

Consonant Patterns in Angaité

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1 Introduction

- Language background
- What to do with vowel-glide sequences?
- Angaité consonant inventory

2 Vowel-Glide sequences

- Phonemic status of glides
- Diphthong analysis
- Vowel-consonant analysis

3 Conclusion

- Evaluation of VG possibilities
- Future research

4 References

Angaité is one of 6 Enlhet-Enenlhet languages

- Enlhet-Enenlhet languages: Enlhet (largest), Enxet, Sanapaná, Angaité, Toba-Enenlhet, Guaná (smallest)
- Various anthropologists have worked on this family: e.g. Unruh and Kalisch (1999), Domaniczky and Imaz (2006), Amarilla (2006), Villagra Carrón (2006), Nobbs-Thiessen (2017), Kalisch and Unruh (2018), Glauser (2019)
- Ongoing work on Sanapaná, Enxet, and Toba-Enenlhet, but no other description of Angaité

Enlhet-Enenlhet languages are spoken in the Paraguayan Chaco

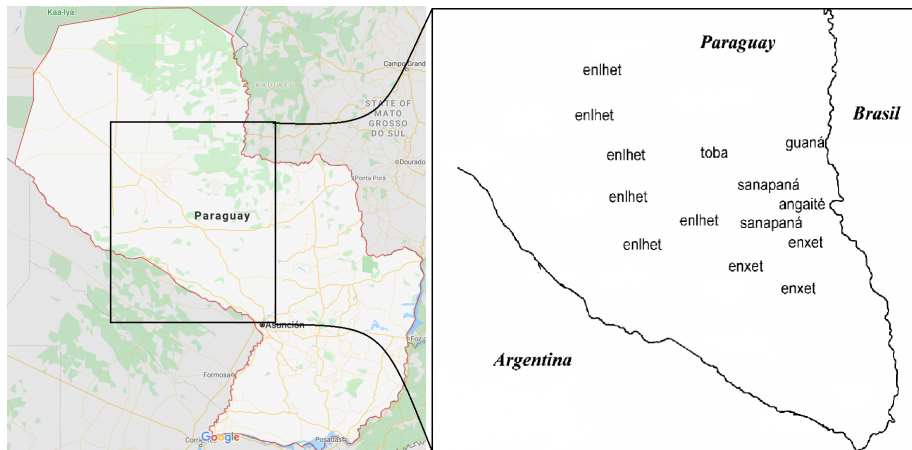


Figure: Map inset from Unruh and Kalisch (2003)

Angaité is primarily spoken in La Patria

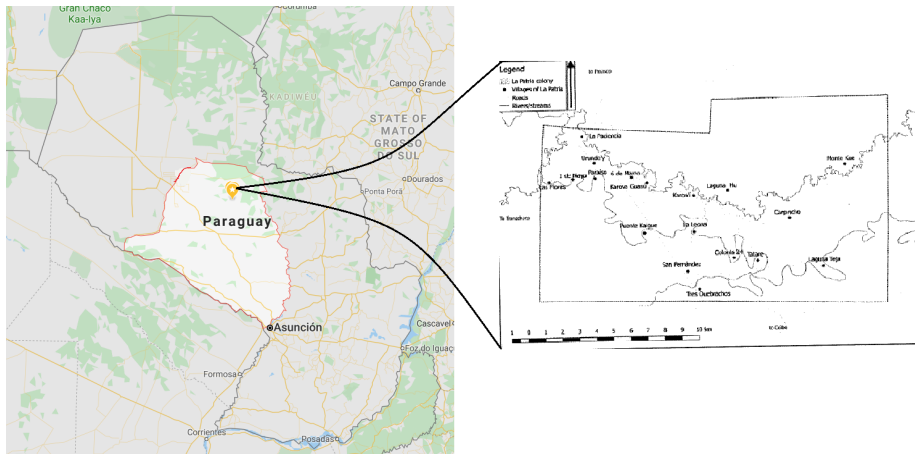
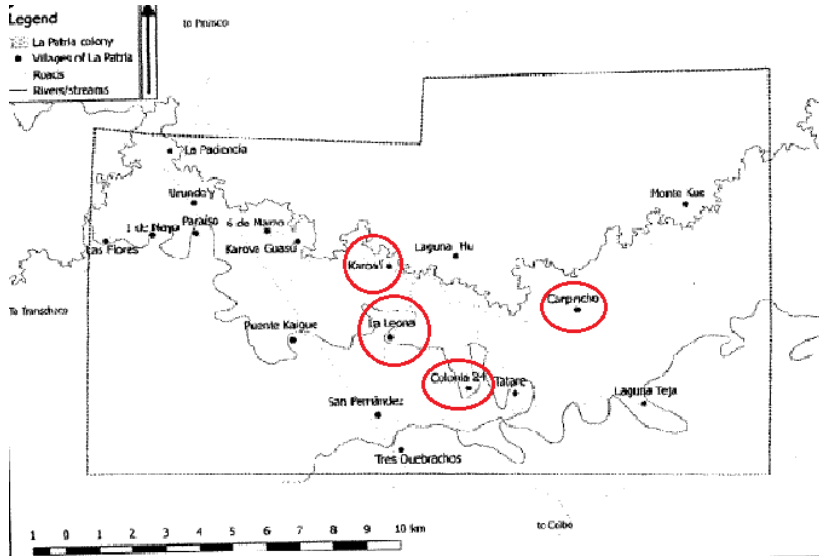


