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VOWELS IN PRESTRESSED SYLLABLES West Highland Chatino
Kitty Pride

All phonemic syllables have a vowel nucleus. An epenthetic vowel of predictable quality is inserted after a consonant and before the consonant onset of the root syllable.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Monosyllable: | (C)(C)C(S)V(') |
| Disyllable: | (C)C(S)V.C(S)V(') |
| Trisyllable: | (C)C(S)V.C(S)V.C(S)V(') |

S = semivowel actualised as palatalisation or labialisation of the preceding syllable onset consonant. Occasionally it may be n where the preceding consonant is glottal stop (''). The period indicates phonemic syllable division. Phonetic syllabic consonants are indicated by a raised period (·). All examples are given in the practical orthography.

1. Syllabic Consonants

A consonant is syllabified (given an extra mora of length) preceding the consonant onset of the root syllable, i.e. the stressed syllable:

$$C(t,k,ch,s,x,j,l,r,m,n,y,w) \ C(S)ROOT \ VOWEL(') = [C\cdot C(S)V(')]$$

| | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| tkan' | mitad | tñan | trabajo |
| klu | caldo | kti | cuidadoso |
| chku | pozo | chkwa | tejerá |
| s'nan | escaso | styu | jarro |
| xlyu | cuchillo | xnan | correrá |
| jñan' | pedirá | jlyo | destruirá |
| lkwi | hierve | lsu' wtyi | urraca |
| rkwa | se sentó | rle | alcalde |
| msu | mozo | mtsa' | se mojó |
| nty'a | siembra | ngan | coco |
| ykwan' | aleteó | yka | árbol, madera |
| wkee' | cocinará | w'ñan | bonito |

(Note: the only modified consonants that are syllabic are ch, x and on instance of jw: jwle' memela. Note also that since this syllabicity is predictable it is subphonemic)

Two syllabic consonants often occur in phonemic monosyllables:

$$C(m,n,w) \ C(d,g,ch,s,x,j,r) \ C(t,k,g,l,n)(S)ROOT \ VOWEL(')$$

| | | | |
|--------|----------------|--------|-----------|
| mske' | codició | mjlyaa | regó |
| mskwin | sacudió | mxtyun | gato |
| nchga | todo | ndlo | saca |
| nglyuu | crece | njñan | ruega |
| nskwa' | maíz | wska | arrancará |
| ws'nan | mecerá | wrnun | mayordomo |
| nxñi | está agarrando | | |

Phonetic syllabic consonants also occur in disyllables:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------------|
| ndukunn' | cierre | mjityuun | obligó a pasar |
| jlu'we | ala | jña'an | lava |
| wsiya | autoridad | wji'ñi | pegará |
| skuwe | huevo | sku've | Juquila |
| nly'a'a | pliega | ngutsi | amarillo |
| mdiyyu | cayó | ngwi'ya | compró |
| ndyukwen' | traga | ndyijin | le da comezón |

A phonetic consonant occasionally occurs in a word of three phonemic syllables.

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| mxika'an | hizo cambiar de lugar |
| mxitukwi | voltea |

2. Vowel Copying

A copy of the root vowel is inserted between any consonant and an unmodified root initial glottal stop (') or glottal fricative (j).

C ____ G(' , j) ROOT VOWEL
 αV ... αV

| | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| ngw(a)'a | rajó | mx(a)'an | cambió |
| k(o)jo' | agugereará | ty(i)jin | pasará |
| ly(e)'e | lamerá | k(u)'un | golpeará |

3. Root consonants of verbs, perhaps all root consonants, are simple and any modification is caused by infixes or prefixes: y- and -y- give palatalisation, w- and -w- give labialisation; n- metathesises with root initial ' to give 'n; n- plus y- or -y- and root initial ' give 'ñ. The root initial consonant y may combine with a consonantal prefix to give palatalisation.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------------|---------|---------------|
| n- | + s- | + -y- | + 'u | nsi'yu | corta |
| n- + y- | + s- | + -y | + taa' | nxtya' | mezcla |
| Ø- + j- | | + yan | | jyan | vendrá a |
| n- y- + j- | | + yan | | ndyan | viene a |
| k + d- | + s- | + -y- | + -w- + ka | chkwa | tejerá |
| nd- | + d- | + s- | + -y- | nchkwa | está tejiendo |
| n-y- + d- | + s- | + -y- | + -w- + ka | ykwa | teje |
| kw- + j- + n- | + -y- | | + 'i | wji'ñi | pegará |
| n- + s- + n- | | | + 'an | ns'nan | mece |
| n-y- + l- + y- | | | + ja' | ndijya' | duerme |

