

THE PHONEMES OF THE BUHID (MANGYAN) LANGUAGE
OF EASTERN MINDORO, PHILIPPINES

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0. Introduction

The following data have been obtained from various members of the Buhid tribe living at the headwaters of the Sumagui-Tangon area, during field work under the auspices of Overseas Missionary Fellowship of the China Inland Mission, October 1952 to February 1955, at Salcedo and Manihala, Bongabon, Mindoro Oriental, Philippines. The present description was undertaken as part of the course at the Summer Institute of Linguistics,¹ Norman, Oklahoma, U.S.A., during the summer of 1955.

1. Chart of the Phonemes

Types of Sounds	Labial	Dental	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
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Consonants:

Stops, Voiceless	p	t		k	ʔ
Stops, Voiced	b	d		g	
Fricatives, Voiceless	f	s			h
Nasals, Voiced	m	n		ŋ	
Laterals, Voiced		l			
Vibrants, Voiced		r			
Semivowels, Voiced	w		y		

Vowels:

High		i		u
Mid		e	A	o
Low			a	

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2. Contrastive Features

Buhid consonant phonemes are divided into six contrastive groups: stops, fricatives, nasals, laterals, vibrants, and semivowels.

Stops contrast in voicing and voicelessness.

Stops and nasals contrast as to labial, dental, and velar points of articulation. Voiceless stops have an additional contrast at glottal point of articulation.

Fricatives contrast as to labial, dental, and glottal points of articulation.

Vowel phonemes contrast as to high, mid, and low positions, and horizontally as to front, central, and back.

3. Description of the Phonemes, with Illustrations

3.1 Consonants

3.1.1 Stops include voiceless unaspirated p, t, k, ʔ, and voiced b, d, g. k and g are phonetically lenis, varying to fricatives before vowels, but clearly stops before other stops, e.g. /kakitáy/ [kaxitáy] 'but'; /ʔagúd/ [ʔagú^d] 'short'. All stops have unreleased allophones in word final position. Illustrations of the Stops:

p /páko²/ [páko] 'nail'; /dalúhap/ [dalúha^p] 'palm of hand';
/kapsán/ [kapsán] 'beside'.

b /bágo/ [bágo] 'new'; /bákbag/ [bákbag] 'wooden bar';
/labón/ [labón] 'now'; /lahób/ [lahó^b] 'skin, bark'.

t /tagán/ [tagán] 'nest of domestic fowl'; /dátag/ [dátag^ʔ] 'level';
/gamát/ [gamát] 'hand'.

d /dándan/ [dándan] 'old'; /kúdkod/ [kúdko^d] 'hoe'.

k /takyáy/ [takyáy] 'forearm'; /kalímo/ [kalímo] 'startle';
/lútok/ [lúto^k] 'mud'.

g /galáwit/ [galáw^t] 'scythe'; /ʔúgdog/ [ʔúgdog^ʔ] 'feelings'.

(2) The voiceless labial stop p occurs word initially only in loan words.

- ʔ /buʔót/ [buʔót] 'hate'; /gubʔón/ [gubʔón] 'well';
/maláksiʔ/ [maláksiʔ] 'white'.

3.12 Fricatives include voiceless f, s, h. One instance of [ʃ] has been observed, in the word /saŋko/ 'at me', morphologically analysed as an elided form of /se aŋko/, which in fast speech is heard as [ʃaŋko]. Illustrations of the fricatives:

- f /fálad/ [fála^d] 'soul'; /ɣifon/ [ɣifon] 'tooth'.
s /sáfa/ [sáfa] 'stream'; /hástay/ [hástay] 'come'; /gámas/ [gámas] 'thread'.
h /buhágod/ [buhágo^d] 'proud'.

3.13 Nasals include voiced m, n, ɲ. Illustrations of the nasals:

- m /mamégus/ [mamégus] 'bathe'; /numarúm/ [numarúm] 'tomorrow'.
n /nabántay/ [nabántay] 'watch'; /manwáynan/ [manwáynan] 'dwell'.
ɲ /ɲásɲas/ [ɲásɲas] 'chew'; /máɲon/ [máɲon] 'eat'.

3.14 There is only one lateral, voiced l, which is clear in timbre. Illustrations of the lateral:

- l /lilágmon/ [lilágmon] 'woman's garment'; /ʔalfóyo/ [ʔalfóyo] 'head'; /dahúl/ [dahúl] 'big'.

3.15 There is only one vibrant, voiced r, which is a flap. Illustrations of the vibrant:

- r /rírok/ [rífo^k] 'write'.

3.16 Semivowels are w and y, occurring in labial and palatal positions. Illustrations of the semivowels:

- w /wasáy/ [wasáy] 'axe'; /dúwaʔ/ [dúwaʔ] 'two'; /gúnaw/ [gúnaw] 'flood'.
y /yáfon/ [yáfon] 'supper'; /ʔalyófan/ [ʔalyófan] 'centipede'; /ʔabúhay/ [ʔabúhay] 'white'.

3.2 Vowels

There are two vowels in high position, i and u. Each has an open allophone in closed syllables. Illustrations of the high vowels:

i /sitám/ [sitám] 'dirty'; /sihíl/ [sihí:l] 'heel'.

u /súlan/ [súlan] 'chin'; /ʔagúd/ [ʔagó^d] 'short'.

