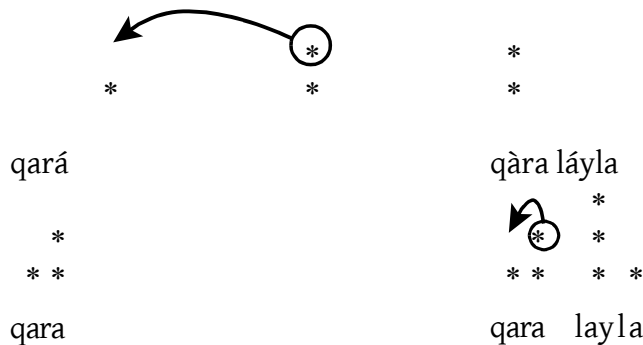


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Biblical Hebrew

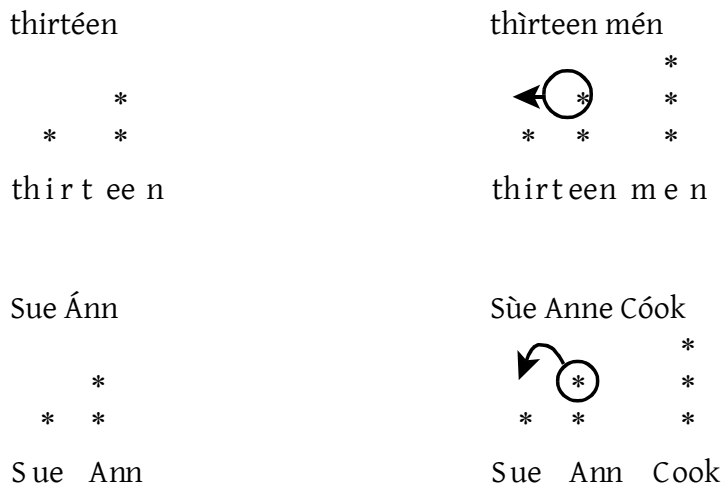
Biblical Hebrew has a rule traditionally called *nasog axor* (נסוג אחור). This rule enforces a rhythmic alternating pattern of stress. For example, in 'ה' 'א' יתבראש the stress on the phrase “he called [it] night” is not *qará láyla* as would be expected, but rather *qára láyla*. This rule is referred to in phonology as the Rhythm Rule. It can be stated as the movement of an asterisk in the metrical grid:

Rhythm Rule



English

Examples of the Rhythm Rule in English:



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Sòuth Amèrican

```

      *
*      *
*      * * * *

```

South American

Sóuth Amèrican músic

```

      *
*      *      *
*      * * * *      * *

```

South American music

tyrànnosáurus

```

      *
*      *
* * * * *

```

tyrannosaurus

tyrànnosàurus réx

```

      *
*      *      *
* * * * *

```

But since you can't have a gap in a column, there is no retraction of stress in:

antíque

```

*
* *

```

anti que

antíque dèaler

```

      *
*      *      *
* *      *

```

antique dealer

Malak-Malak

Reported in John Goldsmith (1990) *Autosegmental and Lexical Phonology*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

Note the stress patterns of the following words of the Australian language Malak-Malak.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | núnkuřuntuwörówakka | 'You (pl) would have given them meat' |
| 2. | wuwúntunùnuwàkna | 'He would have given you (sg) meat.' |
| 3. | nónkөрònyùnka | 'You (pl) will lie down.' |
| 4. | ařkíniyàŋka | 'We are all going to stand.' |
| 5. | múnankàřa | 'beautiful' |
| 6. | wúru | 'arm, rivulet' |
| 7. | mélpápu (emphatic) | 'father' |
| | mélpapù (normal) | |

Stress is on the next-to-last (penultimate) syllable, and on alternating syllables before that.

```

*
*      *      *      *
* * * * * * *

```

nunkuřuntuwörówakka

This is in a word with an even number of syllables.

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In a word with an odd number of syllables, the stress rules would place a stress on the first syllable. (We will see why when we look at the rules that create metrical grids.) But this creates a clash. In a word with more than three syllables, the initial stress is deleted to resolve the clash.

Clash Deletion

* → ∅ / ___ *

∅ ← $\textcircled{*}$ * *
 * * * * *

aŕkiniyaŋka

In the case of a three-syllable word (such as (7)), one of two things can happen. The rule of Clash Deletion can apply, as in the case of other odd-syllabled words; this is the “emphatic” form. The “normal” form undergoes a Rhythm Rule (one which moves the asterisk to the right):

emphatic:

∅ ← $\textcircled{*}$ *
 * * *

mɛɭpapu

normal:

* $\textcircled{*}$ →
 * * *

mɛɭpapu



Malak-Malak is a nearly extinct non-Pama-Nyungan Australian language. In 1988, it was reported to have 9 speakers. The arrow shows its approximate location in the Northern Territory.