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The Overview on Bantu Languages Speech Sounds: Some Languages Spoken in the DR Congo

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Abstract: There are a lot of languages spoken by Bantu in Africa which necessitate a study. The users of these languages seem to ignore some notions related to their languages. This paper explores one aspect of these languages and brings a light to sounds of these languages. So, the overview on Bantu languages carries the aim of the present paper. As all languages cannot be gone through, this paper is an assemblage of Bantu languages spoken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The overview about sounds is the core study in this research where vowels and consonants of Bantu languages spoken in the DR Congo are concerned. What to expect in this study is the recognition of sounds we do not speak about in the light of foreign languages: French and English. That is an opportunity to get knowledge about them is paramount. It is not a matter of comparison between English sounds or French sounds but just a study. This is also a matter of DRC to be a multilingual country where 214 native languages (Ethnologue) are spoken among 100 million inhabitants (2023). The situations derived from the practice of a multilingual mode of communication have had important linguistic effects on the languages in contact.

Keywords: language, Bantu, overview, sounds

1. Introduction

Bantu languages attest resemblance in terms of vowel systems and consonants since they are described as originated from the same mother language 'Proto Bantu' (PB). Before deepening the notion of Bantu languages speech sounds, it is worth presenting (briefly) what Bantu languages are. Maho, J. (2006) states that *the Bantu languages are the languages spoken in an area south of an imaginary line drawn from central Cameroon to southern Somalia, covering roughly a third of the African continent*. This definition is presented in terms of the geographical setting in which these languages are spoken.

It is worth mentioning that the total number of Bantu languages is uncertain. The most important is Swahili, spoken as a first language by more than 30 million people, chiefly in Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, and Uganda. As the chief trade language of East Africa, it is understood by perhaps an additional 20 million. https://www.encyclopedia.com /reference/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/. This is to mean that Bantu languages are numerous and the most spoken of them is Swahili, which is spoken by a great number of people from the participants in our study. The 214 native languages spoken today in the DRC have been classified, with the exclusion of French, in 3 groups, which belong to 2 genetically distinct families: the Bantoid (Guthrie, 1948; Nurse and Philippson, 2003) and the Adamawa-Ubangian (Bouquiaux and Thomas, 1980; Boyd, 1995) groups of languages, which are two genera of the Niger-Congo family (Greenberg, 1966; Bendor-Samuel and Rhonda, 1989) and the Central Sudanic group (Tuckner and Bryan, 1956; Greenberg, 1966; Tuckner, 1967), a subfamily of the Nilo-Saharan family (Greenberg, 1966; Bench, 1995; Bender, 1997; Ehret, 2001). This is a reference to genetic affiliation and geographical distribution of the languages of the DRC.

It is important to note that according to Lojenga, C.K. (2006), the Bantu languages spoken in DRC belong to zones B, C, D, H, J, K, L, and M of Guthrie's (1967–1971) classification. In addition to those zones, in making our study, we have noticed that zone G is also concerned due to the fact that Swahili is spoken in DRC. This is to mean that besides the eight linguistic zones which appear in Guthrie's classification of (1967–1971), there is another zone which should be considered.

The inventory on our research participants' languages is such that mother tongues of EFL learners with whom we have worked belong to the following linguistic zones: C, D, H, J, G, and L. In other words, research participants' languages (apart from those whose MT are not Bantu languages) belong to six linguistic zones. Some of these languages are very closely related; for example, Mashi and Havu which have too much similarities to the point of (near) mutual intelligibility.

Considering what we have to mention, this is due to the origin of Proto Bantu (PB). Proto Bantu is generally reconstructed to have a set of seven vowels and eleven consonants. It is characterised by tones: a low tone and a high tone. A low tone is indicated with a grave accent whereas a high tone is indicated with an acute accent.

