

Information about Sesotho speech

1. A comparison between Sesotho and English phonology

Aspect	Language	Number	Details	Source
Syllable-initial consonants	Sesotho	40 consonants (including 1 click)	/p ^l , p ^h , b, t ^l , t ^h , d, k ^l , k ^h , m, m̩, n, n̩, ɲ, ɲ̩, ŋ, ŋ̩, r, (R), r, f, [v], s, ʃ, (ʒ), [x], h, t̪, j, l, l̪, l̪ (w), ts ^l , ts ^h , tʃ ^l , tʃ ^h , !, ! ^h , pʃ ^l , pʃ ^h , fʃ/ [] = loanwords, () = alternative place of articulation	Demuth (2007)
	English	24 consonants	/p, b, t, d, k, g, m, n, ŋ, θ, ð, f, v, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h, tʃ, dʒ, j, w, ɹ, l/	Smit (2004)
Consonant clusters	Sesotho	Syllable-initial consonant clusters with glides	For example, /ŋw/	Demuth (2007)
	English	23 consonant clusters	Many 2 and 3 element consonant clusters in initial position including /pl, bl, kl, gl, fl, sl, pɹ, bɹ, tɹ, dɹ, kɹ, gɹ, θɹ, fɹ, ʃɹ, pj, tj, fj, mj, nj, sm, sn, sp, st, sk, spl, spɹ, stɹ, skw/ and many 2 to 4 element consonant clusters in final position	Smit (2004)
Vowels and diphthongs	Sesotho	9 vowels	Vowels: /i, ɪ, e, ε, u, ʊ, o, ɔ, a/	Demuth (2007)
	English (US-General American)	14 vowels + 3 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, e, ε, æ, ə, ɜ, ɝ, u, ʊ, o, ʌ, ɔ, a/ Diphthongs: /aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ/ (Smit also lists 5 'r'-colored diphthongs)	Smit (2007)
	English (Canadian)	14 vowels + 3 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, e, ε, æ, ə, ɜ, ɝ, ʌ, ʊ, o, ʌ, ɔ, a/ Diphthongs: /ʌɪ, ʌʊ, ɔɪ/	Bernhardt, & Deby (2007)
	English (UK-Received Pronunciation)	12 vowels + 8 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, e, ε, æ, a, ə, ɜ, u, ʊ, ʌ, ɔ, ɒ/ Diphthongs: /aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ, eɪ, ou, iə, eə, uə/	Howard (2007)
	English (Australian)	12 vowels + 8 diphthongs	Vowels: /i:, ɪ, e, æ, ɛ:, ɐ, ɔ:, o:, ʊ, ɯ:, ɜ:, ə/ ⁱ OR /i, ɪ, e, æ, a, ʌ, ɒ, ɔ, u, ʊ, ɜ, ə/ ⁱⁱ Diphthongs: /æɪ, ae, əɯ, æɔ, ɔɪ, iə, eɪ, uə/ ⁱ OR /eɪ, aɪ, ou, aʊ, ɔɪ, iə, eə, uə/ ⁱⁱ	ⁱ Harrington, Cox, & Evans, (1997) ⁱⁱ Mitchell (1946)
	English (New Zealand)	12 vowels + 8 diphthongs	Vowels: /i, ɪ, e, æ, ə, ɜ, u, ʊ, ʌ, ɔ, ɒ, a/ ⁱ OR /i, ɪ, e, æ, a, ə, ɜ, ʊ, ʌ, ɔ, ɒ/ ⁱⁱ Diphthongs: /aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ, eɪ, ou, iə, eə, uə/ ⁱ OR /aɪ, aʊ, ɔɪ, eɪ, ou, iə, eə, uə/ ⁱⁱ	ⁱ Bauer & Warren (2004) ⁱⁱ Maclagan (2009)
Tones	Sesotho	2 tones	High and low	Demuth (2007)
	English	0 tones	-	

Syllable shape	Sesotho	(C)(G)V	mostly CV	Demuth (2007)
	English	C ₍₀₋₃₎ VC ₍₀₋₄₎	The smallest syllable is V and the largest is CCCVCCCC <i>strengths</i> .	Smit (2004) McLeod (2007)
Stress	Sesotho		Lengthen the penultimate syllable of a phonological phrase.	Demuth (2007)
	English	Stress-timed	Syllables can be strong or weak. Stress also is used for emphasis.	
Varieties	Sesotho	Dialectally homogenous	Sesotho is a Bantu language.	
	English	Many dialects	Many dialects including General American English, Received Pronunciation (England), Scottish English, Irish English, Australian English, New Zealand English, South African English etc.	
Writing system	Sesotho		Several different orthographic conventions. Lesotho uses one convention, South Africa uses another.	Demuth (2007)
	English	Roman script	Roman script loosely related to phonetic realizations of the consonants and vowels.	

References

Sesotho studies

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2. Sesotho speech assessments

None known

3. Monolingual speech acquisition (summaries and studies written in English)
Demuth, K. (2007). Sesotho speech acquisition. In S. McLeod (Ed.), *The international guide to speech acquisition* (pp. 528-538). Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar Learning.

4. Multilingual speech acquisition (summaries and studies written in English)

General summaries

Goldstein, B. A., & McLeod, S. (2012). Typical and atypical multilingual speech acquisition. In S. McLeod & B. A. Goldstein (Eds.), *Multilingual aspects of speech sound disorders in children* (pp. 84-100). Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.

Grech, H., & McLeod, S. (2012). Multilingual speech and language development and disorders. In D. Battle (Ed.), *Communication disorders in multicultural and international populations* (4th ed., pp. 120-147). St Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Zhu Hua & Dodd, B. (Eds). (2006). *Phonological development and disorders in children: A multilingual perspective*. Cleavdon, UK: Multilingual Matters.

Yavaş, M. (2007). Multilingual speech acquisition. In S. McLeod (Ed.), *The international guide to speech acquisition* (pp. 96-100). Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar Learning.

Summaries and studies of multilingual Sesotho speech acquisition

None known