Chowita

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1 Introduction

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

2 Phonology

2.1 Phonemic inventory

		bilabial	alveolar	postalveolar	velar	glottal
nasal		(m)	n	(n̲)	(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.kt͡ʃe/ 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 (Xʷ) and palatalization (Xʲ) respectively of the previous consonant. Furthermore, ʃʲ and ʒʲ are frequently realized as ɕ and ʑ.

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	’
	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 approxmant 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-$u_a u_a$]
$\rightarrow$ [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
a$_a$	noun/verb separator	
e$_a$	phrase/subclause terminator	
o$_a$	flip	
u$_a$	compound binder	
a$_g$	polar-opposite negation	
e$_g$	nonscalar negation	
o$_g$	augmentative	
i$_g$	diminutive	
vy	subclause introducer	can be realized as [β]
xy	subclause "it"	from mathematical "x"
fy	postfix flip	can be realized as [ɸ]
sy	postfix polar-opposite negation	can be realized as [θ]
zy	postfix nonscalar negation	can be realized as [ð]

6.2 Numbers

TODO

6.3 Vocabulary

pi: S is me (I, me) *from English "me"*
tu: S is you (you) *from Spanish "tú"*
ve: S is this (this) *from Kurdish "ev" this*
cu: S is that (that) *from Turkish/Crimean Tatar "şu" that*
thi: S is that there (that there) *from Thai "ที่นั่น" ("tîi nân") there*

bve: S is an animal (animal) *from English "BVetMed" Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine*
bzu: S is a moon (moon) *from French "bzou" werewolf*
dva: S is air (air) *from Latvian "dvaša" breath, air*
dzwon: S is an ear (ear) *from Polish "dzwon" bell*
ghan: S is music (music, song) *from Arabic "غنى" ("ɣanna:") sing*
ghwo: S is a tongue (tongue) *from Greek "γλώσσα" tongue*
gva: S is a sound (sound, noise) *from Esperanto "gvati" spy*
kce: S is water (water, wet) *from Albanian "kshetë" mermaid*
kway: S is a star (star, sun) *from Tupinambá "kûarasy" / Guarani "kuarahy" sun*
kya: S is an arm (arm) *from Kannada "ಕೈ" ("kai") hand*
kyo: S is a leg (leg) *from Welsh "coes" leg*
pci: S is a dog (dog, canine) *from Polish "psi" canine*
pfe: S is a horse (horse) *from German "pferd" horse*
pxay: S is flesh (flesh, meat, fruit) *from Unami "pxàshikàn" dried meat/jerky*
pya: S is a rock (rock, stone) *from Romanian "piatră" stone*
sye: S is the back (of something) (back) *from Italian "schiena" back*
tswe: S is a tree (tree) *from Japanese "棒"/"つえ" ("tsue") stick*
twa: S is a person (person, human, he, she) *from Tagalog "tao" person / Vietnamese "tao" I, me*
txu: S is a digit (digit, finger, toe) *from Aleut "atx̂ux̂" finger*
zin: S is an eye (eye) *from Ukranian "зіниця" pupil*

bay: S is good (good) — *from Malay "baik" good*
co: S is hot (hot, warm) — *from French "chaud" warm*
dun: S is true (true, correct, accurate) — *from Vietnamese "đúng" correct*
gzi: S is small (small, little) — *from Unix command "gzip"*
pxo: S is female (female, girl, woman) — *from Allentiac "pxota" girl*
swa: S is light (light) — *from Afrikaans "swaar" heavy*
von: S is new (new, young) — *from Serbo-Croatian "нов" new*
xwa: S is easy (easy, simple) — *from Swedish "självklart" obviously*
xwi: S is white (white) — *from Icelandic "hvítur" white*

ghe: S sleeps (sleep) — *from Proto Indo-European "*ǵʰers-" stiff*
gwey: S lives (live, alive, survive) — *from Proto Indo-European "*gʷeiH₃w-" live*

bo: S is sensed by O (sense, observe, see, feel, hear, smell) — *from Korean "보다" ("boda") see*
bjun: S is enjoyed by O (enjoy, fun) — *from Czech "bžunda" fun*
cye: S is written by O (write) — *from Mandarin "寫" ("xiě") write*
djan: S is known by O (know) — *from Hindi "जानना " ("jānnā") know*
dway: S is feared by O (fear, scare) — *from Cherokee "ᏅᎾᏰᏯᏗ" ("unayehisdi") fear*
fay: S is made by O (make, construct, create, form) — *from Norman "faithe" do, make*
khon: S is consumed by O (consume, eat, drink) — *from English "consume"*
kfun: S is struck by O (strike, hit, kick, bite) — *from Noone/Noni "kfune" strike*
kuy: S is given by O (give, donate) — *from Quechua "quy" give*
kxay: S is amusing to O (amuse, funny) — *from !Xóõ "kx'ái" laugh*
gan: S is gone to by O (go) — *from Sanskrit "गम्" ("gam") go*
pey: S is referred to by name O (name, call) — *from Tamil "பெயர்" ("peyar") name*
tci: S is done with instrument O (instrument, tool, utensil) — *from Lojban "tutci -tci-" tool*
tfi: S is searched for by O (search, look for) — *from Maltese "tfittxija" search*
tha: S is communicated by O (communicate, express) — *from Khmer "ថា" ("tʰaa") say*
thwe: S is launched by O (launch, throw, spit, eject) — *from Burmese "ထွေး " ("htwe:") spit*
xo: S is wanted by O (want, desire) — *from Russian "хомéть" want*

6.4 Common compounds

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

7 Sample texts

TODO