

A sound-based exercise on lexical tone

The data for this exercise come from a dialect of Dinka (Nilo-Saharan, South Sudan). The target words are nouns. For each noun, there are recordings from 2 or 3 male speakers. The speakers have pronounced the nouns in two different contexts, A and B, which are explained at the bottom. The recordings are embedded in this pdf. You can play them by clicking in the grey rectangles.

The task is two-fold. 1) Determine the tone category (tonemes) of each of the nouns, on the basis of your auditory perception. 2) Find out about any tone-in-context (sandhi) processes that affect them.

Dinka words	Context		Dinka words	Context	
lɔɔm ‘rib’	A	B	laaac ‘urine’	A	B
ɲiiir ‘girls’	A	B	miiir ‘giraffe’	A	B
nooon ‘grass’	A	B	ɲɛɛɛr ‘gazelle’	A	B
ɲɔɔk ‘catfish’	A	B	ɲjɛel ‘python’	A	B
leeɲ ‘drums’	A	B	ɲaaap ‘sycamore’	A	B

Contexts: A. a-nɔɲ X
DECL-have X
‘There is/are X’
B. Acool/Bol ee X maaan
Acool/Bol AUX X hate-INF
‘Achol/Bol hated X.’