

Report

Phonology of Birjia Part 2 - CONSONANT

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LANGUAGE/ MT: BIRJIA

In this month we worked on the consonants of Birjia.

The consonants are 33 in number. They are:

[p, b, b^h, g, g^h, k, k^h, ʃ, ʃ^h, c^h, c, ɟ, ɟ^h, t, t^h, d, d^h, t, t^h, ʔ, w, j, ɽ, r, l, ŋ,
ɲ, n, m, f, h, s and ɕ]

Chart of Birjia Consonants

Place of Articulation

Manner

	Bilabial vl. vd.	Dental vl. vd.	Alveolar vl. vd.	Alveo-Palatal vl. vd.	Palatal	Retroflex x vl. vd.	Velar vl. vd.	Glottal l	
Stop Simple	p b	t d		c ɟ		ʈ ɖ	k g	ʔ	
Stop Aspirated	b ^h	t ^h d ^h		c ^h ɟ ^h		ʈ ^h ɖ ^h	k ^h g ^h		
Fricative			s		ç			h	
Nasal	m		n		ɲ		ŋ		
Lateral			l						
Trill			r						
Flap						ɾ			
Semi-vowel	w				j				

The consonant [f] is labio-dental and occurs only once in the data as in [fusri] ‘pimple’.

Examples:

STOPS:

1. p (poʈa ‘belly’)
2. b (buaʔ ‘jackal’)
3. b^h (b^hendo ‘sheep’)
4. t (toka ‘nest’)
5. t^h (t^hulaʔ ‘spit’)
6. d (datah ‘teeth’)
7. d^h (d^hek ‘chest’)
8. ʈ (iʈa ‘brick’, ʈaijumʈe ‘then’)
9. ʈ^h (ʈ^haore ‘front of’)
10. ɖ (ɖandɪʔ ‘earring’)
11. ɖ^h (ɖ^hilua ‘swing’)
12. c (cab^hi ‘key’)
13. c^h (seta c^hua ‘puppy’ [seta -dog])
14. ʃ (joha ‘cheek’)
15. ʃ^h (ʃ^harija ‘river’)

16. k (kado ‘mud’)
17. k^h (k^herha ‘rabbit’)
18. g (gasiɖ ‘fart’)
19. g^h (g^hut^hi ‘ankle’)
- 20.ʔ (buaʔ ‘jackal’)

Fricatives –

1. s (soho- ‘urine’)
2. h (hickʔ ‘hiccup’)
3. f (fusri ‘pimple’) - it is labio-dental and occurs only once in the data.
4. ɕ (ɕitoŋ ‘sunshine’)

NASALS:

1. m (muon ‘ant’)
2. n (narijel ‘coconut’)
3. ŋ (ɲia ‘I’)
4. ŋ (diriŋ ‘horn’)

LATERAL: l (lutur ‘ear’)

TRILL: r (roɕe ‘toad’)

FLAP: ɾ (kiɾa ‘worm’)

SEMI VOWEL:

1. j (majam ‘blood’)
2. w (ɾewewɾ ‘cold ailment’)

At present we find the following consonants in contrast:

/p/, /t/, /k/, /g/, /s/, /h/, /n/, /l/, /r/, /ʃ/

Examples:

- /r : ʃ/

pahar ‘forest’ : pahaʃ ‘mountain’

- /k: h/

pakar ‘stone’ : pahar ‘hill’

- /n: t/

nani ‘grandmother (M)’ : nati ‘grandson’

- /l: s/

lal ‘red’ : sal ‘year’

- /p: g/

poʃa ‘belly’ : goʃa ‘all’

- /h: n/

hasur ‘sprain’ : nasur ‘garlic’