The description of some Bantu languages speech sounds are to be described – especially the ones which belong to linguistic zones of the Republic Democratic of the Congo. More specifically, the speech sounds which are described are those of languages mainly spoken by our study area. It is worth mentioning that we are not going to deal with each language, but we are going to consider linguistic zones in which our research areas' languages are spoken.

2. Some Languages Spoken in DR Congo

In fact, while carrying out this study we have found out that our area's study the dominant mother tongues are: Swahili (spoken in the DRC), Mashi, Kinyarwanda, Nande, Havu, Hunde, French, Lega, Lingala, Luba, English (spoken in Uganda), Bangubangu, Kongo, Bembe, Kivira, Tetela, Tembo, and Topoke. In a general way, the speech sounds of these languages are going to be described within linguistic zones in which they appear. In fact, the democratic republic of the congo is a multilingual country where an estimated total of 242 languages are spoken. Ethnologues list 214 living languages (Ethnologue, 2015). The official language, since the colonial period, is French, one of the languages of Belgium. Four other languages, three of them bantu based, have the status of national language: kikongo, lingala, Swahili and tshiluba.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/languages_of_the_democratic_republic_of_the_congoaccessed on may 29th 2024 at 8:54 pm Local time

Each of these languages are spoken in different arear (Hein, 1972).

3. Vowel sounds

Jack, C. R. and Richard, S. (2002: 584) define a vowel as a speech sound produced without significant constriction of the air flowing through the mouth. To mean, there is no blockage of the airstream when vowel sounds are articulated.

It is worth recalling that Bantu languages share too much characteristics due to their common origin. In fact, David O. (2014) states that the reconstructed phoneme inventory of proto-Bantu is composed of seven vowels namely: /i ɪ e a o ʊ u/. This is why in describing Bantu vowels; our focus is going to be put (first of all) on seven-vowel languages and five-vowel languages. Another reason for our focus on five-vowel system and seven-vowel system is that they are the ones our participants use.

We are not only going to present the description of Bantu vowel sounds, but also depict some features with their occurrence especially the manner they are articulated. In other words, apart from mentioning simply the number of vowel sounds, we are also going to indicate some phonological environment in which they occur and present some other features entailed by their occurrence.

In fact, Kula, N.C. & Kadenge, M. (2015:4) state that Bantu language vowel sounds undergo an influence of the phonological environment in which they occur. For example, the mid vowels /e/ and /o/ are often raised and fronted when preceding the high front unrounded /i/. After Malambe carried out experimental acoustic analyses, she has concluded that this phenomenon occurs not because of phonological vowel harmony but rather for the sake of co-articulation. To mean that there is assimilation that applies to vowels sounds – in words or phrases – that share some characteristics.

It is worth mentioning that the majority of Bantu languages have simple-looking systems of five or seven vowels in which the expected relationships between the features of vowels include height, backness and rounding hold (Maddieson, I. & Sands, B., 2019, p.79). They explain stating that the back non-low vowels are rounded, and the low and front vowels are unrounded. The vowels of the five-vowel systems are therefore usually transcribed as /i e a o u/ and the seven-vowel systems are most often transcribed as /i e ɛ a ɔ o u/.

Maddieson, I. & Sands, B. (2019:80) present the chart of five vowels of Xhona S41 which has a vowel system similar to Swahili G42. They also present the chart of seven vowels which are similar to Lingla C3. The description we are going to make about Bantu vowel sounds is concise, it is going to be based not only on these charts, but also on other data about some languages from a range of resources.

