

# Chowita

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# 1 Introduction

Chowita (**tcowitha**, pronounced /tʃowitha/) is...TODO

## 2 Phonology

### 2.1 Phonemic inventory

		bilabial	alveolar	postalveolar	velar	glottal
nasal		(m)	n	(ŋ)	(ŋ)	
stop	tenuis	p	t		k	ʔ
	aspirated	ph	th		kh	
	voiced	b	d		g	
fricative	voiceless	f	s	ʃ	x	h
	voiced	v	z	ʒ	ɣ	

vowels: a e i o u ə

approximants: j w

### 2.2 Phonotactics

The syllable structure is **(C)(C)(G)V(G)(N)**, where **C** represents a consonant, **G** represents a glide (/j/ or /w/), **V** represents a vowel, and **N** represents a nasal.

Consonant clusters are always [stop][fricative]; both must be of the same voicing, and aspirated stops are not allowed in clusters.

Trailing nasals assimilate to the following place of articulation (or [n] if it is glottal). For example, **gankce** “swim” is pronounced /gaŋ.kʲe/ with a velar nasal.

The second (G) may not be /w/.

### 2.3 Allophony

Velars are in free variation with uvulars, most notably among the fricatives. The voiced velar fricative may also be realized as an approximant or uvular trill.

After a consonant, the semivowels w and j are typically realized as rounding (X<sup>w</sup>) and palatalization (Xi) respectively of the previous consonant. Furthermore, ʃi and ʒi are frequently realized as ɕ and ʐ.

Aspirated stops may be freely replaced with ejectives, and voiced stops with implosives.

## 3 Orthography

		bilabial	alveolar	postalveolar	velar	glottal
nasal			n			
stop	tenuis	p	t		k	ʔ
	aspirated	ph	th		kh	
	voiced	b	d		g	
fricative	voiceless	f	s	c	x	h
	voiced	v	z	j	gh	

vowels: a e i o u y

approximants: y w

## 4 Morphology

All root words are one syllable of the form **(C)C(G)V(G)(N)**. Additionally, the consonants will never be glottals (h or ').

Words are frequently modified by infixes. There are two types of infixes:

- *Glottal infixes* insert a vowel followed by a glottal stop directly before the vowel in a root. The syntax that this document will use to represent glottal infixes is, for example,  $a_g$ , which represents an infix of **a** followed by a glottal stop.

As an example of the usage of glottal infixes, the infix  $i_g$  applied to the word **kway** results in the modified word **kwi'ay**.

- *Approximant infixes* insert a vowel followed by an approximant which varies depending on the vowel that follows it. Before an unrounded vowel, the approximant **y** /j/ is used. Before a rounded vowel, **w** /w/ is used. The syntax for this is  $a_a$ .

For example, the infix  $e_a$  applied to the word **pci** is **pcewi**, but applied to the word **bzu**, it becomes **bzeyu**. Note the usage of **w** before **i** and **y** before **u**.

## 5 Syntax

Chowita is an SVO language. All phrases have the following structure:

[subject- $a_a$ ] [verb- $a_a$ ] [direct object]

Phrases may be used as nested subjects for other phrases:

[phrase- $a_a$ ] [verb- $a_a$ ] [direct object]

Otherwise, they may be explicitly terminated to form a full sentence:

[phrase- $e_a$ ]

More complex constructions (subclauses, sentential arguments, abstractions, relative clauses) can be formed with the word **vy** as follows:

**vy** [phrase- $e_a$ ]

Due to the small lexicon, many “words” are compounds of smaller words:

[word1][word2]...[wordn]

To be more specific with how words are grouped, use  $u_a$ :

[word1][word2- $u_a$ ][word3][word4- $u_a$ ][word5- $u_a u_a$ ]  
→ [word1 word2][word3 [word4 word5]]

Essentially,  $u_a$  “binds” the two previous words into a new word.

## 6 Lexicon

### 6.1 Grammatical words

word/infix	description	notes
<b>a<sub>a</sub></b>	noun/verb separator	
<b>e<sub>a</sub></b>	phrase/subclause terminator	
<b>o<sub>a</sub></b>	flip	
<b>u<sub>a</sub></b>	compound binder	
<b>a<sub>g</sub></b>	polar-opposite negation	
<b>e<sub>g</sub></b>	nonscalar negation	
<b>o<sub>g</sub></b>	augmentative	
<b>i<sub>g</sub></b>	diminutive	
<b>vy</b>	subclause introducer	can be realized as [β]
<b>xy</b>	subclause "it"	from mathematical "x"
<b>fy</b>	postfix flip	can be realized as [φ]
<b>sy</b>	postfix polar-opposite negation	can be realized as [θ]
<b>zy</b>	postfix nonscalar negation	can be realized as [ð]

