Transcription Practice Exercise 8—Ibibio

Ibibio is a Nigerian language that is closely related to Efik. The speaker, Mr. Etim Eyo, was recorded by P. Keating in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, in May 1984.

This exercise is concerned with the tones of Ibibio. They are:

- Low \`
- High \`
- Falling ^

Falling tone is found only on final syllables.

You will also hear the consonants [y], [kп], and [r] and the vowels /a/ and /o/. The phoneme /e/ varies between [e] and [e], but this difference has been ignored here. So has the slight implosion of some voiced tokens. All transcriptions here are fairly broad.

I. A. Some minimal pairs with \` vs. \`:

- [bбб] become tied [bбб] pawpaw
- [bбб] become in need of [bбб] father
- [bйй] fall off (plural) [bйй] become concerned
- [бйй] fall off (singular) [бйй] belch
- [бйй] become black [бйй] play
- [дпп] become sick [дпп] wear clothes

B. Some minimal pairs involving \`\`:

- [йкк] a kind of play [йкк] fence
- [ймм] this [ймм] I

C. Some minimal pairs involving \`\`:

- [кк] priest [кк] circle formation for dance
- [ккк] animal in cat family [ккк] rooster
- [ккк] plant whose leaves contain milky fluid

D. Some minimal pairs involving ^:

- [аба] (a town) [аба] forty
- [иба] underpants [иб] two
- [йкпн] eldest son [йкпн] square woven basket
- [абн] mosquito [абн] pimple
- [ату] jar, jug [ату] shield
II. Additional examples with some segments:

[ákpá]  expanse of ocean
[àkpá]  first
[àkpà]  a small ant

[àbű]  small shrimp
[ábű]  dust

[áfãŋ]  a kind of hard leaf
[àfãŋ]  path in bush

[ádá]  a kind of fish
[ádá]  sleeping room

[ákpó]  bone; stalk, stem
[àkpó]  rubber-tree
[àkpò]  ball, mass

[átá]  sediment from palm fruit in pot
[átá]  specialist
[àtá]  sixty
III. **Transcription exercise:** Transcribe the following 20 items, paying particular attention to the tones. The consonants /s/ and /j/ and a final [k’] are new in these words. There are also two instances of /o/, which sounds like [u]. Otherwise the segments have been illustrated already.

1. Become a coward
2. Become fierce, brave
3. Branch of tree
4. Corpse
5. Group, flock, herd
6. Beat down on
7. Oil
8. Meeting place
9. Vein, artery, tendon
10. Hide
11. Come
12. Yonder
13. Barren woman
14. Village green
15. Bush fowl
16. Reed sleeping mat
17. Bring up flame
18. Husband
19. Funeral
20. Penny