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Móogatí, the language of ???

M.M.N.H.

A descriptive grammar

2018

Dedicated to ???

Class: artlang
Version: 0.1 (beta)
Date: 13 May, 2018

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| Contents

Glossing abbreviations	4
1 Introduction	5
1.1 Overview	5
1.2 Conventions	5
1.3 External history	5
1.4 Internal history	5
1.4.1 People	5
1.4.2 Place	5
1.4.3 Beliefs	5
1.4.4 Practices	5
1.4.5 Dialects	5
2 Phonology	6
2.1 Consonants	6
2.1.1 Consonant allophony	6
2.1.2 Dialectal variations of consonants	7
2.2 Vowels	7
2.2.1 Vowel allophony	7
2.2.2 Dialectal variations of vowels	7
2.3 Phonotactics	7
2.3.1 Phonological profile	7
2.3.2 Consonant clusters	8
2.4 Tone	8
3 Prosody	9
3.1 Isochrony	9
3.2 Prosodic units	9
3.3 Stress	9
3.4 Break indices	9
3.5 Intonation	9
4 Orthography	10
4.1 Other scripts	10
4.1.1 Latin	10
4.1.2 Hacm	10
5 Syntax, lexical class, & pragmatics	12
5.1 Association operator	12
5.1.1 Monadic	12

5.1.2 Dyadic	12
5.2 Topic	12
6 Particles	13
6.1 Person	13
6.2 Demonstratives	13
6.3 Relationals	14
7 Colors	15
8 Body parts	16
9 Numerals	17
10 Kinship terms	18
11 Names	19
12 Channels	20
12.1 Signed channel	20
12.2 Danced channel	20
12.3 Hummed channel	20
12.4 Whistled channel	20
12.5 Yelled channel	20
Appendices	21
A Roots	21
B Semantic divisions	22
C Example sentences	23

| Figures

2.1 Consonant phonemes & taxophones	6
2.2 Vowel phonemes & taxophones	7
2.3 Phonological profile	8
2.4 Consonant clusters	8
4.1 Consonants (Latin)	10
4.2 Vowels (Latin)	10
4.3 Consonants (Hacm)	10
4.4 Vowels (Hacm)	11
6.1 Demonstratives	13

| Glossing abbreviations

<i>Gloss</i>	<i>Definition</i>
\emptyset	null

1 | Introduction

1.1 | Overview

1.2 | Conventions

1.3 | External history

The Móogatí (**boógakí** [mòógàtí]) language is a constructed language (*conlang*) created by me, Marek (M.M.N.H.). Its primary goal is to be a completely or almost-completely isolating-monocategorial-associational (IMA) language, defined as follows (Gil 2005a,b):

- morphologically isolating: no word-internal morphological structure
- syntactically monocategorial: no distinct syntactic categories
- semantically associational: no distinct construction-specific rules of semantic interpretation; compositional semantics relying exclusively on the association operator

Conceptually, this makes this language very simple; semantically and pragmatically, however, it is very complex.

1.4 | Internal history

TODO all of this

1.4.1 | People

1.4.2 | Place

1.4.3 | Beliefs

1.4.4 | Practices

1.4.5 | Dialects

2 | Phonology

2.1 | Consonants

We shall use ^{off}IPA for phonemic transcription, and ^{can}IPA for phonetic transcription.
There are seven phonemic consonants:

	Labial	Lingual	Glottal
<i>Voiceless plosive</i>	p [p ɸ pʼ]	k [k t x kʼ]	ʔ [ʔ]
<i>Voiced plosive</i>	b [b β m]	g [g d͡ʒ ɳ ɳ]	
<i>Continuant</i>		ɾ [ɾ j d l]	h [h ɬ]

Figure 2.1: Consonant phonemes & taxophones

Most notable about this inventory is the size: it is very small, boasting only seven contrastive segments. Not surprisingly, there are many taxophones per phoneme. We have chosen an analysis that phonemically lacks both nasal consonants and coronal obstruents. However, other consonants phonetically make up for these phonemic gaps.

