

## **Do we really have semi-vowels [w] and [y] in Tshivenda?**

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*This research paper basically focuses on the most problematic and difficult speech sounds in some African Languages. It specifically focuses on the semi-vowels in Tshivenda. The notion that Tshivenda has two semi-vowel sounds, [w] and [y] does not have a sense in the reality of the matter. This research paper wants to try to prove to the people that although there is a belief that Tshivenda has speech sounds called semi-vowels [w] and [y], further researches should be made to prove the validity of this statement. Instead, what is now called semi-vowels in Tshivenda should be given other names, which will suite them better than calling them semi-vowels. This research paper also wants to evince that the sounds [w] and [y] have their own status in phonetics and phonology, which is different from that of being semi-vowels. In trying to prove this, the spectrogram will be supplied and also be analyzed. The paper also wants to investigate the problems that are encountered in the naming of these two speech sounds. The research will also try to show the flaws in the naming of these sounds. This is due to the fact that the naming of these sounds is biased, i.e. naming which is based on one side of the sounds.*