

Language: Woleaian (Eurpik dialect)

Language expert: Lenny Saumar

Collector: Emma Breslow

Others present: Liam Archbold

Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Consent: Emma provided an overview of the process; Lenny had no questions. Lenny provided his name & today's date, and consented to be recorded, archived, and identified.

Recording: Liam recorded via Zoom to his computer. Lenny also recorded through a physical recorder.

Description: We began by explaining what we wanted from the clapping and calling exercises and why we were doing this. Emma led a practice with a few English words, then went through the list of words we had used as syllable examples in our phonology sketch. Next, Liam elicited words with double vowels, which led into Emma's section on voiceless final vowels we pulled from Sohn's grammar. Lastly, Liam led a section on geminates. For all words elicited today, we asked Lenny to say them normally, then clap in time with each syllable, then call the words out as though he were calling for a pet dog with that name. In cases where we were still uncertain, we would say the words back to Lenny with exaggerated stress or syllable boundaries and he would choose which option sounded best.

Syllables (Clap and dog call)

English Practice

- Elsa
 - Biscuit
 - Banana
 - Coconut
 - Leonardo
-
- cha 'red'¹
 - 1 syllable
 - faiu 'rock, stone, boulder'
 - 2 syllables
 - ['fa.i]
 - piye 'sand'
 - 1 syllable
 - [pi]
 - rei 'with me'
 - 1 syllable, hesitantly
 - [rei]
 - pai 'my bait'
 - 2 syllables

¹ Note: where the pronunciation changed between the natural utterance and the one divided into syllables, I am writing the syllable pronunciation.

- ['pa.i]
- ige 'fish'
 - 1 syllable
 - [ix]
- ifa 'which ones'
 - 2 syllables
 - ['i.fə]
- umwe 'oven'²
 - 2 syllables
 - ['u.m^wə]
- lamwe 'lagoon'
 - 2 syllables, with a bit of hesitation
 - ['ra.m^wə]
- temai 'father (about)'
 - 3 syllables
 - [tə.'ma.i]
- gite 'little, small'
 - 1 syllable
 - [xi⁷t]
- gattu 'cat'
 - 2 syllables
 - ['xa.tu], but ['xa.atu] would also be acceptable. Both orthographic <t>'s are at the beginning of the second syllable, such that <gatu> would be pronounced the same
- fiuse 'star'
 - 2 syllables
 - ['fy.sə]
- geeshe 'rat, mouse'
 - 2 syllables
 - ['xɛ.sə]³
- mwate 'worm, earthworm'
 - 2 syllables
 - ['m^wa.tə]
- laariu 'sea urchin'
 - 2 syllables
 - ['ra.ry]
- ikefa 'which ones'
 - 3 syllables

² At this point, we explained further that we're listening to where syllable boundaries are.

³ Lenny mentioned that a female friend of Lenny's cannot hear syllables when Woleaian men speak, but can when women do.

- [i. 'kœ.fa]
- moshoshe 'ash'
 - 3 syllables
 - [mɔ. 'ʂɔ.ɔʂ]
- chechoale 'black'
 - 3 syllables
 - [tʂɛ. 'tʂɔ.rə]
- garawerawe 'blue'
 - 3 syllables
 - [xa.: 'raʊ.raʊ]⁴
- gaushema 'sister's husband'
 - 3 syllables
 - [xaʊ. 'ʂœ.ma]
- yanape 'road, path'
 - 2 syllables, hesitantly
 - [jɛ.nɛp^h]
- maliuse 'thick'
 - 3 syllables
 - ['ma.ry.sə]⁵

6

Voiceless Vowels

- | ● Sohn-spelling | English | Lenny-spelling, if different |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ● Kel | 'to dig' | |
| ○ | 1 syllable | |
| ○ | [kɛɾ] | |
| ● Pak | 'to shoot' | <pake> |
| ○ | 2 syllables | |
| ○ | ['pa.kə] | |
| ● Tti | 'to close' | <ttiye> |
| ○ | 2 syllables | |
| ○ | ['ti.yə] | |
| ● Ki | 'hot (spicy)' | n/a |
| ● Mas | 'to die' | <mase> |
| ○ | 2 syllables, hesitantly | |
| ○ | ['ma.sə] | |
| ● Besh | 'lime' | <beesh> |
| ○ | 2 syllables | |

⁴ I am uncertain about the stress on this one.