- /p b/ are labial
- /k g/ are primarily velar, secondarily denti-alveolar/alveolo-palatal
- /ɾ/ is primarily (denti-)alveolar, secondarily palatal
- /ʔ/ is glottal
- /h/ is primarily glottal, secondarily alveolar

2.1.1 | Consonant allophony

- /p b/ surface as [ɸ β] intervocalically
- /k g ɾ h/ surface as [t d͡ʒ j ɬ] before /i/ (except word-initially in the case of /g/; except when geminated in the case of /ɾ/)
- /k/ surfaces as [x] before /a/, except postconsonantly
- /b g ɾ/ surface as [m ɳ d] word-initially (except before /i/ in the case of /ɾ/); /p k b g ɾ/ surface as [pʼ kʼ m ɳ l] word-finally
- /b g ɾ/ surface as [m ɳ l] in non-geminate clusters (§ 2.3.2); /g/ surfaces as [ɳ] before [t]
- /p k/ surface as [pʼ kʼ] in clusters in which they are the first component, except before /ɾ h/
- /bb gg ɾɾ/ surface as [mb ɳg ll]; /kk gg/ surface as [tt ɳd͡ʒ] before /i/
- otherwise, /p k ʔ b g ɾ h/ surface as [p k ʔ b g ɾ h]

2.1.2 | Dialectal variations of consonants

- ???

2.2 | Vowels

There are five phonemic monophthongs and two phonemic diphthongs:

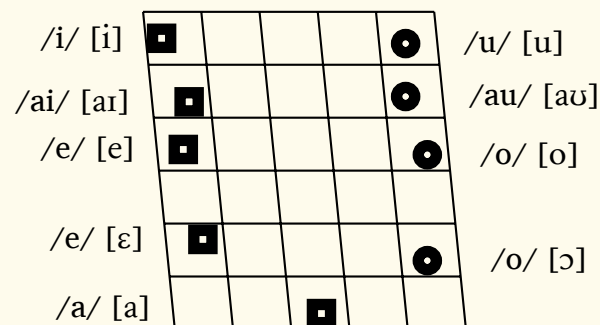


Figure 2.2: Vowel phonemes & taxophones

Unlike consonants, taxophony in vowels is much sparser. Additionally, the vowels themselves are fairly standard: five cardinal vowels and two segmentable diphthongs.

- all vowels may be short or long
- the diphthongs /ai au/ pattern as long vowels

2.2.1 | Vowel allophony

- /e o/ surface as [ɛ ɔ] in closed syllables
- /i u/ surface as [ɪ ʊ] in diphthongs
- all vowels are nasalized before nasal taxophones; due to the insignificance of this process, we choose to not overtly indicate this¹

2.2.2 | Dialectal variations of vowels

- ???

2.3 | Phonotactics

2.3.1 | Phonological profile

The profile of the phonological word is as follows:

¹also due to not wanting to map the taxophones

$$\# \left[\begin{array}{c} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \\ \emptyset \end{array} \right]_{\omega} V^T \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{C} \\ \text{:}^T \\ \emptyset \end{array} \right]_{\sigma} \end{array} \right] \#$$

Figure 2.3: Phonological profile

Wherein:

- stacked components represent multiple options
- ω a phonological word
- σ a complete syllable
- C any consonant
- V^T any vowel; may carry tone (§ 2.4)
- :^T vowel lengthening or a diphthong component; may also carry tone
- \emptyset a null component

2.3.2 | Consonant clusters

Consonant clusters (which only occur word-medially) are as follows:

	p	k	ʔ	b	g	r	h
p	pp	pk	pʔ	pb	pg	pr	ph
k	kp	kk	kʔ	kb	kg	kr	kh
ʔ	ʔp	ʔk	ʔʔ	ʔb	ʔg	ʔr	ʔh
b	bp	bk	bʔ	bb	bg	br	bh
g	gp	gk	gʔ	gb	gg	gr	gh
r	rp	rk	rʔ	rb	rg	rr	rh
h	hp	hk	hʔ	hb	hg	hr	hh

Figure 2.4: Consonant clusters

Wherein **blue** entries denote cluster resolution; in the case that such a cluster occurs, it instead returns the corresponding entry.

