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Mapping the Dimensions of Linguistic Distance: A Study on South Ethiosemitic Languages --Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	<p>We measured selected South Ethiosemitic languages from three dimensions: structural, functional and perceptual. The aim of the study was to examine the relationship among these three dimensions of linguistic distances, to re-examine previous classifications of the languages, and to determine the degree of mutual intelligibility among the language varieties. We determined the structural distance by computing the lexical and phonetic differences. The phonetic distance was computed using the Levenshtein algorithm. A word intelligibility test was adopted from Tang and Heuven (2009) to measure the functional distance. A self-rating test, based on the recordings of 'The North Wind and the Sun' was administered to measure the perceptual distance among the languages. Then we performed cluster analyses using Gabmap. Multidimensional scaling was employed for the cluster validation. The results of the analyses show that there is a very strong correlation among the measures of the three dimensions of distance. Moreover, the language taxonomies obtained from the measures of the three dimensions of distance are very similar, and they are generally comparable to the classifications previously proposed by historical linguists. Furthermore, the mutual intelligibility test results show that many of these languages are mutually intelligible with the exception of Silt'e.</p>

MAPPING THE DIMENSIONS OF LINGUISTICS DISTANCE: A STUDY ON SOUTH ETHIOSEMITIC LANGUAGES

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1 Introduction

2 Issues of how to distinguish dialects from languages and how to quantify the resemblance between two or
3 more language varieties have been the central concerns of dialectology. These two subjects are often addressed by
4 linguists by measuring the distance between two or more language varieties. As a general principle, the more two
5 languages are structurally (phonetically, morphologically, lexically or syntactically) similar, the more they are related to
6 each other; if they are similar enough, they are dialects of the same language. Distinguishing dialects from languages is
7 more complex than this though, and in most cases non-linguistic variables (social, cultural, political, and psychological)
8 have roles to play. This means that determining a linguistic distance just based on the structural similarity between
9 languages may not always be sufficient to determine whether two language varieties should be considered dialects of a
10 language or two different languages.

11 In addition to the influences of the non-linguistic variables, there are inherent limitations of the structure-
12 based traditional approach. The structural approach is often criticized for having two drawbacks. First, measuring the
13 linguistic distance requires quantifying the distance among the language varieties. However, languages differ in several
14 dimensions (phonology, phonetics, morphology, syntax and lexicon) and identifying the level that must be measured is
15 a major challenge ([Author2, 2018,p.206](#); [Heeringa et al., 2006, p.51](#); [Tang & van Heuven, 2007, p.223](#); [Tang et al.,
16 2009, p.710](#)). Second, even if all the levels could be measured, determining the relative contribution of each level, and
17 squeezing the differences into a single unidimensional mathematical measurement is another challenge ([Chiswick &
18 Miller, 2005, p.01](#)).

19 Previous studies of dialectology, in general, have followed two research perspectives to address these
 20 limitations. On ~~one~~ hand, there has been a successful move in terms of shifting from measuring linguistic distance just
 21 based on purposefully selected specific linguistic features to measuring distance based on a large aggregate data (Goebel,
 22 2010; Others et al., 2011; Nerbonne & Heeringa, 2001; Prokić et al., 2013). On the other hand, different methods that
 23 take into account the non-linguistic variables, for example, the perception and the knowledge of non-linguists have been
 24 developed in the last couple of decades to circumvent the limitations of the structure-based approach (e.g., Preston,
 25 2010). In this regard, the use of mutual intelligibility as a means of measuring linguistic distance and recent advances
 26 in folk linguistics have made important contributions. As a part of these endeavors, different methods of measuring
 27 mutual intelligibility have been developed (see Author2, 2013; Menuta, 2013, p.57-58).

28 There have also been various methods of measuring linguistic distance from perceptual perspectives. The
 29 perception-based approaches vary in a couple of ways. Some of them examine the perception of the speakers based
 30 on carefully selected language inputs such as recorded stories (e.g., U. Other1 et al., 2009); some others measure the
 31 overall perception of the speakers without focusing on a specific language input, for example, by asking in which nearby
 32 area a similar language is spoken (e.g., Bucholtz et al., 2007; Pearce, 2009; Tamasi, 2003; Montgomery, 2007; Preston,
 33 1996). Moreover, some recent studies focused on examining the perception of non-linguists towards specific sound
 34 features such as the features of vowels or consonants (e.g., Labov; Plichta & Preston, 2005; Niedzielski, 1999).

35 Hence, since dialectologists have taken different paths in an attempt to boost the possibility of adequately
 36 quantifying the distance among related languages, there has been an immense increase in the methods of measuring
 37 linguistic distance. These methods can be subsumed into three broad categories: structure-based (based on phonetic,
 38 lexical or grammatical similarity), intelligibility-based (based on inherent and acquired intelligibility) and perception-
 39 based (based on the perception of non-linguists). Previous studies measured linguistic distance either from one or from
 40 the combinations of these three perspectives (Author2, 2018, p.196; Tang et al., 2009, p.710; Tang & van Heuven, 2007,
 41 p.223). As noticed by Author2 (2018), the degree of correlation among the linguistic distances measured from each of
 42 these perspectives is a concern that requires further exploration.

43 In the present study, partly, we further investigate this matter. For the sake of expediency, we use functional
 44 distance and mutual intelligibility with slight meaning differences. We adopt the common definition of mutual
 45 intelligibility which is the extent to which the speakers of language A understand the speakers of language B and
 46 vice versa (Gutt, 1980, p.57). We define the functional distance as the degree of difference between language A and



47 language B on the bases of the speakers' **understanding**. This distinction is important for some logical reasons. First,
 48 in literature, very often a distinction is made between inherent intelligibility and acquired intelligibility (**Author2 &**
 49 **Other1**, 2018; **Gutt**, 1980). Even, for some, only inherent intelligibility is considered as mutual intelligibility (e.g., **Gutt**,
 50 1980; **Tang et al.**, 2009). We use functional distance to refer to a linguistic distance which is measured using either
 51 the inherent intelligibility or acquired intelligibility tests or both. Second, both inherent intelligibility and acquired
 52 intelligibility are parts of the actual communication - which is the main function of the language. Hence functional
 53 distance (function-based distance) can best describe all distances measured from this perspective. More importantly, by
 54 using functional distance, we make a distinction between the mutual intelligibility which is measured based on the actual
 55 performance and perceived intelligibility, which is measured based on **the perception of non-linguists**. Based on these
 56 considerations, we classify the methods of measuring linguistic distance in general as structure-based, function-based
 57 and perception-based. The distances that are determined using these methods are therefore considered as structural,
 58 functional and perceptual distances respectively.

59 By examining these three distances, we contribute to one of the continuing debates in dialectology, which is
 60 to what extent these dimensions of distance correlate. In previous works, there have been doubts, for example, about the
 61 reliability of the non-linguists' consciousness in measuring linguistic distance (**Goeman**, 1999, p.141). The correlation
 62 between mutual intelligibility and degree of linguistic similarity has also been the concern of several recent studies
 63 (**Author2**, 2018; **Author2 & Other1**, 2018; **Author2 et al.**, 2010). The present study partly indulges into these concerns,
 64 and examines them in the context of Ethiosemitic languages. In addition to examining the relationship among different
 65 perspectives of measuring linguistic distance, we also aim to determine the distance and mutual intelligibility among
 66 selected south Ethiosemitic languages - Chaha, Inor, Ezha, Endegagn, Gura, Gumer, Mesqan, Muher, Kistane and
 67 Silt'e. These languages were selected based on two parameters: **the number of speakers and the language sub-family**
 68 **they belong to, according to previous classifications by historical linguists**. As we sought to include a high number of
 69 participants, language varieties with relatively high number of speakers were selected (based on Ethiopian National
 70 **Census Report, 2007**). We also strove to include at least one language from each of the five so-called Gurage varieties:
 71 Kistane (North Gurage), Muher and Mesqan (West Gurage), Silt'e (East Gurage), Endegagn and Inor (Peripheral West
 72 Gurage) and Gura, Gumer, Chaha and Ezha (Central West Gurage).

73 2 Ethiosemitic Languages

74 Ethiosemitic languages are Semitic varieties which are spoken in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Many scholars
75 classified these languages. The present study largely relies on the classification of [Hetzron \(1972\)](#) which is often
76 considered as the **most complete one**. Ethiosemitic languages are divided into North and South Ethiosemitic. North
77 Ethiosemitic consists of Tigre, Tigrigna and Ge'ez (see [Demeke, 2001](#) and [Hetzron, 1972](#)). The south Ethiosemitic
78 languages consists several languages (see Figure 1). Languages classified under 'Outer south' and 'Eastern' branch
79 are traditionally called Gurage languages. According to [Demeke \(2001\)](#), [Fleming \(1968\)](#) and [Faber \(1997\)](#), there is
80 no clear genealogical relationship **among Gurage varieties** which constitute a large number of the south Ethiosemitic
81 languages. For instance, Silt'e is closer to Harari than to the rest of the Gurage languages. Furthermore, Kistane is
82 closer to Gafat than to other Gurage languages. There is also a controversy about the position of Mesqan. [Hetzron](#)
83 [\(1972\)](#) classified it under West Gurage while other ~~scholars~~ such as [Demeke \(2001\)](#) classified it under North Gurage.
84 Moreover, Muher does not have a settled position in the classification of Ethiosemitic languages. While [Hetzron \(1972\)](#)
85 classified it under the tt-Group, [Demeke \(2001\)](#) placed it under Central West Gurage. Neither of the studies provided a
86 sufficient description for their classification.



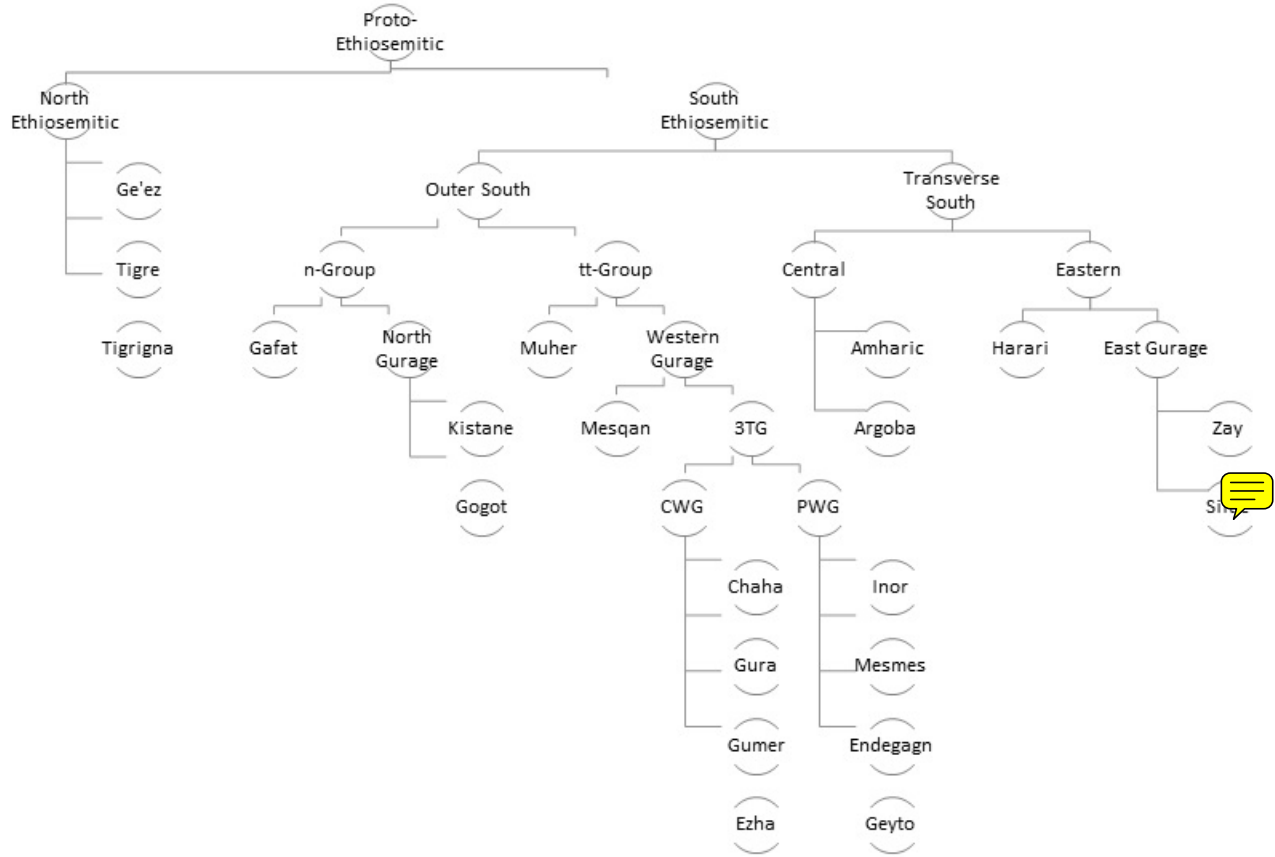


Figure 1: Classification of Ethiosemitic languages, Hetzron, 1972

87 Lack of detailed evidence, combined with other factors such as a long history of contact among Ethiosemitic
 88 and other neighboring Afro-asiatic languages, compelled previous studies to provide often sketchy conclusions regarding
 89 the origin and the classification of the languages (Goldenbekg, 1977, p.462). So far, there is no single clear proposal
 90 about the origin and the classification of Ethiosemitic languages (Demeke, 2001; Hetzron & Bender, 1976; Hudson,
 91 2000 and Goldenbekg, 1977). Previous studies on the phonetic and perceptual distance among the Ethiosemitic
 92 languages are completely absent. However, there are studies on lexical comparisons. For instance, Bender et al. (1972),
 93 examined 12 Ethiosemitic languages using a 98 word list from Swadesh (1955). Inor, Chaha, Mesqan and Kistane are
 94 among the languages included in this study. According to this study, none of these languages share more than 80%
 95 cognates. In the same manner, Hudson (2013) investigated the lexical similarity among 14 Ethiosemitic languages based
 96 on a 250 basic vocabulary list. Silt'e, Inor, Chaha, Muher, Mesqan and Kistane are among the languages investigated by

97 this study. The study reported more than 80% shared cognates between Inor and Mesqan, Inor and Muher, Inor and
 98 Chaha, Chaha and Muher, Muher and Mesqan, and Mesqan and Kistane. Likewise, [Menuta \(2013\)](#) examined the lexical
 99 similarity among six south Ethiosemitic languages: Kistane, Chaha, Inor, Mesqan, Muher and Wolane, using a list
 100 of 255 words. The study reported more than 80% cognates between Chaha and Inor, Chaha and Mesqan, Chaha and
 101 Muher, Mesqan and Chaha, and Mesqan and Muher.

102 The degree of mutual intelligibility among many of the languages also has not been investigated. To the
 103 best of our knowledge, there are three studies that so far investigated the mutual intelligibility among some of the
 104 south Ethiosemitic languages: [Gutt \(1980\)](#), [Ahland \(2003\)](#) and [Menuta \(2013\)](#). [Gutt \(1980\)](#) examined the mutual
 105 intelligibility among six south Ethiosemitic language varieties, Silt'e, Kistane, Chaha, Inor, Mesqan and Amharic,
 106 using an oral comprehension task. The results of the study indicate that, based on the 80% intelligibility threshold,
 107 only Silt'e and Mesqan are mutually intelligible. In the same manner, [Ahland \(2003\)](#) determined mutual intelligibility
 108 among eleven Gurage varieties using oral comprehension questions. According to this study, based on an 80% mutual
 109 intelligibility threshold, Chaha is intelligible to Ezha, Muher and Gumer; Ezha is intelligible to Gumer; Inor is
 110 intelligible to Endegagn; Gumer is intelligible to Ezha and Endegagn; Endegagn is intelligible to Inor; Mesqan is
 111 intelligible to Chaha, Ezha, and Muher.

112 [Menuta \(2013\)](#) also investigated mutual intelligibility among six Gurage varieties (Kistane, Mesqan, Inor,
 113 Chaha, Muher and [Wolane](#)). In this study, different tests were used to measure the mutual intelligibility: word
 114 recognition (words in different parts of sentences were recognized by the respondents), sentence repetition (the
 115 informants listened to various sentences and wrote down exactly what they have heard), sentence verification (the
 116 informants judged sentences that are habitually true by saying 'true' or 'false'), instruction (the respondents perform
 117 certain actions based on given instructions) and comprehension questions. Based on the 80% intelligibility threshold,
 118 this study reported mutual intelligibility between Chaha and Inor, Chaha and Mesqan, Inor and Mesqan, Mesqan and
 119 Kistane, Muher and Chaha, and Muher and Mesqan.

120 With regard to the geographical distribution of the languages, Ethiosemitic languages, in general, are spoken
 121 in the north, central, east and southwest of Ethiopia. The ten languages we investigated in the present study are spoken
 122 in the south west part of Ethiopia (see Figure 2), around 160 kilometer from Addis Ababa, the capital. This small area is
 123 sometimes called Gurage area. It is one of the [most linguistically diverse areas in Ethiopia](#). More than 12 Ethiosemitic
 124 varieties are spoken in this area. We adopted the term 'Gurage language area' and 'Gurage languages' from earlier

125 works (e.g., [Leslau, 1979](#)). However, it is important to mention here that, the so called Gurage languages do not refer to
 126 a single genetically attested unit ([Hetzron, 1972, p.119](#); [Meyer, 2011, p.1221](#)). Moreover, some of the speakers of these
 127 varieties do not consider themselves as Gurage ([Meyer, 2011, p.1223](#)). Silt'e is taught at elementary level in Silt'e zone.

