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

DAVID HOPWOOD, B.A., Hons. (Oxon.),
Lecturer in English Language and Phonetics
to the
UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH.

July, 1925.
AFRIKAANS VOWELS.

MOUTH. 

TONGUE. 

DIPHTHONGS. 

Other Combinations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGH</th>
<th>FRONT</th>
<th>MIXED</th>
<th>BACK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(y)</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>(u)</td>
<td>[iə] [ua] ; [ui] [uiə]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| HALF-CLOSE | (ø)  | ø    | [ə] [œə] ; [œu] [œi] [ou] |

| HALF-OPEN | (æ)  | æ   | [æ] [œæ] ; [œy] [oi] |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPEN</th>
<th>a</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>æ</td>
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</table>

| [y] | High front, tense, rounded. | nuus [nys] | muur [myr] | ure [y're] |
| [e] | Half-close front, tense. | eet [e:t] or [e't] | reël [re'el] or [re:l] |
| [ø] | Low, open, mixed; short tense, long slack. | dag [dæx] | klaar [kla:r] | hael [hæl] or [ha:'el] |
| [ø] | Half-close mixed tense, for i in accented syllables. | smid [smi:t] | vise [vi:] or [vi:ə] or [vi:] (see note 5) |
All Afrikaans vowels before n plus a consonant tend to become nasalized and are then half-lengthened:

e.g. gans [xας], mens [mες], kuns [kας], ons [ος], eens [ες], konfyt [κονφιτ], beginners [βακινει], vrouens [φρουες], tenminste [εςμιες] vanmore [ванморо]

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

e.g. tands [τανς], wonder [βόμερ], onkunde [ονκονδε], onder [ονδερ]

Addendum:

p. 2 and 6. for ūi, read ūieβ. 

ERRATA:

p. 2 and 6. for vliς, read vliεβ.

p. 2. for [verlt], read [βερλς]; for [reel], read [ρεελ].

p. 3. for [tai], read [ταε]; for [κονφιτ], read [κονφιτ];

p. 3. for [κονφιτ], read [κονφιτ];

p. 5. for [hoεπςι] read [hoεπςι].

p. 5 and 8. [f v] are Continuants, not Stops.

p. 5. for [a] A nag [nας], read [a] A nag [nας].

p. 8. for [w] E [wελ], read [w] E will [wελ].

p. 5. [t] gids [ξιτς].
All Afrikaans vowels before n plus a consonant tend to become nasalized and are then half-lengthened:

\[\text{e.g. } \text{gans} \quad [\text{gans}]\]

\[\text{mens} \quad [\text{mens}]\]

\[\text{kuns} \quad [\text{kons}]\]

\[\text{ons} \quad [\text{ons}]\]

\[\text{eens} \quad [\text{eens}]\]

\[\text{konfyt} \quad [\text{konfyt}]\]

\[\text{beginners} \quad [\text{bini:mens}]\]

\[\text{vrouens} \quad [\text{vrouens}]\]

\[\text{tenminste} \quad [\text{tenminste}]\]

\[\text{vanmore} \quad [\text{vanmore}]\]

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

\[\text{e.g. } \text{tande} \quad [\text{tande}]\]

\[\text{wonder} \quad [\text{wonder}]\]

\[\text{onnunde} \quad [\text{onnunde}]\]

\[\text{onder} \quad [\text{onder}]\]

\[\text{senders} \quad [\text{senders}]\]

\[\text{skinder} \quad [\text{skinder}]\]

\[\text{skinder or skinder} \quad [\text{skinder}]\]

\[\text{hoender} \quad [\text{hoender}]\]

\[\text{vriende} \quad [\text{vriende}]\]

\[\text{eend6ts} \quad [\text{eend6ts}]\]

\[\text{skinder} \quad [\text{skinder}]\]

\[\text{hoender} \quad [\text{hoender}]\]

\[\text{friende} \quad [\text{friende}]\]

\[\text{--i} \quad \text{diphthongs:} \quad [\text{--i}]\]

\[\text{[ui] } \text{--oei} \quad [\text{[kui]} \quad \text{koesi},\]

\[\text{[oi]} \quad \text{--oi} \quad [\text{[roi]} \quad \text{rooi},\]

\[\text{[ei]} \quad \text{--oii} \quad [\text{[toii]} \quad \text{toiings},\]

\[\text{[ay]} \quad \text{--ui} \quad [\text{[moeys]} \quad \text{muis},\]

