

The phonetics of the Yuchi language will be discussed in detail in the grammatical part which will be published separately from the tales. Here I only wish to give a short survey of the phonetical devices which I have employed in taking down the tales.

We recognize open and closed vowels as follows:

i, as in "meat";

ɪ, as in "pin";

e, like the German or French closed e, e. g.: "sehr",  
"été";

ɛ, as in "get";

ə, as the second obscured e in German "gehen",  
"nehmen";

ä, between a and ɛ, e. g. German: "Ära";

- a, as in "father";
- α, as in "bump";
- o, like the German or French closed o, e. g.: "Boot",  
"haut";
- o, open o, like German "offen";
- u, as in "room";
- υ, as in "cook";

All the open vowels occur often nasalized as: ɛ̃, ξ̃, α̃, ɔ̃, υ̃. Quantity seems to be of significance in a very few cases only, where vowels are lengthened to denote comparison; in these cases the length is indicated by a dot following the letter, e. g.: ã. There are two semi-vowels w and y which are both sounded like the corresponding English letters.

As regards consonant sounds I have distinguished between sonant, halfsonant and surd stops. This distinction is clearly recognized, although it is subject to individual differences, which are considerable enough to cause uncertainties in my perception of differences between the sonant and the halfsonant, respectively the halfsonant and the surd stops. Since these uncertainties also occur with a single individual it is impossible to be consistent in the distinction of all three grades. Nevertheless this distinction seems to be an outstanding feature of Yuchi phonetics. Thus we have:

Sonant:	halfsonant:	surd:
b	p	p
d	t	t
g	k	k, ḳ (velar).

Of the continued sounds we recognize the fricatives dento-labial surd f, dento-lingual surd s, alveolar surd c, palatal x as in German "ich", and backpalatal or velar ɣ as in German "ach", and the nasals n and m. Furthermore occur the laterals l, sonant, and ɭ, surd, and the spirans h.

The vowels as well as the consonants, with exception of the nasals, the fricatives x and ɣ, and the sonant l occur aspirated and glottalized which is indicated by ' for aspiration and ʔ for glottalization. A pause between two sounds which is not caused by a glottal stop is denoted by a dot on the line, e. g.: hit.hə. Stress is indicated by a ' for the main accent and ˘ for the secondary accent. This distinction is only kept up for a part of the texts and does not claim to be always correct, although in most cases two accents can be distinguished with certainty.