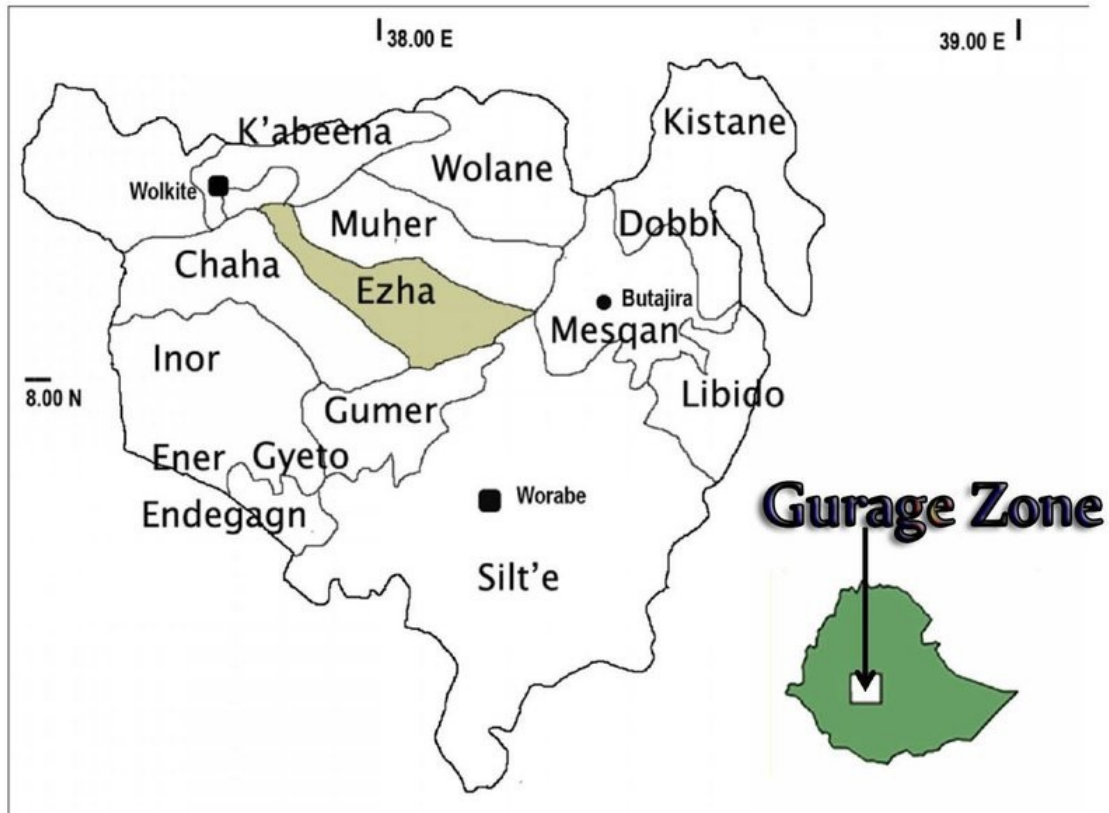


Figure 2: Gurage language area, Meyer, 2014

128 Given that there have been debates both about the methods of dialectology and about the classification of the
 129 Ethiosemitic languages, the present study aims to address two general objectives. The first one is methodological, i.e.,
 130 to what extent the methods of measuring linguistic distance are related. There are two specific objectives related to the
 131 methods: (a) determining to what extent the structural, functional and perceptual distances correlate; (b) examining the
 132 possibility of substitutability among the three dimensions of distance. By addressing these objectives, we illustrate the
 133 link among various methods of measuring linguistic distance. We expect strong correlations among the three dimensions
 134 of distance based on previous studies (e.g., [U. Other1 et al., 2008](#); [R. Other1 & Author2, 2007](#); [Author2 & Other, 2004](#);
 135 [Tang & van Heuven, 2007](#); [Tang et al., 2009](#)).

136 The second general objective is determining the linguistic distance among the selected south Ethiosemitic
 137 language varieties. We aim to address four specific objectives related to the Ethiosemitic language varieties: (a)
 138 determining the distance among the selected language varieties; (b) classifying the languages using the data obtained
 139 from the three dimensions of distance; (c) examining to what extent the taxonomies obtained from structural, functional
 140 and perceptual distance measures are similar to the classifications previously proposed by historical linguists, and (d)
 141 determining the mutual intelligibility among the language varieties. Based on [Hudson \(2013\)](#) and [Menuta \(2013\)](#),
 142 we expect very close lexical similarity between Chaha and Mesqan, Chaha and Inor, Mesqan and Muher, ~~Chaha and~~
 143 ~~Mesqan~~, and Mesqan and Kistane. Furthermore, we expect close similarity between taxonomies obtained from the
 144 three distance measures, and the classifications previously provided by historical linguists, based on [Tang et al. \(2009\)](#).
 145 Based on [Ahland \(2003\)](#) and [Menuta \(2013\)](#), we further expect mutual intelligibility between Chaha and Ezha, Chaha
 146 and Muher, Chaha and Gumer, Mesqan and Chaha, ~~Mesqan and Ezha~~, and ~~Mesqan and Chaha~~.

147 3 Methods

148 This section presents the methods employed to address the objectives presented in section 1. First, the
 149 description of the research participants and informants is presented. This will be followed by the methods and
 150 procedures used to measure the structural distance among the selected Ethiosemitic languages. Then, methods used to
 151 determine the functional and perceptual distance are explained. This is followed by a presentation of the methods of
 152 clustering and cluster validation techniques.

153 3.1 Research Assistants and Informants

154 In this study, the term ‘research assistants’ and ‘informants’ are used with a meaning difference. Research
 155 assistants are individuals, specifically school teachers, who participated in selecting test-takers, preparing materials
 156 such as translating texts and reading translated texts during the recordings. ‘Informants’ refer to individuals (students
 157 in this case) who completed the tests designed to measure the functional distance and the perceptual distances. The
 158 procedures used to select both the research assistants and the informants are presented as follow.

159 3.1.1 Research Assistants

160 Research assistants refer to **carefully selected secondary school teachers** (minimum bachelor degree holders).
 161 They were selected from ten schools in nine districts in the Gurage and Silt'e zones: eight districts in Gurage zone and
 162 one district in the Silt'e zone (Chaha and Gura are spoken in Chaha district). From each school, three teachers who
 163 speak the variety of that particular area as a native language were selected. In other words, a total of thirty teachers
 164 were recruited from the ten schools in the ten districts. The teachers were selected using two screening steps. For the
 165 initial screening, a call for preparation in form of printed leaflets was distributed in the schools. The leaflets informed
 166 about a few language requirements such as being the native speakers of the local variety and lifelong residence in
 167 the language area. There were many schools in some of the districts. Except for Mesqan and Gura, a school in the
 168 administrative town of each district was selected. Regarding Mesqan, the administrative town is Butajira. Since the
 169 residents of Butajira are largely Amharic speakers and Mesqan is not so frequently used, a school outside the Butajira
 170 town was selected. Gura is spoken in Chaha district. Regarding Gura, speakers from around Gura **Megnase** (suburb
 171 area of **Edebir**, a town in Chaha) were considered.

172 On the leaflet the contact information of the main researcher was included so that any interested teacher could
 173 easily get in touch with the researcher if s(he) fulfilled the requirements. The call for participation was posted on the
 174 notice boards of all the secondary schools in the districts of interest. Among the teachers who responded to the call
 175 for participation, three of them were selected from each languages area. This second screening was conducted using
 176 semi-structured interviews. The interviews focused on issues such as the teachers' home language situation, amount of
 177 exposure to the neighboring varieties, and language conditions in earlier workplaces (whether they regularly use mother
 178 language in the work places). Based on these parameters teachers who are the native speakers of the local variety and
 179 who use the language both in schools and at home were recruited. The interviews took place in the schools of the
 180 respective teachers. They received a **mild** payment (300 birr) for their services.

181 3.1.2 The Informants

182 The informants were selected by the research assistants. Thirty (30) students were recruited from each school,
 183 in total 300. The students in all the grade levels in the secondary schools (from grade 9 - 12) were considered to
 184 incorporate as many students as possible. Similar to the selection of the research assistants, the students were selected
 185 in a two-step screening processes. First, all students who are native speakers of the local variety were requested to

186 register on a registration form prepared for this purpose. The registration was made by the research assistants. Once the
 187 native speakers of a local variety were identified, they were administered to the second screening. Questionnaires were
 188 employed for the second screening (see Appendix A.1). The questionnaires contained items about the students' first and
 189 second language background, family language conditions, personal information and their contact with speakers of other
 190 neighboring language varieties. The questionnaires were prepared in Amharic since all secondary school students in the
 191 study areas were able to read and write Amharic. Indeed, Amharic is both the language of schooling and language of
 192 work places in the study areas, except in Silt'e zone where Silt'e is taught in elementary schools. The questionnaires
 193 were coded for each school and for each study area so that they could be easily identified during the analysis. All the
 194 items (questions) in the questionnaires were closed-ended to maximize the accuracy of the responses and to take into
 195 account the age and the education levels of the students. The questionnaires were administered by the researcher and
 196 the research assistants.

197 Then, based on the information obtained through the questionnaires, 300 participants (30 from each variety)
 198 who are the native speakers of the varieties of interest were selected. Besides, based on the data that were obtained from
 199 the questionnaire, it was assured that the participants had lived throughout their life in the area where their variety is
 200 spoken and that their parents are the native speakers of the variety under investigation. Whenever the eligible students
 201 that fulfill the requirement exceeded 30 for each variety, the equal proportion of sex (15 male and 15 females) was
 202 used as an additional parameter. Whenever there were too many eligible candidates, 15 male and 15 female students
 203 were randomly selected. Prior to the data gathering, permission was obtained from both Gurage and Silt'e Cultural and
 204 Tourism Bureaus, and from the administration of each school. Not all the selected participants attended the tests. As the
 205 word categorization and perception tests were administered at different time in some of the language sites, the number
 206 of participants who completed the word categorization test and the perception test was not exactly the same. In total,
 207 285 participants completed the word categorization test. Among these, 171 were males and the remaining 114 were
 208 females. Moreover, 289 participants took part on the perception test among which 171 were males and the remaining
 209 118 were females. The details of the participants of each site are presented in Appendix C.8.

210 **3.2 Determining the Structural Distance**

211 The structural distance was measured from two perspectives: lexical and phonetic. Words for the structural
 212 distance measure were randomly collected from different sources: from a list of words gathered for the word categoriza-
 213 tion test, from the 'North wind and the Sun' (all the words in the story were included) and other published materials.

214 Hence a total of 240 words were compared to determine the two distances (see appendix B.1). The fable, ‘the North
 215 Wind and the Sun’ contains simple words which are comprehensible to speakers with any educational background.
 216 It was translated from English to the ten varieties under investigation by the research assistants. A slightly modified
 217 Ethiopic writing system was used for the translation from English to the ten varieties. During the translation, whenever
 218 there was a disagreement among the three translators, the disagreement was resolved by the majority rule (2/3).

219 **3.2.1 The Lexical Distance**

220 The lexical distances among the ten selected language varieties were determined by computing the percentage
 221 of non-cognates of the total lexical items within pairs of varieties. Non-cognates are words that do share meaning,
 222 but have different forms. The corpus of the lexical-distance measurement is constituted by the words indicted in
 223 3.2. The shared cognates were determined based on two parameters: similarity of roots and meaning between the
 224 corresponding pairs of words. These parameters were employed in a two-step process of cognate identification. First,
 225 the researcher identified pairs of words that share a common root based on the form (phonological) similarity between
 226 the corresponding words. In almost all Semitic languages, sequence of consonants form the basic word meaning (root).
 227 Hence, root similarity was considered as a core parameter, e.g., Amharic bäre ‘ox’, Endegagn bawra ‘ox’, Chaha bora
 228 ‘ox’. Then, the meaning similarity among the pairs of words that share the same root was confirmed by the researcher,
 229 and the research assistants who are native speakers of the varieties. Once the cognate and non-cognate words in pairs of
 230 all varieties were identified, the percentage of non-cognate words was computed.

231 **3.2.2 Phonetic Distance**

232 The output of the lexical distance measurement was used as an input for the phonetic distance measurement,
 233 i.e., the phonetic distance was measured only between cognates which were phonetically transcribed (IPA). Cognates
 234 that are shared at least by six of the ten language varieties were considered for the phonetic distance. The cognates were
 235 aligned, and the distance among them was computed using Levenshtein algorithm, based on the number of phones
 236 which are inserted, deleted or substituted. The distance computation was made using the simplest cost assignment. The
 237 simplest cost assignment assigns equal cost (1 unit) to all the operations. Only the distance among the cognates was
 238 computed based on (Kessler, 1995, p.5) since the difference among non-cognates is not phonetic. The Levenshtein
 239 distance among the cognates was computed using Gabmap (see Others et al., 2011). The following are sample
 240 Levenshtein (phonetic) distances between Kistane and Chaha based on a shared cognate ‘cloud’. In this case, the

241 Levenshtein distance is 2; substitution of [m] by [b] and [n] by [r]. This operation costs two units. This distance value
 242 is divided by the longest alignment, 6 in this case, to obtain the normalized distance. The normalized distance between
 243 Kistane and Chaha in this particular example .33 (2/6).

Table 1: Phonetic Distance, using Levenshtein Algorithm

Kistane - Chaha ‘cloud’					
d	a		m	ə	n a
d	a		b	ə	r a
			1		1
Absolute				2	
Relative				0.33	

244 3.3 Functional and Perceptual Distances

245 This section presents tests designed to measure the functional distance and perceptual distances among the
 246 ten language varieties.

247 3.3.1 Functional Distance

248 The word categorization test was adopted from [Tang et al. \(2009\)](#). This test was selected since it could be
 249 administered with a minimal impact of the priming effect, the major factor that probably influenced previous studies by
 250 [Gutt \(1980\)](#), [Ahland \(2003\)](#) and [Menuta \(2013\)](#).

251 **Materials:** The material selection and preparation procedures were quite similar to that of [Tang et al. \(2009\)](#).
 252 The first step in the material preparation was determining ten semantic categories to be used for the test. The semantic
 253 categories are general concepts such as plants, fruits, animals, furniture, etc. (see Appendix B.2). One of the parameters
 254 was the frequency of use of the semantic categories among the speakers of all varieties. For instance, some categories
 255 such as musical instruments are extremely culture-specific; as a result, they might not be common among all the
 256 speakers. The second parameter was the possibility of a semantic category to incorporate as many words as possible.
 257 This parameter was important since each semantic category must contain at least ten words. First, the researcher
 258 selected the categories based on his intuition. The categories were later approved by the research assistants.

259 Similar parameters were used to determine words to be included under each semantic category. Besides,
 260 word frequency was computed since frequency could be one of the factors that determine the comprehension of the
 261 words. It was not possible to compute directly the frequency of the lexical items to be categorized under each semantic
 262 category. This was because neither of the Ethiosemitic varieties under investigation has its own structured corpus. Many
 263 of them also do not have online oral and written documents which could be used as inputs to create one's own corpus.
 264 The only language in the area with sufficient amount of easily available language data is Amharic. Hence an Amharic
 265 language corpus containing about 100,000 written words, was created using AntConc software (Anthony, 2004), and
 266 this corpus was used to estimate the frequency of each lexical item. All the sources of the data were written texts such
 267 as newspapers, magazines, academic articles and social media texts. In the corpus, texts of different genres (politics,
 268 economics, agriculture, culture, sport, science, etc.) were included to make the corpus as representative as possible.
 269 Using this corpus, words that have relatively high frequency were selected.

270 Using these procedures, ten semantic categories, each containing the ten most frequent words were identified
 271 (see Appendix B.2). After the identification of the words and the semantic categories, the words under each semantic
 272 category were translated from Amharic to the ten varieties by the research assistants. The translators were told to solve
 273 the disagreements by the majority vote (2/3) whenever there was a disagreement among them. After the translation,
 274 each translator pronounced the translated words, 100 words for each variety, for sound recording with Adobe Audition
 275 running on a personal laptop. Then, the three translators from each variety were asked to rate their three recordings of
 276 100 words on the Likert scale that ranges from 0 (not natural) to 5 (natural). Finally, among the three recordings, the
 277 one with the highest rating score was selected for the mutual intelligibility test.

278 **Procedure** : In the word intelligibility test, the participants' recognition capability was tested through semantic
 279 multiple choice categorization. In the test, the listeners indicated to which of the ten given semantic categories a spoken
 280 word belongs. For instance, the respondents heard 'banana' and we asked to categorize this word under one of the ten
 281 semantic categories ('fruits' in this case). The assumption here was that the correct categorization is achieved only if
 282 the listeners correctly recognize the target words. As there were ten semantic categories for each word, the probability
 283 of categorizing the words by chance is very small (10%). In the process of developing this test, the primary activity was
 284 creating audio input in such a way that the listeners do not hear the same word in the same variety more than once. In
 285 other words, the priming effect due to the repetition of similar input should be blocked. Similar to Tang et al. (2009), the
 286 Latin Square system was used for this purpose. Different data files (CDs) were created using the following procedures.

287 As indicated above, in the word intelligibility test, listeners must not hear the same word more than once.
288 A word which is heard twice or more has a possibility to be more easily recognized than a word which is heard only
289 once - the priming effect. In the present study, there were ten semantic categories, each semantic category consisted of
290 ten lexical items, total of 100 (10*10) words. Based on these words, different CDs were created. In the first CD, the
291 selected 100 list of words were presented in a fixed random order (1-100) in such a way that every following word is
292 spoken in different variety. This is a default order. On the second CD (CD2), the words were presented in the same
293 order except that the presentation begins with the variety in which no. 100 was spoken, then followed by varieties in
294 which no. 1 to no. 99 were spoken. Due to this shift, every word in CD2 was spoken in a different variety than in CD1.
295 The third CD begins with the variety in which no. 99 was spoken followed by the variety in which no. 100 was spoken,
296 then followed by varieties in which from no. 1 to no 98 were spoken. Through this rotation, total of ten CDs, each CD
297 containing 100 words in ten semantic categories were created.

