



1994

Vowel features in Madija

Patsy Adams Liclan
SIL-UND

Stephen A. Marlett
SIL-UND

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/sil-work-papers>

Recommended Citation

Liclan, Patsy Adams and Marlett, Stephen A. (1994) "Vowel features in Madija," *Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session*: Vol. 38 , Article 2.

DOI: 10.31356/silwp.vol38.02

Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/sil-work-papers/vol38/iss1/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session by an authorized editor of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact zeineb.yousif@library.und.edu.

Vowel Features in Madija

Patsy Adams Liclán and Stephen A. Marlett

This data squib presents the possessed noun paradigm in Madija as a window to the vowel system of that language. The alternations exhibited in these forms provide evidence that the vowel *e* is the unmarked vowel. This fact is important in an account of various vowel harmonic alternations.

Madija has four contrasting vowels, but no possessed noun roots begin with a syllabic *o*. The nouns that begin with consonants except *w* all act alike.¹ The phonological patterns illustrated by these data are also found in verb inflection since the same prefixes are used to indicate subject of the verb.²

The changes which occur with vowels trigger a harmonization of vowels in these nouns. An interesting change is the replacement of *a* by *e* in word-final position. This change occurs only with nouns of this class. Other nouns which illustrate this change include the following (as they appear before the feminine suffix): [ap^ha] *leaf*, [abat^ha] *cheek*, [kofima] *spirit of dead person*, [kota] *younger sibling*, [dopa] *under*, [dzawa] *uterus, afterbirth*, [dzapa] *hand*, [mata] *buttocks*, [nap^ha] *egg*, [tats^ha] *friend*, [nats^hopa] *saliva*, and [tona] *bone*. No examples were found with a medial velar stop in words of this pattern.

There is no prohibition on word-final *a* in verbs, adjectives, or unpossessed nouns, as the words [ts^hona] *fall*, [hada] *old*, [awa] *tree* and [madiha] *people* illustrate. Possession of alienable nouns is not indicated morphologically.

Madija, also known as Culina, is spoken by about 2,500 people in Peru and Brazil in the Juruá Purús river basin. The data in this problem were collected by Patsy Adams Liclán and Arlene Agnew, who worked in this language for more than thirty years. The data and an analysis appeared in Liclán and Marlett 1990.

References

- Liclán, Patsy Adams and Stephen Marlett. 1990. Madija noun morphology. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 56:102-20.
Wright, Pamela. 1988. *Madija predicates*. M.A. thesis, University of North Dakota.

(Liclán)
Apdo. 276
Pucallpa, Peru

(Marlett)
PO Box 8987 CRB
Tucson, Arizona 85738

steve.marlett@sil.org

¹ The sound written as *w* in these data is phonetically [β] before front vowels.

² There are three prefixes for third person in verbs: zero, *i-* and *to-*. The phonological patterns which the latter two exhibit are the same as those seen with the nouns. For discussion of verb agreement morphology, see Wright 1988. The suffix *-ni* occurs only with nouns of this class (inalienably possessed nouns). It does not occur on verbs.

Vowel Features in Madija
(Peru)

| | <i>my</i> | <i>your</i> | <i>his</i> | <i>her</i> | |
|-----|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | okone | tikone | kone | konani | <i>hair</i> |
| 2. | otati | titati | tati | tatini | <i>head</i> |
| 3. | opano | tipano | pano | panoni | <i>face</i> |
| 4. | owede | tide | ide | ideni | <i>back</i> |
| 5. | oweme | time | ime | imani | <i>flesh</i> |
| 6. | owino | tino | ino | inoni | <i>tooth</i> |
| 7. | owipo | tipo | ipo | iponi | <i>lower lip</i> |
| 8. | owene | tene | ene | eneni | <i>nose</i> |
| 9. | owetefo | tetefo | etefo | eteroni | <i>skin</i> |
| 10. | owebeno | tebeno | ebeno | ebenoni | <i>tongue</i> |
| 11. | owenede | tenede | enede | anadani | <i>chin</i> |
| 12. | owebet ^{he} | tebet ^{he} | ebet ^{he} | abat ^h ani | <i>cheek</i> |
| 13. | owepe | tepe | epe | apani | <i>navel</i> |
| 14. | owats ^h ife | tets ^h ife | ats ^h ife | ats ^h ifani | <i>form</i> |
| 15. | owahari | teheri | ahari | aharini | <i>mouth</i> |
| 16. | owat ^h i | tet ^h i | at ^h i | at ^h ini | <i>word</i> |
| 17. | owamofi | temofi | amofi | amofini | <i>foot</i> |
| 18. | owati | teti | wati | watini | <i>liver</i> |
| 19. | owapi | tepi | wapi | wapini | <i>shape</i> |
| 20. | owaribo | teribo | waribo | wariboni | <i>ear</i> |
| 21. | owahohori | tehohori | wahohori | wahohorini | <i>mastoid area</i> |

The forms for *one's* ... are the same as for *my* ..., but with an initial *t*: [tokone] *one's hair*.
The forms for *our* ... are the same as for *your* ..., but without the initial *t*: [ikone] *our hair*.