

Abstract

This study investigates the orthographic variability in the Somali language, influenced by inconsistent education, foreign language impact, and outdated resources. Through field visits, media engagement, scholarly consultations, and dictation exercises, I identify key areas needing standardization. I propose a unified Somali language curriculum and NLP technologies to enhance consistency. Standardizing Somali orthography is crucial for preserving its cultural richness and future relevance.

Introduction

The Somali language, despite being the mother tongue of millions, faces significant challenges in both written and spoken forms. This issue is exemplified by the diverse ways in which Somali words are written, leading to confusion and miscommunication.

Observations:

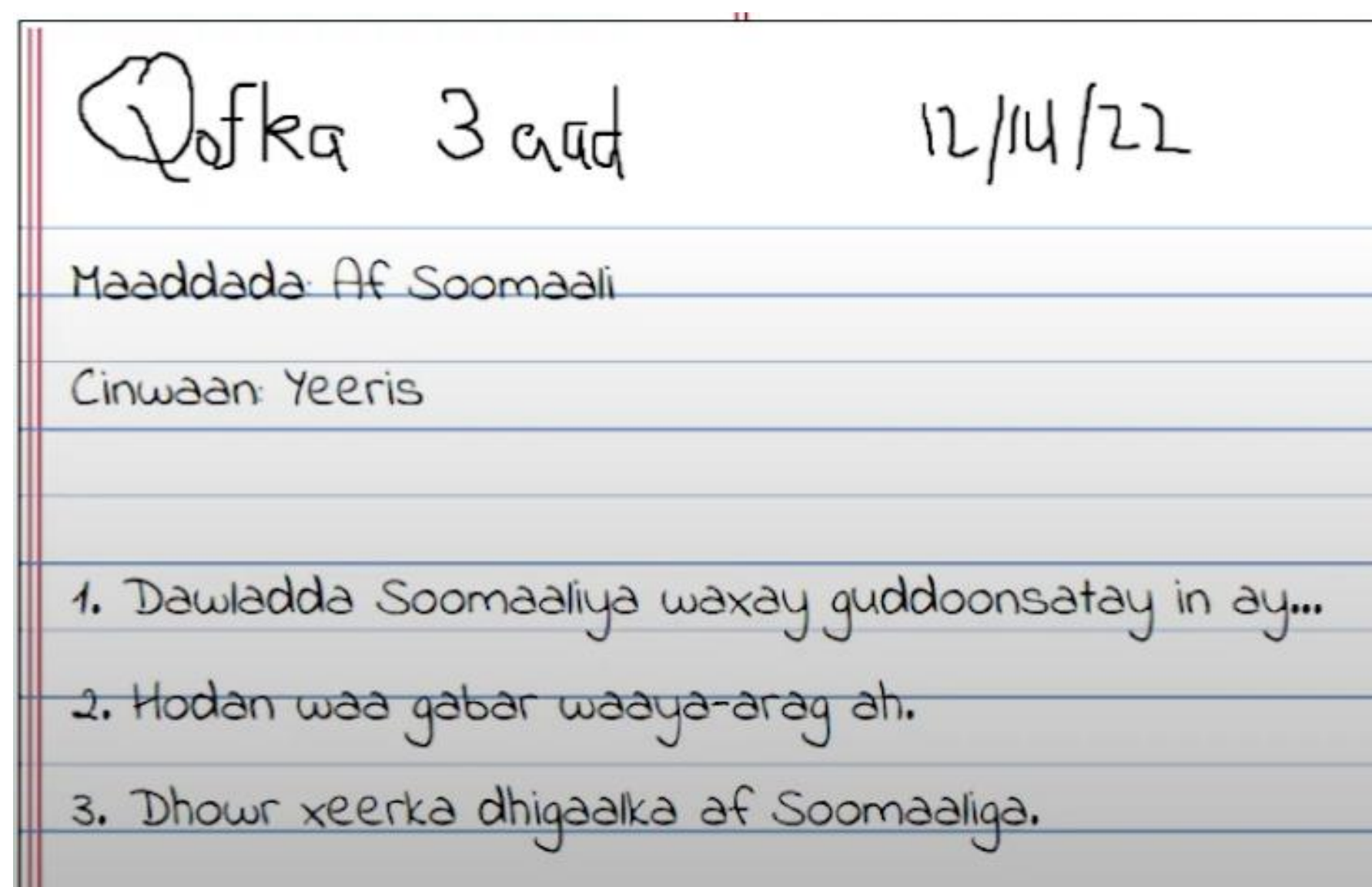
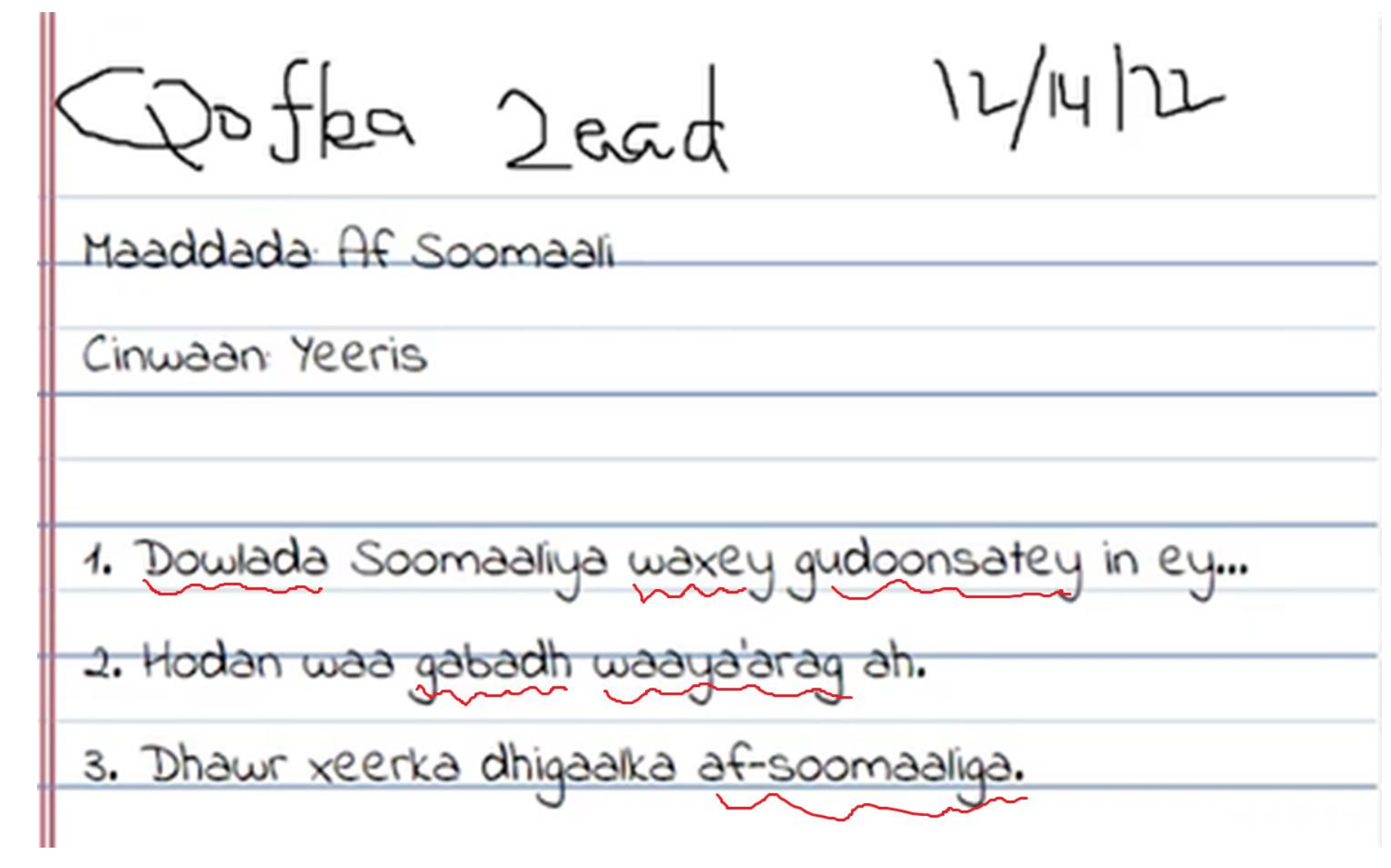
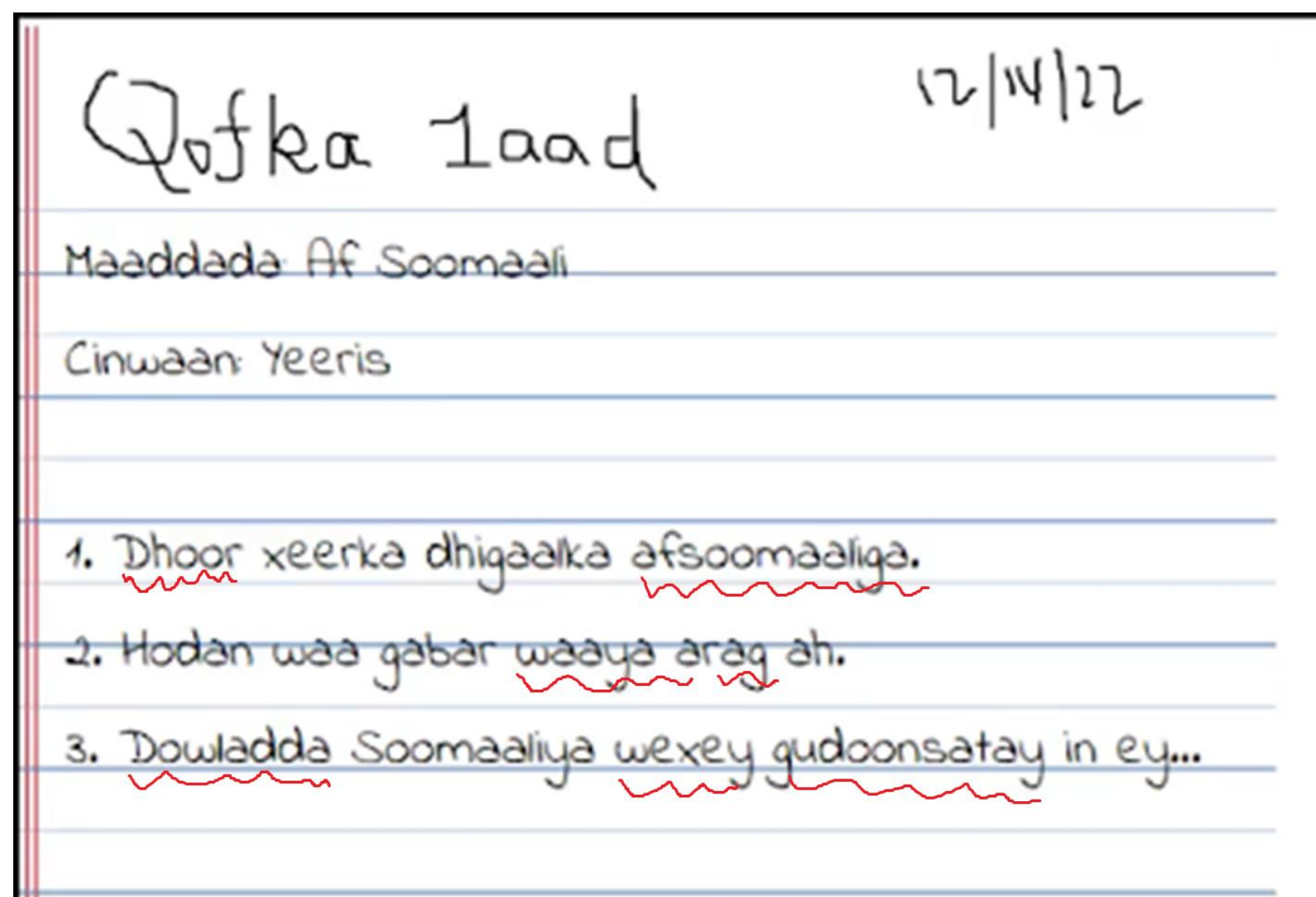
Writing Challenges: The inconsistency in orthography causes difficulties in maintaining uniformity in written communication.