4. Harmonic High Vowel Insertion

a. A high vowel agreeing in rounding with the root onset semivowel is inserted after a stop consonant whether or not the semivowel is preceded by a consonant.

C(k,t) ____ (C) S(y,w) ROOT VOWEL

i y
u w

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|
| t(i)yuu | se caerá | k(u)we ti' | se sentirá |
| k(i)'ya | montaña | t(u)'wa | boca |
| ngw(i)jyu | penetró | ty(u)kwi | colgará |
| k(i)lya | rasurará | k(u)we' | marrano |
| nd(i)yoo | está moliendo | k(u)'wan | guacamaya |
| nd(i)ya | hay | kw(i)ñan | fabricará |
| nd(i)'yo | está bebiendo | kw(i)cha | quebrará |

The exception is for palatised l preceded by alveolars or voiced velar:

| | | | |
|--------|------------|--------|---------------------|
| ndlyaa | es librado | nglyuu | está cayendo |
| tlyu | grande | ndlyuu | cae (habitualmente) |

b. A high vowel agreeing in rounding with the root onset semivowel is inserted after an oral continuant consonant whether or not the semivowel is preceded by a glottal stop (') or a glottal fricative (j).

C(s,x,l,y) ____ (' ,j) S(y,w) ROOT VOWEL

i y
u w

| | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| x(u)we | pequeño | x(i)cha' | criticará |
| s(u)'wa | pondrá | l(i)jya | caña |
| y(u)wi | escogido | l(i)ya' | afuera |
| l(i)'ya | diente | l(u)wa' | cubil |

5. Prestressed vowel retention

A. Verb forms with the prefixes kw-, ngw- or ga- have pretonic vowels determined by the prefix. The w of the prefix becomes u before an unmodified root syllable onset, except before glottal stop (') where vowel copying (rule 2) takes precedence.

| | | | |
|--------|------------|--------|--------|
| kunee | confesará | ngula | nació |
| kutsi' | sepulclará | nguluu | creció |

The w is retained and a copy of the root vowel is inserted before root intial glottal ('), as in rule 2.

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|-------|
| kwa'an | arrancará | ngwi'i | tostó |
| kwu'u | enseñará | | |

The w is retained and an i inserted before a root syllable onset containing y, as in rule 4.

kwifian fabricará ngwijyu penetró

The vowel a of the prefix ga- is retained.

katin será destruido ngatin es destruido

B. Stem formative prefix y- is retained as the vowel i following d- or nd- and before a simple root intial consonant.

tikan' enlazará ndikee' guisa
ndijo' penetra

C. The causative prefix xi- retains the i before the stem formative prefixes d-, g-, s-, or root initial j-, ts-, or s-, but reduces to x- elsewhere. The rare causative prefix ji- always retains the vowel.

mx(i)tukwi volteó (colgado)
mx(i)sti volteó (acostado)
nx(i)tña' descansa

x(i)ka'an hacer que cambie de lugar
xija' hacer que duerma
mxija' hizo dormir
nxicha' critica

jikii frotará
njityun obliga a alguien parar
mjityukwi hizo colgar

Examples of the loss of i from the causative prefix:

nxti' desata xuwe' agravará (rule 4)
mxkwi despertó nxu'wa lleva el agua (rule 4)
mxkwani torció mxa'an cambió (rule 2)
xnun abandonará nxo'o hace tomar (rule 2)
xlyuu hará caer

6. Schwa Insertion

The vowel a is inserted between the word intial consonant and the root intial consonant in the remaining cases.

C _a_ C ROOT VOWEL

k(a)tsu reventará ng(a)nun queda
k(a)ti' mamará ng(a)sa' chachalaca
ng(a)luu crece ng(a)'ni es pegado