographic transparency

# Afrikaans Map

- Official / major language
- Diasporic language
- Other regions



The authors acknowledge assistance provided by the Spatial Data Analysis Network (SPAN) at Charles Sturt University, and in particular Craig Poynter, for his work creating this map. Figures/maps/imagery created using ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.1 software and data contained within ESRI's Living Atlas.

# Afrikaans

## Speech Components

- **Consonants** (p, b, t, d, k, g, m, n, ng, r, f, v, s, j, g, w, h, l):  
/p, b, t, d, (c), k, g, ʔ, m, n, (ŋ), ŋ, r, (R), (v), f, v, s, (z), (ʃ), (ʒ), (ç), j, x, (ɣ), (tʃ), (dʒ), ʊ, (j), h, l/
- **Consonant clusters (many):** /-rt, -rk, -nt, st-, kr-, dr-, br-, sk-, bl-, pl-, xl-, kl-, fl-, -lt, -lf, -lp, -lk, -rs, sl-, -ls, -ts, -ks, sp-, pr-, tr-, -rx, xr-, sw-, kw-, kn-, -ŋk, spr-, str-, skr-
- **Vowels:** /i, y, eː, øː, ε, a, aː, ə, œ, oː, u, ɔ, əi, œy, œu/ (ie, uu, ee, eu, e, a, aa, i, u, oo, oe, o, y, ui, ou)
- **Tones (0):** None
- **Phonotactic restrictions:** Different syllabic structures:  
CV (*baba* /baba/ 'baby'), V (*apaties* /apaːtis/ 'apathetic'), and CVC (*kat* /kat/ 'cat')
- **Prosody (Stress):** The position that the syllable occupies in a word appears to be the most important determiner of stress (type of nucleus, syllable position in a word, syllable structure, origin of a word).  
Primary stress falls on the penultimate syllable in a word that ends on an unstressed syllable, e.g., *koljander* /kəl'jandər/ 'coriander'

# Afrikaans

## Age of Acquisition

### ■ Consonants

- Early (2-3 years): /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/, /g/, /j/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /ŋ/, /l/
- Middle (4-5 years): /f/, /v/, /s/, /ʃ/, /z/, /x/, /r/
- Late (6-7 years): All consonants acquired by the age of 5 years

### ■ Consonant clusters

- All consonant clusters acquired by the age of 5 years
- At 2 years only four of the 34 clusters are acquired

### ■ Vowels

- All vowels are acquired by the age of 2 years

### ■ Tones

- No tones are used to differentiate meaning

# Afrikaans Speech Development

- **Percentage correct**
  - 100% of consonants correct by the age of 5
- **Intelligibility**
  - ICS\*: This has not yet been determined for Afrikaans in research
- **Common phonological patterns**
  - Fronting, stopping, cluster reduction: To date no study has been published on typically developing children. (Publication by Du Plessis et al., forthcoming)

\*ICS, Intelligibility in Context Scale (McLeod et al., 2012)

# Afrikaans

## Children with Speech Sound Disorders

### ■ Also called

- spraakklankafwyking → speech sound disorder
- fonologiese afwyking → phonological disorder
- artikulasie-afwyking → articulation disorder
- spraakontwikkelingsapraksie → childhood apraxia of speech
- disartrie → dysarthria

### ■ Research has focused on

- Prevalence, assessment, transcription, interventions
- Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS), cleft lip and palate (CLP), dysarthria

### ■ Studies (examples)

- Effect of blocked versus serial practice in the treatment of developmental motor-based articulation disorders (Geertsema & Le Roux, 2019)
- Cross-cultural translation and adaptation of speech-language assessment (Bornman & Louw, 2021)
- Evaluation of assessment techniques in neonates with cleft lip and palate (Louw & Uys, 1986)

# Afrikaans Speech Assessments

- **Verstaanbaarheid in Konteks Skaal: Afrikaans**  
[Intelligibility in Context Scale (ICS): Afrikaans] (Pascoe & McLeod, 2016)
- **Assessering van Spraakdeelname en Aktiwiteite van Kinders**  
[Speech Participation and Activity Assessment of Children (SPAA-C)] (McLeod, 2004; Louw et al., 2017)
- **Die Afrikaanse Artikulasie Onderzoek**  
[The Afrikaans Articulation Test] (Lotter, 1974)
- **Afrikaanse Dieptetoets**  
[Deep Test of Afrikaans Articulation and Phonological Patterns] (Venter, 1977)
- **Spraaktoets vir gehoorgestremde kinders**  
[Articulation test for hearing impaired children] (Derman, 1988)
- **Focus on the outcomes of children under six – Afrikaans (Focus © 34 Afrikaans)**  
(Bornman & Louw, 2021)

# Afrikaans Speech Interventions

- **Die Spraakmotorleer (SML) benadering vir die behandeling van spraakpraksie**  
[The Speech Motor Learning (SML) approach to treating Apraxia of Speech]  
(Van der Merwe, 1985)

# Reference

## Book chapter

- Louw, B., Le Roux, M., & Geertsema, S. (forthcoming). Afrikaans speech development. In S. McLeod (Ed.). *The Oxford handbook of speech development in languages of the world*. Oxford University Press.

## Presentation

- Le Roux, M., & Geertsema, S. (2023). *Afrikaans: Multilingual children's speech development*. Charles Sturt University, Australia.  
<https://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/languages>
  - Sharynne McLeod, Charles Sturt University, Australia
  - Helen L. Blake, University of Technology Sydney, Australia