\[\text{[ai]} \quad \text{--ai} \quad [\text{[baie]} \quad \text{baie; [tai]} \quad \text{taai}\]

\[\text{[ai]} \quad \text{--aai} \quad [\text{[frai]} \quad \text{fraai}\]

\[\text{[ei]} \quad \text{--ei} \quad [\text{[vei]} \quad \text{wei},\]

\[\text{--y} \quad \text{[rai]} \quad \text{ry},\]

\[\text{[ei]} \quad \text{--} \quad [\text{[uei]} \quad \text{uei},\]

\[\text{--u} \quad [\text{[uei]} \quad \text{uei},\]

\[\text{[ui]} \quad \text{--eeu} \quad [\text{[leu]} \quad \text{leeu},\]

\[\text{[ou]} \quad \text{--ou} \quad [\text{[bout]} \quad \text{hout,}\]

\[\text{[au]} \quad \text{--au} \quad [\text{[au]} \quad \text{au}\]

\[\text{[u]} \quad \text{--}\]

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\[\text{[ou]} \quad \text{--}\]
Afrikaans Vowels.

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<tr>
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<td>Front</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Back</td>
<td>Front</td>
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<td>High</td>
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<td>u voet</td>
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<td>à half-slack</td>
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<td>au bou</td>
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<td>lø heme</td>
<td>o in [ou]</td>
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<td>lø put</td>
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</table>

denotes that the tongue is slightly raised from the normal position, - lowered, ‾ fronted, - backed.
**Afrikaans Consonants.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner</th>
<th>Lips</th>
<th>Teeth</th>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Blade</th>
<th>Front</th>
<th>Back</th>
<th>Uvular</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
<th>Organ</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>b</td>
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<td>Continuant.</td>
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<td>Nasal</td>
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<td>r</td>
<td>(n)</td>
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</table>

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

[p] *pad* [put], -h *rib* [rj,p] [l] *af* [af], *vost* [fut],
[b] *boek* [buk], [v] *wiel* [vil].
[t] *toe* [tu], -d *tyd* [teit] [k] *kyk* [kēik]
[d] *die* [di]; [g] *burger* [børger], [g] *gienie* ['gini]
[c] *tj* *tjais* [ćadźi], *dj* *meidjie* [měidźi]; [p] *ndj* *handjie* [hɒndźi]
[h] is breathed with the following written vowel sound or sounds,

\*e.g. heil* ['eil], but can be represented [heil].

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

[s] *sit* [sıt], [ʃ] *sjef* [ʃef], [ʃ] *jou* [jou], [x] *gaan* [ɡaan] but [ç] is used for [x] before front vowels, e.g. *gieter* [ˈɡièr].

[m] [n] *man* [man], [ŋ] *sing* [sɪŋ].

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

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

There is a tendency to insert [a] or even [i] before the combinations, *-tjie* and *-djie*; e.g. *hondjie* [hɒndźi], *bootjie* [bɒtźi], *hoedjie* [huetźi].

[w] sometimes pronounced; e.g. *svart* [svartz] or [svartz].
English and Afrikaans Vowels.

MOUTH. TONGUE. English Diphthongs and other Combinations.


High } (y) i (u) tense [ij]; [uw]; [juw]
    } i or i (u) or (u) slack [iə]; [uə]; [jə]

Close. } Half-close. (ø) e i (o)(o:) tense [æi]; [æə]; [øə]
               } (ø) slack [æi]; [æə]; [øə]

Half-open. (o) e ø (o)(o:) tense [æi]; [æə]; [øə]
               } (o) slack [æi]; [æə]; [øə]

Open } Low. a a c: d n tense [ai] [æə]; [øə]
               } slack [æi]; [æə]; [øə]

A = Afrikaans. E = English.

[i] A Piet [piit] A vlië [vilə]
[i] E peat [pijt] E feet [fijt] (see note 1.)
[i] E bit [bit] or [bit] (see note 3.)
[e] A een [een] A leër [leər]
[o] A neus [neuə] (see note 4)
[e] E pen [pən] E tread [triːd]
[e] E there [ðəə]
[ø] A où [øː], weg [vəx] A ver [ver]
[a] A bus [bus] A rūs [ʁəʊ]
[a] E saad [sæd]; [a] only occurs in English diphthongs (see page 7), but some Afrikaans speakers come near it in swart [svart].
E father [faðə] E farther [faðə]
[ø] E on [ən] E saw [ɔː] (see note 2.)
[ɔ] A pot [pot] tense; A sōe [sɔə] long slack;
E mourn, morn [mɔrn] slack, long or short.
E boy [boi].
short slack, occurs only in diphthong [ou] in E. and A. (see below).