298 One CD was administered for participants from each language area (see Figure 3). The 100 words on a CD
299 were divided into ten tracks and each track was presented to a group consisting of three participants (every track was
300 repeated three times) so that each member of the group classified the ten same words into ten semantic categories. Since
301 there were ten tracks on each CD, a total of 30 students listened to each of the CDs administered in each language area.
302 Because of these procedures: (1) each listener experienced each word only once. (2) A listener from every language
303 area heard each word in ten different varieties. (3) Every member of a group heard one tenth (1/10) of the total lexical
304 items. Figure 3 below shows the procedure of the task. [Tang et al. \(2009\)](#) used 7 seconds as response time. In the
305 present study, the time was increased to 10 seconds in order not to put the students under time pressure. Before the
306 actual testing, there was a practice session. For this session, a separate practice CD containing ten words and ten
307 semantic categories from additional material was prepared. Each participant practiced at least once before beginning
308 the actual task. More than one practice was allowed depending on the confidence and interest of a participant.

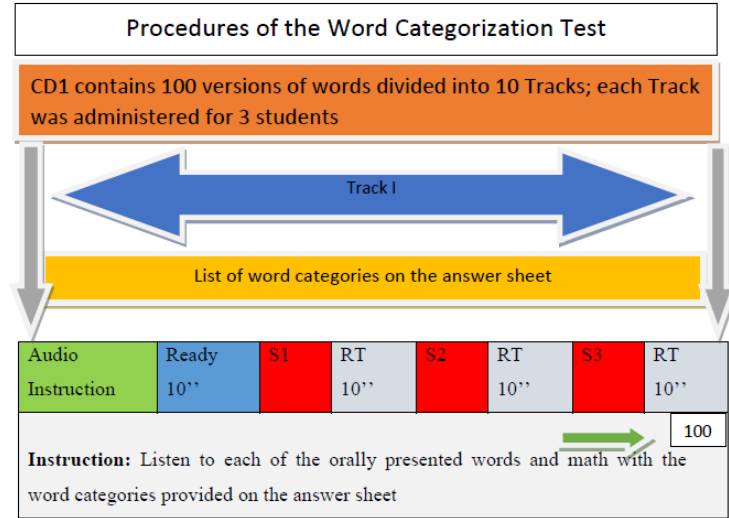


Figure 3: Procedures of Lexical Categorization test

309 For every track of the CDs, there was an answer sheet. Each answer sheet had its own CD and track numbers
 310 (e.g., CD 1, Track 2) so that each participant received an answer sheet with a different code number. Tang et al. (2009)
 311 provided the list of ten semantic categories on the response sheet. The same method was used in the present study.
 312 After listening to the orally presented words, the participants responded by choosing the appropriate match from lists of
 313 categories provided on the response sheet. The test was administered in quiet classrooms in the selected schools. Each
 314 participant was tested individually in a separate session. The test was administered by the researcher and one of the
 315 research assistants. The intelligibility measure was the percentage of words correctly matched with the given semantic
 316 categories.

317 **3.4 Perceptual Distance and Attitude Tests**

318 This section presents procedures which were employed to determine the perceptual distances and the attitudes
 319 of the speakers towards the test languages. The perceptual distance was measured from two perspectives: perceived
 320 similarity and perceived intelligibility. The presentation begins with the materials used for preparing the tests.

321 **3.4.1 The Materials**

322 As stated above, the fable 'The North Wind and the Sun' was used as input to determine the perceived
 323 intelligibility, the perceived similarity and the attitude of the speakers towards each other's variety. First the story was

324 translated from English to each of the local varieties (see section 3 for the procedure). After the written translation,
325 the translated version of each variety was orally presented by the three research assistants. The presentation of each
326 translator was recorded using Adobe Audition running on the personal laptop. Then, the three translators listened to
327 each recording and rated the readings on a Likert scale that ranges from 1(not natural) to 5 (natural). Eventually, among
328 the three readings, the one which received the highest rating score was selected for the test. The recording was made in
329 a silent room in each school. The recording process was administered by the researcher.

330 3.4.2 The Tests and Test Procedures

331 The selected students took part in the perceptual tests after they had taken part in the intelligibility test. The
332 three types of tests: perceived intelligibility, perceived similarity and the attitude of the speakers were combined and
333 administered at the same time using the same material. Each test was represented by one item (question) with its own
334 rating scales. This means that the combined test contains three questions: one for perceived similarity; another for
335 perceived intelligibility and the remaining one for language attitude. The three test items were presented simultaneously
336 to minimize the effect of the participants' familiarity to the test material, i.e. the test-takers answered the three questions
337 after listening to each version of the recordings.

338 In order to minimize a response bias that might occur due to fatigue and familiarity to the test, the test items
339 were arranged in three different orders; order A: (1) attitude test item, (2) perceived intelligibility test item, (3) perceived
340 similarity test item; order B: (1) perceived intelligibility test item, (2) perceived similarity test item, (3) attitude test
341 item; order C: (1) perceived similarity test item, (2) attitude test item, (3) perceived intelligibility test item. Due to these
342 arrangements, each test item appeared in three different orders. Before the test administration, the thirty (30) speakers
343 of each variety were randomly divided into three groups, each group containing about ten members. Then, the tests
344 were administered in such way that members of the same group received tests of the same order: the first group received
345 order A, the second group order B and the third group order C. Administering tests of the same order for members of
346 the same group was important to give the same instruction for all group members. The audio inputs were presented
347 using loudspeaker so that it would be possible for us to follow each response of the respondents.

348 During the test, the test takers listened to the recording of each variety and responded to the three successive
349 questions (see Appendix A.3). They responded by putting 'X' mark on the Likert scale provided to each question.
350 To measure the perceived intelligibility, the participants were asked to determine to what extent they understand the



351 speaker in the recordings. After listening to each of the recordings, the test takers indicated their judgment on the Likert
352 scales that range from 0 ('do not understand at all') to 10 ('completely understand'). In the same manner, for perceived
353 similarity, the respondents were asked to determine to what extent each of the presented recordings was similar to their
354 own variety and to put their judgment on 11 point scales that range from 0 ('not similar') to 10 ('completely similar').
355 With regard to the language attitude, the respondents were instructed to determine whether the language in which the
356 story was presented was beautiful or not, and to provide their responses on the Likert scales that range from 1 ('not
357 beautiful') to 10 ('beautiful'). The recordings of the ten language varieties were presented in different orders for the
358 speakers of each variety to manage the impact of fatigue (respondents could be less serious on the last presented story).
359 In other words, there were ten different orders of the recordings, one order for the speakers of each language variety.

360 After the presentation of each recording, there was 3 minutes response time, 1 minute for each test item.
361 For the sake of uniformity, the instruction was given in Amharic either by the researcher or by one of the research
362 assistants. If there was a misunderstanding, further explanation was provided in the participants' native language. The
363 recordings were presented using a personal laptop attached to a loudspeaker. After listening to each recording, the
364 listeners provided their responses by putting 'X' on the scale provided. For each recording, there was a separate answer
365 sheet. In other words, each test taker received ten pages of response sheet, one page for each recording. This procedure
366 was vital to make sure that the test takers precisely matched each recording with the respective test items.

367 **3.5 Clustering and Cluster Validation**

368 After data collection, Gabmap was employed for the clustering and cluster validation. Gabmap is web-based
369 software developed by linguists at the University of Groningen (see [Leinonen et al., 2016](#); [Others et al., 2011](#); [Snoek,](#)
370 [2014](#)). It provides several statistical alternatives (Ward's method, Complete link, Group average and Weighted average)
371 to group similar languages together. Based on ([Author2 & Other, 2004](#), p.196), weighted average method was employed
372 to classify the language varieties investigated in the present study. However, clustering is often tricky - a small variation
373 in the data matrix could result in quite different groupings. Gabmap provides three clustering validation techniques
374 - discrete clustering, fuzzy clustering and multidimensional scaling. In the present study, multidimensional scaling
375 was used to make sure that the clusters created were valid and consistent (see [Others et al., 2011](#)). The results of
376 fuzzy clustering is only presented in the appendix for interested readers (see Appendix C.6) Multidimensional scaling
377 takes a distance matrix as an input and groups values that are similar. Gabmap provides multidimensional scaling in a

378 two-dimensional space. The first dimension usually explains much of the variance in the distance matrix. The second
 379 dimension explains a large portion of the remaining small variances.

380 **4 Results**

381 Various distance matrices were obtained from the structural, functional and the perceptual distance measures.
 382 Appendix C can be referred to for the distance matrices. In section 4.1, we report results of the classifications of the
 383 language varieties based on the structural, functional and perceptual distances. As indicated in section 3, the structural
 384 distance was measured using the phonetic and lexical differences. The functional distance was determined based on
 385 the respondents' scores on Word Categorization test responses, the perceptual distance was estimated based on the
 386 respondents' response to self-rating rating perception test. The average of the upper and the lower halves of of the
 387 distance matrix was considered as distances between languages in both the functional and perceptual measures. Section
 388 4.2 presents the results of the relationship among the three dimensions of distance. Section 4.3 presents the results of
 389 the word categorization test.

390 **4.1 Classifications of the South Ethiosemitic Languages**

391 In this section we present the classifications of the South Ethiosemitic languages based on the measures of
 392 the three dimensions of distance. The classification results are supplemented by the results of multidimensional scaling.

393 **4.1.1 Classification of the Languages Based on the Structural Distance**

394 Figure 4(a) shows the multidimensional scaling plot of the phonetic distance in two-dimensional space. The
 395 first dimension is indicated by a solid arrow, and the second dimension by a dashed arrow. In Figure 4a, the first
 396 dimension shows that Chaha, Gura, Gumer and Ezha have low phonetic distance values while Silt'e has the highest
 397 distance Value. The values of other languages are between these two extremes. This dimension explains 52% ($r = .72$)
 398 of the variance in the distance matrix. The second dimension (dashed arrow) indicates that Endegagn has the lowest
 399 distance value while Mesqan and Muher have the highest value. The phonetic distance of other varieties is between
 400 these two extremes. This dimension also explains 38% of the variance ($r = .62$). The two dimensions combined explain
 401 90% of the variance in the distance matrix. Based on the phonetic distance, the multidimensional scaling plot indicates
 402 six groups of language varieties: {Chaha, Gura, Gumer, Ezha}, {Muher, Mesqan}, {Endegagn}, {Inor}, {Silt'e} and

403 {Kistane}. As can be seen from the Figure, Silt'e and Kistane are separate languages. Inor and Endegagn are also
 404 phonetically somehow different.

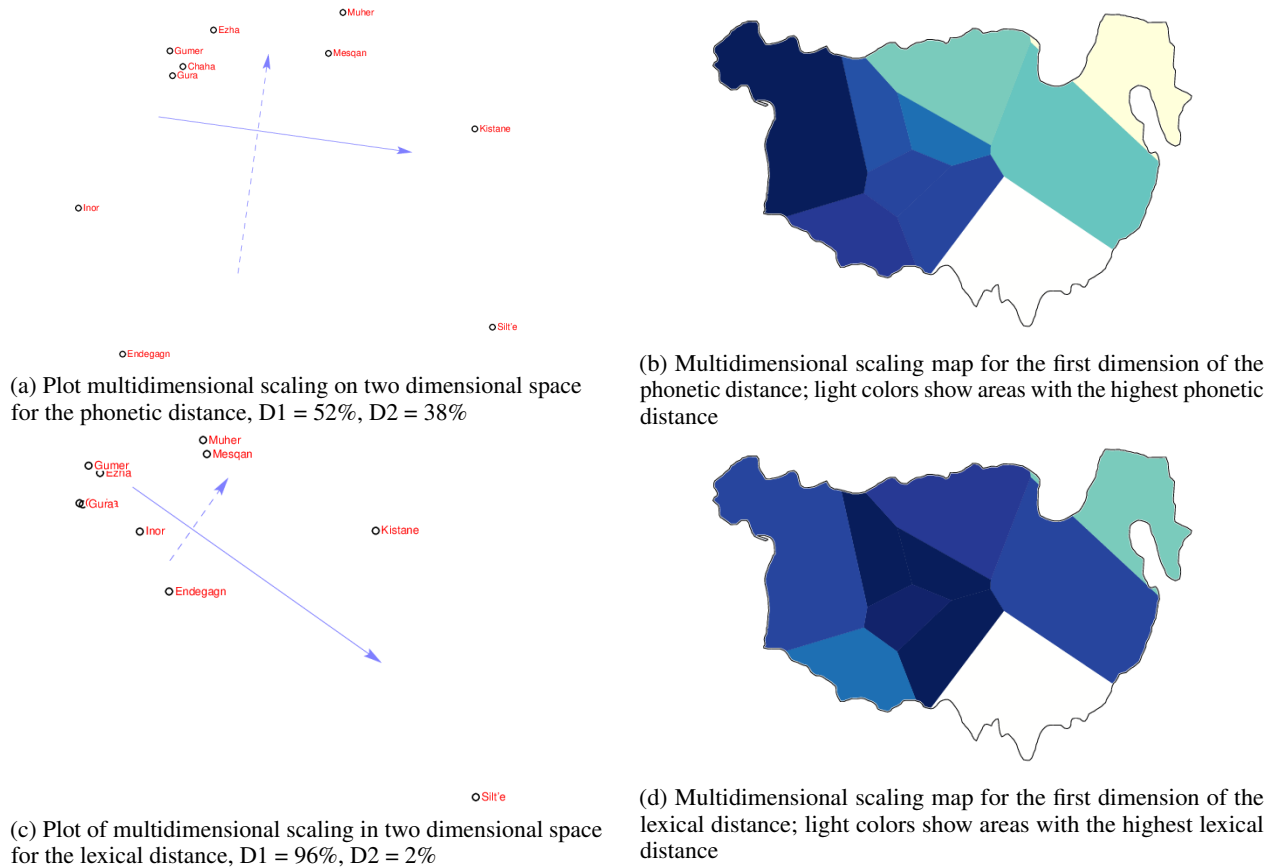


Figure 4: Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on the structural distance

405 The multidimensional scaling plot based on the lexical distance is illustrated by Figure 4(c). The first
 406 dimension (solid line) explains the majority of the variance, 96% ($r = .98$). As the Figure illustrates, Gura, Gumer,
 407 Chaha, Ezha have the lowest distance values, and Silt'e has the highest distance value. The values of the other varieties
 408 are somewhere between these two extremes. The second dimension (dashed line) shows that Inor has the lowest distance
 409 values while Muher and Mesqan have the highest distance values. The dimension explains 2% ($r = .15$) of the variance
 410 in the data matrix. The two dimensions combined explain 98% of the variances. The multidimensional scaling plot of
 411 the lexical distance shows five possible groupings of the language varieties: {Gumer, Gura, Ezha, Chaha} form a group.
 412 {Inor and Endegagn} also form a group. In the same manner, {Muher and Mesqan} form a group. However, {Kistane}
 413 and {Silt'e} are separate languages.

414 The dendrograms obtained from the distances are presented by Figure 5(a) and 5(c). The two dendrograms
 415 illustrate the classification of the language varieties based on the phonetic and lexical distances respectively. Figure 5(b)
 416 and 5(d) illustrate the dialect maps of the language varieties based on the phonetic and the lexical distance respectively.
 417 As can be seen from Figure 5(a), {Gura, Gumer, Ezha, Chaha} form a group. {Muher and Mesqan} are closely related.
 418 However, {Kistane} and {Silt'e} are separate languages. Likewise, {Endegagn} and {Inor} are separate languages.
 419 Figure 5(b) also shows the geographical distribution of the six dialect areas. In general, the phonetic distance measure
 420 shows that the South Ethiosemitic languages are classified into six dialect areas.

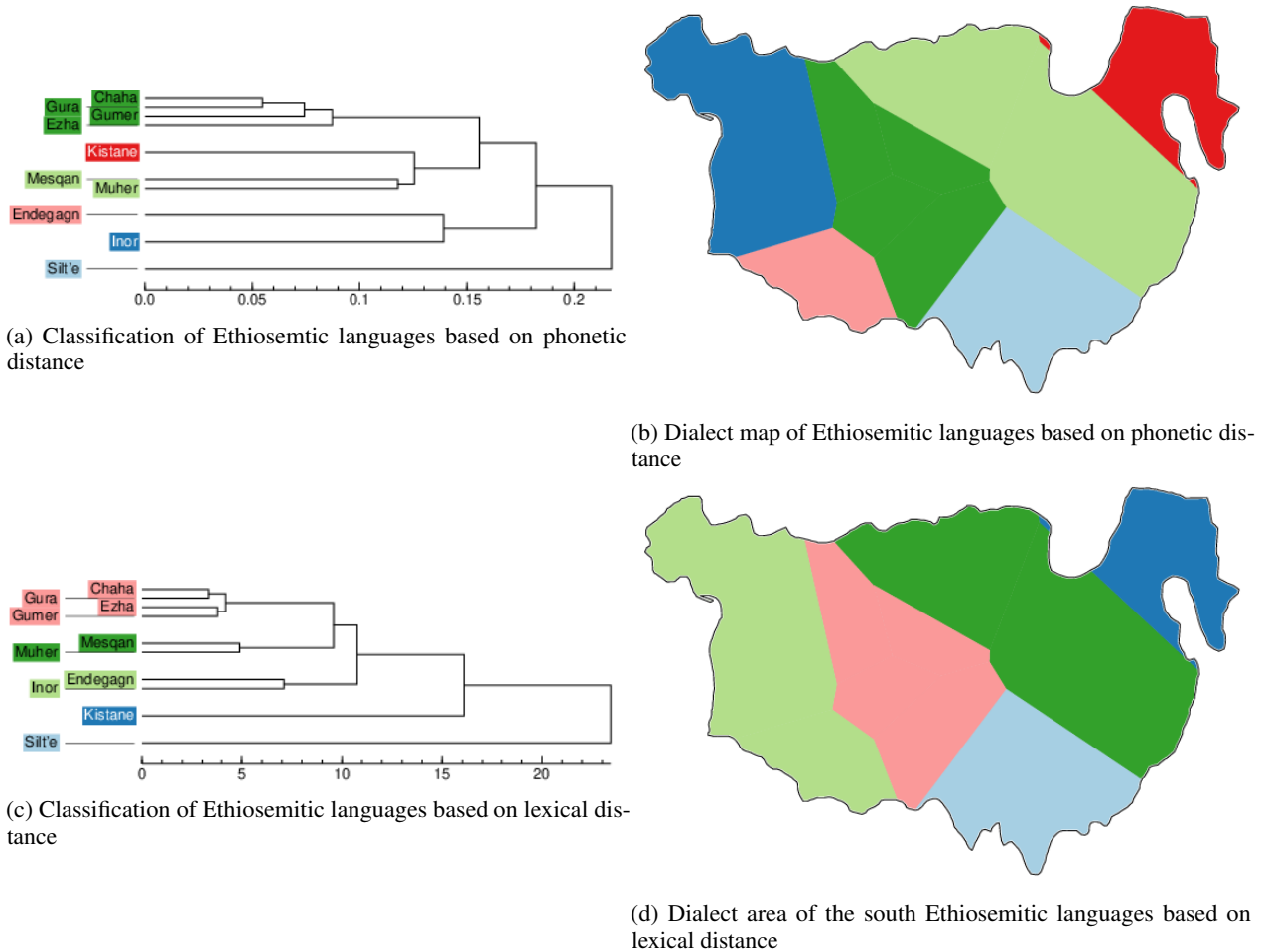


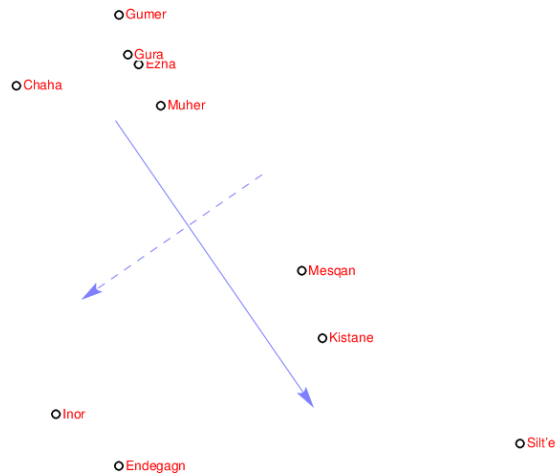
Figure 5: Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on structural distances