Speaking Challenges: Some individuals find it difficult to articulate words correctly, leading to a gap in effective communication.

Combined Challenges: A segment of the population struggles with both writing and speaking Somali, exacerbating the overall issue.

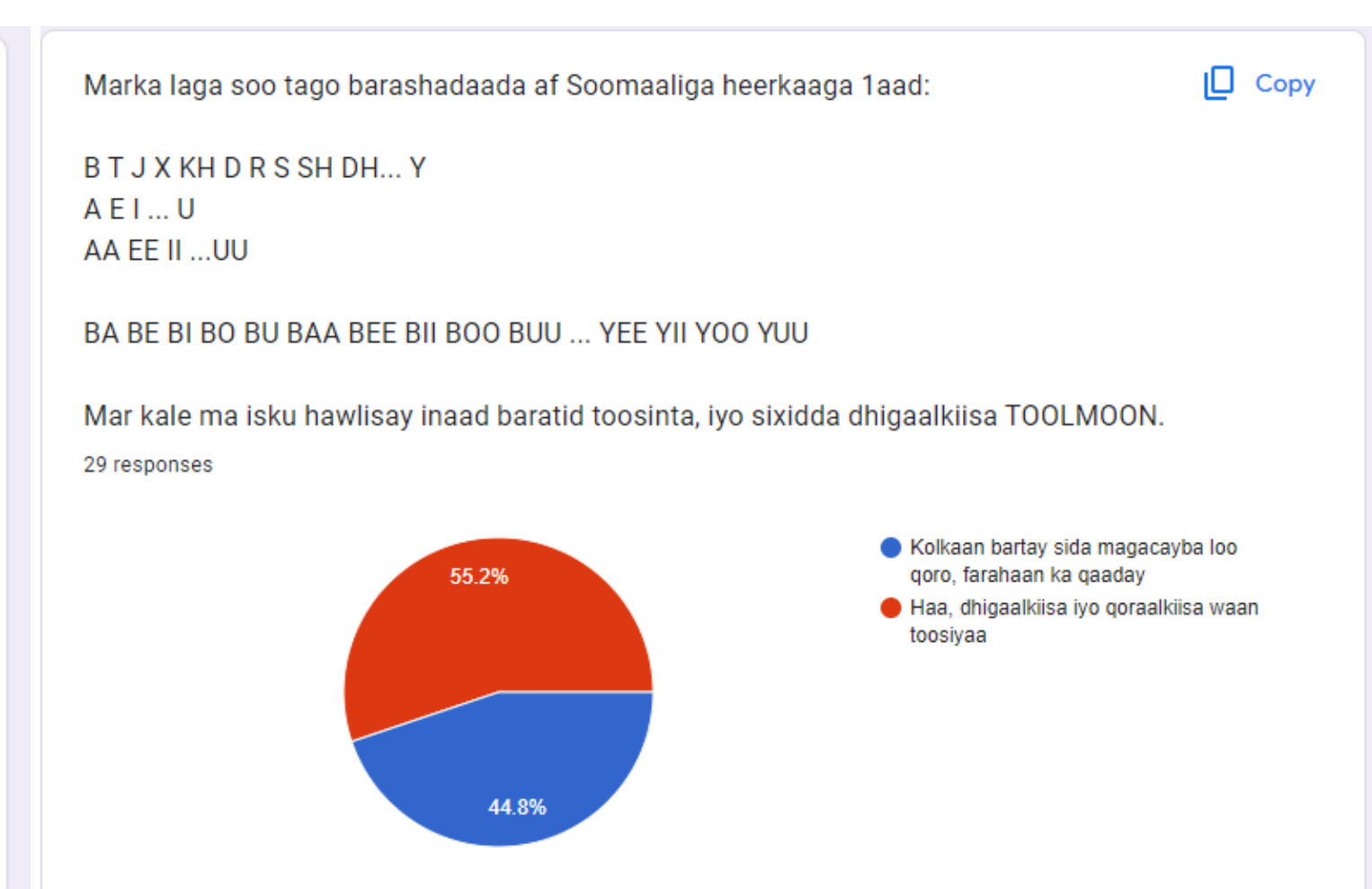
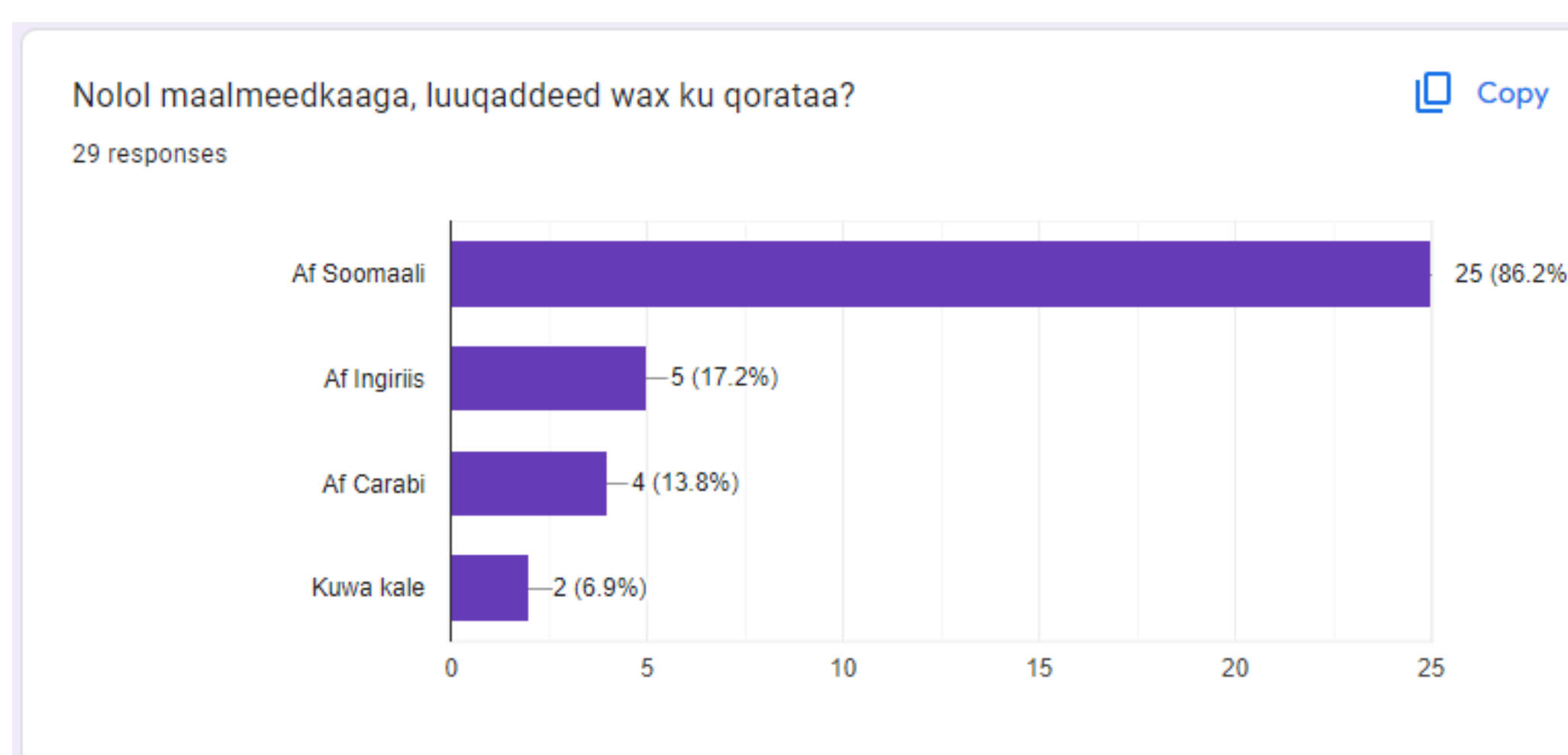
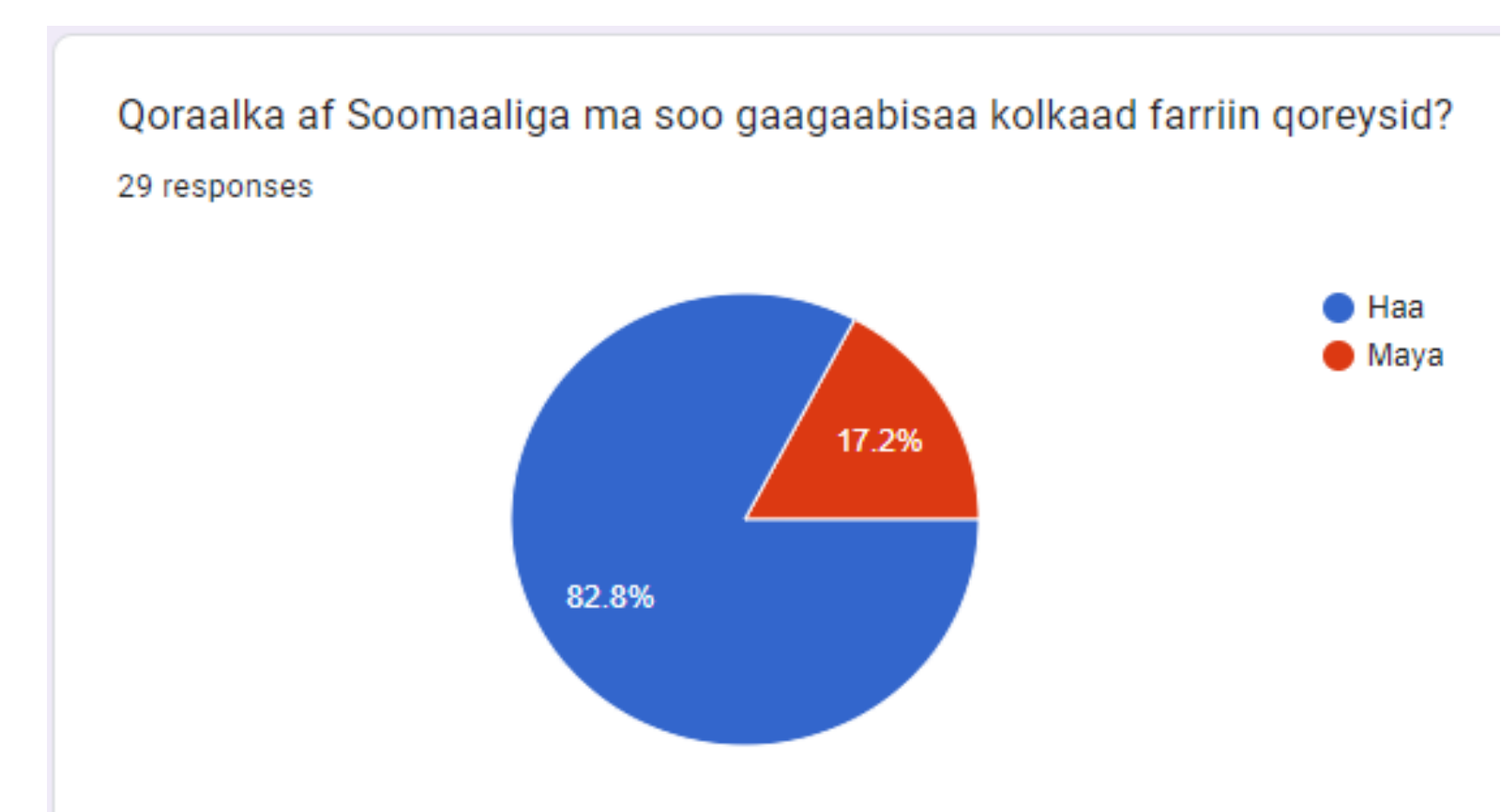
