Dàgáárè is a language spoken in Ghana and Burkina Faso by approximately 1 million people, but despite this large number, it is not well documented. The Dàgáárè vowel inventory has been described as consisting of 9 vowels: [i, ɪ, e, ɛ, u, ʊ, o, ɔ] and [a], which can be divided into two categories: advanced tongue root (ATR) vowels and retracted tongue root (RTR) vowels. Recent phonetic studies from our lab have demonstrated that the Dàgáárè low vowel, recorded as a single vowel /a/, is actually pronounced as two distinct low vowels: one which is RTR, [a], and the other which is ATR, [ə]. Yet, it is still uncertain whether this tenth vowel is phonologically meaningful or ‘contrastive’. If these two low vowels are contrastive, they have a role in distinguishing word meaning and if not, they are simply two phonetic variants of what is treated as the same sound. The present study uses phonological tests to determine whether the Dàgáárè low vowels are contrastive, as are the other 8 vowels which have ATR/RTR contrastive pairs. To test this, we found minimal pairs, words which differ solely in their vowel quality, and modified them with prefixes. Using these and other words containing the low vowels, perceptual and acoustic analysis of audio recordings was then conducted. The test results are consistent with what is expected of contrastive vowels, indicating that Dàgáárè has 10 phonological vowels, one more than previously thought. These results aid in the process of documenting an under-documented language.

**Themes:**

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

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**Comments:**

Interesting research! And clearly articulated. It would be great if the people seeing your poster could hear for themselves the difference in sounds, or have an example from English of what the difference between a contrastive vowel and a non-contrastive vowel is!