421 Figure 5(c) presents the dendrogram of the language varieties based on the lexical distance. As can be seen
 422 from the figure, from lexical point of view, {Gura, Gumer, Chaha and Ezha} form a group. {Endegagn and Inor} also
 423 form a group. {Mesqan and Muher} form another group. {Kistane} and {Silt'e} are separate languages. Figure 5(d)
 424 presents the dialect map of the language varieties, based on the lexical distance. Unlike the phonetic distance, there are

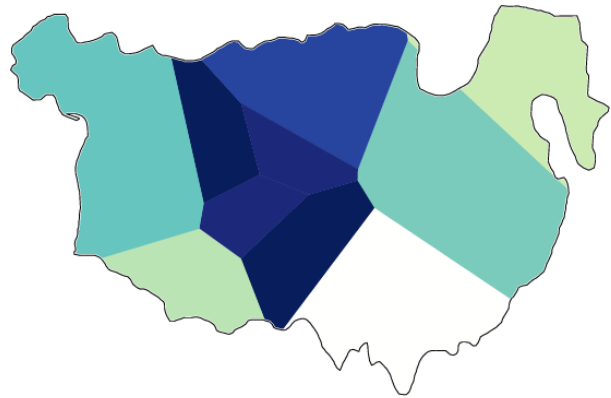
425 five distinct groups of languages. Clearly, the phonetic and lexical classifications are different. For example, Endegagn
 426 and Inor form a group in the lexical classification, but not in the phonetic classification. Kistane and Silt'e are different
 427 in both classifications.

428 4.1.2 Classifications Based on the Functional Distance

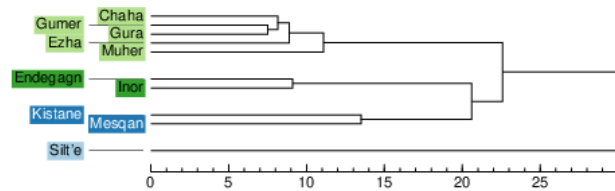
429 The functional distance results were obtained from the Word Categorization test. Since the Word Categoriza-
 430 tion test measures the similarity, not difference, among the language varieties, the average of the participants' scores
 431 on the test was subtracted from 100 to obtain the functional distance. Figure 6(a) presents a plot of multidimensional
 432 scaling of the functional distance in two-dimensional spaces. The first dimension (solid arrow) shows that Silt'e has
 433 the highest functional distance value whereas Gumer, Chaha, Ezha and Gura have the lowest values. Muher and
 434 Mesqan have medium values. This dimension explains 79% ($r = .89$) of the variance in the distance matrix. The second
 435 dimension shows that Inor and Endegagn have the highest distance values, while Muher and Mesqan have the lowest
 436 values. This dimension explains 14% ($r = .37$) of the variance in the distance matrix. The two dimensions together
 437 explain 93% of the variance in the functional distance matrix. The pattern in the multidimensional scaling plot shows
 438 that the language varieties are roughly grouped into five clusters - {Gumer, Chaha, Ezha and Gura} form one group,
 439 {Muher, and Mesqan} another group, and {Inor and Endegagn} also form another group. {Silt'e} and {Kistane} are
 440 separate languages. Figure 6(b) and 6(c) present the dendrograms of the language varieties based on the functional
 441 distance, and the corresponding dialect map. As can be seen from Figure 6(c), {Gumer, Gura, Chaha and Ezha} form a
 442 group. {Muher and Mesqan} another group. Moreover, {Endegagn, Inor} are closely related. {Silt'e} and {Kistane}
 443 are separate languages. Figure 6(d) also shows five language areas, with Silt'e and Kistane forming their own distinct
 444 dialect area.



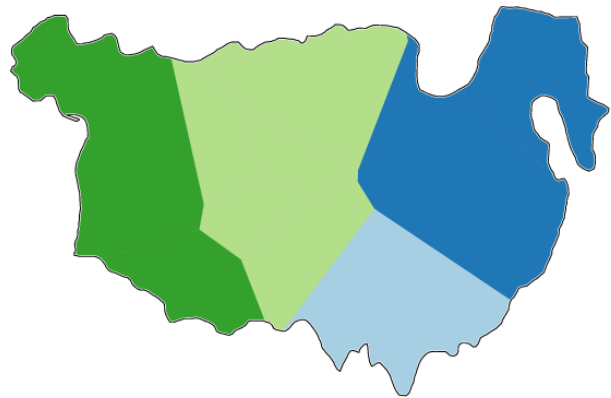
(a) Plot of multidimensional scaling for the functional distance, D1 = 79%, D2 = 14%



(b) Multidimensional scaling map for the functional distance



(c) Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on functional distance

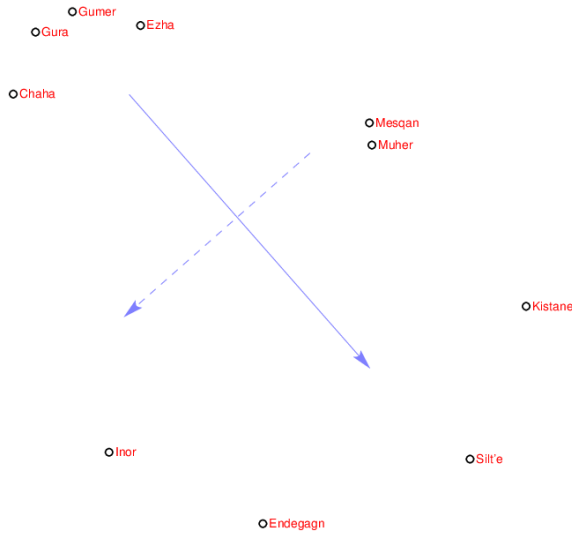


(d) Dialect map of Ethiosemitic languages based on functional distance

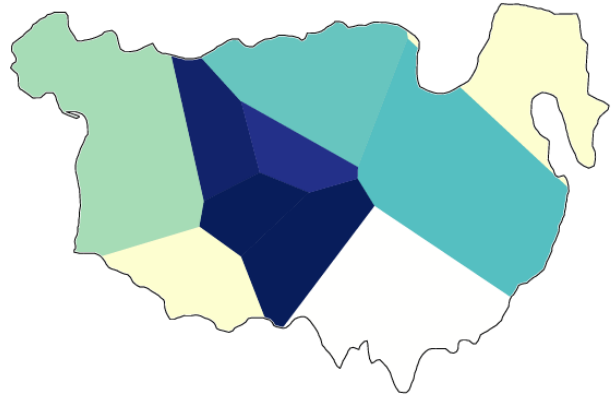
Figure 6: Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on functional distances

445 **4.1.3 Classifications Based on the Perceptual Distance**

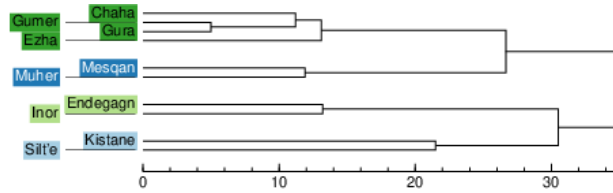
446 In section 3, it was indicated that two perceptual distance measures, perceived similarity and perceived
 447 intelligibility, were employed to determine the perceptual distance among the language varieties. The percentage of
 448 the mean of the two measures was computed and subtracted from 100 to quantify the perceptual distance among the
 449 varieties. It is important to remember that the perceptual test measures the similarity among the language varieties, not
 450 the difference, and this is why the subtraction was needed. The cluster analysis was performed on the average of the
 451 upper and the lower halves of the perceptual distance matrix.



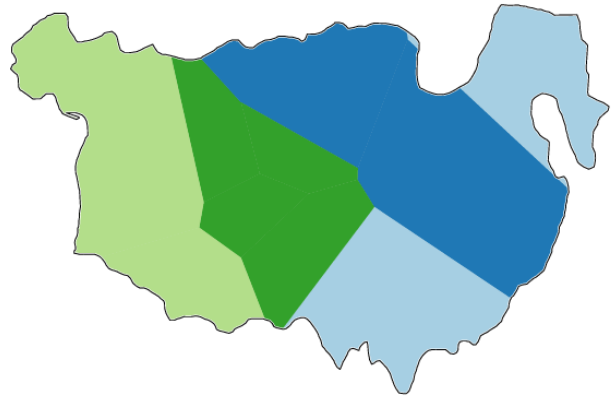
(a) plot of multidimensional scaling for the perceptual distance, D1 = 76%, D2 = 7%



(b) Plot of the first dimension of multidimensional scaling in two dimensional space, for the perceptual distance



(c) Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on perceptual distance



(d) Dialect map of Ethiosemitic languages based on perceptual distance

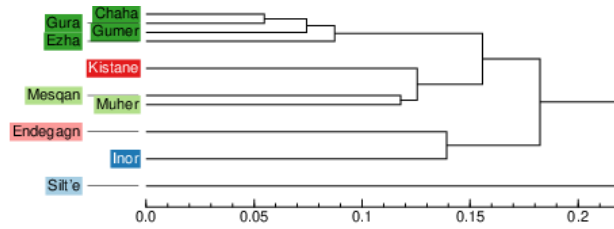
Figure 7: Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on perceptual distances

452 Figure 7(a) shows the multidimensional scaling plot of the perceptual distance. As the Figure illustrates, in
 453 the first dimension, Ezha, Gumer, Gura and Chaha have the lowest distance values while Kistane and Silt'e have the
 454 highest values. This dimension explains 76% ($r = .87$) of the variance in the distance matrix. The second dimension
 455 (dashed arrow) shows that Inor has the highest perceptual distance value while Mesqan and Muher have the lowest
 456 distance values. This dimension explains 7% ($r = .27$) of the variance. The remaining values are between these two
 457 extremes. Both dimensions combined explain 83% of the variance in the distance matrix. The multidimensional scaling
 458 results clearly show that there are four groups of language varieties: {Chaha, Gura, Gumer and Ezha}, {Mesqan and
 459 Muher}, {Endegagn and Inor} and {Kistane and Silt'e}. From a perceptual point of view, Kistane is closely related to
 460 Silt'e. Figure 7(b) show the map of the first dimension of the multidimensional scaling. The light color shows an area

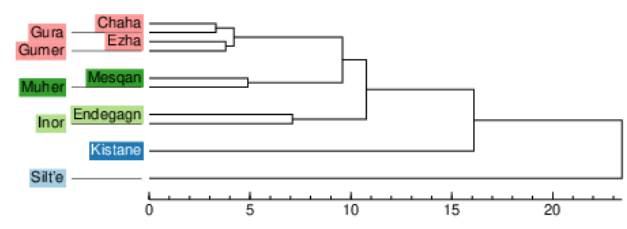
461 that has the highest linguistic distance, Silt'e Figure 7(c) and 7(d) show the classification of the languages based on
462 the perceptual distance, and the dialect map of the ten language varieties respectively. Figure 7(c) shows that {Chaha,
463 Gumer, Gura and Ezha} form a group. {Inor and Endegagn} form a group. There is also a strong affinity between
464 {Muher and Mesqan}. In a different manner from the classifications based on structural and functional distances,
465 Kistane and Silt'e form a group in the classification based on perceptual distance. Figure 7(d) Shows the dialect map of
466 the south Ethiosemitic languages based on the perceptual measure.

467 **4.1.4 The Combined Classification of Ethiosemitic Languages**

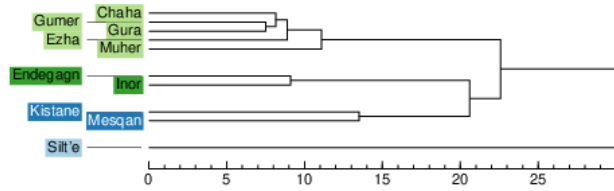
468 As presented in the preceding sections, the classifications that were obtained from the structural, functional
469 and perceptual distance measures are not identical. The classification based on the phonetic distances shows six
470 groups of languages while the classification based on the lexical distance indicates five group of the south Ethiosemitic
471 languages. Hence, this section, aims to combine these classifications and provide a comprehensive classification of
472 the languages. Then the results of the comparison between the combined classification and the classifications by the
473 historical linguists will be presented. Figure 8 (a-d) summarizes the classifications presented in section 4.1-4.4. Figure
474 8 (e) presents the combined classification which was derived from the comparisons of all other classifications. The
475 Sigma symbol in the combined classification represents unspecified mother language.



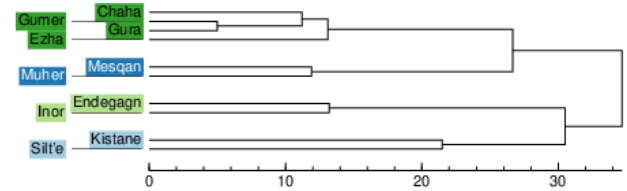
(a) Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on phonetic distance



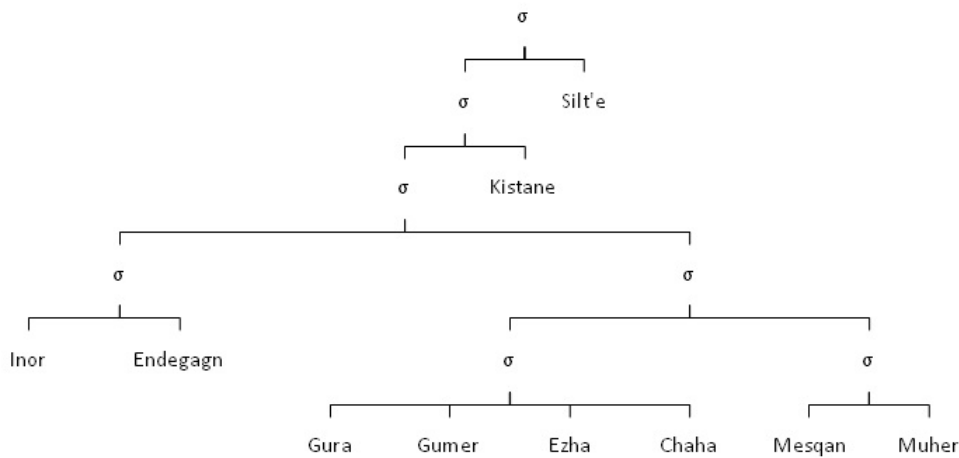
(b) Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on lexical distance



(c) Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on functional distance



(d) Classification of Ethiosemitic languages based on perceptual distance



(e) combined classification of Ethiosemitic languages

Figure 8: Comparisons of the classifications of Ethiosemitic languages

476 Given that the linguistic distance was measured from three perspectives (structural, functional and perceptual),
 477 the distance matrices were ranked based on their reliability, and the most reliable distance measures were prioritized in
 478 the process of combining the classifications presented above. Gabmap provides two measures of reliability of distance
 479 matrices: Local Incoherence and Cronbach's alpha. Local Incoherence is a numerical score of local stress that is
 480 assigned to set of differences between items (measure of linguistic distances in the present study). The optimal score is

481 zero while the non-optimal scores can be any positive value. Comparing the value of Local Incoherence for different
 482 measurements over the same data gives an idea about which result is more reliable (Others et al., 2011). Lower value
 483 of Local Incoherence means that the results are better. The idea behind the Local Incoherence is that on average, the
 484 locations that are close should be less different than localization that are further apart.

485 Cronbach's alpha is a coefficient of reliability. It is usually used to measure the internal consistency or
 486 reliability of the psychometric test scores. In Gabmap, it is used as the coefficient of reliability of the measurement
 487 of differences over the data. High ($> .70$) Cronbach's alpha means that there is high level of consistency among the
 488 measure of distances. Table 2 shows the results of local incoherence and Cronbach's alpha for each of the distance
 489 matrices: phonetic, lexical, functional and perceptual.

Table 2: Consistency within the distance matrices

		Local Incoherence	^a Cronbach's Alpha
490	Structural		
	Phonetic	.22	.97
	Lexical	.23	.87
	Functional	.29	.63
	Perceptual	.32	.61

^aThe high Cronbach's alpha of the phonetic distance could be due to the high sample size. Nonetheless, the higher degree of Cronbach's alpha of the remaining two measures (lexical and functional) clearly shows that perceptual distance has extremely low reliability. It is also important to remember that the reliability measures for the functional and perceptual distances is based on the mean of the upper and the lower halves of the respective distance matrix.

