Report

Phonology of Birjia Part 1 - VOWEL

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MONTH: MARCH, 2015

LANGUAGE/ MT: BIRJIA

In this month we worked on the vowels of Birjia.

A preliminary analysis of the data shows that there are eight vowels in Birjia. They are [**i**,**e**,**ə**,**a**,**ɔ**,**o**,**u** and **ɛ].** And there are fifteen vowel clusters in the language. They are [ia, iu, ei, eu, eo, ẽa, ua, uo, oa, oi, ou, ai, au, ao and ae] .Seven vowels are established as phonemes from the preliminary study.:

Vowels:

The eight vowels are shown in the following chart

	FRONT	**CENTRAL**	**BACK**
HIGH	**/i/**		**/u/**
MID HIGH	**/e/**		**/o/**
MID LOW	**/ɛ/**	**/ə/**	**/ɔ/**
LOW		**/a/**	

Examples:

/i/: Front High Unrounded

rimil (cloud),

baɖida (ice)

ɲia (we)

/e/: Front Mid High Unrounded

seta (dog)

kulseret (lizard)

d^{h}eke (chest)

[ɛ]: Front Mid Low Unrounded

mɛrom (goat)

/ə/: Central Mid Low Unrounded

gəd^{h}a (donkey)

mərec (black pepper)

indrə (well)

/a/: Central Low Unrounded

bʰanʈa (brinjal)

sekam (leaf)

sendra (hunter)

/u/: Back High Rounded

kumhər (potter)

susun (dance)

ajupdilaŋ (evening)

/o/: Back Mid High Rounded

bokoin (father's sister's son)

kado (mud)

ɟinor (maize)

/ɔ/: Back Mid Low Rounded

sersɔ (mustard)

ɔr (and)

hɔʈo (body)

<u>Construction of phonemic inventory of vowels in Birjia</u>

There are seven vowel phonemes in Birjia.
A List of minimal pairs is as follows:

- **/i/:/u/**
  /mamu/: /mami/

- **/ə/:/a/**
  / pakər/: /pakar/

- **/a/:/e/**
  /oʈa/:/oʈe/

- **/ɔ/:/o/**
  /ɔr/:/or/

- **/i/:/o/**
  /samd^{h}i/:/ samd^{h}o/

- **/a/ : /i/**
  /aɟa/: /aɟi/

  No minimal pairs are found regarding **/ɛ/.** Further linguistic investigation is necessary to ascertain its status.

VOWEL SEQUENCES

From preliminary analysis fifteen vowel sequences or clusters are identified. They are:

- [ia] : biah (to wed, marry), ɲia (I)
- [iu] : g^{h}ĩu (butter)
- [ei] : bilei (cat), teijaŋ (elder/younger sister's husband)
- [eu] : neula (mongoose)
- [eo] : c^{h}eora (skin)
- [ẽa] : pẽaɟ (onion)
- [ua] : seta c^{h}ua (puppy), simc^{h}ua (chick)
- [uo] : muon (ant)
- [oa] : noa (this), horoa mand^{h}er (day before yesterday)
- [oi] : unḍeroil (loin cloth), bokoin(father's brother's daughter)
- [ou] : mousi (mother’s sister), mousa (mother's sister's husband)
- [ai] : b^{h}ai (elder/ younger brother),
- [au] : mais (miser)

- [ao] : binao (weaver), ʈʰaore (front of)
- [ae] : paeri (anklet)