There are three vowels in mid position, e, ɛ, and o. e is phonetically an open variety, [ɛ]. Illustrations of the mid vowels:

e /séyug/ [séyug] 'bamboo floor slats'; /nalég/ [nalég] 'hold'.

ɛ /ʔabasád/ [ʔabasá^d] 'deep'.

o /bóhin/ [bóhin] 'lesson'; /sóhob/ [sóhob^b] 'roof'.

There is one vowel in low position, a. Although a contrasts with ɛ as shown by /ʔipág/ 'girl friend', /nalág/ 'see', and /waság/ 'for', /fag/ noun clitic, and /bag/ 'G-string', in certain words these vowels fluctuate: /ʔabát/ or /ʔAbát/ 'high'; /gámas/ or /gÁmas/ 'thread'; /ʔálad/ or /ʔÁlad/ 'fence'. Illustrations of low vowel:

a /dágom/ [dágom] 'needle'; /gápas/ [gápas] 'kapok'; /dága/ [dága] 'ground'.

4. Distribution of Phonemes

4.1 General Distribution in Relation to Syllables, Words, and Morphemes.

Syllables consist of the following consonant-vowel sequences: CV /lútok/ 'ripe'; CVC /lúknan/ 'calf of leg'.

Words or morphemes consist of the following consonant-vowel sequences: CVC /bok/ 'hair'; CVCV /fáfa/ 'cooked rice'; CVCVC /lúfog/ 'sad'; CVCCVC /gáyfan/ 'thought'; CVCCV /ʔídyá/ 'not yet'.

4.2 Specific Distribution in Terms of Spot Classes

4.21 C₁V₁ All consonants occur in C₁:

/páko/ 'nail'; /bápa/ 'uncle'; /tayó/ 'counsel'; /dága/ 'ground'; /káwa/ 'on account of'; /gámas/ 'thread'; /ʔabát/ 'high'; /fiya/ 'good'; /sitám/ 'dirty'; /húmi/ 'beard'; /mafáŋ/ 'lazy'; /namók/ 'mosquito'; /ŋáyan/ 'name'; /lahób/ 'bark of tree'; /rírok/ 'write'; /wasáy/ 'axe'; /yábas/ 'breakfast'.

4.22 $C_1V_1C_2$ All consonants, except f and h, occur in C_2 :

/dalúhap/ 'palm of hand'; /lahób/ 'bark of tree'; /mabyát/ 'heavy'; /húdkod/ 'dig'; /matayóm/ 'sharp'; /mibólon/ 'industrious'; /múyog/ 'sincere'; /sákbaw/ 'enter'; /lúfog/ 'sad'; /mayáwaʔ/ 'clear'; /matís/ 'cold' (water); /gífol/ 'whistle'; /latúrdan/ 'red banana'; /wasáy/ 'axe'.

4.23 C_1V_1 , $C_1V_1C_2$ All vowels occur in V_1 :

/sihíl/ 'heel'; /lúknan/ 'calf of leg'; /séyug/ 'bamboo slats of floor'; /máslóg/ 'upright'; /hátsi/ 'there'; /bálay/ 'house'.

4.3 Sequence Limitations with Respect to Consonants

Any consonant except f and h may occur as first member of a consonant cluster.

Any consonant may occur as second member of a consonant cluster.

Some restrictions of occurrence noted may be due to lack of data, others simply to rare occurrences of certain phonemes. Some clusters have been observed only in proper names, such as: lŋ /Malŋán/, ɣd /Waydáy/, nʔ /Linʔúman/, yʔ /Giláyʔud/, mʔ /Ginimʔáy/, wʔ /Gináwʔay/, yh /Gayhíman/.

r has been observed as first member in only one consonant cluster, rd, but as second member following m, n, and ŋ.

w has been observed only preceding ʔ, n, and ŋ.

p has been observed only following y and g.

ʔ has been observed preceding t and m, and following b and g, in addition to the clusters nʔ, yʔ, mʔ, and wʔ, above noted as occurring in proper names.

g has been observed only following b, g, ŋ, and l, but seems quite unrestricted as first member.

5. Stress

Stress is contrastive, as shown by the following examples:

/ʔédo/ 'dog'; /rírok/ 'write'; /ɟáyan/ 'name'; /bákbag/ 'wooden bar'; /buhágod/ 'proud'; /tabó/ 'end'; /namók/ 'mosquito'; /tagán/ 'nest of domestic fowl'; /kapsán/ 'beside'; /ʔAbasád/ 'deep'.

Words ending in an open syllable have a predominant pattern of penultimate stress, as shown by the following examples:

/bágo/ 'new'; /ʔída/ 'not yet'; /hátsi/ 'there'; /kalímo/ 'startle'; /ʔalfóyo/ 'head'.

6. Vowel Length

Certain Tagalog $C_1V_1C_2V_2C_3$ words have the form $C_1V_2C_3$ in Buhid, with a tendency to length on the resultant single vowel, in slow speech. In fast speech, however, this length is lost. Examples are:

/bok/ 'hair'; /bag/ 'G-string'; /kon/ 'box'; /tod/ 'knee'.
Tagalog: /buhók/ 'hair'; /bahág/ 'G-string'; /káhon/ 'box';
/tuhod/ 'knee'.

As yet, no contrast in length has been observed in words of Buhid origin, although at times the vowels in certain stressed syllables appear to be somewhat longer than comparable vowels in unstressed syllables.

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