491 Table 2 shows that the phonetic distance has the highest Cronbach's alpha value, and the lowest value of
 492 Local Incoherence. This means that it is the most reliable measure compared to all other distance measures. Lexical
 493 distance has lower Local Incoherence and higher Cronbach's alpha compared to the functional and perceptual distance
 494 measures. Compared to the perceptual distance, the functional distance has a high Cronbach's alpha and low value of
 495 the Local Incoherence. Perceptual distance has the lowest Cronbach's Alpha and the highest Local Incoherence which
 496 means that it has very low reliability. In general, Table 2 shows that the structural distance (both phonetic and lexical
 497 measures) are the most reliable distance measures. Functional distance is more reliable than the perceptual distance.
 498 Perceptual distance is the least reliable distance measure.

499 Given these reliability differences, the structural distance was employed as a primary parameter in the process
 500 of determining the combined classification, i.e., if a set of the language varieties form a group in both phonetic and

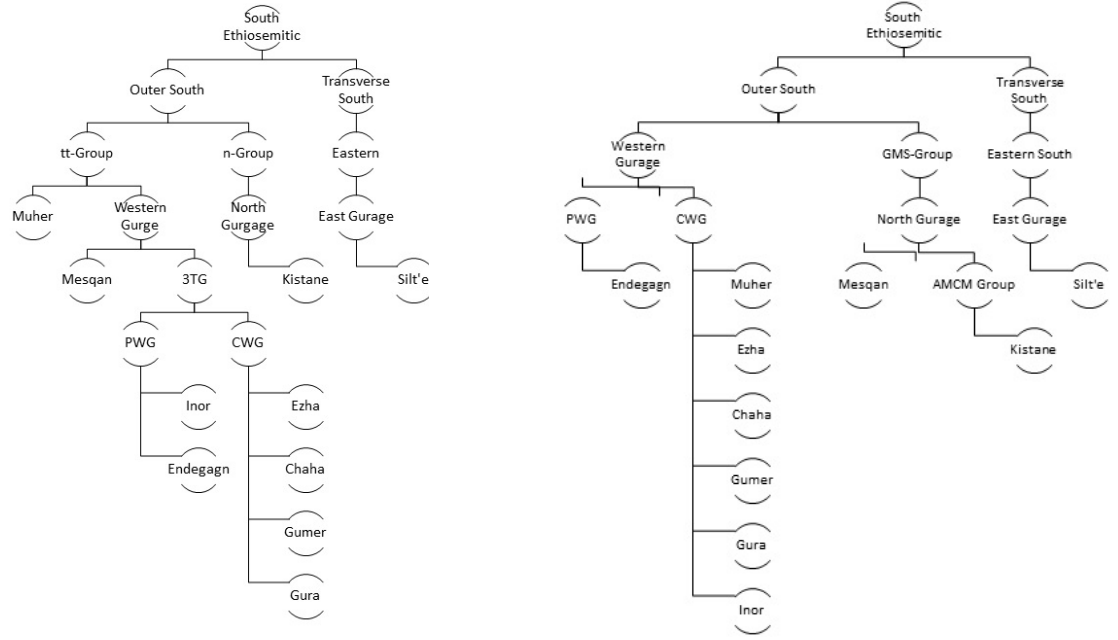
501 lexical classifications that set of languages was automatically considered for the combined classification. However,
 502 when languages belong to different groups in the phonetic and in the lexical classification, the functional distance
 503 was considered as a second parameter to determine which group is the most plausible one. Perceptual distance was
 504 considered as a third parameter when a set of language varieties form different groups in the classifications based on
 505 both the structural and functional distances.

506 In Figure 6.5 (a-d), {Chaha, Gura, Ezha and Gumer} form a group not only in the classification based on the
 507 phonetic distance, but also in the classification based on the lexical distance. Therefore, this group was automatically
 508 included in the combined classification without even considering their classification based on the functional and
 509 perceptual measures. {Inor} and {Endegagn} are separate languages in the classification based on the phonetic distance,
 510 but they are very similar in the classification based on the lexical distance. Therefore, the functional distance was
 511 used as a second parameter. Based on these requirements, Inor and Endegagn were grouped together in the combined
 512 classification. {Mesqan and Muher} form a group in the classifications based on both phonetic and lexical measures.
 513 Hence, they automatically qualified for the combined classification. {Silt'e} and {Kistane} are separate languages in the
 514 classification based on the phonetic and lexical parameters. They are also separate languages in the classification based
 515 on the functional distance. Therefore, they were considered as independent languages in the combined classification
 516 though they form a group in the classification based on the perceptual distance. This was due to the fact that the
 517 perceptual distance has very low reliability. Based on these requirements, the selected ten South Ethiosemitic language
 518 varieties were classified into five groups - the first group consists of {Chaha, Gura, Gumer, Ezha}; the second group
 519 contains {Inor, Endegagn}, the third group comprises of {Mesqan, Muher}; the fourth group includes only {Kistane},
 520 the fifth group consists of {Silt'e}.

521 As can be seen from 6.5 (a-c), the grouping of the four Central West Gurage languages - Chaha, Gura, Gumer
 522 and Ezha is consistent across all the classification parameters. Therefore, the four Central West Gurage languages
 523 were used as a point of reference to determine the relative positions of other groups of languages in the combined
 524 classification. {Muher, Mesqan} are close to {Chaha, Gura, Gumer and Ezha} than {Kistane} in the classification
 525 based on lexical distances. This is not the case in the classification based on the phonetic distance since {Kistane}
 526 is rather close to {Chaha, Gura, Gumer and Ezha}. In this case, the functional distance cannot be used as a second
 527 parameter since Muher and Mesqan do not form a group in the classification based on the functional distance. Hence, the
 528 perceptual distance was used as a third parameter to move {Muher and Mesqan} close to the four Central West Gurage
 529 languages. {Inor, Endegagn} are close to the Central West Gurage languages than {Kistane} in lexical, functional and

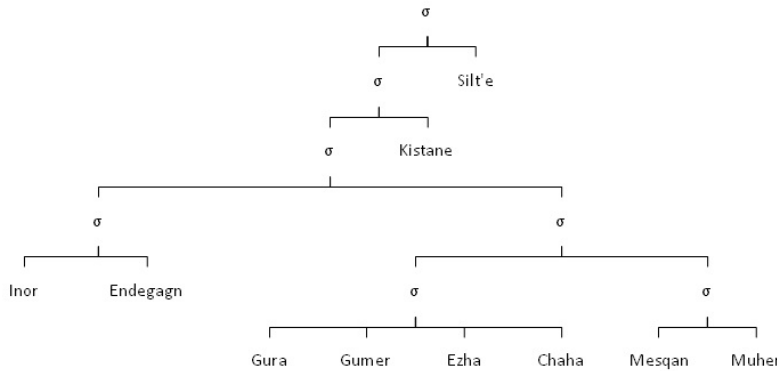
530 perceptual classifications; therefore, they maintained their position in the combined classification. Moreover, compared
531 to Silt'e, {Kistane} is closer to the Central West Gurage languages based on phonetic, lexical, functional and perceptual
532 parameters. Silt'e is the one that is the most remote from the Central West Gurgae languages based on three (lexical,
533 functional and perceptual) of the four classification parameters. The ultimate result of this process is the combined
534 classification presented in Figure 6.5 (e).

535 The remaining point now is determining to what extent the combined classification corresponds to the
536 classifications previously proposed by historical linguists. Figure 9 (a) - 9 (c) shows that the combined classification
537 seems similar with the classification by [Hetzron \(1972\)](#). For example, in both classifications, Chaha, Gura, Gumer
538 and Ezha form a group. Inor and Endegagn also form a group in both classifications. However, unlike the combined
539 classification, Muher and Mesqan do not form a group in the classification by [Hetzron \(1972\)](#). Moreover, unlike the
540 classification by [Demeke \(2001\)](#), Muher and Inor do not form a group with the Central West Gurage languages which
541 are {Chaha, Gura, Gumer and Ezha} in the combined classification.



(a) Classifications of the South Ethiosemitic language according to [Hetzron \(1972\)](#)

(b) Classifications of the South Ethiosemitic languages according to [Demeke \(2001\)](#)



(c) The combined classifications of the South Ethiosemitic language varieties

Figure 9: Comparisons between the combined classification and the classifications by historical linguists

542 Mere impressionistic comparisons of the dendrograms, may not precisely depict to what extent these
 543 classifications are similar. As a result, the **cophonetic** distance between each node in the classifications was compared to
 544 provide statistically sound evidences about the degree of similarity among the classifications. The cophonetic distance
 545 between any two terminal nodes in a tree is defined as the number of nodes one has to go up from language A to the

546 lowest common node shared between the member of the pairs and then down to language B (Author2 & Other1, 2018).
 547 For example, in Figure 9 (c), the cophenetic distance between Muher and Mesqan is two: (1) from Muher one node
 548 up to the the mother node, (2) from the mother node down to Mesqan. Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to
 549 illustrate the relationship between the cophenetic distance of combined classifications presented in 9 (e) and that of the
 550 classifications by the historical linguists.

551 For the sake of simplicity and space, only the ten language varieties under investigation are included in Figure
 552 9 among several Ethiosemitic languages previously classified by the historical linguists. Since the distance between
 553 the nodes in a family tree is symmetrical (the distance between node A and node B is equal to the distance between
 554 node B and node A), the number of pairs of cophenetic distance measures is always $N*(N-1)/2$. This means that in
 555 the present study, there are 10 language varieties. Therefore, the possible symmetric pairs of languages to which the
 556 cophenetic distance has to be computed is $10*(10-1)/2$, which is 45. The cophenetic distance between each pair of the
 557 south Ethiosemitic languages is presented in Appendix C.5. For the sake of space, only the correlation coefficients
 558 between the cophenetic distance of the combined classification and that of the classifications by Demeke (2001) and
 559 Hetzron (1972) are presented here. The analyses of the relationship using Pearson's correlation show that the cophenetic
 560 distance of the combined classification correlates more strongly to the cophenetic distance of the classification by
 561 Hetzron (1972), $r = .761$ as compared to correlation between the cophenetic distance of the combined classification and
 562 that of the classification by Demeke (2001), $r = .553$. The two correlation coefficients are statistically significantly
 563 different, Hotelling's t-test, $t = 6.845$, $p = .001$.

564 4.2 Relations among the Three Dimensions of Distance

565 As indicated in 1.1, examining the relationship among the three dimensions of linguistic distance is one of the
 566 aims of the present study. Hence, in this section, correlations among the three dimensions of linguistic distances reported
 567 in the preceding sections are presented. Table 3 illustrates the correlation coefficients of the two structural distances,
 568 the functional distance and the perceptual distance. As can be seen from the table, there is a very strong correlation
 569 between the two structural distances - phonetic distance and lexical distance. Furthermore, the correlation between
 570 the two structural distances and the perceptual distance is very strong. Compared to other correlation coefficients, the
 571 correlation between the functional distance and the perceptual distance is small (though not statistically significant).
 572 This suggests that the participants' similarity judgment and their actual score on the intelligibility test may not be
 573 exactly the same. In general, there are strong correlations among almost all the distance measures compared in Table 3.

574 As a result, in Table 4, these correlation coefficients are compared to each other to determine if there is statistically
 575 significant differences among them.

Table 3: Correlation coefficients of the three dimensions of distance

		Structural	Functional ^a	Perceptual
		Phonetic	Lexical	
576	Structural	Phonetic	.874	.804
		Lexical		.853
			.849	.777
	Functional			.747

^aThe functional and perceptual distance values are obtained by subtracting the values of mutual intelligibility and the perceptual similarity from 100 respectively ($d = 100 - s$). The upper and lower halves of the matrix were averaged for both functional and perceptual distances. The participants' functional and perceptual test scores on their own native languages were excluded.

577 Fisher's r to z transformation was employed to compare the correlation coefficients among the three distance
 578 measures: structural, functional and perceptual. Table 4 illustrates that there are no statistically significant differences
 579 among the correlation coefficients of all the distance measures.

Table 4: Comparison of the Correlation Coefficients

Compared Coefficients ^a	Transformation		
	z-values	p.value	Test
$r_{PcpD} r_{PD}$ vs. $r_{PcpD} r_{LD}$	1.051	.293	Fisher's z-transformation
$r_{FD} r_{PD}$ vs. $r_{FD} r_{LD}$	-.654	.513	Fisher's z-transformation

^aPcpD = perceptual Distance, LD = Lexical Distance, FD = Functional Distance, PD = Phonetic Distance

581 4.3 Intelligibility among the South Ethiosemitic Languages

582 As indicated in section one, both the functional distance and the degree of mutual intelligibility to be discussed
 583 in this section refer to the respondents' scores on the Word Categorization test. In other words, the respondents' score
 584 on the Word Categorization test was used as a tool to determine the degree of functional distance among the ten
 585 South Ethiosemitic language varieties as well to determine the degree of mutual intelligibility among the language
 586 varieties. In this section, the respondents' scores on the word categorization test are presented. In section one, the
 587 mutual intelligibility was defined as the degree of communication or understanding between the speakers of related

588 languages, in principle, without having a direct exposure to either of the languages. The assumption in the present study
 589 was that the correct categorization of the words into their semantic categories measures the degree of understanding (at
 590 least at lexical level) of the speakers of the language varieties.

591 To determine the degree of mutual intelligibility among the language varieties, 75% mutual intelligibility
 592 threshold was set based on the suggestion of Grimes (1995) and partly based on the conservative nature of the test
 593 administered . Hence, 75% and more score in the word categorization test was considered the confirmation of mutual
 594 intelligibility between the test language and the language of the test-takers. 71-74% score was considered as partial
 595 intelligibility. Anything less than 71% was considered absence of mutual intelligibility. Table 5 show the mutual
 596 intelligibility scores of the participants on the Word Categorization test.

Table 5: Mean of the participants' score on the Word Categorization test

Language ^a	CH	EN	EZ	GM	GU	IN	KS	MS	MU	SI
Chaha	81 ^b	58	81	85	81	69	50	46	69	42
Endegagn	62	81	48	48	43	71	48	43	57	33
Ezha	80	52	80	76	76	52	36	40	76	40
Gumer	82	54	79	86	82	50	57	68	82	36
Gura	83	52	79	83	86	55	59	59	79	38
Inor	71	91	64	68	55	82	50	45	55	32
Kistane	48	48	39	57	48	39	83	52	35	22
Mesqan	67	42	71	67	42	42	67	85	63	33
Muher	77	38	69	69	65	46	65	42	81	23
Silt'e	43	43	48	57	43	22	35	35	48	87

^aThe test languages are abbreviated - CH = Chaha, ED = Endegagn, EZ = Ezha, GM = Gurmer, GU = Gura, IN = Inor, MS = Mesqan, MU = Muher, SI = Silt'e and KS = Kistane; the mutual intelligibility results are converted to percentage.

^bThe participants did not fully understand their own variety. This could be because of various factors including recording quality, time pressure, lack of attention and others

598 As can be seen from Table 5, Chaha speakers understand Ezha (81%), Gumer (85%) and Gura (81%).
 599 Endegagn speakers partially understand Inor (71%). Speakers of Ezha understand Chaha (80%) and Gumer (76%).
 600 In the same manner, Gumer speakers understand Chaha (82%), Gura (82%), Ezha (79%) and Muher (82%). Gura
 601 speakers understand Chaha (83%), Ezha (79%), Gumer (83%) and Muher (79%). Inor speakers partially understand

602 Chaha (71%) and fully understand Endegagn (91%). Besides, Mesqan is partially intelligible to Ezha (72%). Muher
 603 speakers understand Chaha (77%). Silt'e and Kistane are not intelligible to any of the language varieties.

604 Table 5 further shows that the test-takers did not score 100% on their own native languages though, in principle,
 605 it is assumed that the native speakers have a perfect knowledge of their own language. The participants underperformed
 606 on their native languages probably due to non-linguistic factors such as fatigue, quality of the recordings, lack of
 607 attentions, noises in the test environment, time pressure and many others. In order to compensate the influences of these
 608 factors, adjusted mean was computed for the participants' score on the Word Categorization test. It was computed by
 609 subtracting the actual mean of the participants' score on their own native language from the hypothetical mean, which
 610 is always 100%. Then the mean differences was added to the same participants' score on the non-native languages with
 611 the assumption that the factors that affect the participants' score on their native languages equally affect their scores on
 612 the non-native languages. For instance, Chaha speakers, in average, scored 81% on their own native languages though
 613 they are supposed to score 100%. Therefore, the adjusted mean was computed by subtracting 81% from 100% which
 614 19%. Then 19% was added to the scores of the Chaha participants on all other language varieties. Table 6.9 presents the
 615 adjusted mean scores computed based on the results illustrated in Table 6.8.

Table 6: The adjusted mean of the test-takers' score on the Word Categorization test

Language ^a	CH	EN	EZ	GM	GU	IN	KS	MS	MU	SI
Chaha	100	77	100	100	100	88	69	65	88	61
Endegagn	81	100	67	67	62	90	67	62	76	52
Ezha	100	72	100	87	96	72	56	60	96	60
Gumer	96	68	93	100	96	64	71	82	96	50
Gura	97	66	93	97	100	69	73	73	93	52
Inor	89	100	82	86	73	100	68	63	73	50
Kistane	65	65	56	74	65	56	100	69	52	39
Mesqan	82	57	86	82	57	57	82	100	78	48
Muher	96	57	88	88	84	65	84	61	100	42
Silt'e	56	56	61	70	56	35	48	48	61	100

^aThe test languages are abbreviated - CH = Chaha, ED = Endegagn, EZ = Ezha, GM = Gurmer, GU = Gura, IN = Inor, MS = Mesqan, MU = Muher, SI = Silt'e and KS = Kistane; the results are converted to percentage.

