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## THE 'Y' ARCHIPHONEME IN MAMANWA

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In Mamanwa phonemic status can be proved for /y/ and /z/, but in some positions there is limited distribution.<sup>1</sup> The present analysis is written to establish the status of these contrastive and non-contrastive phones.

There is phonetic similarity between /y/ and /z/, both being voiced fricatives, the former in palatal position and the latter in alveolar. Partial complementary distribution exists between the two in that /y/ occurs in syllable final position, but /z/ never does; permissible syllable patterns in Mamanwa are CV and CVC. Moreover, only /z/, never /y/, can occur next to a suffix (syllable initial position). However in all other syllable initial positions /y/ and /z/ contrast.

The contrast between /y/ and /z/, and the neutralization of that contrast in syllable final position represent an archiphoneme (which we will write contrastively as /y/ or /z/ and non-contrastively as /Y/). Hockett has said concerning this: "In certain positions both phonemes of an archiphoneme occur, in contrast. In positions where the contrast is irrelevant, one does not say that what occurs is either one phoneme or the other; rather one says that it represents the archiphoneme, the contrast in that position being neutralized."<sup>2</sup>

The contrast between /y/ and /z/ occurs medially in the word base though there are some instances of the contrast coming at the beginning of the word base.<sup>3</sup> /bu.yak/ flower, /bu.zag/ sweet potato; /pi.ya/ cat, /pi.zen/ to close eyes; /su.yat/ to write, /se.za/ skirt; /ka.yas/ to frighten, /ka.za.saw/ lizard; /ya/ particle, /za.man/ onion.

Note the following examples of neutralization of contrast of final /y/: [bay.hu] /baY.hu/ face; [kay.ʔan] /kaY.ʔan/ later; [say.lo] /saY.lo/ to follow; [ge.re.may] /ge.re.maY/ small; [seng.ʔay] /seng.ʔaY/ to sit on shoulders.

The contrast is also neutralized in syllable initial position contiguous to a suffix, e.g. [hay.hay] to hang to dry plus [-en] becomes [hay.ha.zen]. Here the affix system is involved. Some would say that bringing in the level of morphology would exclude this analysis from phonemics. But sometimes there may be relevance between syllable and morpheme structure.<sup>4</sup> If a morpheme boundary fails to coincide with a syllable boundary, there may be problems. Pike speaks of this view of language analysis as 'integration', and states further: "...the phoneme can only be defined, in this view, in

reference to the fact that in some way it is related to morphemes, and the morpheme can only be defined in reference to the fact that it is in some way related to phonemes, ...".

In this instance in Mamanwa both the morphology and syllable structure (phonology) are pertinent to the definition of the archiphoneme. When suffixes of the shape -VC occur with word bases containing final /y/, (non-contrastive /Y/), the final C becomes initial in the new syllable and the /y/ changes to /z/ (noncontrastive /Y/): CV.CVy plus -CV becomes CV.CV.zVC.

[seng.ʔay] to sit on shoulders plus [-en] objective voice<sup>5</sup> becomes [seng.ʔa/zen] /sengʔaYen ya bata/ He will carry the baby.

[ge.re.may] small plus [-ay] diminutive becomes [ge.re.ma.zay] /geremaYaY/ very small.

[ge.re.may] small plus [-en] objective voice becomes [g.re.ma.zen] /geremaYen ini pagtadtad/ chop it small.

In summary, although near-minimal contrasts may be found between /y/ and /z/ in one position, yet in other positions they are non-contrastive. Together they may be analyzed as a single archiphoneme.

## NOTES

1. The Mamanwa dialect is spoken by approximately 1,000 Negritos residing in the northeastern area of the Island of Mindanao, Philippines, in Agusan and Surigao provinces. There are two known dialects, the material here presented having been obtained in Agusan province where the phonemic distinction under discussion is made. A tentative phonemic analysis reveals consonants /p b t d k g ʔ h s m n ŋ l r w ( /y/ and /z/ being discussed in this paper), and vowels /i e a o u/. I suspect that /o/ and /u/ phonemes can be combined into one but was unable to establish this conclusively before leaving the area.

2. Charles F. Hockett, A Manual of Phonology, IJAL 21, No. 4, IUPAL 11 (1955), p. 164.

3. A word base is a morpheme which may be affixed or is free.

4. See Kenneth L. Pike, Interpenetration of Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax, Proceedings of the VIII International Congress of Linguistics, p. 368.

5. Objective voice focuses upon the topic of the verbal predication as the goal of the action, in Mamanwa the topic being signalled by the particle ya. See Howard McKaughan, The Inflection and Syntax of Maranao Verbs, Publication of the (Philippine) Institute of National Language, p. 18.