### 6.2 Numbers

TODO

### 6.3 Vocabulary

<b>pi:</b> S is me (I, me)	<i>from English "me"</i>
<b>tu:</b> S is you (you)	<i>from Spanish "tú"</i>
<b>ve:</b> S is this (this)	<i>from Kurdish "ev" this</i>
<b>cu:</b> S is that (that)	<i>from Turkish/Crimean Tatar "şu" that</i>
<b>thi:</b> S is that there (that there)	<i>from Thai "ที่นี่" ("tîi nân") there</i>
<b>bve:</b> S is an animal (animal)	<i>from English "BVetMed" Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine</i>
<b>bzu:</b> S is a moon (moon)	<i>from French "bzou" werewolf</i>
<b>dva:</b> S is air (air)	<i>from Latvian "dvaša" breath, air</i>
<b>dzwon:</b> S is an ear (ear)	<i>from Polish "dzwon" bell</i>
<b>ghan:</b> S is music (music, song)	<i>from Arabic "غنى" ("ḡanna:") sing</i>
<b>ghwo:</b> S is a tongue (tongue)	<i>from Greek "γλῶσσα" tongue</i>
<b>gva:</b> S is a sound (sound, noise)	<i>from Esperanto "gvati" spy</i>
<b>kce:</b> S is water (water, wet)	<i>from Albanian "kshetë" mermaid</i>
<b>kway:</b> S is a star (star, sun)	<i>from Tupinambá "kûarasy" / Guarani "kuarahy" sun</i>
<b>kya:</b> S is an arm (arm)	<i>from Kannada "ಕೈ" ("kai") hand</i>
<b>kyo:</b> S is a leg (leg)	<i>from Welsh "coes" leg</i>
<b>pci:</b> S is a dog (dog, canine)	<i>from Polish "psi" canine</i>
<b>pfe:</b> S is a horse (horse)	<i>from German "pferd" horse</i>
<b>pxay:</b> S is flesh (flesh, meat, fruit)	<i>from Unami "pxàshikàn" dried meat/jerky</i>
<b>pya:</b> S is a rock (rock, stone)	<i>from Romanian "piatră" stone</i>
<b>sy:</b> S is the back (of something) (back)	<i>from Italian "schiena" back</i>
<b>tswe:</b> S is a tree (tree)	<i>from Japanese "棒"/"つえ" ("tsue") stick</i>
<b>twa:</b> S is a person (person, human, he, she)	<i>from Tagalog "tao" person / Vietnamese "tao" I, me</i>
<b>txu:</b> S is a digit (digit, finger, toe)	<i>from Aleut "atxuḡ" finger</i>
<b>zin:</b> S is an eye (eye)	<i>from Ukrainian "зіні́ця" pupil</i>

<b>bay:</b> S is good (good)	<i>from Malay "baik" good</i>
<b>co:</b> S is hot (hot, warm)	<i>from French "chaud" warm</i>
<b>dun:</b> S is true (true, correct, accurate)	<i>from Vietnamese "đúng" correct</i>
<b>gzi:</b> S is small (small, little)	<i>from Unix command "gzip"</i>
<b>pxo:</b> S is female (female, girl, woman)	<i>from Allentiac "pxota" girl</i>
<b>swa:</b> S is light (light)	<i>from Afrikaans "swaar" heavy</i>
<b>von:</b> S is new (new, young)	<i>from Serbo-Croatian "нов" new</i>
<b>xwa:</b> S is easy (easy, simple)	<i>from Swedish "självklart" obviously</i>
<b>xwi:</b> S is white (white)	<i>from Icelandic "hvítur" white</i>
<b>ghe:</b> S sleeps (sleep)	<i>from Proto Indo-European "*ǵh₂ers-" stiff</i>
<b>gwey:</b> S lives (live, alive, survive)	<i>from Proto Indo-European "*gʷeh₁w-" live</i>
<b>bo:</b> S is sensed by O (sense, observe, see, feel, hear, smell)	<i>from Korean "보다" ("boda") see</i>
<b>bjun:</b> S is enjoyed by O (enjoy, fun)	<i>from Czech "bžunda" fun</i>
<b>cye:</b> S is written by O (write)	<i>from Mandarin "寫" ("xiě") write</i>
<b>djan:</b> S is known by O (know)	<i>from Hindi "जानना" ("jānnā") know</i>
<b>dway:</b> S is feared by O (fear, scare)	<i>from Cherokee "ᎠᎩᎦᎵᎠᎵ" ("unayehisdi") fear</i>
<b>fay:</b> S is made by O (make, construct, create, form)	<i>from Norman "faithe" do, make</i>
<b>khon:</b> S is consumed by O (consume, eat, drink)	<i>from English "consume"</i>
<b>kfun:</b> S is struck by O (strike, hit, kick, bite)	<i>from Noone/Noni "kfun" strike</i>
<b>kuy:</b> S is given by O (give, donate)	<i>from Quechua "quy" give</i>
<b>kxay:</b> S is amusing to O (amuse, funny)	<i>from !Xóõ "kx'ái" laugh</i>
<b>gan:</b> S is gone to by O (go)	<i>from Sanskrit "गम्" ("gam") go</i>
<b>pey:</b> S is referred to by name O (name, call)	<i>from Tamil "பெயர்" ("peyar") name</i>
<b>tci:</b> S is done with instrument O (instrument, tool, utensil)	<i>from Lojban "tutci -tci-" tool</i>
<b>tfi:</b> S is searched for by O (search, look for)	<i>from Maltese "tfitxija" search</i>
<b>tha:</b> S is communicated by O (communicate, express)	<i>from Khmer "ថា" ("thaa") say</i>
<b>thwe:</b> S is launched by O (launch, throw, spit, eject)	<i>from Burmese "ထွေး" ("htwe:") spit</i>
<b>xo:</b> S is wanted by O (want, desire)	<i>from Russian "хотеть" want</i>

## 6.4 Common compounds

<b>bozin:</b> S is seen by O (see)	<i>bo + zin</i>
<b>bodzwon:</b> S is heard by O (hear)	<i>bo + dzwon</i>
<b>fgk:</b> lol (lol)	<i>abbreviation of faygvakxay</i>
<b>gandva:</b> S is flown to by O (fly)	<i>gan + dva</i>
<b>gankce:</b> S is swum to by O (swim)	<i>gan + kce</i>
<b>ggg:</b> rip (rip)	<i>abbreviation of ghegvagzi</i>
<b>tcewitha:</b> S is a language (language)	<i>py + tci + tha; alt: tcifytha</i>
<b>xoghe:</b> S is tired (tired)	<i>xo + ghe</i>

## 7 Sample texts

TODO