The Solori and Bujok Dialects of Hârn
A brief phonology

Anita Easton & Jamieson Norrish

November 14, 1993

1 Introduction

This document is intended both as an outline of the phonology and morphology of the Solori and Bujoc dialects, and consequently also as a guide to the creation of words in these dialects. To this end, each dialect contains a section detailing the phonemic system, a brief morphology of the most common structures, and a sample lexicon showing both meaning and pronunciation.

Throughout this document standard IPA characters have been used to represent sounds. Where the English pronunciation of the symbol may be insufficient guide for non-linguists, footnotes providing English examples of similar sounds have been provided in the first instance of each symbol.

2 The Solori Dialect

2.1 Phonemic System

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Voiceless plosive	p	t	k	
Nasal stop	m	n	ŋ[1]	
Voiceless fricative	ɸ[2]	s		h[3]
Approximant		ɹ[4]		
Lateral approximant		l		

[1] /ŋ/ is the sound ending the English word *sing*.

[2] /ɸ/ is a bilabial voiceless fricative, it sounds very similar to an English /f/ but it produced with both lips. Some people (especially those in constant contact with people with a /f/ phone) have started adopting a [f] pronunciation of this phoneme. This replacement does not alter the phonological system as /f/ takes the place of /ɸ/ in the anterior paradigm.

[3] /h/ fills the back voiceless fricative position in this system, matching the velar consonants.

[4] /ɹ/ is the standard RP English r sound found in *ring*.

	Front	Central	Back
close	i[5]		u[6]
mid	æ[7]	ə[8]	ɔ[9]
open		a[10]	

The consonant system of the Solori dialect can most easily be divided up into three articulatory areas (anterior (bilabial), coronal (alveolar) and back (velar-glottal)). Within these areas the three main forms of articulation (voiceless plosive, nasal stop and voiceless fricative) are represented in each of the three areas of articulation. The final two modes of articulation (lateral and non-lateral approximant) are represented only in the coronal area.

While at first glance the vowel system also appears to have three main places of articulation, this is actually deceptive. The Solori dialect is in fact a standard five vowel system, with the addition of the centralised unstressed /ə/ so common in human languages.

2.2 Phonotactics

The basic unit of Solori words is the syllable. Each syllable is of the basic form $C_0^1VC_0^1$ [11], however non-word final syllables may not end in consonants (C_0^1V). This gives the basic word form $(C_0^1V)_0C_0^1VC_0^1$.

All vowels may occupy any V slot, and C slots may be occupied by any consonant with one exception; /h/ never falls in the post-vocalic consonant position, ie it may never end a word. Some written systems of Solari will occasionally write an *h* in syllable final positions, this appears to be done by speakers of a Hârn dialect which makes a short long vowel distinction[12]. These speakers use the orthographic *h* to mark long vowels.

2.3 Morphology

Compounding:

Plurals are formed quite simply in the Solori dialect. Where a noun ends in a consonant, “i” is added; where it ends in a vowel, “ri” is added. These same rules apply to verb forms, with the plural persons being formed by adding the appropriate ending to the singular person form.

2.4 Orthography

As the Solori are not, as a people, literate (which does not preclude special individuals from being such), there is no codified orthographic system. While those few who are

[5] /i/ is similar to the English *Pete* vowel. However unlike some varieties of English this vowel is monophthongal.

[6] /u/ is similar to the English *boot* vowel.

[7] /æ/ is similar to the English *pat* vowel.

[8] /ə/ is similar to the English vowel ending *teacher*, ie an unstressed vowel. This exists both as a phoneme, and also as the product of the neutralisation of other vowels in unstressed sentential contexts.

[9] /ɔ/ is similar to the English *port* vowel.

[10] /a/ is similar to the English *part* vowel.

[11] C stands for consonant, V for vowel. Subscripts stand for the minimum number of a unit that may be present, superscripts stand for the maximum, unscripted elements stand for one and one only. Thus C_0^1 stands for at least no, and at most one consonant, ie 0 or 1 consonants.

[12] English has a short long
vowel distinction, differentiating *bud* and *bard* on vowel length alone

literate will most likely use the alphabet common to the dominant Hârn dialect, there is little guarantee that any two spellings of the same word will be identical.

