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.
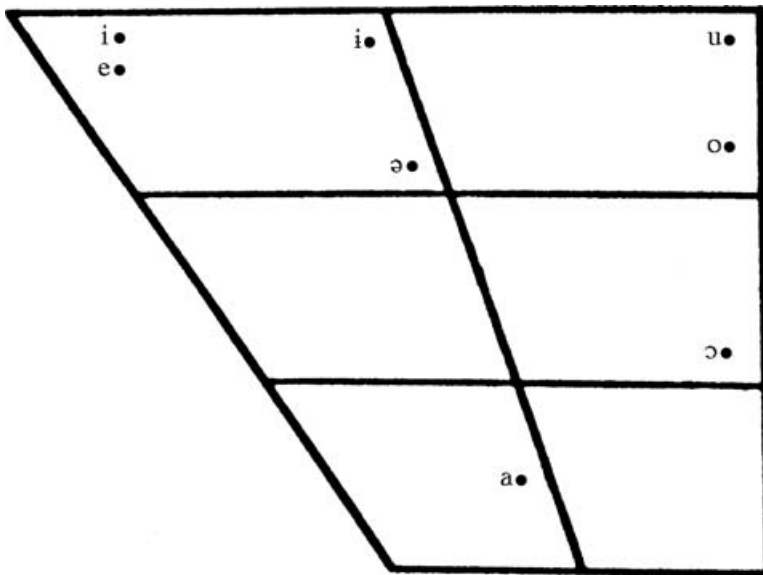
Consonants

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

p	pa	*pa*	'say'
b	bàdʒà	*badja*	'rock'
ɓ	ɓá-lɔ́	*ˈbalœ*	'at'
m	ma	*ma*	'show'
f	fa	*fa*	'become'
v	va	*va*	'pour'
mb	mbātā	*mbata*	'stool'
w̆	w̆a ~ v̆a	*vwa*	'send'
kp	kpa	*kpa*	'flee'
gb	gba	*gba*	'moisten'
ŋgb	ŋgba	*ngba*	'be many'
w	wa	*wa*	'cut'
t	ta	*ta*	'cut'
d	da	*da*	'slap'
ɗ	kūɗã	*kuɗa*	'debt'
n	na	*na*	'go, come'
s	sa	*sa*	'leak'
z	za	*za*	'give, take'
nd	ndábà	*ndaba*	'table'
r	ráwá	*rawa*	'yell'
l	la	*la*	'lick'
tʃ	tʃi	*tshi*	'shine'
dʒ	dʒi	*dji*	'sense'
ɲ	ɲi ~ ni	*nyi~ni*	'rain'
ʃ	ʃi	*shi*	'plant'
ʒ	ʒi	*ji*	'belch'
ndʒ	ndʒì	*ndji*	'straight'
j	ji	*yi*	'enter'
k	ka	*ka*	'be finished'
g	ga	*ga*	'be good'
ŋg	ŋga	*nga*	'bark'
ʔ	ʔa	*ˈa*	'suck'
h	hàgà	*haga*	'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 /kɔ̂-/ and by a low tone on the first syllable of the root.

The sounds /ɗ/, /ɲ/ and /h/ are marginal to the phonological system. The symbol /w̆/ 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 [v̆].

Vowels

i	di	*di*	'be tangled'
e	de	*de*	'chop'
ɨ	dɨ	*dɨ*	'count'
ə	də	*dæ*	'be (equative)'
a	da	*da*	'slap'
u	du	*du*	'tether'
o	do	*do*	'become a fool'
ɔ	dɔ	*dɔ*	'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 F_2 than the American English /æ/ and a higher F_2 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 [ʊ] and [ɛ], 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.
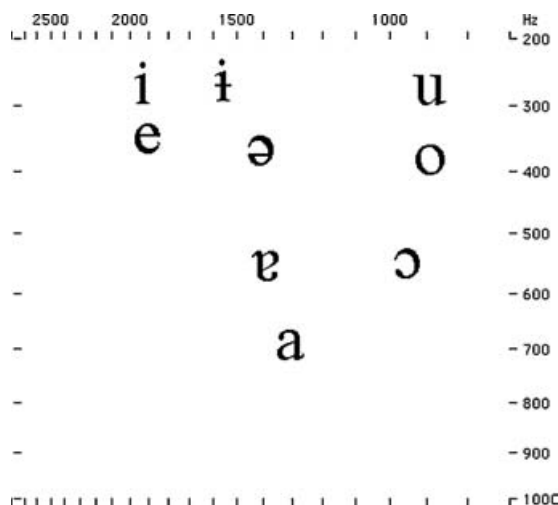
Figure 1 Plot of F_1 vs. F_2. Data from Olson (2001: 153).

