

2. Phonology

The phonemes of Palawan are as follows:

i) Consonants

There are seventeen consonants, thus:

		Bilabial	Apico-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	vl.	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>		<i>k</i>	ʔ
	vd.	<i>b</i>	<i>d</i>		<i>g</i>	
Fricatives			<i>s</i>			<i>h</i>
Nasals		<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>ɲ</i>	<i>ŋ</i>	
Laterals			<i>l</i>			
Taps			<i>r</i>			
Semivowels		<i>w</i>	<i>y</i>			

ii) Vowels:

There are four vowel phonemes defined by a front/back opposition and by an open/closed opposition, thus:

	Front	Back
Closed	<i>i</i>	<i>u</i>
Open	<i>a</i>	<i>ɔ</i>

The allophonic distribution of these phonemes is as follows:

/i/	-	[i ~ ɪ ~ e ~ ε]
/u/	-	[u ~ ʊ ~ o]
/a/	-	[a]
/ɔ/	-	[ə ~ ɔ ~ ɒ]

iii) Phonological distribution: phonotactics.

- In word initial position:

- i. all four vowels occur.
- ii. all consonants except /h/ and /ʔ/. /ŋ/ is of very low frequency; /y/ and /w/ are also of low frequency.

- In medial position:

i. all four vowels occur

ii. all consonants occur; /ŋ/, /y/ and /w/ are of low frequency.

- Word finally:

i. all four vowels occur

ii. all consonants occur except /h/.

iv) Syllable structure and stress

Palawan syllables are of the form V, CV, VC, CVC. Stress falls on the penultimate syllable.

Revel, Nicole. Palawan. In: Tryon, Darrel T. (ed.) Comparative Austronesian Dictionary. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.