2.5 A Sample Lexicon

This lexicon is a list of a few words of the Solori dialect. The majority of these have been created; only the words "Solori" and "Matasum" are found in HârnWorld products. The list is ordered into three columns: the left gives the English spelling; the middle column the phonetic spelling (including stress markers); and the right column gives the meaning. The spelling of the English is only meant as a guide, rather than as the standard. Stress is marked in the following manner:

ˈa = stress on *a*
ˌa = secondary stress on *a*

Stress acts on syllables, not on vowels.

Ani	/ˈani/	adj., wild, fierce
Arakora	/ˌaɹaˈkɔɹa/	n., snake
Efaeta	/əˈɸætə/	vt., I kill
Faesang	/ˈɸæsaŋ/	n., spear
Fu	/fu/	no
Hata	/ˈhatə/	n., animal
Ikan	/ˈikan/	n., fish
Ikana	/iˈkana/	vi., I fish
Ka	/ka/	n., water
Lisi	/ˈlisi/	adj., soft
Latan	/laˈtan/	n., bed, mat
Mafut	/maˈɸut/	n., milk
Matasum	/ˈmatasum/	Matasum
Mikasa	/miˈkasa/	vt., I cook
-ngaru	/ˈŋaɹu/	suff., great/leader honourific [e.g. Sir]
Nuatu	/ˌnuˈatu/	n., pot, bowl
Oti	/ˈɔti/	n., fire
Otimika	/ɔˈtimiˌka/	n., cooking fire
Puk	/puk/	n., bird
Pumael	/ˈpumæl/	n., tribal village
Rati	/ˈɹati/	n., people (sing.)
Ratingaru	/ˈɹatiˌŋaɹu/	n., tribal leader
Solori	/ˈsoloɹi/	n. & adj., Solori
Tamelak	/ˈtamələk/	n., eagle
Toki	/ˈtɔki/	n., bird
Ukanesin	/uˈkanəˌsin/	n., water-monster

3 The Bujoc Dialect

3.1 Phonemic System

	BILABIAL	ALVEOLAR	POST-ALVEOLAR	VELAR	GLOTTAL
Voiceless plosive	p	t		k	ʔ[13]
Voiced plosive	b	d			
Nasal stop	m	n		ŋ	
Voiceless fricative			ʃ[14]		h
Voiced fricative	w		ʒ[15]		

	FRONT	CENTRAL	BACK
Close Long	i		u
Close Short	ɩ[16]		ʊ[17]
Mid	æ	ə	ɔ[18]
Open		a	

Like the Solori dialect, the Bujoc dialect has three general areas of articulation for consonants (anterior (bilabial), coronal (alveolar to post-alveolar) and back (velar to glottal)). However the articulation types are very different from those of the Solori dialect. Bujoc consonants can be broken into three types; nasals, fricatives and plosives. The nasal stops are spread evenly across the three areas of articulation. The plosives can be further subdivided into voiceless and voiced plosives. While there is an apparant asymmetry introduced by this division it can be easily explained when feature geometry theory is taken into account. Most theories of feature geometry argue that voiced consonants bear the [+glottallic] mark along with all glottal consonants. In this way the plosives can be broken into [+glottallic] and [-glottallic] groups, each of which is represented in each articulatory area.

Like the plosives, the fricatives also present, at face value an asymmetry. To resolve this we must look more closely at [w]. Rather than being a purely bilabial fricative, [w] is double articulated, being a labio-velar fricative[19]. This means that [w] is both back and anterior articulated (cf Chomsky and Halle[20]) and can comfortably be classed with /h/ as a back consonant. Under this analysis the fricatives can be divided into two pairs, occuring in two of the articulatory areas.

Unlike Solori, Bujoc has not collapsed the Hârnic long/short vowel distinction for all its vowels. It has retained the long short pairing in close vowels, giving a standard

[13] /ʔ/ has no direct comparison in most varieties of English. However, it is found in Cockney English, in positions such as the central consonant, such as in the word *butter*.

[14] /ʃ/ is similar to the consonant found at the beginning of the English word *show*.

