

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE IPA

Mono

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Mono is a Banda language spoken in the northwestern corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is part of the larger Adamawa-Ubangi language family. The following description is based on the variety of the language spoken in Bili, Bosobolo Zone, DRC. Mono speakers consider this to be the most prestigious variety of the language. The sound inventory is relatively homogenous in Bili and the surrounding area. The orthography given here was approved by the Mono volunteer language development committee in 1994. Previous studies of Mono include Olson & Schrag (2000), Olson (2001) and Kamanda-Kola (2003).

The North Wind and the Sun text was translated into Mono by Gaspard Yalemoto Suma, Marie Sungayase Yalemoto, Kilio Mapuya and Ama Geangozo. The translation is based on the French version of the text found in Fougeron & Smith (1993). The text was read by a male native speaker of Mono, about 35 years old. The individual words illustrating the various sounds were read by a male native speaker of Mono, about 40 years old.

Consonants

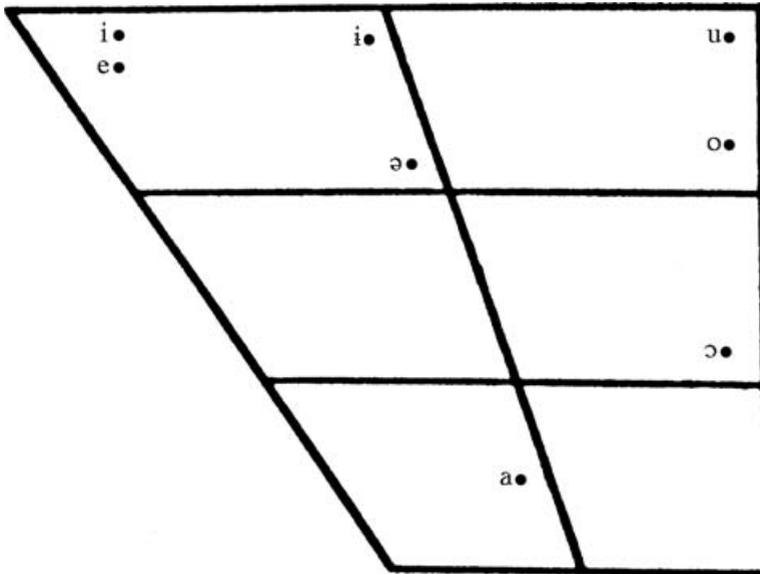
	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive & affricate	p b		t d	tʃ dʒ		k g	kp gb	ʔ
Implosive	ɓ		ɗ					
Nasal	m		n		ɲ			
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ				h
Prenasalized plosive	mb		nd	ndʒ		ŋg	ŋgb	
Trill & flap	w̃		r					
Approximant					j		w	
Lateral approximant			l					

p	pa	<i>pa</i>	'say'
b	bàdʒà	<i>badja</i>	'rock'
ɓ	ɓá-lá	<i>'balæ</i>	'at'
m	ma	<i>ma</i>	'show'
f	fa	<i>fa</i>	'become'
v	va	<i>va</i>	'pour'
mb	mbātā	<i>mbata</i>	'stool'
ǃ	ǃa ~ ǃa	<i>vwa</i>	'send'
kp	kpa	<i>kpa</i>	'flee'
gb	gba	<i>gba</i>	'moisten'
ŋgb	ŋgba	<i>ngba</i>	'be many'
w	wa	<i>wa</i>	'cut'
t	ta	<i>ta</i>	'cut'
d	da	<i>da</i>	'slap'
ɗ	kūɗā	<i>ku'da</i>	'debt'
n	na	<i>na</i>	'go, come'
s	sa	<i>sa</i>	'leak'
z	za	<i>za</i>	'give, take'
nd	ndábà	<i>ndaba</i>	'table'
r	ráwá	<i>rawa</i>	'yell'
l	la	<i>la</i>	'lick'
tʃ	tʃi	<i>tshi</i>	'shine'
dʒ	dʒi	<i>dji</i>	'sense'
ɲ	ɲi ~ ni	<i>nyi ~ ni</i>	'rain'
ʃ	ʃi	<i>shi</i>	'plant'
ʒ	ʒi	<i>ji</i>	'belch'
ndʒ	ndʒi	<i>ndji</i>	'straight'
j	ji	<i>yi</i>	'enter'
k	ka	<i>ka</i>	'be finished'
g	ga	<i>ga</i>	'be good'
ŋg	ŋga	<i>nga</i>	'bark'
ʔ	ʔa	<i>'a</i>	'suck'
h	hàgà	<i>haga</i>	'hard'

The tone on the first syllable of the verb root depends on tense, aspect, and mood. The infinitive form is marked by the prefix /ká-/ and by a low tone on the first syllable of the root.

