

Syllable Constraints

from Iggy Roca and Wynn Johnson (1999) *A Workbook in Phonology*. Blackwell. Language information from www.ethnologue.com.

Lenakel

Lenakel uses vowel epenthesis to break up unsyllabifiable consonant clusters:

A.	Word Initial		
	/t-n-ak-ol/	[tɪnágɔl]	'you (sg.) will do it'
	/t-r-ep-ol/	[tɪrɛbɔl]	'he will then do it'
	/n-n-ol/	[nɪnɔl]	'you (sg.) have done it'
	/r-n-ol/	[rɪnɔl]	'he has done it'
B.	Word Medial		
	/kam-n-ĩman-n/	[kàmniĩmánɪn]	'for her brother'
	/əs-ət-pn-aan/	[əsɪdbənán]	'don't go up there'
	/k-ar-pkom/	[kərbáɔm]	'they are heavy'
C.	Word Final		
	/əpk-əpk/	[əbgábək]	'to be pregnant'
	/apn-apn/	[abnábən]	'free'
	/ark-ark/	[argárik ^h]	'to growl'
	/r-əm-əŋn/	[rɪmáŋən]	'he was afraid'
	/n-əm-əpk/	[nɪmábək ^h]	'you (sg.) took it'

List the syllable types possible in Lenakel.

Diola Fogny

Note: Ignore word-final syllables.

In Diola Fogny, simplification occurs in cases where concatenation of morphemes creates an unsyllabifiable consonant cluster, as shown in A.

A	/let-ku-ɟaw/	lekujaw	'they won't go'
	/ɟuk-ɟa/	ɟɟɟa	'if you see'
	/kɔb-kɔb-en/	kokoben	'yearn, long for'
	/tey-tey-or/	teteyor	'disentangle'
	/ɟaw-bu-ŋar/	ɟabuŋar	'voyager'
	/na-lɔŋ-lɔŋ/	nalalɔŋ	'he returns'
	/na-yoken-yoken/	nayokeyoken	'he tires'
	/na-waŋ-aam-waŋ/	nwaŋaawaŋ	'he cultivated for me'

- (1) What observation can you make about Diola Fogny syllable structure on the basis of the data in A?

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Simplification does not occur in the following examples, where the first consonant of the cluster is nasal:

B.	/ni-gam-gam/	nigaŋgam	'I judge'
	/ku-boŋ-boŋ/	kubomboŋ	'they sent'
	/na-tiiŋ-tiiŋ/	natiintiiŋ	'he cut through'
	/pan-ji-maŋŋ/	paŋŋimaŋŋ	'you (pl.) will know'
	/ni-ceŋ-ceŋ/	niceŋceŋ	'I asked'
	/ni-ŋan-ŋan/	niŋaŋŋan	'I cried'

- (2) Revise your earlier statement about the nature of the possible syllable in Diola Fogny on the basis of the data in B. (Hint: Notice the changes that occur in the place of articulation of nasal consonants. How is this related to syllable patterns?)

Now consider the forms in C.

C.	/e-rent-rent/	ererent	'it is light'
	/na-maŋŋ-maŋŋ/	namamaŋŋ	'he knows'

- (3) How do the data in C affect your hypothesis about the Diola Fogny syllable?

Lenakel is an Austronesian language (Oceanic subfamily) spoken in west central Tanna Island, Vanuatu, by 11,500 speakers.

Diola-Fogny (also spelled Jola-Fonyi) is an Atlantic (Niger-Congo) language and is spoken in Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau by 358,276 people.