617 Based on the adjusted mean presented in Table 6.9, Chaha speakers can understand ~~Endegagn~~ (77%), Ezha
 618 (100%), Gumer (100%), Gura (100%), Inor (88%) and Muher (88%). Endegagn speakers can freely communicate with
 619 Chaha (81%), Inor (90%) and Muher (76%). Speakers of Ezha understand Chaha (100%), Gumer (87%), Gura (96%)
 620 and Muher (96%). They also partially understand Endegagn (72%) and Inor (72%). Gumer speakers understand Chaha
 621 (96%), Ezha (93%), Gura (96%), Mesqan (82%) and Muher (96%). They also partially understand Kistane (71%).
 622 Gura speakers understand Chaha (97%), Ezha (93%), Gumer (97%) and Muher (93%). They also partially understand
 623 Kistane (73%) and Mesqan (73%). Inor speakers understand Chaha (89%), Endegagn (100%), Ezha (82%), and Gumer
 624 (86%). They also partially understand Gura (73%) and Muher (73%). Besides, Mesqan speakers understand Chaha
 625 (82%), Ezha (86%), Gumer (82%), Kistane (82%) and Muher (78%). Muher speakers understand Chaha (96%), Ezha
 626 and Gumer (88%) and Gura 84%). Silt'e is not intelligible to any of the language varieties.



627 [Menuta \(2013\)](#) argues that the best center of communication is Mesqan, based on the study he conducted
 628 on six Gurage varieties - Chaha, Inor, Kistane, Mesqan, Muher and Wolane. In other words, according to this study,
 629 many speakers of Gurage varieties understand Mesqan better than the remaining Gurage varieties investigated in the
 630 study. The present finding contradicts with this report. As can be seen from Figure 10, it is Chaha that seems to be
 631 the center of communication. Chaha is intelligible to seven of the ten language varieties investigated in the present
 632 study. Silt'e was excluded from the Figure since it is not mutually intelligible to any of the language varieties. In Figure
 633 6.8, the two-directional arrow shows that the intelligibility is symmetrical while one-directional arrow shows that the
 634 intelligibility is asymmetrical.

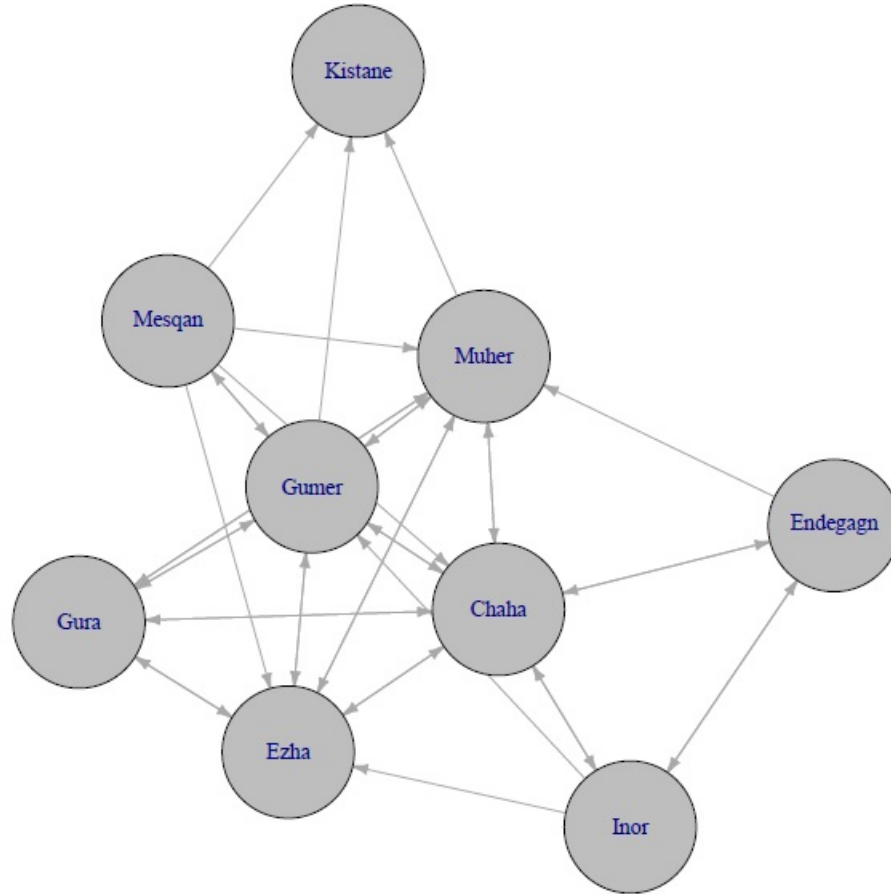


Figure 10: Chaha is selected as a center of communication

635 The difference between these two findings can be the outcomes of various factors. First, the present study
 636 used just the Semantic Word Categorization test. The author recognizes that testing mutual intelligibility at higher
 637 linguistic level may yield different results. Nonetheless, the present study opted the inclusion of relatively a large
 638 number of languages and examine them from different perspectives rather than focusing just on the mutual intelligibility.
 639 In this regard, [Menuta \(2013\)](#) included several tests which is very positive. Nonetheless, there are also concerns about
 640 the approaches of [Menuta \(2013\)](#). It appears to me that the priming effect was not properly controlled; since the same
 641 test materials were repeated across the speakers of the varieties, it is possible that the mutual intelligibility scores were
 642 inflated because of the participants' familiarity to the test materials. Besides, [Menuta \(2013\)](#) tested elderly people while
 643 the participants of the present study are secondary school students. It could be the case that elderly people performed
 644 on some of non-native languages better than the youngsters mainly because of the lifelong exposure they have had to
 645 the non-native language varieties. Sample size could also be another factor. [Menuta \(2013\)](#) tested 12 participants from
 646 each site. The present study tested 30 participants from each site. Carefully selected a small sample size could probably

647 lead to exceptional performance because of the exceptional linguistic abilities of the participants. Moreover, during test
648 administration, [Menuta \(2013\)](#) asked the participants to provide written answers. It is not clear how the respondents
649 managed to provide written answers since none of the Gurage varieties (except Silt'e) has a writing system.

650 **5 Discussions**

651 As presented in section 4.2, the comparisons among the measures of the three dimensions of distance show
652 that the two structural distances (phonetic and lexical) strongly correlate with each other. This implies that the two
653 structural measures can be used interchangeably to determine the linguistic distance among related languages. The
654 present study also reported very strong correlation between the structural distance and the functional distance though
655 different materials were used to measure the two dimensions of distance. This suggests a high degree of substitutability
656 between the two dimensions of measuring linguistics distance. Moreover, the strong correlation between the structural
657 distance and the functional distance indicates that the respondents' score on the mutual intelligibility test has a strong
658 connection with the properties of the structure of the language varieties.

659 Given that there is no significant difference between the correlation coefficient of the phonetic distance and
660 mutual intelligibility scores and that of the lexical distance and intelligibility scores, it seems that there is no difference
661 between the two structural distances in terms of their influence on the participants' score on the word intelligibility test.
662 This finding is slightly different from previous studies which reported a stronger correlation between the lexical distance
663 and functional distance as compared to the correlation between the phonetic distance and functional distance (e.g., [Tang
664 et al., 2019](#)), and from the studies which reported a stronger correlation between the phonetic distance and functional
665 distance but not between the lexical distance and functional distance (e.g., [R. Other1 & Author2, 2007](#)). Maybe there
666 are many factors such as similarity of phoneme inventory and the frequency of words that contribute to the relationship
667 between the functional distance and the structural distances. The relationship between these two dimensions is probably
668 language specific. For instance, in some languages, lexical similarity can be more important than phonetic similarity
669 while in some other languages a slight phonetic difference may lead to misunderstanding.

670 Moreover, the strong correlation between the structural distance and the perceptual distance shows that the
671 perceptual distance can be used as an alternative means of determining the linguistic distance among related languages,
672 especially in a situation where gathering the real linguistic data is difficult. Similar results were previously reported by
673 [Author2 & Other \(2004\)](#) and by [Tang et al. \(2009\)](#). This is a good news particularly for less studied languages that

674 do not have dictionaries or detailed descriptions of their linguistic features. However, the low level of consistency in
 675 the perceptual distance matrix hints that there is a risk of using a mere perceptual distance to measure the linguistic
 676 distance among related languages. This is because the perceptual perspective of measuring linguistic distance is more
 677 subjectivity-prone than other means of measuring linguistic distance. As noticed by [Golubović & Sokolić \(2013\)](#),
 678 [Abu-Rabia \(1996\)](#), [Abu-Rabia \(1998\)](#) and [Pavlenko \(2006\)](#), the impact of language attitude is also more pronounced in
 679 situations where there is political divisions, stereotyping, and social and cultural hostilities.

680 Furthermore, the close similarity between the classifications based on the three dimensions of distance and
 681 the genealogical classifications previously provided by the historical linguists implies that, in addition to the structural
 682 distances, functional and perceptual distances can be used to classify related languages. In the present study, we noticed
 683 very close similarity between the typological classifications and the genealogical classifications. This result is consistent
 684 with previous report by [Tang et al. \(2009\)](#). In general, the correlations among the three dimensions of distance which
 685 are reported in the present study are consistent with the studies previously conducted on Scandinavian languages (e.g.,
 686 [Author2 & Other, 2004](#); [Author2, 2005](#); [Author2, 2007](#); [Author2 & Other1, 2018](#)) and on Chinese dialects ([Tang et al.,](#)
 687 [2007](#); [Tang et al., 2009](#)). These studies, in general, indicate that the distance among related languages can be measured
 688 from different perspectives. It is up to the researcher to choose the right perspective based on various factors such as
 689 the resources at disposal, and the desired study objectives; for example whether the aim of the study is typological or
 690 genealogical classification. Our study partly supports the claim that non-linguists' consciousness can be used as a valid
 691 means of measuring distances among related languages, but we also share the enduring debate about the validity of the
 692 perception-based approach (see [Goeman, 1999](#) for the debate).

693 The classifications of the Ethiosemitic languages based on the results obtained from the structural, functional
 694 and perceptual distance measures show that Chaha, Ezha, Gumer and Gura are very closely related languages. Mesqan
 695 and Muher have also very strong lexical affinity with these four languages. The lexical affinity among these language
 696 varieties was also reported in [Menuta \(2013\)](#). Mesqan and Muher have also close phonetic and lexical similarity.
 697 Kistane and Silt'e are different from all the remaining language varieties. This difference could probably be due to the
 698 influence of the Cushitic languages on Silt'e and Kistane. This is an intuitive suggestion: the interaction between the
 699 South Ethiosemitic languages and the surrounding Cushitic languages is an issue that future studies may address.

700 The comparisons of the classifications obtained from the three distance measures show that the south
 701 Ethiosemitic languages under investigation can be classified into five groups. {Chaha, Gura, Gumer and Ezha} form

702 a group. {Muher and Mesqan} are very similar languages; hence, they form a second group. {Inor and Endegagn}
703 consistently form the third group. {Kistane} and {Silt'e} are different from all other language varieties. These
704 classifications are very similar to classifications previously proposed by [Hetzron \(1972\)](#), but somehow differ from the
705 proposal of, for example, [Demeke \(2001\)](#). For instance, [Demeke \(2001\)](#) classified Mesqan under North Gurage together
706 with Kistane. Though both the structural and functional measures show that Kistane and Silt'e are quite different
707 languages, the speakers of the language varieties believe that their languages are similar to each other. The causes of the
708 mismatch between the speakers' perception and the linguistic reality need further investigation.

709 With regard to the mutual intelligibility among the south Ethiosemitic languages, the results obtained from
710 the functional distance measure show that Chaha, Gura, Gumer and Ezha are mutually intelligible. Muher and Mesqan
711 are partially intelligible with these languages. This partial intelligibility is slightly different from the full mutual
712 intelligibility previously reported in [Menuta \(2013\)](#). Endegagn and Inor are also mutually intelligible. Kistane and Silt'e
713 are not intelligible with any of the Gurage varieties investigated in the present study. The reported intelligibility scores
714 are largely asymmetrical. As noticed by [Author2 \(2018\)](#), [Author2 et al. \(2010\)](#) and [Author2 \(2007\)](#), this asymmetry can
715 be due to linguistic and non-linguistic factors. Some languages can be incomprehensible because of their complicated
716 phonological structures such as pervasive reductions due to assimilation, and alternation between obstruents and
717 approximants ([Bleses et al., 2008, p.623](#)). [Author2 \(2018\)](#) has also discussed various non-linguistic variables such as
718 contact and experience, orthography, gesture and language attitude.

719 Based on the findings presented in section 4, we also provide our position with respect to the question whether
720 the south Ethiosemitic languages investigated in the present study are dialects or not. Though providing a clear-cut
721 boundary between 'dialect' and 'language' is always difficult due to various linguistic and non-linguistic factors, the
722 results of the cluster analyses and the mutual intelligibility scores suggest that Silt'e and Kistane are independent
723 languages. The remaining languages are dialects of the same language. Determining whether these varieties are dialects
724 or independent languages may have significant consequences for the attempts that have been made to standardize the
725 language varieties. The results of our study imply that Kistane and Silt'e need to be treated as separate languages in the
726 standardization process. The remaining Gurage varieties can be considered dialects, and the same materials can be used
727 to employ these languages for schooling, media and different administrative purposes.

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822 **Appendix**

823 **A. Data gathering Tools**

824 **A.1 Background Questionnaire**

Purpose: It was employed to determine the students' language background

Dear students, we use this questionnaire to gather information about the languages which are spoken in your area. Your responses will be kept confidential and are used only for research purposes. Hence, please respond as honest as you can. Thank you for the time you take to fill in the questionnaire.

Part I: Personal Background

1. What is your date of birth (DD/MM/YY)?
2. Are you a. Male b. Female (circle one)
3. Where is your place of birth (town/village)?
4. Where is your present address (town/village)?
5. What is your grade level? (Circle correct choice)
 - a. Grade nine c. Grade ten d. Grade eleven f. Grade twelve

Part II: Language Background

1. What is your first language? _____
2. What languages do you speak other than your first language?

3. Which language (s) do your parents speak?
 - a) Your Father _____
 - b) Your mother _____
4. Which language is frequently spoken by your friends? _____
5. Has your family changed their place of residence? Please indicate the places they lived and the language spoken in each place

<u>Place</u>	<u>Language</u>
a. _____	_____
b. _____	_____
c. _____	_____
d. _____	_____
6. How often do you use your mother tongue? _____
A. Very often B. Often C. Sometime D. Rarely E. Not at all
7. Which language (s) is spoken in most of the schools you have attended?

8. Which other language is spoken in your vicinity?

825 **A.2 Response sheet for Words Categorization test**

Instruction: Dear student, you are going to listen to some list of words. Listen carefully and determine in which of the following categories each word belongs. For one word there is only one possible category. Provide your answer by putting 'X' mark in the box provided in front of each category. Note that for every audio stimulus, there are 10 options of word categories.

1. **Cloths**
2. **Body Parts**
3. **Kitchen Utilities**
4. **Fruits**
5. **Food Type**
6. **Domestic Animals**
7. **Furniture**
8. **Vegetables**
9. **Wild Animals**
10. **.Cereals**

826 A.3 Response sheet for perceptual and attitude test

Direction: Dear student, you will be presented with ten successive stories. Listen attentively to each of the stories and rate the story based on the questions which are provided below.

1. To what extent do you understand the speaker in the recording? Respond by putting 'X' mark on one of the numbers provided.

Do not understand	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Completely Understand
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	-----------------------

2. To what extent the recording is similar to your own language? Respond by putting 'X' on one of the numbers.

Not Similar	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Completely Similar
-------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	--------------------

3. Is the speech of the speaker in the recording beautiful or not compared to your own language? Respond by putting 'X' mark on one of the numbers provided.

Not Beautiful	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Beautiful
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827 **B. Test Materials**

