Guide to the collection:
Saxwe audio recordings for tone analysis

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Table of contents: filenames associated with this collection

Zipped file related to:	URL
Abbreviations in gloss, speaker bio, permissions, date and time	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zljxMrVa5XhY8okiStHsdgXUDxdEojqY
Alternate reduplication	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vhq94YfLA9BtPkDog3D58v2lanqHp93U
Associative construction	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1sWYrpvJXdq1O8DxYY05ynoql49S-Q6RR
Auxiliaries	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jRcLhyU95g2dhpGC6PYg93wO2XgCvP1E
Borrowed words	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1k5e5UA29N9_T27pTOEgbmxDXdLuCeEUy
Clause connectives	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vCT-wa3OtznacyLfBK0-CdNay00_K6uo
Clause frames	https://drive.google.com/open?id=11_hAvJveshfLpQDFaxhNdrEgXA37SA7y
Connective plus jussive	https://drive.google.com/open?id=16hw050WCEEul9tdDEyerJKhCifmC6_-F
Effect of emotion	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1r1pdhrza8lIN6RvisfW0E4Z59F5QqmuD
Exceptional tone patterns	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1oy-iVVc-ecFYkEcd3pitYtJjzhqvj0Ud
Final fall tests	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1EmtyActo9ayfGN90HlhtEpQsTLQo87-Y
Focus markers	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SGlytjM83sk9ygTdjtB2tMYQQ02NCI0x

Ideophones	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UmEUJ7cKtV5EhAz64QpXPKZeSjJcOKJC
Left boundary tests	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MORckJXc7J911yRV5LFm4fV7mvuFjJar
Low spread tests	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1NlANCcRohlbEkHSPyEvn0nwYmyPTQx8F
Multi-clause utterances	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1t4iZCyPILxIepKXN1fQ1RCgkDaW_iSwO
Negation	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AGWvnXCtXsPX8EuLAgjidLlVu7UnemkW
Noun phrases	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1efM_N1AFgLyolxzP5qMhZL5iPrYaZHao
NP boundary tests	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j0R1M4eIavI-u_efWsfRCkpV227J6oZg
Numbers	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cs8dsYGKGU8JItAyq9cq7yafWY4vxzPI
Other clauses	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1B0ndj34Rkoeujh8NSrh8R_8_gHATqMBO
Other nouns	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-UpNONf043Yop6zv-f0uHlsYFy628HG1
Other verbs	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Xn3qdIoobLDhmF7RDZmJ39WcLhEt5vjt
Polymorphemic nouns	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LC-xwQhbaeSWo_zPOW1fpyAvMdg8XxhG
Possessive pronouns	https://drive.google.com/open?id=19MTVziZe-NKKfXygnvOuwpGx2pW73kHJ
Postpositions	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1v5LSA_l9l0pi1lFCQ07eclQzBx-SpGo7
Preposition na	https://drive.google.com/open?id=13veH2TyOfUS0xJ0y8iQ0qBPyCkZwIkxY
Prepositions	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AxNRtIkOQ_wSbw83dDZO_1DOlwRUnEmc
Presentatives	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DJ_dxsILIE6k9Cm6NrOH82JOlyhAID8N
Pronouns	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1J7IrrOL54erMX9btQIhisi-_FELE9hLC

Questions	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YfN0k-SIivLXvDxTmLK3v7Unwybi2o9C
Register tests	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nA_Z9DcHIQV9nGXGmoYfz-f2gB_FVSMj
Right H boundary tests	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XFgTkCrAZ_CTDzTn8SL_ulccrf_YsMLr
Serial verbs	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LAzn7vAcoQ5XTakfz17nioyjZsVhzAvc
Subordinating morpheme	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UtHvbSXbIHZzFVRzmZ1DL_aUm3WEmV2k
Texts	https://drive.google.com/open?id=10LDp4U5snDEMBlXbSvZKiq-YHvivjvaS
VCV nouns	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1muj7g8mvBq33Fyq5c2-4XkEdiNPXs8xB
Verb plus pronoun	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1090PyvMeXZNbSfykGk9ZBVeKCRzPYviS
Verb reduplication	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nS9RAGSEm8Ql-dUGbNBI76jdtHvdSSpP
Verbs	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Lsu0ipaXPX8yb7DGoF7dH57S73NoSpBQ
Ynquestions	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1H-RKnk0ba-77_6D-lNfIEaGvfotjFlvZ

Overview

This collection of audio recordings was made in the Houeyogbe township of the country of Benin in 2015 and 2017. These recordings were made with the intent to be used in analyzing the underlying tones of the Saxwe tone system as well as the inventory of tone patterns found in various lexical categories of words.

Metadata: information regarding the preparation and recording

The recordings in these folders were collected over an initial period of two months (March and April) in 2015, and then a follow-up period of two weeks in May of 2017. Background research leading up to this collection of recordings was done over the course of four years from 2011 to 2015 during intermittent periods of residence in the town of Adrome, on the immediate outskirts of Houeyogbe.

My approximate 5,000 recordings (of varying sizes ranging mostly from individual words to sentences) that are archived here in conjuction with the writing of my dissertation were obtained from André Taïve from the village of Adrome. Taïve was forty-one years old in the year 2015, and was a tailor with considerable experience in public oral translation and in radio recording. During his childhood, he had done seven years of formal education in Benin (in French). The recording and transcription of his self-described biographical information give further details regarding his language background.

Prior to doing this collection of recordings in 2015, I discussed with Taïve the intended uses of these recordings, and he willingly signed an intellectual property agreement which is included with the metadata of this collection. He again signed another such agreement in 2017. He was renumerated for his hours of work in a manner that was consistent with specialized clerical work. Further information and records are available in my personal archives.

These recordings were done primarily in order to understand the Saxwe tone system. For this reason, some of the sentences will not seem entirely natural because of the need to create paradigms of specific underlying tone combinations. However, I gave Taïve instructions that he should indicate anything that seemed too odd, and many of my intended combinations were reworked before recording in order to achieve greater naturalness.

Prior to doing these recordings, I had a corpus of data that included a lexical database of approximately 3600 entries using the program Fieldworks Language Explorer (SIL International). From this database, I established a list of 300 monomorphemic nouns and 215 monomorphemic verbs. I worked with André Taïve and another speaker to categorize these nouns and verbs into groups of similar-sounding tone patterns, using whistling as a tool for helping in the distinction between minor differences. Following this, I did oral recordings of these words and recorded the transcriptions of the forms. These recordings are found in the 'VCV nouns' and 'verbs' folders.

I then put these nouns and verbs into a variety of paradigms, doing oral recordings of all the paradigms with Taïve. I followed the same process with other parts of speech. I continued with recordings of language paradigms with units of all levels, monomorphemic and polymorphemic, with utterances ranging from words to phrases to texts. Although this collection was made primarily for purposes of tone analysis, many of the grammatical structures of the language can be observed. This is particularly true in the texts.

I include for all recordings a transcription of the recording. For those where it is deemed necessary, a free gloss is also provided. A list of the abbreviations used in these transcriptions is included in the folder of metadata.

All recordings were done on a Marantz PMD 660 solid state recorder using an external Shure SM10A headworn, unidirectional dynamic microphone. The recordings were done in a cement-walled room, with efforts made to use fabric to dampen echos. The room was within earshot of a road and occasional street sounds may be hear on the recordings.