

Fourteenth International Linguistics Olympiad

Mysore (India), 25–29 July 2016

Team Contest Problem

You are provided with 114 audio files. Each file contains a recording of a Taa word, pronounced twice. Below is the list of these words in transcription. Both audio files and written words are in arbitrary order.

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|------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. ǀnú'úi | 24. ǀ'â: | 47. ǁáá | 70. ǀ'āa | 93. ǀqoú |
| 2. d̥əm | 25. ngāa | 48. gǀxána | 71. gǀhalē | 94. ǀnáā |
| 3. ǀq'ama | 26. ǀxóō | 49. nǁgàa | 72. d̥ts'qàa | 95. ǀgà: |
| 4. gǁhàā | 27. ǀxāā | 50. t'qàa | 73. ǀqâ: | 96. ǀqàa |
| 5. ǁhaā | 28. gǀxàn | 51. khàla | 74. dtsháā | 97. gǀxá'ā: |
| 6. qáā | 29. gǀk'qā: | 52. ǀk'qóm | 75. dthàā | 98. gǀhàā |
| 7. lhāā | 30. gǁk'qáā | 53. d̥ts'áā | 76. d̥ts'qala | 99. ǀnà: |
| 8. gǀhâ: | 31. gǀhòō | 54. bà | 77. ǀháa | 100. ǀq'um |
| 9. ǀxâ: | 32. gǀk'qā: | 55. ǁq'ũna | 78. hâa | 101. ǀk'qâũ |
| 10. ǀqhòō | 33. ǀâ: | 56. tháa | 79. ǁnâ'am | 102. ǀqáheh |
| 11. ǁgāā | 34. ǀnâ: | 57. ǀnǀōō | 80. dt'qáa | 103. ǀnâ: |
| 12. ǀ'óō | 35. ǀmala | 58. tshála | 81. ǀnahn | 104. ǀnâhâ |
| 13. ǀxāā | 36. dzàni | 59. xāā | 82. káa | 105. ǀnâ'ũā |
| 14. tâa | 37. nǀqhāna | 60. ǀ'āá | 83. tsàhâh | 106. ǀgòō |
| 15. kx'qā: | 38. ǀhâā: | 61. gǀk'qóō | 84. nǀgáá | 107. ǀ'áa |
| 16. ǀk'gâ: | 39. ǀâ: | 62. hôo | 85. ǀhòō | 108. ǀaje |
| 17. ǁhâā | 40. nǀgâ: | 63. ǀnâ'am | 86. ǀgâ: | 109. nǀgâ: |
| 18. ǀqhâ: | 41. ǀhâũ | 64. ǁxâa | 87. ǁ'âa | 110. ǁnáā |
| 19. ǀgâ: | 42. ǁqáā | 65. txâli | 88. ǀs'âa | 111. gâō |
| 20. ǀnâ | 43. nǀgòō | 66. ǀqhâ: | 89. gǁxa'ân | 112. ǀnâ'â: |
| 21. ǁk'qââ | 44. gǀk'qâ: | 67. ǀôō | 90. gkx'qâ:la | 113. ǀâ: |
| 22. sâa | 45. ǀk'qâ: | 68. dtshxâ'a: | 91. ǀnaje | 114. ǀq'ân |
| 23. ǀqhâ: | 46. gǀhâ: | 69. ǀq'ân | 92. dtxâa | |

(a) (114 points) Match the audio files with the written words.

(b) (6 points) Briefly describe all of your observations on the Taa language and its transcription.

△ Taa belongs to the Tuu family. It is spoken by approx. 2,600 people in Botswana and Namibia.

—Danylo Mysak

English text: Danylo Mysak, Hugh Dobbs.

Good luck!