2.4 | Tone

There is a single marked tone that can occur on vowels: the high tone /^h/. Vowels unmarked for tone are phonetically low [_l]. TODO baloung pls tonim!!!

3 | Prosody

3.1 | Isochrony

Isochrony is the rhythmic division of utterances. The isochrony of Móogatí is moraically-timed, i.e., the duration of every mora (μ) is approximately equal.

3.2 | Prosodic units

All utterances are divided into many levels of prosodic units.

The smallest unit is the mora, explained in the previous section. Above the moraic unit, there is the prosodic foot (φ)

3.3 | Stress

Stress is characterized by a slight increase in pitch, volume, and duration of the stressed syllable.

3.4 | Break indices

Break indices are levels of disjuncture between units of the same tier.

3.5 | Intonation

TODO all of this

4 | Orthography

TODO native script

4.1 | Other scripts

We prefer to *not* use romanizations and such, but include the following orthographical transcriptions for conformative purposes¹.

4.1.1 | Latin

	<i>Labial</i>	<i>Lingual</i>	<i>Glottal</i>
<i>Voiceless plosive</i>	p, f	k, t	x
<i>Voiced plosive</i>	b, m	g, j, n, ŋ	
<i>Continuant</i>		r, y, d, l	h, s

Figure 4.1: Consonants (Latin)

i u	i u
e o	e o
a	a
ai au	ai au
◌◌◌◌	◌◌◌◌

Figure 4.2: Vowels (Latin)

4.1.2 | Hacm

	<i>Labial</i>	<i>Lingual</i>	<i>Glottal</i>
<i>Voiceless plosive</i>	d	ɭ	ɮ
<i>Voiced plosive</i>	b	ɸ	
<i>Continuant</i>		ɹ	h

Figure 4.3: Consonants (Hacm)

¹also, hacm is cool

i u	c ə
e o	e ɔ
a	ɪ
ai au	ɪc ɪə
o ó	o ó

Figure 4.4: Vowels (*Hacm*)

5 | Syntax, lexical class, & pragmatics

There is a single open class of lexical roots: sentence (S). All roots may be used in isolation or with other roots. All roots are characterized by macrofunctionality; they are not morphosyntactically restricted by categories such as “noun”, “verb”, etc., but may freely function as anything within the constraints of their semantics.

Because of this, there is technically no notion of “word order” within a clause: all roots are inherently clausal. Practically, however, the most topical (§ 5.2) “thing” (entity, event, argument, predicate, etc.) within a pragmatically-determined group of contextually-related “things” (a “clause”¹) comes first.

5.1 | Association operator

There is a single operator that relates roots to form complex utterances: the association operator. This comes in two flavors: the monadic and dyadic.

5.1.1 | Monadic

The monadic association takes a single root x , and expresses as association of x , that which is associated with x , etc.

5.1.2 | Dyadic

The dyadic association takes two roots x and y , and expresses an association of x and y , that which is associated with x and y , etc.

This operator may overlap roots.

5.2 | Topic

The topic is the thing about which is being spoken; it often overlaps with the notion of “subject” in other languages. However, since there is no notion of “subject” in Móogatí, this correlation is purely for the purpose of comparison.

More specifically, the topic consists of information that is already established (given/old information) in the universe of discourse.

¹or, more technically, “word soup”

6 | Particles

All inflection is achieved via a wide array of macrofunctional particles. Functionally, particles do not differ from other roots; it just happens that they have semi-formalized usages which are somewhat grammatical in nature.

6.1 | Person

Person comes in a binary distinction, which is further split by number:

speaker	SG	hák	<i>i, me, myself, my/mine</i>
	PL	kúgi	<i>we, us, ourself, our(s)</i>
listener	SG	riʔi	<i>you, yourself, your(s)</i>
	PL	bóri	<i>y'all, yourselves, y'all's</i>

Wherein singular (SG) indicates exactly one entity, while plural (PL) indicates exactly two or more entities.

As indicated by their vast array of interpretations, these may be used as pro-forms, as arguments and predicates, to indicate possession, etc. Functionally, these strongly correlate to 1st and 2nd pronouns in other languages. 3rd person pronoun-like functions are taken by demonstratives (§ 6.2).