[o] A *loop* [loʊp] A *oë* [oː ə]

[ou] E *push* [pʌʃ] or [puʃ] E *good* [ɡʊd]

[u] E *food* [fuːd] E *rude* [ruːd]


[i] for *i* in accented syllables e.g. A *gewillig*

[e] for *i* and *e* in unaccented syllables } [xəˈvɪlɪɡ]

[e] E *mother* [mʌðə] A *te* [tə] E *bird* [bɜːd]

[a] E *run* [rʌn] E *young* [jʌŋ]

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 [fɪə] poor [pɜː] fewer [fjuː]

go [ɡoʊ] mower [ˈmɔːr]
day [deɪ] prayer [ˈprɛə]

there [ðeə], door [dɔə], or [də] or [də]

oil [ɔɪl] annoyance [əˈnɔɪn]:

fly [flaɪ], light [laɪt] higher [ˈhaɪə]

how [haʊ] hour [aʊə]

deed [diːd] food [fuːd], brute [bruːt]

she [ʃiː] few, due, you, [ʃjuː], [djuː], [juː]
# English and Afrikaans Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner</th>
<th>Lips</th>
<th>Lip-teeth</th>
<th>Point-teeth</th>
<th>Point-gum</th>
<th>Bladegum</th>
<th>Palate</th>
<th>Back</th>
<th>Glottal Organ</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop</td>
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[p] E Pa [pa:], A Pa [pa:] [f] E foot [fʊt], A faal [faːl], A voet [fʊt]
[b] E bow [bɔː], A bou [bou] [v] E veal [vɪl], A wit [vɪt]
[t] E two [tuː], A toe [tu] [c] A tʃank [caːŋk]
[d] E day [deɪ], A doen [duːn] [ɔ] A giet [ɡit]
[k] E cold [koʊld], A kat [kæt] [x] A glas [ɡlas]
[g] E give [ɡɪv], A erger [ɛrɡər]; [m] [n] E name [nɛm], A neem [nɛm]
[s] E sing [sɪŋ], A sing [sɪŋ] [ŋ] A kleintjie [kleɪntʃi]
[z] E his [hɪs] [j] E you [juː], A jou [jʊ]
[θ] E thorn [θoːn] [ʃ] E shove [ʃʌv], A sje [ʃɛ]
[θ] E then [ðeɪn] [z] E meas [ˈmɛzə], E zeal [zɪl]
[x] E dry [draɪ] [r] A reg [rɛg]
[a] E whence [wɛns]
[w] E [wɪl]
[h] in English is breath expelled before a vowel, and in Afrikaans is breathed out with the vowel;
  e.g. E hang [ŋæŋ], represented [hæŋ],
  and A hoog [waʊ], represented [hoʊ].
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. [´epkəl].

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 [n], long and short, is used for [o] of English phonetic readers, and [o] is retained for the more rounded half-open sound in Afrikaans and English, e.g.
   English: long [lʌp], Afrikaans: bod [bo:t],  E boy [boi],
   law [lou]  more [mo:ə].  E corn [ko:n].

3. [´] The grave accent to denote laxity, used in narrow transcription, is retained for short English [ɪ], short English [u] (unless these are written [i] and [u] respectively), and for English half-close [e], 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-glise [-ə].
   In the sounding of -eu, i.e. [ɛ:] or [eə], 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 [ɒ] or [ɔː] for [ɔ] or [ɔ], e.g. door [dɔː], born [bɔːn], and in this case [p] can be regarded as an unrounded form of [ɔ] and [p] as lowered unrounded slack [ʊ].
### English Vowels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TENSE</th>
<th>SLACK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>&amp; (w who half-slack)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half close</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>t (o) half-slack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; above them</td>
<td>&amp; above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half open</td>
<td>t (o) sir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>t (o)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rounded Lips**

**Unrounded**
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 roman.

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

- Afrikaans tense \{\text{a}\}, Afrikaans tense \{\text{e}\}.

[\text{i}] and [\text{u}] are the second component of Afrikaans diphthongs, and the first component of English [\text{ij}] and [\text{uw}], 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.