[15] /ʒ/ has no direct comparison English. It is most well known to English speakers as the final consonant in the French word *rouge*. Some non-Bujoc dialect speakers replace this phoneme with the phone [ʤ], found in the English word *judge*.

[16] /ɩ/ is similar to the English *pit* vowel. It is the short pair to the /i/ vowel, and as such is far more close than in many English dialects.

[17] /ʊ/ is similar to the English *put* vowel. It is the short pair to the /u/ vowel.

[18] /ɔ/ in Bujoc is considerably shorter than is found in many other Hârnic dialects.

[19] A labio-velar consonant is best explained by saying that while the obvious labial stricture is occuring, a less obvious stricture is occuring within the mouth. Rather than fully relaxing, the tongue contracts, pulling the apex away from the anterior of the mouth (benefiting the labial stricture). This contraction produces a "hump" leading to a second velar stricture.

[20] Noam Chomsky and Morris Halle, 1968. *The Sound Pattern of English*. New York: Harper and Row.

five stressed vowel pattern, supplemented by two long/short pairings and a single unstressed phoneme.

3.2 Phonotactics

Bujoc is syllable based, with a syllable structure of $C_0^1VC_0^1$. All vowels may occur in all V positions, and consonants may occur in any C position, with two exceptions. Firstly, no word ever ends in either /h/ or /ʔ/, again words may be written with orthographic final *h*'s, but these are normally a guide to vowel length. The second exception is that even though it is possible for syllables to end in a consonant, unless the syllable is word final, the only consonants allowed in final position are nasals. Thus /ænwa/ is allowed, while */ædwa/ is not.

This gives a final word structure of $(C_0^1V\ \underset{[+\text{nasal}]^{21}}{C_0^1})_0C_0^1V\ \underset{[\text{-glottal}]}{C_0^1}$ for Bujoc words.

3.3 Morphology

-ti ending denotes people. Most nouns end in a vowel. Infinitives end in æ, except intransitives, which end in ə.

3.4 Orthography

As the Bujoc are not, as a people, literate (which does not preclude special individuals from being such), there is no codified orthographic system. While those few who are literate will most likely use the alphabet common to the dominant Hârn dialect, there is little guarantee that any two spellings of the same word will be identical.

3.5 A Sample Lexicon

This lexicon is a list of a few words of the Bujoc dialect. The majority of these have been created; only the words "Bujoc", "Ah" and "An-Wah" are found in HârnWorld products. The list is ordered into three columns: the left gives the English spelling; the middle column the phonetic spelling (including stress markers); and the right column gives the meaning. The spelling of the English is only meant as a guide, rather than as the standard. Stress is marked in the following manner:

ˈa = stress on *a*
ˌa = secondary stress on *a*

Stress acts on syllables, not on vowels.

[21] $\underset{[+\text{nasal}]}{C_0^1}$ is 0 or 1 nasal consonants.

Ah	/a/	generic pronoun
An-Wah	/æn'wa/	??
Binta	/bɩn'ta/	n., table
Bujoc	/'buʒɔk/	n. & adj., Bujoc
Ce	/kæ/	yes
Daka	/'dækə/	n., canoe, boat
Danite	/dan'ɩtə/	n., cloud
Du	/dʊ/	no
Hopatu	/hɔ'patu/	n., 1. herbivore; 2. domesticated animal
Huae	/hu'æ/	vt., to carry
Iuc	/ɩ'ʊk/	n., fire
Kowa	/kɔ'wa/	n., plain, field
Kowi	/'kɔwɩ/	adj., flat
Kowidati	/ˌkɔwɩ'datə/	n., 1. people of Melderyn; 2. all agricultural people
Migaha	/miʒa'ha/	n., sky
Mingite	/mi'ŋitə/	n., rain
Nondane	/nʊn 'danə/	n., mountain
Nonu	/nʊ'nʊ/	n., rock
Nite	/'nitə/	n., water
Patu	/'patu/	n., food
Shamdat	/ʃam'dat/	n., beast, Gargûn
Shewowi	/ʃə'wɔwi/	n., the Solori people
Tom'ic	/tɔmʔ'ɩk/	adj., small
Udarae	/uda 'ræ/	vt., to swim
Widah	/wɩdə/	n., 1. lit., wall; 2. fig., shelter, hut, tent