

0 INTRODUCTION

Ambulas has 24 phonemes, seven vowels and seventeen consonants. The vowels consist of two unrounded front vowels, i and e; three unrounded central vowels, é, a and aa; and two rounded back vowels, u and o. The consonants consist of four voiceless obstruents, p, t, s, and k; four voiced prenasalized obstruents, b, d, j, and g; four nasals, m, n, ny, and ng; three continuants, v, l, and r; and two semi-vowels, w and y.

AMBULAS GRAMMAR

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1.3 Morphophonemics

1. When the following suffix starts with a vowel the following rules apply:

- a. when the stem ends in p, k, s, t
 stem final p adds m before the suffix
 stem final k adds n [ŋ] before the suffix
 stem final s adds ny before the suffix
 stem final t becomes r before the suffix

raap + ék = raapmék 'got up'
 get.up pa

sérak + ék = séraknék 'cooked'
 cook pa

Mulas + ét = Mulasnyét 'to Mulas'
 Mulas su

bét + ét = bérét 'to them'
 they(d) su

b. when the stem ends in a vowel

1. on pronoun and noun stems mid central and back vowels
 + é become a
 except ayé combination

kaabélé + ét = kaabélat 'to the river'
 river dest

abu + ét = abat 'to the garden'
 garden dest

(there is one exception to the above rule

du + ét = dut, duwat 'to the man'
 man su)

gayé + ét = gayét 'to the village'
 village dest

2. in all other cases:

final vowel of stem + é loses é

baadi + ét = baadit 'to the children'
children su

wakwe + ék = wakwek 'spoke'
speak pa

akéré + ék = akérék 'fell'
fall pa

ya + ék = yak 'did'
do pa

néwaa + ét = néwaat 'to the mother'
mother su

véknwu + ék = véknwuk 'heard'
hear pa

kwalbo + ét = kwalbot 'to the kwalbo tree'
tree dest

front vowels + e, o, or u add y at the border

kutbe + o = kutbeyo 'talk against'
talk.against pr

gi + u = giyu 'tie'
tie pr

wakwe + e = wakweye 'speak and . . .'
speak r1

ti + e = tiye 'bite and . . .'
bite r1

mid central vowels, and high back vowel preceded by k or knw, + e, a, o, or u are lost

waaré + e = waare 'ascend and . . .'
ascend r1

guné + awa = gunawa 'you over there'
you(pl) vo 3

gélé + u = gélú 'pluck'
pluck pr

saaba + e = saabe 'arrive and . . .'
arrive r1

wa + o = wo 'say'
say pr

véknwu + u = véknwu 'hear'
hear pr

sétknwu + e = sétknwe 'miss and . . .'
miss r1

low central vowel (aa) + e or o becomes ae, ao

yaa + e = yae 'come and . . .'
come r1

waa + o = wao 'shout'
shout pr

mid back vowel (o) and high back vowel (u) provided that they are not preceded by k or knw + o, u are lost
+ e adds w at border

kuso + o = kuso 'decorate'
decorate pr

tawu + u = tawu 'plant'
plant pr

rékno + e = réknowe 'snort and . . .'
snort r1

tu + e = tuwe 'bake and'
bake r1

N.B. ku $\begin{bmatrix} k^w \\ w \\ u \end{bmatrix}$ + é becomes kwa
gu $\begin{bmatrix} g^w \\ w \\ u \end{bmatrix}$ + é becomes gwa
ku $\begin{bmatrix} k^w \\ w \\ u \end{bmatrix}$ + é becomes kwe

mapusékeku + ét = mapusékekwa 'wasp
wasp, species su species'

gu + ét = gwat 'to the water'
water dest

séku + e = sékwe 'cut and . . .'
cut r1

2. When the following suffix starts with k and the stem ends in k:

k + k becomes kg

baak + ké = baakgé 'in order to cook in steam'
 cook int

When the following suffix starts with s and the stem ends in t:

t + s becomes tj

yat + sada = yatjada 'throw down'
 throw down

When the following suffix starts with wu and the stem ends in wu:

wu + wu = wu

sanévéknwu + wuru = sanévéknwuru 'let me think'
 think let.me

When the following suffix starts with na and the stem ends in né:

né + na = na

wuné + na = wuna 'my'
 I pos