828 **B.1 List of words for phonetic and lexical distance**

No	English	Amharic	Oromo	Chaha	Endegagn	Ezha	Gumer	Gura	Inor	Kistane	Meskán	Muher	Silt'e
1	added	dämmərə ¹	dabale ¹	dəpərəm ¹	dappərə ¹	dəbbərəm ¹	dəppərəm ¹	dəpərəm ¹	dəppərə ¹	dəbbələm ¹	dəbbərəm ¹	dəbbərəm ¹	dəbələ ¹
2	all	hullum ¹	hunda ¹	innim ¹	hin?edi ²	innim ¹	innim ¹	innim ¹	inno ¹	kullim ¹	innim ¹	innim ¹	hullimkə ¹
3	ape	t'ota	kamale ²	wənkə ¹	wenkə ¹	wənk'ə ¹	wənk'ə ¹	wənkə ¹	wənkə ¹	kəmole ²	kəmole ²	kəmole ²	kəmole ²
4	arm	kind ¹	irree ²	agat ²	agad ²	hinno ¹	xinə ¹	hinə ¹	hinə ¹	kirra ²	hinno ¹	hitte ¹	kir'e ²
5	back	gərba	duuba	g'isə ¹	g'isə ¹	ginzə ¹	f'ər ²	g'isə ¹	gisizə ¹	ginzə ¹	ginzə ¹	ginzə ¹	cin ³
6	barley	gəbs ²	garbuu ²	əxir ¹	əhir ¹	əxir ¹	əhir ¹	əhir ¹	əxir ¹	gəbs ²	thir ¹	əxi ¹	ixil ¹
7	basil	bəssobila ¹	maslobbaa ¹	məsobilal ¹	məsobila ¹	məsibilal ¹	bəssobila ¹	bəssobila ¹	məsobilal ¹	məssobila ¹	k'asənət ³	bəssobila ¹	bəkər ²
8	bean	adəng'arre ¹	ašongoree ¹	adeng'alle ¹	adeng'alle ¹	adeng'alle ¹	adəng'are ¹	adəng'aro ¹	¹	bolokice ²	adəng'arre ¹	adəngurro ¹	boloke ²
9	beautiful	kəngə	bareeddu ²	mərkama ¹	molkama ¹	mərkamma ¹	mərkamma ¹	mərkama ¹	mərkama ¹	məlkama ¹	məlkama ¹	məlkama ¹	bəreedə ²
10	bed	alga ¹	sire	alga ¹	anz ¹	alga ¹	alga ¹	arga ¹	arga ¹	alga ¹	alga ¹	alga ¹	dugmalə ²
11	began	gəmmərə ²	eegale	kənəsəm ¹	kənəsə ¹	kənəsəm ¹	kənəsəm ¹	kənəsə ¹	kənəsə ¹	kərrəsə ¹	kərrəsə ¹	kərrəsəm ¹	gəmmərə ²
13	belt	kəbətto ¹	kəbattoo ¹	matagača ²	kəbətto ²	kəbətto ¹	kəbətto ¹	kəbətto ¹	zələbət ³	kəbətto ¹	kəbətto ¹	kəbətto ¹	kəbətto ¹
14	bəssə	bəssə ¹	bəssə ¹	bəssə ¹	bəssə ²	bəsiwə ¹	bəssiwə ¹	bəsiwə ¹	bəsiwə ¹	bəssiwə ¹	bəssiwə ¹	bəssowə ¹	bəssə ¹
15	big	tillək	guddaa	nəkiya ¹	nu ²	imiya ¹	nəkiya ¹	nəkiya ¹	nu ²	malək ²	nək ¹	li ²	yaroorə ³
16	black	t'ikur ¹	gurraəcča	t'ikur ¹	gəmbəna ²	gəmbəna ²	t'ikur ¹	t'ikur ¹	gəmbəna ²	t'ikur ¹	t'ikur ¹	t'ikur ¹	t'em ³
17	blew	nəffəsə ¹	afufe	nəffəsəm ¹	nəffəsə ¹	nəffəsəm ¹	nəffəsəm ¹	nəffəsəm ¹	nəffəsəm ¹	nəffəsə ¹	nəffəsə ¹	nəffəsəm ¹	nəffəsə ¹
18	blood	dəm ¹	diiga	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹	dəm ¹
19	boiled	afəlla ²	danfise	čəkərəm ¹	čəkarra ¹	čəkk'ərə ¹	čəkərəm ¹	čəkərə ¹	čək'ərə ¹	fəllam ²	čək'ərə ¹	čək'ərə ¹	fəla ²
20	bone	at'im ¹	lafee	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	at'im ¹	hat'im ¹
21	bread	dabbo ¹	daabbo ¹	dabbo ¹	dabo ²	dabbo ¹	dabbo ¹	dabbo ¹	dabbo ²	dabbo ¹	dabbo ¹	dabbo ¹	furno ²
22	breakfast	kurs	ciree	ginzir ¹	ginzir ¹	ginzir ¹	ginzir ¹	ginzir ¹	ginzir ¹	ginzir ¹	ginzir ¹	yaddərə ²	addərə ²
23	breast	tut ¹	harma	tut ¹	tuw ¹	tut ¹	tut ¹	tut ¹	tut ¹	t'əbuyyə ¹	tut ¹	t'əwəyyə ¹	tut ¹
24	brother	wəndimm	obboleessa	g'əpə ¹	əššə ²	g'əbbe ¹	g'əppay ¹	g'əpə ¹	əšəm ²	zəmmi ³	g'əbbe ¹	g'əbbe ¹	indət ⁴
25	bull	bərə ²	dibičča	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹	wir ¹
26	cabbage	gəmmənn	raafu	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	ambir ¹	hamil ¹
27	calf (n)	¹	gəbbi	m'əsa ¹	mosa ¹	m'əssa ¹	m'əsa ¹	m'əsa ¹	m'əsa ¹	təg ²	m'əsa ¹	dəg ²	izək ³
28	came	məfta ²	dufe	čəna ¹	mə ²	čəna ¹	čəna ¹	čəna ¹	mə ²	məfta ²	čəhna ¹	bəssam ²	məta ²
29	came out	wəft'acč'ē ¹	baate	wəft'am ¹	wəft'acč'ē ¹	wəft'acč'im ¹	wəft'acč'im ¹	wəft'acč'im ¹	wəft'acč'ē ¹	wəft'acč'ē ¹	wəft'acč'ē ¹	wəft'acč'im ¹	wəft'acč'ē ¹
30	camel	giməl ¹	gaala ¹	gamera ¹	giməl ¹	gamera ¹	gamera ¹	gamera ¹	gamera ¹	giməl ¹	gamera ¹	gimela ¹	gaameela ¹
31	cat	dimmət	adurre ⁴	angač'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	angač'č'a ¹	aadən ²
32	chair	wənbər ¹	barčuma ⁴	wənbər ¹	t'əkəša ²	wənbər ¹	wənbər ¹	wənbər ¹	t'əkəša ²	wənbər ¹	so ²	wənbər ¹	borčuma ⁴
33	chassis	rəkəbot ²	rəkəbooti ²	yəsinəč'a ¹	rəkəbot ²	yəsinəč'č'a ¹	yəsinəč'č'a ¹	yəsinəč'č'a ¹	yəsinəč'č'a ¹	sine ²	rəkəbot ²	yəsinəč'č'a ¹	rəkəč'a ³
34	cheap	rikka ³	rakša ³	giwa ¹	wudə ²	giwa ¹	giwa ¹	giwa ¹	widə ²	arkus ²	rikka ³	giwa ¹	ruks ²
35	cheek	gunc ²	mallaa	danga ¹	danga ¹	danga ¹	danga ¹	danga ¹	guncə ²	guncə ²	danga ¹	guncə ²	guncə ²
36	chest	dərət ¹	lap'pe	data ¹	datta ¹	dadda ¹	datta ¹	fanka ²	data ¹	dərət ¹	hin ¹	dadda ¹	wəzana ³
37	chickpea	šimbira ¹	šimburaa ¹	čəmb'ərə ¹	šimbura ¹	čəmb'ərə ¹	šimbura ¹	šimbura ¹	šimbura ¹	šimbura ¹	šimbura ¹	šimbura ¹	šimbura ¹
38	child	hišan	daa'ima	tikə ¹	tikə ¹	tikə ¹	tikə ¹	tikə ¹	tikə ¹	bayy ²	tixə ¹	tikə ¹	čilo ³
39	cloak(n)	kot ¹	koota ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	kot ¹	koote ¹
40	cloud	damməna ¹	dumessa ¹	dabəra ¹	dawəna ¹	dabəra ¹	dabəra ¹	dabəra ¹	daməra ¹	daməna ¹	dabəna ¹	dabəna ¹	dabəna ¹

111	insult (v)	səddəbə²	arrabse	kændmə¹	kənəmə¹	kənməmə¹	kinəma¹	kəndmə¹	kənəmə¹	səddəbəm²	səddəbə²	səddəbəm¹	sədəbə²
112	job/work	sira	hogū	mena¹	mena¹	mena¹	mena¹	mena¹	mena¹	wəzələ²	menna¹	merra¹	bil³
113	joke (n)	kəld¹	keesa¹	kəšə¹	kəld¹	kəšə¹	kʷəšə¹	kəld¹	siya²	kəld¹	kəld¹	kəld¹	kəld¹
114	kettle	gəbana¹	gəbana¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹	gəbən¹
115	king	nigus¹	nugusa¹	nigˠs¹	nugs¹	nigˠs¹	nigˠs¹	nigus¹	nugˠs¹	nigus¹	nigˠs¹	nigˠs¹	nigus¹
116	knife	billəwa	able	sənda³	šotta²	sənda³	sənda³	wəkara¹	šota²	gəlod⁴	golodo⁴	sənda³	golodo⁴
117	Kooc̣o	kʷooc̣o	kʷoooc̣oo	wissa¹	kusa¹	wissa¹	wissa¹	wisa¹	wisʔa¹	əkusa¹	wissa¹	biyə²	fmanic̣co³
118	ladle	čilfa¹	čilfaa¹	čilfa¹	čilfa¹	čilfa¹	čilfa¹	niʔankəfwo²	ankəfo²	čilfa¹	čilfa¹	čilfa¹	čilfa¹
119	leg	igir¹	mūla	əgir¹	əgir¹	igir¹	əgir¹	əgir¹	əgir¹	əgir¹	əgir¹	əgir¹	ingir¹
120	lemon	lomi¹	loomi¹	lomi¹	lomi¹	lomi¹	lomi¹	lomi¹	lomin¹	lomi¹	lomi¹	lomi¹	lomi¹
121	lentil	missir²	missira²	kəsəm¹	kəsəm¹	kəsəm¹	kəsəm¹	kəsəm¹	kəsəm¹	misira²	kəsəm¹	kəsəm¹	misir²
122	lion	ambassa²	leencə	ʒəp¹	ambassa²	ambassa²	ʒəpp¹	ʒəpa¹	ʒəp¹	ambassa²	ambassa²	ambassa²	wəbɔ³
123	lip	kənfər¹	hidū	kənfər¹	kənfər¹	kənfər¹	kənfər¹	amz²	kənfər¹	kənfər¹	kənfər¹	kənfər¹	gürce³
124	louse	kəmal¹	ingire	kəmar¹	iwən¹	kəmar¹	kəmar¹	imar¹	kəmar¹	kəmal¹	kəmal¹	kəmal¹	kəmal¹
125	love	fikur²	gəalala	nimağə¹	nimağə¹	nimmagə¹	nimağə¹	nimağə¹	aʔimağə¹	fikur²	dad⁴	widdan⁴	dad⁴
126	maize	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkollo¹	bəkəkola¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹	bəkəkollo¹
127	man	səw¹	nama	səb¹	səw¹	səb¹	mis²	mis²	səb¹	mis²	mis²	mis²	səb¹
128	mattress	firas²	firaša²	kapˠat¹	kappad¹	kabbˠat¹	firas²	kabbat¹	kapˠat¹	firas²	firas²	firas²	kabbˠat¹
129	means	biləhat¹	mala³	ayo²	bilat¹	bilat¹	bilat¹	ayu²	beyə²	bilat¹	bilat¹	biləhat¹	mələ³
130	mirror	məstawat¹	daawiti	masrəwat¹	məstawat¹	masrəwat¹	məstawat¹	məstawat¹	məstawat¹	məstawat¹	məstawat¹	məstawat¹	məstawat¹
131	monday	səňno	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹	wifət¹
132	monkey	zingərə¹	galdessa	zangera¹	zangara¹	zangərə¹	zangərə¹	zangərə¹	zangərə¹	zangərə¹	zangera¹	zangərə¹	zangərə¹
133	more	bəʔam³	daran	niʔkar¹	muʔar¹	niʔkar¹	niʔkar¹	niʔkar¹	buseʔəhə²	burim³	bəʔam³	bəʔam³	yəbəza⁴
134	mule	bəklo¹	gaange	bukˠərə¹	bakura¹	bukˠərə¹	bukura¹	biʔura¹	bukura¹	biʔil¹	bʷəkila¹	buʔura¹	bəklo¹
135	mush	nifro¹	šunmo	nifro¹	buseʔə²	čəkoreʔ³	nifro¹	nifro¹	wifro¹	nifon¹	čikˠərə³	čəkoreʔ³	inšikora³
136	nail	fifir¹	keensa	fifir¹	inffir¹	fifir¹	fifir¹	fifir¹	inffir¹	fifir¹	fifir¹	fifir¹	fifir¹
137	neck	angət¹	morma	angət¹	angət¹	angət¹	angət¹	angət¹	angəd¹	angət¹	angət¹	angət¹	angˠoro¹
138	niger seeds	nug¹	nuggi¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹	nug¹
139	nine	zəʔəŋ¹	sagal	ʒəʔə¹	ʒiʔə¹	ʒəʔə¹	ʒəʔə¹	ʒəʔə¹	ʒəʔə¹	ʒəʔəŋ¹	ʒəʔə¹	ʒəʔə¹	zəʔəŋ¹
140	now	ahum¹	amma	əxˠa¹	akka¹	əxˠa¹	əxˠa¹	əxˠa¹	waka¹	axu¹	əxˠa¹	axuñna¹	akka¹
141	oat	agga¹	agga¹	agga¹	humbolaʔ²	imboriyəʔ²	agga¹	agga¹	aga¹	imbor²	agga¹	agga¹	agga¹
142	one	and¹	tokko	at¹	att¹	att¹	att¹	att¹	att¹	att¹	att¹	att¹	aad¹
143	onion	šinkurt¹	šinkurti¹	šinkˠər¹	šinkurta¹	šinkˠər¹	šinkurt¹	šinkurt¹	šinkˠər¹	šinkurt¹	šinkurt¹	šinkurt¹	šinkurt¹
144	orange	birtukˠˠan¹	birtukaana¹	birtukˠˠan¹	bʷirtukan¹	birtukˠˠan¹	birtukan¹	birtukˠˠan¹	birtukˠˠan¹	birtukan¹	birtukan¹	birtukan¹	birtukan¹
145	our	yəňna¹	keəňna¹	yina¹	inay¹	yina¹	yina¹	yina¹	inay¹	yəňna¹	yinna¹	yəňna¹	yəňna¹
146	ox	bərə¹	diʔiʔə	bora¹	bawra¹	bora¹	bora¹	bora¹	bawora¹	bora¹	bora¹	bora¹	karaab²
147	pan	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹	dist¹
148	pancake	kifˠra³	kifˠra³	fifirəwiša¹	fifirəšə¹	məfino²	kifˠra³	fifirəwiša¹	fifirəwiša¹	guns⁴	kifˠra³	kifˠra³	fifirəwiša¹
149	pea	atər¹	atarā¹	getərə¹	gite¹	getərə¹	getərə¹	getərə¹	getərə¹	gətərə¹	kəššuwə²	atarə¹	getərə¹
150	peach	kok¹	kooki¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹	kok¹
151	pepper	kariya¹	kirca¹	kare¹	kareʔ¹	kale¹	kariya¹	kəri¹	kondeʔə²	kariya¹	kariya¹	kare¹	furga³
152	pillow	tiras¹	tiraati	tiras¹	tiras¹	tiras¹	tiras¹	gimmo²	gimmo²	tiras¹	tiras¹	tiras¹	tiras¹
153	plate	sahin¹	sahaana¹	saxin¹	sahin¹	disko²	sahin¹	sahin¹	sahin¹	səhan¹	faba³	sahən¹	saan¹
154	porridge	gəfo³	markaa	ozat¹	daʔə²	ozat¹	ozat¹	owzat¹	daʔə²	gəfo³	inkačce⁴	ozat¹	inkačce⁴
155	potato	dinniçcə¹	dinniçca¹	diniçə¹	diniçə¹	dinniçca¹	dinniçca¹	dinniçca¹	diniçə¹	dinniçca¹	dinniçca¹	dinniçca¹	dinniçca¹
156	pumpkin	dubba¹	dibabaa¹	dibakila¹	dabakula¹	dibakilla¹	dibakilla¹	dibakula¹	dibakula¹	dabakilla¹	dabakilla¹	dabakilla¹	dabakilla¹
157	rain	zinab¹	rooba	zirab¹	diyə²	zirab¹	zirab¹	zirab¹	diyə²	zinab¹	zinab¹	zinab¹	ziləm¹
158	red	kəyy	diimaa	biša¹	büsa¹	biša¹	biša¹	biša¹	biša¹	biša¹	biša¹	biša¹	büso¹
159	respected	akəbbərə	kabağə¹	kəbərəm¹	həbbada²	kəbbərəm¹	təhəbədəm¹	kəbəra¹	xəbədə¹	akəbbərəm¹	kəbbərə¹	kəbbərəm¹	kəbəra¹
160	rice	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹	ruz¹
161	rich	habtam	duressa²	dəngəňna¹	dəngəňna¹	dəngəňna¹	dəngənə¹	dəngənə¹	dəngəňna¹	dəngəňna¹	dəngəňna¹	dəngəňna¹	duressa²
162	roasted grain	kolo¹	hunkaa	kəwərə¹	kəra¹	kəwərə¹	kəwərə¹	kəwərə¹	kəwərə¹	kəwərə¹	kəwərə¹	kəwərə¹	inkolo¹
163	road	məngəd	anna¹	ema¹	meya¹	ema¹	ema¹	ema¹	meʔa¹	mocə²	ema¹	zəbə³	unga²
164	round	zuriya¹	naannaawa	innim²	bihahıʔedi³	zurata¹	zuriya¹	xipibar⁴	zuriya¹	zuriya¹	anne⁵	zuriya¹	zura¹
165	said	ala¹	gaçde	barəm¹	barə¹	barəm¹	barəm¹	barə¹	barə¹	balo¹	barə¹	bem¹	baala¹
166	salt	čəw	/soogida³	asso¹	bəʔəd²	asso¹	asso¹	asso¹	bəʔəd²	sogida³	asso¹	assəwə¹	arusə¹
167	saturday	kidame	sanbata¹	kəʔansənbat¹	enəgəyə²	kəʔansənbat¹	kəʔansənbat¹	kəʔansənbat¹	kəʔansənbat¹	kidansənbat¹	kidansənbat¹	kəʔansənbat¹	ansənbat¹
168	saw	ayyə¹	arge	aʒə¹	aššəm¹	aʒə¹	aššəm¹	aʒə¹	aʒə¹	aʒə¹	aʒə¹	aʒə¹	aʒə¹
169	seed	zər¹	šəňni	zər¹	zəʔə¹	zər¹	zər¹	zər¹	zər¹	zər¹	zər¹	zər¹	zər¹
170	seven	səbat¹	torba	səbat¹	səwʔat¹	səbat¹	səbat¹	səbat¹	saat¹	səbat¹	səbat¹	səbat¹	saʔabat¹
171	she	isə³	xˠita¹	šidə³	xˠit¹	šidə³	xˠit¹	xida¹	kija¹	xiti¹	xˠa¹	xˠa¹	isə³
172	sheep	bəg	hoolaa	fə¹	fay¹	fay¹	fay¹	fə¹	fay¹	əʔay¹	əʔe¹	fə¹	fay¹
173	shoe	čamma¹	kopˠee²	čamma¹	čamma¹	čamma¹	čamma¹	čamma¹	čamma¹	kobe²	čamma¹	čamma¹	čamma¹
174	short	áčir¹	gabaabaa	áčir¹	iʔur¹	áčir¹	áčir¹	áčir¹	eʔur¹	áčir¹	áčir¹	áčir¹	áčir¹
175	short trouser	kumfˠa¹	kumfˠa¹	kumfˠa¹	kumfˠa¹	kumfˠa¹	kumfˠa¹	kumfˠa¹	kumfˠa¹	bogge³	bogge³	kumfˠa¹	bogge³
176	six	siddist¹	gaha	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹	siddist¹
177	slowly	bəkəssita²	suuttati	təhin¹	kəsbərɔta²	təhin¹	təxˠixˠim¹	təxˠixˠim¹	təhin¹	digbəwobə³	digbərəm³	diggabem³	balodif⁴
178	smoke	čis	aara	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹	tən¹
179	snatched	nəʔfəʔə¹	bute	məçəkəm¹	nəʔfəʔə¹	nəʔfəʔə¹	nəʔfəʔə¹	nəʔfəʔə¹	nəʔfəʔə¹	mocçəkəm¹	mecçəkəm¹	nəʔfəʔə¹	bocçəkə¹
180	so	siləzzih⁵	kanaafu	škka¹	hənəta²	yəxər³	yəxər³	əxir³	buʔurku⁴	siləzzi⁵	siləhənə⁵	siləzzih⁵	loonamko⁶

829 **5.0.1 B.2 List of words for Word Categorization test**

830 The following list of words were used in the Word categorization test to measure mutual intelligibility and to
 831 determine the functional distance among the selected language varieties.

cloths	Body parts	Kitchen utilities	Fruits	Food type
shoes	finger	spoon	banana	bread
shirt	lip	ladle	mango	'kocho'
hat	eye	pan	orange	'injera'
belt	arm	knife	berry	stew
trouser	breast	cutting board	guava	pancake
handkerchief	leg	griddle	cherimoya	roasted meat
dress	chest	stirring rod	coke	mush
shorts	eye	kettle	tangerine	'besso'
waist-band	hair	food-table	lemon	porridge
headdress	neck	plate	doviyalis abyssnica	roasted grain
Domestic animal	Furniture	Vegetables	Wild animal	Cereals
hen	table	cabbage	elephant	barely
ox	chair	pepper	lion	wheat
camel	shelf	tomato	tiger	maize
donkey	locker	onion	hyena	pea
goat	bed	potato	crocodile	fava bean
sheep	sofa	carrot	giraffe	sorghum
dog	stool	garlic	monkey	'teff'
cat	chassis	pumpkin	ape	bean
horse	mirror	sweet potato	fox	lentil
mule	box	basil	gazelle	chickpea

832 B.3 Word Categorization, word order

Description: words used for word categorization were listed in different orders to block the priming effect. Different CDs were created by changing the order of the varieties in which the words are spoken. One CD was used for one language area. Each CD consists of ten tracks. One participant matched 10 list of words within a track with their semantic categories provided on the answer sheet. Matching the full CD requires the involvement 10 participants. In our case, each CD was repeated 3 times and administered to the total of around 30 students.

