

## **Towards a dictionary of N!uu**

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N!uu (or N!ng) belongs to the !Ui branch of the Tuu family and used to be spoken in a wide area of the present day Northern Cape, South Africa and Botswana. Thought to be extinct for several decades, a number of speakers were identified in 1996–1997. The remaining speakers identify themselves as belonging to the #Khomani community, which comprises several hundreds of people. Most #Khomani speak Afrikaans (a Germanic language dominant in the Northern Cape province), a few claim to speak Khoekhoe (a Khoe-Kwadi language) as their first language.

Since its "rediscovery", lexical data on N!uu have been collected by two teams of linguists starting from 2003. The present talk will focus on the challenges of a production of a N!uu dictionary to serve different audiences: apart from language researchers, the #Khomani community is also interested in this resource. Whereas to produce a dictionary in accordance with the requirements of the linguistic community is largely unproblematic, the #Khomani community will only benefit from a dictionary accompanied by sound files: as N!uu has got a large inventory of some 45 click phonemes and only a few individuals have limited skills in reading N!uu with the few remaining speakers being illiterate a text-only dictionary will be of little use to the community. Further challenges in the design of the dictionary consist in the coverage of dialectal variation and inclusion of naturalistic examples.