The sounds /d/, /ɲ/ and /h/ are marginal to the phonological system. The symbol /ǃ/ represents a phonemic bilabial flap, which is discussed in more detail in Olson & Hajek (1999). In this sound the lower lip is retracted into the mouth well behind the upper teeth, and then brought forward rapidly, striking the upper lip in passing. It has a labiodental free variant [ǃ̣].

Vowels



i	di	<i>di</i>	'be tangled'
e	de	<i>de</i>	'chop'
i	d̥i	<i>d̥i</i>	'count'
ə	də	<i>də</i>	'be (equative)'
a	da	<i>da</i>	'slap'
u	du	<i>du</i>	'tether'
o	do	<i>do</i>	'become a fool'
ɔ	dɔ	<i>dɔ</i>	'stomp'

Length and nasalization are not contrastive in Mono, but a vowel may be optionally nasalized following a nasal consonant. The vowel /a/ is optionally raised to [ɐ] if it is preceded or followed by a high vowel, with or without an intervening consonant.

Figure 1 shows average formant values for Mono vowels. The scale is the Bark scale, with the origin to the upper right. Of interest is the absence of a front low vowel /ɛ/. The vowel /a/ has a lower F₂ than the American English /æ/ and a higher F₂ than the American English /ɑ/, as measured by Peterson & Barney (1952). An optional rule of leftward vowel spreading occurs in Mono. This involves the spread of [high], [back], and [round] to a preceding /ə/ or the spread of [round] to a preceding /a/. See Olson (2001: 80–81, 118–120) for discussion of the details. This process is present in the recorded passage.

Mono also has secondary articulations of labialization and palatalization, which are realized as [ɔ] and [ɛ̃], respectively. Olson (2001: 56–68) interprets these as the semivowels /w/ and /j/ filling the center position of a CSV syllable (S = semivowel). They do not occur in the recorded passage.

Strict vowel harmony is not attested in Mono. Nevertheless, words containing both high and mid vowels are rare.

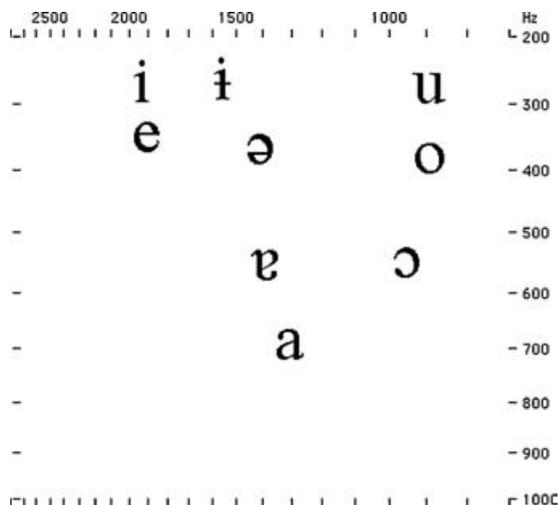


Figure 1 Plot of F_1 vs. F_2 . Data from Olson (2001: 153).

Tones

Mono is a tone language with three tone levels, high /^h/, mid /^m/, and low /^l/ . Rising and falling tones occur, but these are analyzed as sequences of level tones.

H	áwá	áwá	'diarrhea'
M	āwā	awa	'road'
L	àwà	àwà	'fear'

All possible combinations of level tones occur in monosyllabic, bisyllabic and trisyllabic words. As mentioned above, the tone on verbs varies depending on tense, aspect, and mood. Certain locative adverbs have a H–L–H tonal melody associated with them. The prepositional prefix /ga-/ exhibits tonal polarity; it bears an L tone if the prepositional root bears an H tone. It bears an H tone if the root bears either an M tone or an L tone.