Fig. 1: Vowel space for five-vowel system

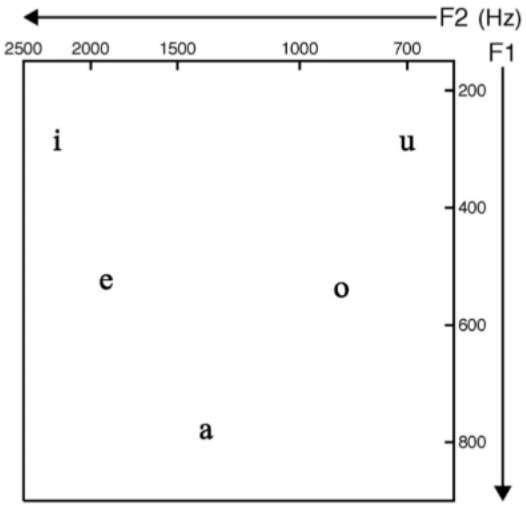

Fig 1 is about the acoustic analysis of Xhona vowels which are similar to Swahili (the most spoken language of our study participants).

This figure corresponds to what is called acoustic space of vowels which is a quadrilateral representation of vowel spacing. It actually matches the traditional auditory based vowel space based on perceived height and backness. In this figure, F1 stands for first format and F2 stands for second format. Distances along axes are scaled to reflect auditory perceptual intervals.

Fig. 2: Vowel space for seven-vowel system

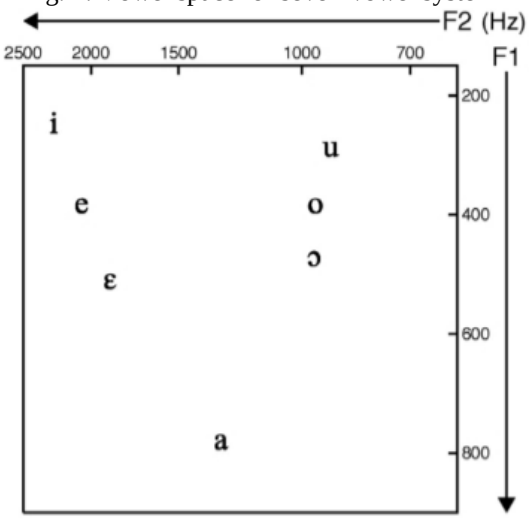

Fig 2 is about the acoustic analysis of Nyamwezi F22 vowels.

The number of vowels in this chart is equal to Lingala vowel sounds. Meanwhile, it is worth mentioning that despite the same number of vowel sounds of Nyamwezi F22 and Lingala C3, there is a certain difference in terms of tongue position (vowel backness). In this figure, F1 stands for first format and F2 stands for second format. Along the axes, distances are scaled to reflect auditory perceptual intervals.

In our work, the description of Bantu vowel sounds is taken into account the following aspects: the position of the tongue in the mouth, the degree of aperture, and lips rounding or unrounding. Our focus is going to be put on these aspects since they are the ones which are the most prominent for Bantu vowel description in our study. Apart from these aspects, we are also going to portray vowel length and vowel nasalization.

Taking into account the position of the tongue in the mouth, the description of the vowels is (basically) as follows: both /i/, /e/ and /ɛ/ are front; /a/ is central; and, both /o/, /u/ and /ɔ/are back. Meanwhile, it is worth mentioning that this description does not apply to every single Bantu language. For example, /a/ is not described in the same way in all the Bantu languages. For some languages, it is a front vowel, but it is central in languages

like pure Swahili. In fact, Mtallo, GR. (2018) quoting Mgullu (1999:66) presents the Standard Swahili vowel phonemes where /a/ is central.

Considering the degree of aperture, vowel height is basically stated as follows: /i/ and /u/ are high; /e/ and /o/ are mid; and /a/ is low. Meanwhile, it is worth mentioning that the sounds /ɛ/ and /ɔ/, which appear in seven-vowel system languages (for example Lingala), are also mid vowels. The difference between mid vowels /e/ /o/ and /ɛ/ /ɔ/ can be stated based on more than one aspect depending on the language in which they are articulated. In Lingala, for instance, the vowels /e/ /o/ /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ are presented within a chart as mid vowels. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingala. The difference, then, is that /e/ and /o/ are closed-mid, but /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ are open-mid.