	CDs	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5	CD6	CD7	CD8	CD9	CD10
No	Words	TR1	TR1	TR1	TR1	TR1	TR1	TR1	TR1	TR1	TR1
1	shoe	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
2	finger	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
3	spoon	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
4	banana	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
5	bread	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
6	hen	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
7	table	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
8	cabbage	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
9	elephant	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
10	barley	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR2	TR2	TR2	TR2	TR2	TR2	TR2	TR2	TR2	TR2
11	lip	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
12	ladle	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
13	mango	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
14	koc'c'o	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
15	Ox	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
16	chair	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
17	pepper	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
18	lion	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
19	wheat	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
20	shirt	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR3	TR3	TR3	TR3	TR3	TR3	TR3	TR3	TR3	TR3
21	pan	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
22	orange	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
23	inǵera	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
24	camel	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
25	shelf	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
26	tomato	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
27	tiger	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
28	maize	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
29	hat	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
30	eye	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR4	TR4	TR4	TR4	TR4	TR4	TR4	TR4	TR4	TR4
31	berry	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
32	type of stew	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha

33	donkey	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
34	locker	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
35	onion	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
36	hyena	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
37	pea	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
38	belt	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
39	arm	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
40	knife	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR5	TR5	TR5	TR5	TR5	TR5	TR5	TR5	TR5	TR5
41	pancake	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
42	goat	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
43	bed	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
44	potato	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
45	crocodile	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
46	fava bean	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
47	trouser	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
48	breast	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
49	cutting board	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
50	guava	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR6	TR6	TR6	TR6	TR6	TR6	TR6	TR6	TR6	TR6
51	sheep	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
52	sofa	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
53	carrot	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
54	giraffe	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
55	sorghum	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
56	handkerchief	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
57	leg	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
58	saddle	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
59	cherimoya	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
60	roasted meat	Ch'aha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR7	TR7	TR7	TR7	TR7	TR7	TR7	TR7	TR7	TR7
61	stool	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
62	garlic	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
63	monkey	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
64	'teff'	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
65	'female's dress'	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
66	chest	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
67	stirring rod	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
68	coke	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
69	mush	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
70	dog	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn

		TR8	TR8	TR8	TR8	TR8	TR8	TR8	TR8	TR8	TR8
71	pumpkin	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
72	ape	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
73	bean	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
74	shorts	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
75	Eye	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
76	kettle	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
77	tangerine	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
78	'bæsso'	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
79	cat	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
80	chassis	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR9	TR9	TR9	TR9	TR9	TR9	TR9	TR9	TR9	TR9
81	fox	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
82	lentils	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
83	waist-band	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
84	hair	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
85	food-table	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
86	lemon	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
87	porridge	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
88	horse	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
89	mirror	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
90	sweet potato	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn
		TR10	TR10	TR10	TR10	TR10	TR10	TR10	TR10	TR10	TR10
91	chick-pea	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor
92	headdress	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha
93	neck	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer
94	Plate	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura
95	doviyalis abyssinica	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan
96	roasted grain	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher
97	mule	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane	Silte
98	box	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha	Kistane
99	basil	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn	Chaha
100	gazelle	Chaha	Kistane	Silte	Muher	Mesqan	Gura	Gumer	Ezha	Inor	Endegagn

833 **C. Additional Results**834 **C.1 Phonetic similarity index**

Language	CH	EN	EZ	GM	GU	IN	KS	MS	MU	SI
Chaha	100									
Endegagn	82	100								
Ezha	92	81	0							
Gumer	92	82	92	100						
Gura	95	82	90	93	100					
Inor	88	86	85	86	88	100				
Kistane	82	79	82	81	81	79	100			
Mesqan	89	80	88	87	88	83	87	100		
Muher	86	79	87	85	85	81	88	88	100	
Silt'e	80	77	79	78	80	76	82	81	78	100

835 **C.2 Lexical similarity index**

Language	CH	ED	EZ	GM	GU	IN	KS	MS	MU	SI
Chaha	0									
Endegagn	74	100								
Ezha	87	75	0							
Gumer	88	73	87	100						
Gura	89	73	85	88	100					
Inor	78	82	77	80	80	100				
Kistane	61	59	66	67	63	63	100			
Mesqan	76	69	78	79	76	72	70	100		
Muher	79	67	80	80	76	72	72	82	100	
Silt'e	52	50	53	52	51	53	56	54	53	100

836 **C.3 Perceptual similarity index**

Language	CH	EN	EZ	GM	GU	IN	KS	MS	MU	SI
Chaha	81	13	52	95	96	38	12	23	29	2
Endegagn	37	100	44	49	51	91	57	51	42	34
Ezha	86	10	89	93	90	27	25	66	51	7
Gumer	78	19	70	95	92	40	20	54	43	10
Gura	84	35	72	85	89	57	18	47	37	10
Inor	47	72	36	60	55	99	25	44	36	8
Kistane	30	33	30	21	23	33	99	54	76	20
Mesqan	38	21	63	59	71	17	58	96	78	11
Muher	58	10	35	72	72	22	40	59	96	13
Silt'e	23	32	35	33	30	20	63	52	45	100

837 **C.4 Attitude test results**

Language	ED	IN	EZ	GM	GU	MS	MU	SI	KS	CH
Endegagn	99	93	47	61	60	53	61	42	58	48
Inor	75	99	49	76	72	48	41	23	24	54
Ezha	19	25	84	91	88	55	50	11	29	81
Gumer	40	44	64	92	87	40	42	17	21	74
Gura	31	48	65	79	87	33	21	07	09	75
Mesqan	34	33	62	58	65	91	73	36	66	48
Muher	28	41	48	82	81	49	95	33	48	74
Silt'e	50	39	45	49	45	53	52	95	68	34
Kistane	49	52	48	46	43	65	73	38	91	46
Chaha	10	32	46	96	96	18	25	03	10	81

838 C.5 Cophenetic distance among the nodes

No	Pairs of Varieties	Combined	Hetzron (1972)	Demeke (2001)
1	CH-EN	5	4	4
2	CH-EZ	2	2	2
3	CH-GM	2	2	2
4	CH-GU	2	2	2
5	CH-IN	5	4	2
6	CH-KS	5	8	7
7	CH-MS	4	4	6
8	CH-MU	4	5	2
9	CH-SI	6	10	8
10	EZ-EN	4	4	3
11	EZ-IN	5	4	2
12	GM-EN	4	4	3
13	GM-EZ	2	2	2
14	GM-IN	5	4	2
15	GU-EN	5	4	3
16	GU-EZ	2	2	2
17	GU-GM	2	2	2
18	GU-IN	5	4	2
19	IN-EN	2	2	3
20	KS-EN	5	8	7
21	KS-EZ	5	8	7
22	KS-GM	5	8	7
23	KS-GU	4	8	7
24	KS-IN	5	8	7
25	KS-MS	5	6	3
26	KS-MU	5	7	7
27	KS-SI	3	8	9
28	MS-EN	5	4	6
29	MS-EZ	4	4	6
30	MS-GM	4	5	6
31	MS-GU	4	4	6
32	MS-IN	5	4	6
33	MU-EN	5	5	4
34	MU-EZ	4	5	2
35	MU-GM	4	5	2
36	MU-GU	4	4	2
37	MU-IN	5	5	2
38	MU-MS	2	3	4
39	SI-EZ	6	10	8
40	SI-GM	6	10	8
41	SI-GU	6	10	8
42	SI-IN	6	10	8
43	Silté-EN	6	10	8
44	SI-MS	5	8	8
45	SI-MU	6	8	8

Figure 11: Cophenetic distance

839 **C.6 Results of Fuzzy Clustering**

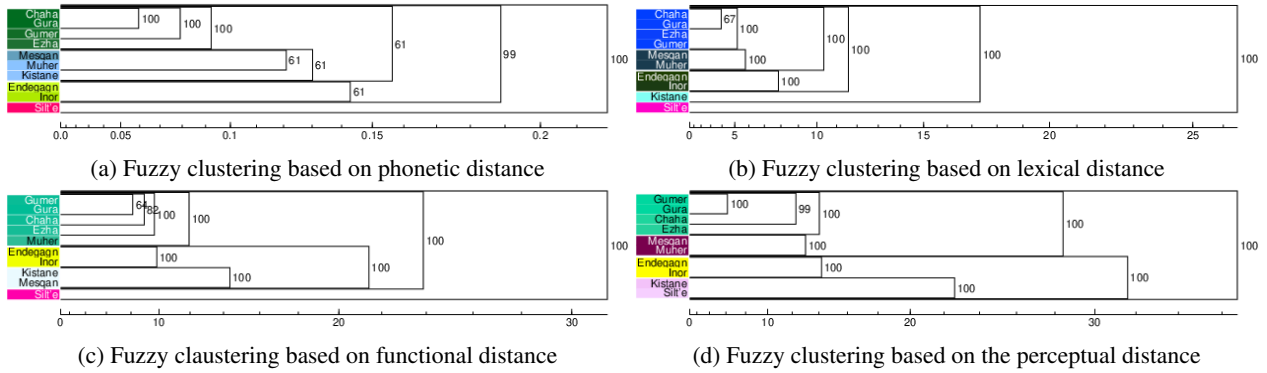


Figure 12: Fuzzy clustering based on the structural, functional and perceptual distances

840 **C.7 Multidimensional scaling-second dimension**

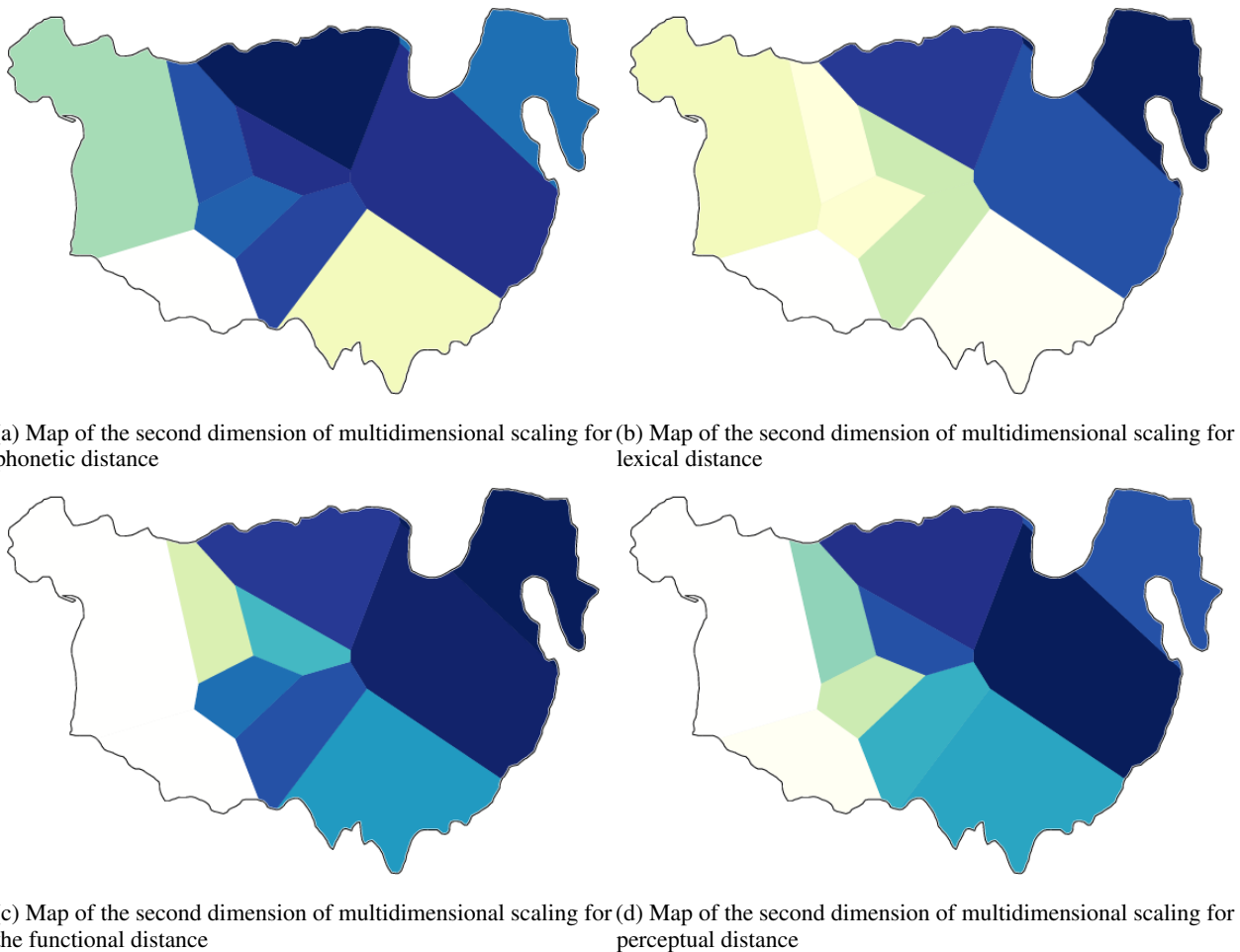


Figure 13: Map of the second dimension of multidimensional scaling for the structural, functional and perceptual distances

841 C.8 Test Participants

Note that the number of participants of the perception test and the mutual intelligibility is slightly different. This is because, the two tests were administered at different times in some of the areas, and the respondents who were absent on one of the tests can be present on the other.

C.1. Participants of the word categorization test

The table contains CD number administered in each area (CD No.), the range of age of the participants (Age), the participants' grade level (G.9 = Grade nine, G.10 = Grade 10, G. 11 = Grade 11, G. 12 = Grade 12), the participants whose responses were considered for the analysis (considered), the participants whose responses were not considered (excluded- because sometimes some respondents stacked on the first page of the response sheet while the CD was playing).

Area	CD No.	Age	Sex		Grade				Total	Considered	Excluded
			M	F	G.9	G.10	G.11	G.12			
Gura	01	15-22	23	6	1	6	7	15	29	29	-
Gumar	02	17-21	17	12	-	-	29	-	29	28	1
Inor	03	16-21	24	5	-	29	-	-	29	22	7
Chaha	04	16-23	18	11	-	-	15	11	29	26	3
Muhar	05	18-21	14	15	-	-	17	12	29	24	5
Ezha	06	16-23	14	16	-	-	9	21	30	26	4
Endogam	07	18-24	21	7	-	-	22	6	28	22	6
Kistane	08	17-22	20	10	-	-	30	-	30	23	7
Mosqan	09	16-21	8	21	12	19	-	-	29	25	4
Silr'e	10	18-24	12	11	-	-	-	23	23	23	-
			171	114	13	54	129	88	285	248	37

C.2. Participants of the Perceptual Test

The participants who did not follow the instruction properly were excluded.

Area	Age	Sex		Grade				Total	Considered	Excluded
		M	F	G.9	G.10	G.11	G.12			
Gura	15-22	23	5	1	7	7	15	30	28	2
Gumar	17-21	15	14	-	-	30	-	30	25	5
Inor	16-22	21	7	-	28	-	-	28	20	8
Chaha	16-23	18	10	-	-	17	11	28	25	3
Muhar	18-21	15	15	-	-	18	12	30	26	4
Ezha	16-23	16	14	-	-	10	20	30	27	3
Endogam	18-24	21	7	-	-	23	5	28	28	-
Kistane	17-23	19	11	-	-	30	-	30	30	-
Mosqan	16-21	8	21	12	19	-	-	29	25	4
Silr'e	18-23	15	14	-	-	-	29	29	24	5
Total		171	118	13	54	135	92	289	258	34