Transcription of recorded passage

àjìgú èndzē dè òlò pé límā gbàrà̀mà || ūzū dè ūzū pé límā àdékē | ènē dá sò
 dè gbògbò | kòdò pá nè || lòkò èndzē wú àngá gènè bàlē | á tʃè dzé lóbè ìzì
 gàtá ìgì jē || kòndò dè èndzē | èndzē tó àdékē | ūzū á tʃá kàkàrà lóbà tó ìgì
 jē | dá sō dè gbògbò kórò pá nè || trà:lē jìgú né kpì kpì kpì kpì || kpì kpì
 kpì gbá: | gènè nè kpá sòrò lóbà nè gátá jē || é: jìgú tótòrò kókàkàrà tí ìgì
 jē || mǎndá nè | òlò kpá tó wégē wégē wégē | ófó wó té gènè || tʃè wára
 lóbà nè tí ìgì jē || jìgú wú àtàmè | í jí ndé nè àdékē òlò dó pá nè dè gbògbò ||

Orthographic version

Ayigu endje dæ ɔlɔ pa lima gbarama. Uzu dæ uzu pa lima adeke, æncæ da sæ dæ gbɔgbɔ kædo pa nœ. Lɔkɔ endje wu anga gene bale a tshe dje læba izi gatæ igi ye. Kændo dæ endje, endje tɔ adeke uzu a tshé kàkara læba tœ igi ye da sæ dæ gbɔgbɔ kœro pa nœ. Tœrale yigu na kpi, kpi, kpi, kpi. Kpi, kpi, kpi gba, gene nœ kpa soro læba nœ gatæ ye. Ɔrrrœ yigu tooro kœkakara tœ igi ye. Manda nœ, ɔlɔ kpa tɔ vwege, vwege, vwege, osho wo tœ gene. Tshé vvara læba nœ tœ igi ye. Yigu wu atamœ, œ yi ndœ nœ adeke ɔlɔ do pa nœ dæ gbɔgbɔ.

Interlinearized version

Ayigu endje dæ ɔlɔ pa lima gbarama.
 a-yigu endje dæ ɔlɔ pa-´ lima gbarama
 PL-wind 3PL with sun speak-NF long.ago wager

Uzu dæ uzu pa lima adeke,
 uzu dœ uzu pa-´ lima adeke
 person with person speak-NF long.ago that

æncæ da sæ dæ gbɔgbɔ kædo.pa.nœ.
 æncœ da sæ-´ dœ gbɔgbɔ kœ-do.pa.nœ
 3LOG CLEFT be-NF with strength INF-surpass

Lɔkɔ endje wu anga gene bale
 lɔkɔ endje wu-´ anga gene bale
 one.day 3PL see-NF other stranger one

a tshe dje læba izi gatæ igi ye.
 a tshe dje-´ læba izi ga-tœ igi ye
 REL 3SG wrap-NF garment cold to-on neck 3SG

Kændo dæ endje, endje tɔ adeke
 kœ-ndo dœ endje endje tɔ-´ adeke
 INF-approach with 3PL 3PL bet-NF that

uzu a tshé kàkara læba tœ igi ye
 uzu a tshe-´ kakara-` læba tœ igi ye
 person REL 3SG-FUT extract-FUT garment on neck 3SG

da sæ dæ gbɔgbɔ kœro.pa.nœ.
 da sæ-´ dœ gbɔgbɔ kœ-ro.pa.nœ
 CLEFT be-NF with strength INF-surpass

Tœrale yigu na kpi, kpi, kpi, kpi.
 tœrale yigu na-´ kpi kpi kpi kpi
 directly wind go-NF blow blow blow blow

Kpi, kpi, kpi gba,
 kpi kpi kpi gba
 blow blow blow despite

gene nœ kpa soro læba nœ gatæ ye.
 gene nœ kpa soro-´ læba nœ ga-tæ ye
 stranger DET again tighten-NF garment DET to-on 3SG

Ɔrrræ yigu totoro kækakara tæ igi ye.
 Ɔrrræ yigu totoro-´ kœ-kakara tæ igi ye
 until wind fail-NF INF-extract on neck 3SG

Manda nœ, ɔɔ kpa tɔ vwege, vwege, vwege,
 manda nœ ɔɔ kpa tɔ-´ vwege vwege vwege
 after DET sun again strike-NF hot hot hot

osho wo tæ gene.
 osho wo-´ tæ gene
 place heat-NF on stranger

Tshe vwara læba nœ tæ igi ye.
 tshe vwara-´ læba nœ tæ igi ye
 3SG reject-NF garment DET on neck 3SG

Yigu wu atamœ, œ yi.ndœ.nœ adeke
 yigu wu-´ atamœ œ yi-´.ndœ.nœ adeke
 wind see-NF thus SS admit-NF that

ɔɔ do.pa.nœ dœ gbɔgbɔ.
 ɔɔ do-´.pa.nœ dœ gbɔgbɔ
 sun surpass-NF with strength

Abbreviations:

CLEFT	Cleft	PL	Plural
DET	Determiner	REL	Relative
FUT	Future	3LOG	Third person logophoric
INF	Infinitive	3PL	Third person plural
NF	Non-future	3SG	Third person singular

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