⁵ While this goes against the pattern we've otherwise been seeing, we did explicitly confirm with Lenny that the first syllable was the main/heavy one.

⁶ We next had Liam do the Double Vowels section below.

- [pʷɛ.ʂɛ]
- Gius ‘octopus’ <giuse>
 - 2 syllables
 - [xy.sɛ]⁷
- Mwaremwar ‘lei’
 - 3 syllables
 - [mʷa.rɛ.mʷar]
- Gach ‘good’ <gachiu>
 - 2 syllables
 - [xa.tʂy]
- Yalius ‘ghost’ <yaliuse>
 - 3 syllables
 - [ja.ry.sɛ]
- Gilimw ‘your skin’ <gilimwe>
 - 3 syllables
 - [xi.ri.mʷə]
- Matt ‘to sit’ <matto>
 - 2 syllables
 - [ma.to]
- Tto ‘deep’ n/a, but similar word <yeote>
 - 2 syllables
 - [jœ.tœ]
- Shoabut ‘woman’ <shobut>
 - 2 syllables
 - [ʂɔ.pɔt]

Lime ‘neat’

- Offered when Emma asked if Lenny could think of any words just ending in <mw>, not <mwe>.
- Still 2 syllables, [ri.m]

Asked Lenny for any more words ending in <o>

- Faato ‘a bottle/mug set down, or planting trees/flowers’
 - [fatɔ]
- Mano ‘finished/done’
 - [man:]⁸

⁷ Lenny agreed that the second syllable is different in this one than the prior two. The vowel seems to me to be more pronounced.

⁸ After this section, we went to the Geminates listed below.

1. Double vowels

1. How many syllables are in each of these words?
2. What is the stressed syllable?

ige [ixə] 'fish'

iige [iixə] 'fish'

iira 'stick, wood'

ira 'branch, wood'

butoge [fʊtɔx] 'come here'

suuge [suuxə] 'puncher (hole)'

sew [sɛw] 'one'

seewe [seewə] 'one'

woshe [wɔʃə] 'coral reef'

wooshe [woʃə] 'coral reef'

mate [mɛtə] 'wake up'

maate [maatə] 'face'

1.1 Diphthongs and special vowels

liye 'to kill'

leo 'bottle'

liu 'coconut'

loa 'wave'

lai 'my children'

lou 'stonefish'

La

Le

Li

Lo

Lowe

Lu

Luwe?

Lewe

Leye

2. Geminates

1. Are there words that look like:

Ppale

Ttale

*ppaale

*ttaale

*kkaap

kkiu 'my fingernail'

kiule 'his/her fingernail'

kkel 'to dig'

Iyeel mene kkiu.

Iyeel mene kiule

Iyeel mene ye ppale.

Iyeel mene ye pale.

tale 'lined up'

ttale 'dream'

ppale 'light (weight)'

pale 'dry'

Repeat "ttale" now.

Tefale ngali "ttale" igela.

Tefale ngali "tale" igela.

Tefale ngali "ppale" igela.

Tefale ngali "pale" igela.

paale 'gasket'

taale 'his/her rope, intestine'

Tale

Ttale

Taale

Pale

Ppale

Paale

Nippiye 'in the sand'

Piye 'sand'

faale 'below'

fale?

fatiuwe

fisuwe

faliuwe

ffago 'love'

Faato

*Fago

pai

paiu

paa

shaaliu 'water'

shaliu 'water'

shou 'fishtrap, scoopnet'

shoo 'copra'

tame 'father'

taame 'father'

wwere 'bright'

werewere 'lightning'

Tefale ngali “wwere” igela.

Tefale ngali “werewere” igela.

- Word-initial geminates following a vowel-final word
 - To test if geminates are longer
- Geminates across syllable boundaries

3. Bilabials⁹

3.1 Minimal pairs

woonge ‘sea turtle’

bong/e ‘night’

boo ‘to swell’

woo ?

woshe ‘coral’

wooshe ‘reef’

booshe ‘hexagonal part of turtle shell’

also: bwooshe

taap ‘cheek’

kaape ‘cup’

3.2 ⟨pw⟩

Is “pwuchetiwe” a word?

Puchetiwe

Puge ‘boil’

Pwuge

pagou ‘shark’

pwagou ‘shark’

Do you ever have a case where “pw” is followed by i, e,

pwa

pa

⁹ We ended our session here, before Bilabials.

*baa
waa

we
me