Taking into account the aspect of lip rounding or spreading, /i/, /e/, /a/ and /ɛ/ are unrounded, but /u/, /o/ and /ɔ/ are rounded. Matthews, P.H. (2007) states that /i/ is primarily articulated with spread lips. To mean that when this sound is produced, lips are unrounded. This, according to our understanding, applies to other sounds sharing the same feature (vowel qualities) either lengthened or nasalized. On the other hand, /u/, /o/ and /ɔ/ are rounded since when they are articulated lips are rounded. As far as vowel nasalisation is concerned, it is to be noted that nasal vowels are not particularly common in the Bantu languages, but they are found in certain mostly western areas, for example in Ngungwel B72a of the Teke group (Maddieson, I. & Sands, B., 2019, p.88). In other words, it is less frequent to come across nasal vowels in Bantu languages**.**

There are vowel length contrasts occur in some Bantu languages, which may or may not be accompanied by changes in vowel quality and/or various processes of vowel lengthening (Maddieson, I. & Sands, B. 2019, p.89). This is to mean that even if vowel length serves to mark the difference between some words, it still does not change vowel quality. As far as phonological aspects are concerned, the brief notion to mention at this level is the conforming to pronunciation. This is to mean that in phonological environments where vowels occur, they are pronounced as such. Meanwhile, it is worth mentioning that there are assimilatory processes which are attested in Bantu vowels depending on some words in which they occur.

4. Consonant Sounds

Jack, C. R. & Richard, S. (2002:110) state that a consonant is a speech sound where the airstream from the lungs is either completely blocked, partially blocked or where the opening is so narrow that the air escapes with audible friction. This definition describes consonants regarding their manner of articulation. From this definition, it is understood that consonant sounds are not articulated in the same way.

When the airstream from lungs is completely blocked, consonants are said to be stop. On the other hand, when it is partially blocked, consonants are said to be lateral. However, when the air escapes with audible friction due to the narrowing of the opening, consonants are said to be fricative. Apart from that, for some consonants the airstream is blocked in the mouth but allowed to escape through the nose. They are said to be nasal.

Bantu consonant sounds share more than one characteristics due to the same origin. The reconstructed phoneme inventory of proto-Bantu consonants is said to be composed of the eleven consonants which are: /p t c k b d j g m n ɲ /. All these consonants of the Proto-Bantu (PB) are simple. The overview of Bantu consonant sound sounds is going to focus on the manner and the place of articulation. It is going to be about languages our participants use. For example: Swahili, Lingala, Luba, Kongo, Kinyarwanda, etc. It is worth mentioning that the number of consonant varies from language to language.

The number of consonants for today Bantu languages is beyond eleven due to the fact that besides simple consonants, there are nasal complexes (NC) like /mp/ /mb/ /nt/ and /nd/ /ng/. Apart from nasal complexes, there is also another phenomenon of consonant plus glides to yield sounds like /gy/ and /ky/. The nasal complexes, written mp, mb, nt, nd, ŋk, ŋg, etc. are analysed either as clusters of homorganic nasal+consonant or single prenasalised consonants (Hyman, L., 2019, p.136). To mean that nasal consonants followed by other consonants like /p b t d g …/ yield other consonants which are not simple. Those consonants resulting from nasals with other consonants are referred to as nasal complexes which can be considered as clusters or homorganic consonants. In addition to that, the combination of a certain consonant with glides leads to other sounds which are not simple consonants.

Considering the complexity of the notion of Bantu consonants, we are going to present charts (depending on relevant linguistic zones) and describe consonants therein. The charts to present, at this level, are respectively about Swahili (for zone G), Lingala (for zone C), Kongo (for zone H), Luba (for Zone L), Kinyarwanda (for Zone J), and Lega (for Zone D). A particular emphasis is going to be put on the most recurrent consonants to all the participants' languages. After description has been made, we are also going to highlight some notions which apply to different relevant consonant systems of Bantu languages.