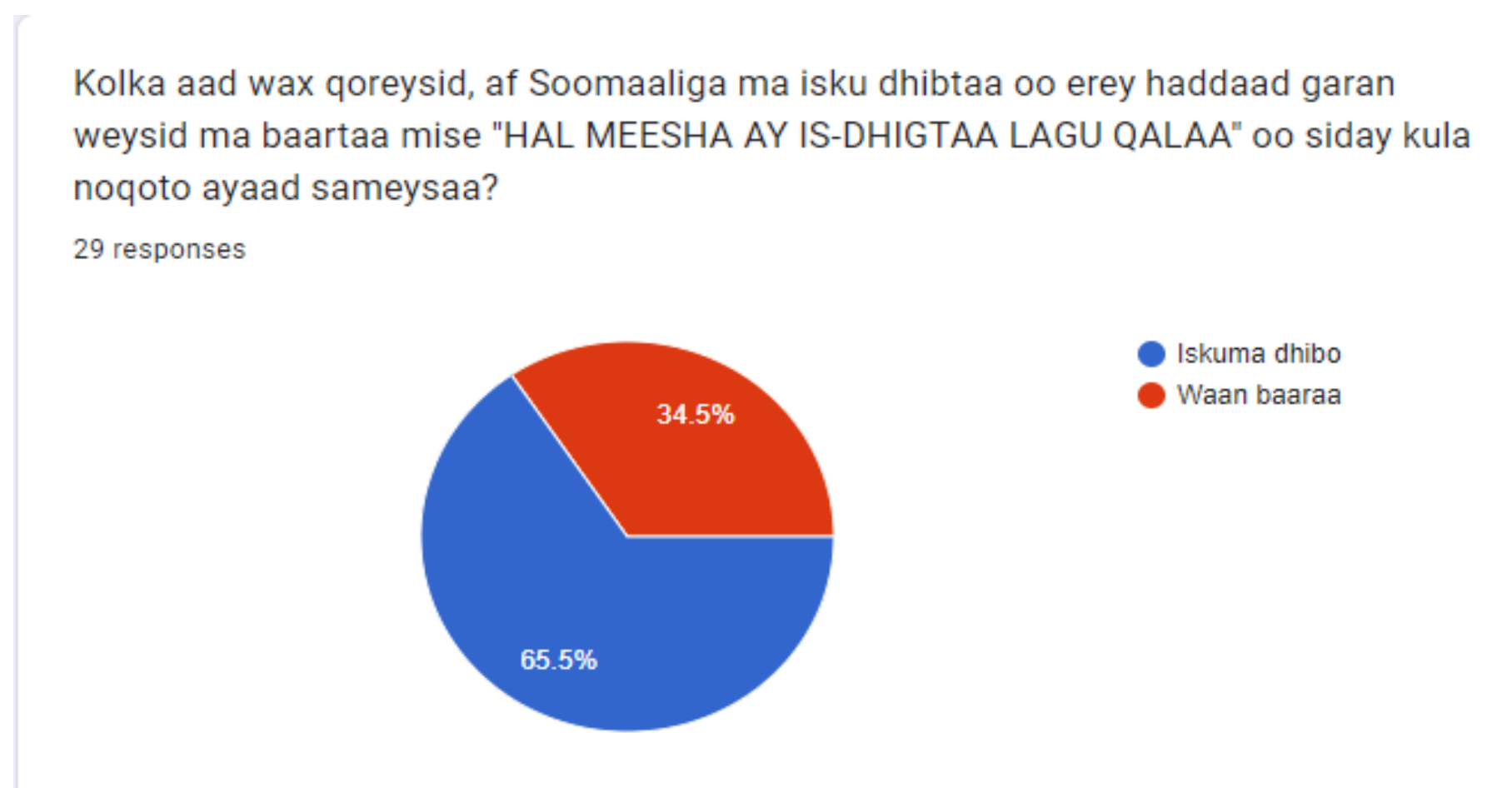
A prevalent belief among Somali speakers is encapsulated in the sentence: **"The important thing is to understand each other—the one who is speaking and the one who is being spoken to."** This perspective, while promoting understanding, has inadvertently contributed to the deterioration of standardized Somali language usage.