6.2 | Demonstratives

Demonstratives are functionally identical to the person particles in the previous section, but have different distinctions that may be mapped as follows:

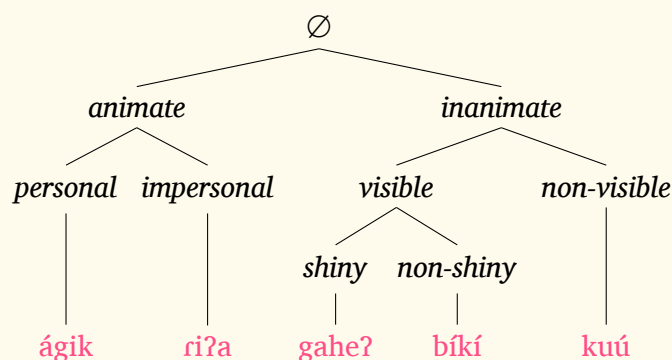


Figure 6.1: Demonstratives

ágik	<i>humans, people, humanoids</i>
riʔa	<i>groups of people, animals¹</i>
gaheʔ	<i>shiny, visible entities; plants that grow in shiny soil</i>
bíki	<i>non-shiny, visible entities; plants that grow in non-shiny soil</i>
kuú	<i>non-visible entities, the unknown; who/what/when/where/why, question</i>

6.3 | Relationals

Relationals express an overt relationship.

coördinating	gá	<i>and, with, using, togetherness, whole, all</i> (\forall)
contrastive	bí?	<i>but, except, excluding, contrast, individuality, only</i> ($\exists!$)
alternative	?apí	<i>or, either, choosing, substitute, some</i> (\exists)
negative	íge	<i>no, not, nor, none, nothing, lacking</i> ($\neg\forall$)
subordinating	ke	<i>of, that, in, although, because, if, when, unequal togetherness</i>
goal	ruhá	<i>to(ward), for (purpose, benefit), acceptance</i>
source	híba	<i>from, away, against, opposition</i>

Additionally, **gá** and **íge** may be used for affirmation and negation, respectively.

¹this includes all animals of the sky and land, but only sufficiently fish-like sea animals; other aquatic life (shelled animals, etc.) is considered inanimate

8 | Body parts

10 | Kinship terms

11 | Names

12 | Channels

Channels modify form of communication (e.g., signed vs. spoken).

12.1 | Signed channel

12.2 | Danced channel

12.3 | Hummed channel

12.4 | Whistled channel

12.5 | Yelled channel

| Appendices

Appendix A is a lexicon of roots, Appendix B details the semantic divisions of certain concepts, and Appendix C gives example sentences.

Lemma entries are structured as follows:

- **lemma** : definition

Wherein the definition encompasses a macrofunctional domain: e.g., what is entered as mouth, speech, language may be used as any and all of mouth, speech, language, (to) say/talk, spoken, etc.

A | Roots

| Body parts

- **boógakí** : mouth, speech, language, emit sound
- **áú?i** : hand, arm, hold, carry, make, do
- **rógi** : foot, leg, stand, taller-than-wide
- **gá?oo** : butt, seat, sit, tall-as-wide
- **óhbu** : back, lay down, wider-than-tall
- **kó** : stomach, inside, within, contain
- **ke?o** : eyes, ears, sense (strong), see, hear
- **gubóó** : tongue, nose, sense (weak), taste, smell
- **kípi** : heart, blood, think, know, knowledge, important information
- **horí** : liver, feel (emotion), emotion
- **áú?irógi** : walk, move, go

| ???

- **kaeh** : causation, cause, natural force, push/pull, effect
- **kabí** : work, motion, move, ability, production
- **?apíkabí** : almost, attempt, try, fall, non-volition, lack of choice

| ??????

- **ikri** : beneficial for one's family, good, desirable
- **ikriboógakí** : sing, song, good speech/talk, beauty, music
- **hara** : malicious for one's family, evil, bad, undesirable

B | Semantic divisions

C | Example sentences