Fig 3: Swahili Consonant Chart

Manner of articulation	Place of articulation						
	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosives/stops	p b			t d		k g	
Fricative	ɱ	f v	ð θ	s z	ʃ	ɣ	H
Affricates					tʃ dʒ		
Nasal	M			n	ɲ	ŋ	
Lateral				l			
Trill				r			
Approximants	W				J		

This chart of pure Swahili consonants has been adapted form Mgullu (1999:66). It is remarked that consonants in this charts are simple.

Fig 4: Lingala Consonant chart

Manner of articulation		Place of articulation			
		Labial	Cornal	Palatal	Dorsal
Plosive	Voiceless	P	T		
	Prenasal voiceless	Mp	Nt		K
	Voiced	B	D		Ɔk
	Prenasal voiced	Mb	Nd		G
Fricative	Voiceless	F	S	ʃ	Ɔg
	Prenasal voiceless		Ns		
	Voiced	V	Z	ʒ	
	Prenasal voiced		Nz		
Nasal		M	N	Ɔ	
Approximant		W	L	J	

Fig 4 is adapted from Lingala consonant chart of https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingala. It is remarked that in the above chart, not only simple consonants are presented, but also nasal complexes.

Fig 5: Kongo consonant charts

Manner of articulation		Place of articulation		
		Labial	Cornal	Dorsal
Plosive	Voiceless	P	T	K
	Prenasal voiceless	Mp	Nt	Ɔk
	Voiced	B	D	G
	Prenasal voiced	Mb	Nd	
Fricative	Voiceless	F	S	
	Prenasal voiceless	Mf	Ns	
	Voiced	V	Z	
	Prenasal voiced	Mv	Nz	
Nasal		M	N	Ɔ
Approximant		W	L	J

Fig 5 is adapted from Kongo consonant chart of https://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/Kongo. In the above chart, not only simple consonants are presented, but also nasal complexes.

Fig 6: Luba consonant charts

Manner of articulation		Place of articulation					
		Labial	Labio dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Plosive& Affricate	Voiceless	p		t	**tʃ**	k	
	Voiced s	b		d		g	
	Prenasal voiceles	mp		nt	**ntʃ**	ŋk	
	Prenasal voiced	mb		nd			
Fricative	Voiceless	(ɸ)	F	s	**ʃ**		H
	Voiced		V	z	ʒ		
	Prenasal voiceless		Mf	ns	**nʃ**		
	Prenasal voiced		Mv	nz	nʒ		
Nasal		m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
Approximant				l	J	w	

Fig 6 is adapted from Kongo consonant chart found on https://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/Luba. Apart from simple consonants, there are also nasal complexes.

Fig 7: Kinyarwanda consonant charts

Manner of articulation		Place of articulation				
		bilabial	Labio Dental	Alveolar	Alveolar / Palatal	Velar
Plosive	Voiceless	P		T		k
	Voiced			D		g
Affricate	Voiceless		Pf	Ts	tʃ	
Fricative	Voiceless		F	S	**ʃ**	
	Voiced	B	V	Z	ʒ	
Nasal stops		M		N	ɲ	**ŋ**
Tap				R		
Glides					j	w

This figure is is adapted from Kinyarwanda consonant chart. In the chart above, 'glides' refer to approximants. Tap refers to the sound articualetd when the active articulator, typically the tip of the tongue, briefly strikes against a passive articulator, typically the alveolar ridge, forming a single brief oral closure. This chart is found on https://laits.utexas.edu/phonology/kinyarwanda.

Fig 8: Lega consonant chart

Manner of articulation		Place of articulation			
		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	Voiceless	P	T		K
	Voiced	B	D		G
Fricative	Voiceless	(f)	S	**ʃ**	
	Voiced	V	Z	(ɟ)	
Nasal		M	N	ɲ	**ᴞ**
Trill			R		
Lateral			l		
Approximant				j	W

Fig 8 is adapted from Lega consonant chart from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lega. In the above chart, only simple consonants are presented.

