

Phonology

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Language Assignment 2

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a)

One notable gap in Kambera's phoneme inventory is the omission of plain voiced plosives. In Kambera these consonants [b d g] are substituted by prenasalised counterparts [nb nd ŋg] and in the case of [b d] also by their implosive counterparts [ɓɗ] respectively. Since all of the voiceless plosives have a prenasalised voiced counterpart, it is assumed that these take the place of plain voiced plosives in Kambera.

From a speakers perspective, having [nb nd ŋg] instead [b d g] appears to be illogical, since the former sounds are more difficult to articulate. From a listeners perspective, these phonemes are however more distinct from [p t k] when compared to [b d g], which might explain why these prenasalised phonemes appear in the consonant inventory.

b)

- Each syllable should contain a vowel.
- Heavy syllables—syllables with the structure (C)VV—can only occur under main stress.
- Consonants /l r h t k ŋ/ are the only ones allowed in root (a unit similar to the prosodic foot) final position.

c)

In Kambera, the following syllabic structures are allowed:

- (C)V (light syllable; according to the literature)
- (C)VV (heavy syllable; according to the literature)

These two structures can be summarised as the following: (C)V(V)

d)

Kambera does not allow syllabic consonants.