



UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND.
JOHANNESBURG.

TELEGRAMS: "UNIVERSITY."
TELEPHONE NO. 44-3781.

P.O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

April 5. 38.

Dear Miss Black,

I must really apologize for this very unexcusable delay which my reply has suffered and crave your indulgence.

I was travelling with the Historical Monuments Commission until the beginning of March when I reached Johannesburg. Then came the beginning of the University term and since then I have had not only my teaching, but a very great burden of administrative work which seems always to fall to my lot has not left me a free moment to sit down and quietly consider your questions in order to answer them properly.

Just let me thank you for your very kind estimate of my work - Coming from one whom everybody recognizes as the greatest authority on Bushman, it has a very great value indeed to me. I really wanted to break away from the traditional method of presenting Bushman grammatical data, as I have long felt that it did not give us the spirit behind it all. You remember, in my former correspondence, I once ventured, in connection with Kivana, ^{to say} that I had had in my mind then. I am indeed very gratified that ~~you~~ you approve.

There is no question that there are variations in Bushman sound, not only with the same speaker pronouncing the same word at different times, but when different speakers are tested, there are also many variations, naturally chiefly in the ^{clicks &} vowels. I am glad that again our experiences



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coincide. The mechanical analysis of the sound
supports unreservedly both your & my
observations — We are now carrying on
further study in Korana, in our Phonetics
Laboratory here. Pienaar is doing the main
work, but I have been able to devote 1 hour
or so in helping him — The in Korana, too,
we find exactly the same phenomenon of
variability.

Now as to your questions:

1. ɲca — The usual form is ɲca;
a ɲa ɲa ca is also met with.
I agree that ɲca is a more difficult
combination to pronounce. In the ɲa
is the symbol for the palatalised ɲ, and
equivalent to the French gn in campagne.
I think there is only one instance of this
ɲca complex in all the texts and sentences
in my shidor — I shall demonstrate it
to you in Maritzburg.

2. Text II: line 43: the proper division is
1 ŋ-a ʔ a.
3. a ka || ŋ a ʔ a [247.5] and
ʔ a ka || ŋ a : a [270.82]. are
variants actually heard.
4. h a ŋ e ! ko a ke, etc [247 (6)3], e
is a misprint for a, e.g. the correct form
is ŋ a.
5. Similarly in || ŋ a u ʔ u, etc [248.2] the
last u is a misprint for a, "you".
6. a ko ʔ ca ! ŋ ā u ca ! ka ʔ a ! ho u ʔ
and ko ʔ ca ! ŋ ā u ! ka ʔ a ! ho u ʔ [248.5]
[274.21]
are variants actually heard.
7. The symbol f represents the voiced
palatalized velar, i.e. g j, if we were to
use two symbols; just as c is the
symbol for the unvoiced variety of the
palatalized velar, i.e. k j.
8. In using ka ʔ for the "creak" of
|| ka ʔ, I perhaps simplified too much
in my ~~desi~~ giving my word equations.
But that is a point which I would
like to discuss further with you.



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When we meet in March -
I am sure you could enlighten me quite a lot on
the subject.

Doke and I have many more words which we
hope one day to publish in the form of an
additional vocabulary.

Having finished with my own work of
answering your questions, I hope to your
satisfaction, allow me now also to congratulate
you on your very valuable addition to our
knowledge of !Pana. I am very glad you
had a chance of devoting some time to these
people. No one here could have done it and
certainly no one with that same mastery which
stamps all your work.

Joerg Stoy sent me some time ago
his study on the dialects of the Vaalpers
women. I read it with great interest and
I think it should be published. What is
your opinion of it?

How is the magnum ~~opus~~ opus - the
great Bushman dictionary getting on?
I am very interested to know - It was
my intention, when in Capetown, last
February to ask your permission to
call on you to discuss matters. But
I was busy up to the last minute
with the work of that wretched Commission,

I am looking forward to having a
long talk with you at Herengracht in
July next.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L. F. Mairiand

Thank you for the /auni reprint which I
am very pleased to have. I am sending me
7 my Khomani reprint.