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MORPHO PHONEMIC WRITING IN CUICATECO

by Marjorie Davis and Peggy Walker

1. Phonemics

1.1 Consonants

Models are non-contrastive one component.

Stop

t	tš	k	kw	?
---	----	---	----	---

- voiced after Nasals

Fricative

b	d	s	x
---	---	---	---

Close-lateral-open

m	n	l	r	y
---	---	---	---	---

1.2 Vowels

One model with two components, nasal and non-nasal

i	e	a	o	u
ĩ	ẽ	ã	õ	ũ

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1.3 Tones

ˊ	-	ˋ
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2. Morphophonemics includes Metathesis, tone change, vowel harmony, stem suppletion and addition and subtraction.

2.1 Metathesis.

The glottal stop (?) metathesizes with an adjacent consonant to form a permitted consonant cluster. It is symbolized by ?

Ex. nt - ?iitšĩ > n?tiitšĩ 'have sowed'
? - ntũũtšĩ > n?tũũtšĩ 'have awakened others'

2.2 Tone changes are of two types, phonological and morphological.

Phonological symbols: ˊ - ˋ

Morphological symbols: " = "" (boldface)

The numbers 1, 2, and 3 (1 referring to high tone, 2 referring to low tone, and 3 referring to low tone) occurring after the tone marks refer to their basic tone with -1, ˊ1, =1, and ˊˊ1 having high tone as their basic tone, - with ˋ2, ˋˋ2, "2, and ˊˊ2 having mid tone as their basic tone; with ˊ3, -3, "3, and =3, having low tone as their basic tone.

2.2.1 Phonological changes are regressive within the word and progressive and regressive between words and between words and phrase-final prefixes.

Regressive tone changes within the word occur with verb prefixes

ni² -nān?tōō-dē "you have stretched"

ni² -nā -da² -n?tāĩ -dē "you have fixed"

Progressive and regressive tone changes occur between words

Progressive: yá?á n?tá²i² "good sun"

?líí mí²í² "This little one"

Regressive: ?kwéí² yaáá "pretty grass"

Progressive and regressive:

?áámá itíí³ntú³ ?kúú "this one bull"

Progressive and regressive tone changes between words and phrase-final suffix:

kénéé - dé² "you familiar remained"

kénéé - yá "The people are remaining"

2.2.2 Morphemic tone changes

The 1st person singular marker is indicated by raising the tone on the final stem vowel one level unless it is already high. If the preceding tone is not a level lower than the final 1st person singular tone marker, then the preceding tone or tones are perturbed.

ta?á² - "my hand"

ntūúk² - "with me"

ntèí³ - "I spoke"

tā?á ?kūū³ - "This hand of mine"

2.3 Vowel Harmony

Two types of vowel harmony occur, optional in the verb prefixes and obligatory in verb stems with the phrase-final 1st person inclusive human suffix.

2.3.1 Optional progressive complete vowel harmony:

ní²-ná-dá²-kūúkú² ~ ní²-ní -dá²-kūúkú² "I have adorned others"

nī-kē-ntāá² ~ nī-kī-ntāá²

2.3.2 Obligatory vowel harmony occurs in Morphemes with phrase-final 1st person plural inclusive human ^{marker} in the preceding morpheme or sequence of two morphemes.

Morphophonemic vowel symbols:

I for i > o

A for a > e

E for e > o

AA for aa > ei

A for a > o

U for u > o

Examples: (inclusive forms)

?ɨ?ɨ? "We are showing"
i -?nēēnē? "We are peeling"
i -dā - kūūvā? "we are tightening"
jāi "we are buying"
i -kū -n?tā?āi "we are opening"
tā?ā? "our hands"
nāā? "our faces"
tšāā? "we supported"
chāākū? "our mother"

2.3.3 Verb stem and verb-word suppletion occurs in classes R, S, T, W, Y, Z with vowel stem suppletion in class R and verb-word tone suppletion in classes S - Z.

2.3.3.1 Vowel suppletion occurs in approximately 65 verbs in class R and is symbolized with the same morphemic vowel symbols as section 2.3.2 with the addition of

A for a > u

A for a > i

I for i > u

U for u > i

?āā - dē "you (familiar) are filling"

xūū - dē "you (familiar) are throwing"

xūū nā - dē "you (familiar) are bathing yourself"

xā?ā - dē "you (familiar) are going"

xū?ū - dē "you (familiar) are drinking"

xāā nū - dē "you (familiar) are digging"

xāāno -dē "you (familiar) are running."

?āānā bēē -dē "you (familiar) are hearing."

xūū (bī) -dē "you (familiar) are being able"

xīī (yū) "It is drying."

2.3.3.2 Tone suppletion occurs in verb-word classes s - z in approximately 300 verbs.
(P) - potential, (Pt) - past, (Pr) - present, (RP) - remote past

Class S: # nūū -dē "you will hunt" (P)

nūū -dē "you hunted" (Pt)

Class t: # dīī?nū -dē "you will squeeze" (P)

nī-dīī?nū -dē "you have squeezed" (R.P.)

- Class W: k \bar{a} -(k \bar{a})-?n \bar{u} \bar{u} -d \bar{e} "you will carry" (P)
i-k \bar{a} -?n \bar{u} \bar{u} -d \bar{e} "you are carrying" (Pr)
n \bar{i} -k \bar{a} ?n \bar{u} \bar{u} -d \bar{e} "you have carried" (R.P.)
- Class X: d \bar{a} -?k \bar{u} \bar{u} n \bar{i} -d \bar{e} "you will chew" (P)
i-d \bar{a} -?k \bar{u} \bar{u} n \bar{i} -d \bar{e} "you are chewing" (Pt)
n \bar{i} -d \bar{a} -?k \bar{u} \bar{u} n \bar{i} -d \bar{e} "you have chewed" (RP)
- Class Y: k \bar{a} -n \bar{a} -nk \bar{w} \bar{e} \bar{e} -d \bar{e} "you will stand it up" (P)
t \bar{s} \bar{i} -n \bar{a} -nk \bar{w} \bar{e} \bar{e} -d \bar{e} "you stood it up" (Pt)
n \bar{i} -n \bar{i} -nk \bar{w} \bar{e} \bar{e} -d \bar{e} "you have stood it up"
- Class Z: # -d \bar{i} x \bar{i} k \bar{u} -d \bar{e} "you will cure" (P)
i-d \bar{i} x \bar{i} k \bar{u} -d \bar{e} "you are curing" (Pr)
-d \bar{i} x \bar{i} k \bar{u} -d \bar{e} "you cured" (Pt)
n \bar{i} -d \bar{i} x \bar{i} k \bar{u} -d \bar{e} "you have cured" (RP)

2.4 Addition and subtraction.

Addition

The off glide /i/ is added between a morpheme ending in /a/ and a morpheme beginning with /y/.

n \bar{a} \bar{a} +y \bar{a} \bar{a} > n \bar{a} \bar{i} y \bar{a} \bar{a} "thorny face"

Subtraction

Final Consonant-vowel is subtracted in certain verb stems in Class t.

-?k \bar{u} \bar{u} (Pr) k- \bar{u} \bar{u} ? m \bar{a} (P) > ?k \bar{u} \bar{u} (m \bar{a}) "dry"

x- \bar{a} ? \bar{a} (Pr) k- \bar{a} \bar{a} ? m \bar{a} (P) > ?k \bar{a} \bar{a} (m \bar{a}) "say"

x- \bar{i} \bar{i} (Pr) k- \bar{u} \bar{u} \bar{i} (P) k-uu (b \bar{i}) "able"