Figure: Map from Glauser (2019)

Pilot fieldwork was based in La Leona



Should vowel-glide (VG) sequences be treated as diphthongs or vowel-consonant sequences?

- Elicitation data collected from two female speakers
- Glides /j, w/ following vowels /a, e, o/ could either be considered part of the nucleus (diphthong offglides) or coda consonants
- Based on syllable structures present on both analyses, treating VG sequences as vowel-consonant sequences creates fewer irregularities in the system

Angaité's phonemic inventory includes 13 consonants and three vowels

Manner of articulation	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p	t		k	ʔ
Nasal	m	n		ŋ	
Fricative		s			h
Lateral fricative		ɬ			
Approximant		l	j	w	

Front	Central	Back
e		o
	a	

All consonants can appear as both onsets and codas...

(1) Word initial /p/

pa.ʔat

‘grass’

(2) Word final /p/

ʔe.**ja**p

‘2/3M (pronoun)’

(3) Medial onset /p/

ʔas.**pa**j.wo.maʔ

‘My language’

(4) Medial coda /p/

ʔ**ap**.to.ma.haŋ

‘rabbit’

...though there are some small restrictions

- No attested word-initial /ŋ/
 - No word final /l/
- (5) Borrowing accommodations
mas.ja?
'Marcial (Spanish name)'

Glides /j, w/ are also phonemic in Angaité

- Contrast with other consonants in onset position

- (6) a. jaapaʔ
 ‘money’
- b. waapaʔ
 ‘rat’
- c. paapaʔ
 ‘beeswax’
- d. taataʔ
 ‘father’

Glides /j, w/ are also phonemic in Angaité

- No predictable alternation with high vowels

(7) N_a environment

a. [ʔakmami**aj**ʔaʔ]

‘it rains’

b. [ne**nja**ʔiŋ]

‘our sister’

Glides /j, w/ are also phonemic in Angaité

- High vowels do not trigger nasal place assimilation, but /j/ does

(8) a. [ʔan**ik**]

‘seed’

b. [ʔakaan**it**]

‘two, pair’

c. [ʔa**nj**apon]

‘her father’

When VG sequences are taken as diphthongs, syllables CV, CVC, VC, and V appear

- 639 words (some elicited at beginning of field trip and some at end), 2,064 total syllables
- Oddity 1: V syllables appear *only* after open syllable with diphthong
- Oddity 2: Glides never appear in coda position

Syllable type	Count
CV	819
CVC	1,116
VC	92
V	37

When VG sequences are vowel-consonant sequences, syllables CV, CVC, and VC appear

- Same set of words, total 2,067 syllables

Syllable type	Count
CV	769
CVC	1,278
VC	20

- (Compare diphthong analysis)

Syllable type	Count
CV	819
CVC	1,116
VC	92
V	37

The glides-as-consonant analysis has some oddities too

(9) Stem with coda consonant cluster

?a.najk.mas.ka.ma?

?a.naj.kmas.ka.ma?

‘you/she sings’

- Some irregularity may be attributed to fast speech, with underlying form having predictable shape

(10) a. [nja.wak.ha?]

‘our town’

b. /ne.ŋ-a.wak.ha?/

‘our town’

Treating glides as consonants in VG sequences creates a more regular system

- Taking VG sequences as diphthongs creates some systemic irregularities
 - Limited distribution of V-only syllables
 - Lack of coda glides
 - Different behavior of glides from the other approximant, /l/
- Taking VG sequences as vowel-consonant sequences creates only some idiosyncratic irregularities

Angaité syllable structure will still benefit from future research

- What if VC syllables are part of CVVC syllables?
 - *To solve:* examination of acoustic correlates of stress and stress assignment, as well as looking at freedom of vowel combinations
- Can all oddities be attributed to fast speech rather than the shape of underlying morphemes?
 - *To solve:* better grasp of Angaité morphology
- Are word-initial and word-final glottal stops really underlying?
 - *To solve:* help from morphology, and more controlled elicitation to figure out
- What is the status of long vowels in Angaité?
 - *To solve:* also dependent on stress assignment, and whether or not there is a significant difference between long and short vowels



Thank you!

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