

# For poster Michael 3, Pat 4 Mandy 4

## Aspects of Phonological Acquisition in Sidaamu Afoo

**Abebayehu M. Mekonnen (PhD)**

Department of Linguistics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Email: abebayehu.messele@aau.edu.et

### Abstract

This study tries to describe aspects of phonological developments in children speaking, Sidaamu-Afoo, a Cushitic language spoken in Ethiopia, Africa. The research took a descriptive design, employing perceptual phonetic and phonological analysis. Audio and video data were collected from six children aged between 3;6 and 5;0 years in three contexts: single-word, sentence repetition and spontaneous continues speech. The data were first recorded orthographically and the transcribed using IPA and ExtIPA. The findings showed that although most of patterns of phonological developments observed in Sidaamu-Afoo speaking children are also common in other languages, there are still some language specific features that are particular to individual languages. These differences mainly arise from the fact that languages differ in their phonemic inventories, phonotactic rules, and even overall phonological systems. An example of language specific-feature noted in Sidaamu-Afoo speaking children, i.e., feature not reported for other languages, would be the ejectives of the implosive /d/, i.e., realization of /d/ as [t']. This pattern was noted in most of the children, implying that, although ejectives and implosives are both glottalic sounds, ejectives appear to be easier for children to acquire first than implosives. This relates to the additional physiological efforts and aerodynamic complexity that implosives require to be produced.