

From Afrikaans into Khoekhoe: Exploring usage patterns of borrowed discourse markers

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Khoekhoe is a Khoe-Kwadi language spoken primarily in Namibia. Since the early days of colonization by European settlers it has been in continuous contact with Afrikaans (Germanic). One of the results of this prolonged language contact is the large amount of Afrikaans discourse particles used in Khoekhoe, which include lexical items familiar from and extensively studied in other Germanic languages, such as *tox* (cf. Dutch *tog* and German *doch*).

The discourse particles borrowed from Afrikaans are much more frequent in spoken Khoekhoe than in written registers. In this study, we explore the structural and semantic properties of borrowed discourse particles on the basis of a corpus of conversation Khoekhoe. After an overview of the borrowed discourse particles, we proceed with an in-depth discussion of particularly common particles and use these cases to highlight different outcomes of borrowing on the Khoekhoe system of discourse particles and to discuss motivating factors behind these borrowings.