

3. Phonology

Probably all Werizoid varieties have a syllabic structure (C)V(:)(C) and a five vowel system i/e/a/o/u, with contrastive length here marked by a colon. Accent is phonologically unpredictable and is marked acute to the extent it has been recorded. Vowel length is perhaps uncontrastive in word-final position; in any case it has seldom been transcribed in final position. The clusters of two consonants that can occur between vowels are typically geminate clusters, clusters of two "plain" stops (see below), or clusters selected out of the pattern (Y)(L)(N)(F)(S), where Y represents a semivowel, L a liquid, N a nasal, F a fricative, and S a stop. The only consonants observed in word-final position are nasals and semivowels.

Gawwada of the village of Dalpe:na has the following consonantal inventory:

"plain" stops:	p	t	c	k	q
implosive stops:	B	D			
Objectives:		t'	c'	k'	
fricatives:	f	s	š	x	
nasals:	m	n	ɲ		
liquids:		r,l			
semivowels:	w	y			
pharyngeals:				ħ,ʕ	
laryngeal:					ʔ

Probably in all dialects the plain stops p, t, and k are voiceless lenis word initially, voiceless fortis when

geminate or following a fricative, and voiced in most other environments. Most Werizoid varieties are transcribed phonetically in such a way as to distinguish voiced and voiceless allophones, with either being commonly transcribed in initial position: Bender, for example, transcribes Werize ka:so, but Gawwada ga:se 'horn.' The voiced allophones can be spirantized slightly or, in the case of p and k when adjacent to rounded vowels, fully. The palatal c is generally a voiceless affricate; it is rare in Gawwada varieties other than that of Dalpe:na.

The uvular q is a voiceless lenis stop in initial position, in geminate clusters, and as the second element of a cluster, and elsewhere after vowels tends to be a voiced spirant [ɣ]. I have taken a few occurrences of implosive G in Gawwada of Dalpe:na to be a free variant and post-consonantal allophone of q. Possibly G is a distinct phoneme in Gawwada of išárkuta.

Of the implosive and the ejective stops, D is common in all varieties, but t' is attested primarily only in my own Gawwada and Gobeze data in a small number of forms. Only one such form, t'ir-akko 'man, male,' has attested cognates in other varieties: Fleming's Gawwada and Tsamay tirako and his Werize c'iraku. Ejective k' occurs in k'eg-te 'blood' and a few additional attested Gawwada forms, but is somewhat more common in Ala varieties. Implosive B has been attested only in several of my own Gawwada and Gobeze forms, such as Gawwada and Gobeze hiBB-e 'lip'. Ejective c' is attested in kuc'a:cit-e 'ant'; it is more frequent in non-Gawwada varieties. An implosive J is attested only in išárkuta Gawwada in Ja:laD- 'to like.'

Most of the fricatives, nasals, liquids, semivowels, pharyngeals, and the laryngeal are common throughout Werizoid and phonetically uncomplicated. The nasal n is homorganic with following velars and uvulars. The fricative s tends to be somewhat voiced intervocalically. The palatals š and ɲ are relatively infrequent. The fricative x has an allophone [h] before rounded vowels, and the same allophone can occur elsewhere as a free variant. In several varieties x has been attested as a palatal fricative in xi?- 'see.'

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