Somali Dictation Exercise

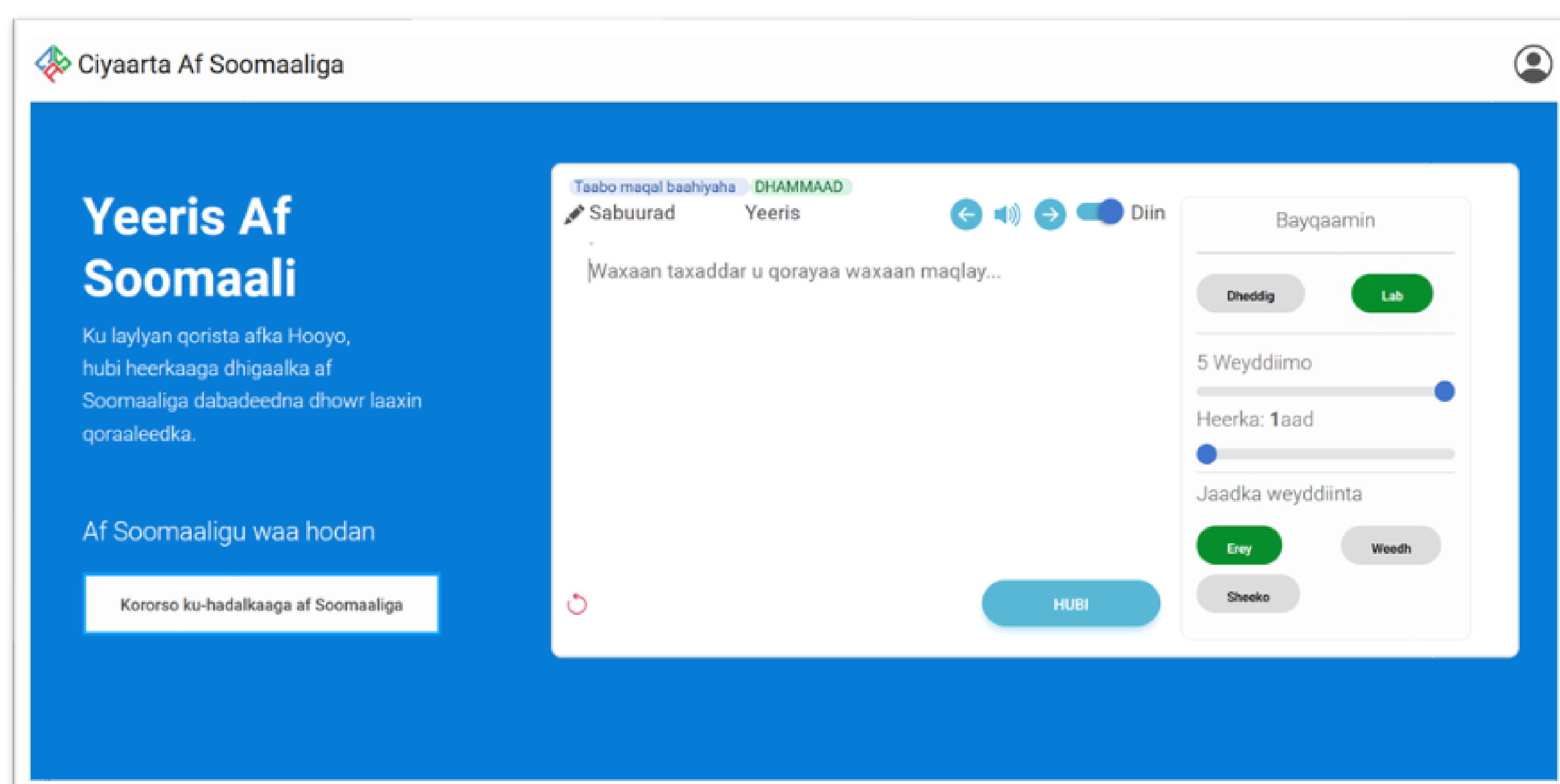


Data Analysis

This analysis provided a comprehensive overview of the current state of Somali writing and informed the development of strategies for promoting standardization.



Platform Description



Future Work

- The current implementation:** programmatically hard-coded, leading to occasional failures in sentence.
- Future enhancements:** Integration of machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) technologies to improve its accuracy and reliability.

References

- A.-G. Af-soomaaliga, Afmaal, Djibouti: The Intergovernmental Academy of Somali Language, 17th - 21th December 2015.
- A.A.Fiqi, Haldhigaalka AF Soomaaliga Guud, Mogadishu: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/bXtyuy5JyiQnEyWA/?mibextid=oFDknk>, 2024.
- A.-G. Af-soomaaliga, Afmaal, Djibouti: The Intergovernmental Academy of Somali Language, 17th - 21th December 2015