Considering the figures form Fig 3 to Fig 8, one can remark that the most recurrent consonants are /m p b f v n d t s z l g k/. Considering Proto-Bantu reconstruction, one can clearly understand why the above languages share these similarities. As far as semi consonants are concerned, one can notice that /w j/ are the most common semi-consonants in the presented charts.

Here below is the description of consonant sounds worth noting. It is done considering Mtallo, GR. (2018: 706) and other resources mentioned above. To mean the description at this level does not concern individual languages, but it concerns our participants' mother tongue consonant sounds description.

4.1. Plosives/Stops

Plosives or stop consonants in Bantu languages can either be: bilabial, or alveolar or velar. These sounds are found in most Bantu languages being either voiceless or voiced. For both Lingala and Kongo, the sounds /k, g/ are referred to as dorasl sounds. Here are some examples of words (in Swahili) where plosive consonants are found:

- Bilabial plosives/stops /p, b / example; panda, 'plant', biki 'pen'
- Alveolar plosives/stops /t, d / example; tana 'again, dawa 'medicine'
- Velar plosives/stops /k, g/ example; kata 'cut', ganda 'freeze'

4.2. Fricatives

Fricatives are produced when articulators are constricted to the point at which an air flow passes through with audible turbulence. The most recurrent fricative consonants in Bantu languages are /f v s z/. Fricatives are either labiodental, alveolar, palatal, velar, or glotal … Apart from this description, it is worth noting that in some Bantu languages, there are fricatives which are articulated in a particular way. For example, in Swahili, the sound /ɱ/ in mto 'river' is said to be a bilabial fricative sound. Here are examples of words in which fricative Bantu consonants occur:

- Bilabial fricative sound /ɱ/ example: (Swahili) mto 'river'
- Bilabial-dental (or labiodental) fricative sounds /f, v / examples (Swahili) faida 'interest', vita 'war'; (Lingala) lifelo 'hell'; (Kinyarwanda) vura 'heal'
- Dental fricative sounds /θ, ð/ example; thawabu 'gift', dhana 'concept'
- Alveolar fricative sounds /s, z/ examples : (Swahili) samani 'furniture', (Lingala) zando 'market'; (Mashi) muza 'dear'
- Palatal fricative sound /ʃ/ example: (Swahili) shati 'shirt'
- Velar fricative sounds /ɣ/ examples: (Swahili) ghala 'storehouse'
- Glottal fricative sound /h/ examples (Swahili) haya 'shame'; (Mashi) hanola 'here'

4.3. Affricates

From our observation, affricates, in Bantu languages, are not among the most recurrent consonants. Affricates are produced with the duration of the friction is not generally as long as it would be in the corresponding independent fricative (Keith, B. & Jim, M., 2013, p. 16). There is also need to mention that affricates occur whith certain specific articulation. For example/pf/ of Kinyarwanda which occurs whith stopping the airflow completely, then allow airfolw through a constricted channel at the place of articulation. Here below are some examples of words where they occur:

- Labiodental affricate /pf/ ; example: (Kinyarwanda) gupfundikira 'cover'
- Palatal affricates /tʃ, dʒ/ examples: (Swhalili) chanuo 'comb', jaza 'fill'
- Alveolar affricate /ts/ example: (Kinyarwanda) igitsure 'evil /gaze'

4.4. Nasals

From the charts we have mentioned earlier, it is ramerked that the majority of the languages of our study participants have got four nasal sounds namely /m, n, ɲ, ŋ/ which are respectively (most of the time) bilabial alveolar, palatal, or velar. This certainly matches with the idea that most Bantu languages have a full set of nasals and they are concerned with prosodic processes concerning nasals (Maddieson, I. & Sands, B., 2019 p.90). To mean that several Bantu languages do not only have a complete set of nasal consonants, but they also have prosodic features linked to them. This is why nasals are combined with other consonants to yield nasal complexes which are going to be further described. Here are some examples of words where nasals occur:

- Bilabial nasal sound /m/ example: (Swahili) majira 'season'
- Alveolar nasal sound /n/ examples: (Swahili) nabii 'prohet'
- Palatal nasal sound/ɲ/ examples: (Nande) erimenya 'to know'; (Swahili) nyanya 'tomatoes'; (Kinyarwanda) inyenyeri 'star'
- Velar nasal sound/ŋ/ examples: (Swahili) ngombe 'cow'; (Havu) nanga 'no'

4.5. Lateral

The lateral consoant, in Bantu languages, is not among the most recurrrent ones. It is worth notiung that in some languages, Kinyarwanda for example, the sound /l/ (which is generally known as lateral) does not exist.

Lateral refers to any sound where the air escapes around one or both sides of a closure made in the mouth, as in the various types of /l/ sound (Crystal, D., 2008 p270). Here are examples of words in which the lateral consonant sound occurs:

- Alveolar lateral sound /l/ example: (Swahili) laza 'lay'; lengo 'objective';
  It is worth mentioning that /l/ is rather clasified and described as an approximant consonant sound than a lateral consonant sound for the majority of the languages of our research participants.

4.6. Trill

In both Fig 3 and fig 8 (respectively Kiswahli and Lega consonant charts) the sound /r/ is described as a trilled consonnat. For the other languages, as we are going to mention it in the following descrition of consosnants, it is rather considered as an approximant. A trilled consonant, also known as a roll, according to Crystal, D. (2008: 496), refers to any *sound made by the rapid tapping of one organ of articulation against another*. In both Fig 3 and Fig 8, /r/ is an alveolar trilled consonant. Here are words where /r/ occurs:

- Alveolar trill /r / example: (Swahili) raha 'happiness'

4.7. Approximants

Bantu languages attest three approximants which are consonants articulated without friction. Keith, B. & Jim, M. (2013:33) state that 'apprxoimant' is used in the description of the manner of articulation of oral consonant sounds to refer to sounds as in [w] win, [j] year, [l] leaf. It is experienced that articulators approach each other and there is a non-turbulent airflow without closure or friction. This is why they are soemtimes called frictionless continuants consonants.

It is worth mentioning that even if /w/ /l/ and /j/ are described to pertain to the same manner of articulation for most of Bantu languages, the place of articulation diffrers from language to language. For example, the sound /w/ is bilabial or labial for Swagili, Lingala, and Kongo, yet it is described as velar for Kinyarwanda, Luba, and Lega. Here are examples of words where approximants occur as bilabials, palatals, or velar.

- Bilabial approximant sound /w/ examples: (Swahili) weka, 'put'; (Kinyarwanda) weho 'you' ; (Kindande) wasịwásị 'hesitation'
- Palatal approximant /j/ examples: (Swahili) yatima 'orphan'; (Nande) yo 'relative pronoun; E.g. in the sentence: émbene yó yíryâmâ 'The goat which cried'.
- Velar approximant the sound /w/ in Kinyarwanda, Lega, and Luba. Example: weho 'you'

Conclusion

As the foreign languages, especially English and French are always studied, this paper has assessed the overview of the bantu languages principally those spoken in the DR Congo. The exploration of vowels sounds and consonant sounds of these languages were given in general. So, the overview on Bantu languages carries the aim of the present paper. As all languages cannot be gone through, this paper was an assemblage of Bantu languages spoken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where an overview about these sounds was the core study in this research. We expected to reach the recognition of sounds we do not speak regularly about in the light of foreign languages: French and English. That is an opportunity to get knowledge about them was paramount. It was not a matter of comparison between English sounds or French sounds but just a study. We hearten others who would like to carry out such a study to deepen this notion since I am neither the first nor the last to tackle it.

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