Tones

Mono is a tone language with three tone levels, high /ˊ/, mid /ˉ/, and low /ˋ/. 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 èndʒē də̀ ɔ̀lɔ̀ pé límā gbàràmà ‖ ūzū də̀ ūzū pé límā àdékē | ə̀nə̄ dá sə́ də̀ gbɔ̀gbɔ́ | kódò pá nə̀ ‖ lɔ̀kɔ̀ èndʒē wú áŋgá gènè bàlē | á tʃə̀ dʒé lə́bə̀ ìzì gàtə́ ɨ̄gɨ jē ‖ kə́ndò də̀ èndʒē | èndʒē tɔ́ àdékē | ūzū á tʃɔ́ kàkàrà lɔ́bà tɔ́ ɨ̄gɨ jē | dá sə̄ də̀ gbɔ̀gbɔ́ kórò pá nə̀ ‖ trà:lē jìgú né kpɨ̀ kpɨ̀ kpɨ̀ kpɨ̀ ‖ kpɨ̀ kpɨ̀ kpɨ̀ gbá: | gènè nə̀ kpá sórò lɔ́bà nə̀ gàtə́ jē ‖ ɔ́r: jìgú tótòrò kɔ́kàkàrà tɨ́ ɨ̄gɨ jē ‖ māndá nə̀ | ɔ̀lɔ̀ kpá tɔ́ wěgē wěgē wěgē | ófó wó té gènè ‖ tʃə̀ wǎrà lóbà nə̀ tɨ́ ɨ̄gɨ jē | jìgú wú àtàmə̀ | í jí ndɔ́ nə̀ àdékē ɔ̀lɔ̀ dó pá nə̀ də̀ gbɔ̀gbɔ́‖

Orthographic version

Ayigu endje dœ ɔlɔ pa lima gbarama. Uzu dœ uzu pa lima adeke, œnœ da sœ dœ gbɔgbɔ kœdo pa nœ. Lɔkɔ endje wu anga gene bale a tshe dje lœba ɨzɨ gatœ ɨgɨ ye. Kœndo dœ endje, endje tɔ adeke uzu a tshé kàkara lœba tœ ɨgɨ ye da sœ dœ gbɔgbɔ kœro pa nœ. Tœrale yigu na kpɨ, kpɨ, kpɨ, kpɨ. Kpɨ, kpɨ, kpɨ gba, gene nœ kpa soro lœba nœ gatœ ye. Œrrœ yigu totoro kœkakara tœ ɨgɨ ye. Manda nœ, ɔlɔ kpa tɔ vwege, vwege, vwege, osho wo tœ gene. Tshe vwara lœba nœ tœ ɨgɨ ye. Yigu wu atamœ, œ yi ndœ nœ adeke ɔlɔ do pa nœ dœ gbɔgbɔ.

Interlinearized version

Ayigu   endje   dœ   ɔlɔ   pa
a-yigu   endje   dœ   ɔlɔ   pa-ˊ
PL-wind   3PL   with sun   speak-NF

lima   gbarama.
lima   gbarama
long.ago   wager

Uzu   dœ   uzu   pa
uzu   dœ   uzu   pa-ˊ
person   with   person   speak-NF

lima   adeke,
lima   adeke
long.ago   that

œnœ   da   sœ   dœ   gbɔgbɔ   kœdo.pa.nœ.
œnœ   da   sœ-ˊ   dœ   gbɔgbɔ   kœ-do.pa.nœ
3LOG   CLEFT   be-NF   with   strength   INF-surpass

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

a   tshe   dje   lœba   ɨzɨ   gatœ   ɨgɨ   ye.
a   tshe   dje-ˊ   lœba   ɨzɨ   ga-tœ   ɨgɨ   ye
REL   3SG   wrap-NF garment   cold   to-on   neck   3SG

Kœndo   dœ   endje, endje   tɔ   adeke
kœ-ndo   dœ   endje   endje   tɔ-ˊ   adeke
INF-approach with   3PL   3PL   bet-NF that

uzu   a   tshé   kàkara   lœba   tœ   ɨgɨ   ye
uzu   a   tshe-ˊ   kakara-ˋ   lœba   tœ   ɨgɨ   ye
person   REL   3SG-FUT   extract-FUT garment   on   neck   3SG

da   sœ   dœ   gbɔgbɔ   kœro.pa.nœ.
da   sœ-ˊ   dœ   gbɔgbɔ   kœ-ro.pa.nœ
CLEFT   be-NF   with   strength   INF-surpass

Tœrale   yigu   na   kpɨ,   kpɨ,   kpɨ,   kpɨ.
tœrale   yigu   na-ˊ   kpɨ   kpɨ   kpɨ   kpɨ
directly   wind   go-NF   blow   blow   blow   blow

Kpɨ,   kpɨ,   kpɨ   gba,
kpɨ   kpɨ   kpɨ   gba
blow   blow   blow   despite

gene   nœ   kpa   soro   lœba   nœ   gatœ   ye.
gene   nœ   kpa   soro-´   lœba   nœ   ga-tœ   ye
stranger DET   again tighten-NF   garment   DET   to-on   3SG

Œrrœ   yigu   totoro   kœkakara   tœ   ɨgɨ   ye.
Œrrœ   yigu   totoro-´ kœ-kakara   tœ   ɨgɨ   ye
until   wind   fail-NF   INF-extract on   neck   3SG

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

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

Tshe   vwara   lœba   nœ   tœ   ɨgɨ   ye.
tshe   vwara-´ lœba   nœ   tœ   ɨgɨ   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

ɔlɔ   do.pa.nœ   dœ   gbɔgbɔ.
ɔlɔ   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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