

# HAROI PHONEMES<sup>1</sup>

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

Haroi is a language of the Chamic branch of the Malayo-Polynesian family spoken by 10-15,000 Montagnards in Phú Yên, Bình Định, and Phú B<sup>2</sup>ôn provinces of South Viet Nam. It is more closely related to the central Chamic languages, Rade and Jarai, than to the coastal Chamic languages Cham, Roglai, and Chru.

Chamic languages generally have a rather simple vowel system of nine or ten vowels. The complex 32 vowel system of Haroi, however, is more similar to the Mon-Khmer languages. Possibly the nearness of the

Haroi to the Bahnar and other Mon-Khmer groups would explain this. Some in fact have referred to the Haroi as Bahnar Cham<sup>2</sup>, but a study of the sound system and vocabulary clearly shows that Haroi certainly belongs to the Chamic language family, but that it has more Bahnaric loanwords than either Rade or Jarai have, which gives some justification to the name.

This paper is based on the speech of the Haroi from Sơn Hòa district in southern Phú Yên province.

## 1. VOWEL PHONEMES

As shown in Figure 1, Haroi has 11 simple vowels, each of which can be short (unmarked) and long (marked `), giving 22 simple vowels plus 10 glided vowels plus 10 nasalised vowels which gives a total of 42 vowel phonemes. The nasalised vowels, however, are very rare, with only two examples of each nasal vowel, except that preceding final p, t, and k, all vowels are nasalised. Figure 1 shows that in both the simple vowels and glided vowels nasalisation appears on all the vowels except the front and high vowels. Because there are so few nasalised vowels, in this analysis they will be treated as peripheral to the basic pattern of 32 vowels.

	FRONT				CENTRAL				BACK			
	S.		Gl.		S.		Gl.		S.		Gl.	
	sh.	l.	sh.	l.	sh.	l.	sh.	l.	sh.	l.	sh.	l.
ORAL												
HIGH CL	i	ì	ia	ìa	ɨ	ɨ̃	ɨa	ɨ̃a	u	ù	ua	ùa
HIGH OP	ɪ	ɪ̃							ʊ	ʊ̃		
MID	ê	ễ	êa	ễa	ə	ə̃			ô	ỗ	ôa	ỗa
LOW	e	ẽ			a	ã			o	õ		
NASAL												
HIGH CL							ɨ̃a				ù̃a	
HIGH OP												
MID			ẽa	ẽ̃a	ə̃						õ̃a	õ̃̃a
LOW	ẽ					ã				õ		

Figure 1.

The full set of 11 simple vowels is found for the short vowels before final h and ʔ, and for the long vowels before ng and in open syllables. All five short glided vowels occur before final ʔ, the five long glided vowels before ng.

## 1.1. VOWEL DESCRIPTIONS

For an analysis of which vowels appear with which final consonants, see Figure 5.

- /i, ð, ia, ða/    /i/ is a high front close unrounded vowel [i].  
                      /ð/ is phonetically similar to /i/ but longer.  
                      /ia, ða/ are /i, ð/ respectively glided to a neutral central vowel.
- /ɪ, ð/            /ɪ/ is a high front open unrounded vowel [ɪ], whereas the long /ð/ has a slight off-glide [ɪ<sup>e</sup>].
- /ê, ê, êa, êa/    /ê/ is a mid front unrounded vowel [e]. /ê/ is phonetically similar to /ê/ but longer. /êa, êa/ are /ê, ê/ respectively glided to a neutral vowel.
- /e, è/            /e/ is a low front unrounded vowel [e]. /è/ is phonetically similar to /e/ but longer.
- /ɨ, ɨ, ɨa, ɨa/    /ɨ/ is a high close central unrounded vowel [ɨ].  
                      /ɨ/ is phonetically similar to /ɨ/ but longer.  
                      /ɨa, ɨa/ are /ɨ, ɨ/ respectively glided to a neutral central vowel.
- /ə, è/            /ə/ is a mid central unrounded vowel [ə]. /è/ is phonetically similar to /ə/ but longer.
- /a, à/            /a/ is a low central unrounded vowel [a]. /à/ is phonetically similar to /a/ but longer.
- /u, ù, ua, ùa/    /u/ is a high close back rounded vowel [u].  
                      /ù/ is phonetically similar to /u/ but longer.  
                      /ua, ùa/ are /u, ù/ respectively glided to a neutral central vowel.
- /ʊ, ù/            /ʊ/ is a high open back rounded vowel with a slight onglide [ʊ<sup>u</sup>]. /ù/ is phonetically similar to /ʊ/ but longer.
- /ô, ô, ôa, ôa/    /ô/ is a mid back rounded vowel [o]. /ô/ is phonetically similar to /ô/ but longer.  
                      /ôa, ôa/ are /ô, ô/ respectively glided to a neutral central vowel.
- /o, ò/            /o/ is a low back rounded vowel [ɔ]. /ò/ is phonetically similar to /o/ but longer.

## 1.2. VOWEL CONTRASTS

## ORAL

## Simple

## Glided

## Front

ami? 'mother'	laml? 'recently'	lamia? 'put away'	ñlap 'barren'
si? 'near'	sì? 'to hoe'		
lê? 'and yet'	čĕk 'pineapple'	kêa? 'to shepherd'	tĕal 'stool'
le? 'fall'	?è? 'to spit out'		

## Central

s+? (-laph+k) 'disorderly'	s+? 'kind of snake'	s+ā? 'to stuff'	s+ā? 'to invite'
bē? 'to stretch'	la?ə? 'cold'		
pa? 'to braid'	pā? 'four'		

## Back

bu? 'to heap'	bù? 'hair'	hanua? 'right (side)'	čanua? 'household'
khū? 'pot'	čakhù? 'to get up'		
sô? 'whisper'	yô? 'down'	sôa? 'to scoff at'	kôah 'to scratch'
ako? 'head'	kô? 'white'		

## NASAL

## Front

hĕ 'similar'	ĕa? 'to urinate'	sĕa 'squirrel'
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## Central

	čarĕaw 'medicine'
ñĕs 'to hobble'	
čarĕw 'crossbow'	

## Back

	masôah 'fox'	kathûa 'kind of fish'
ha?ôy 'Haroi song'		tôai 'guest'

## 2. CONSONANT PHONEMES

see Figure 2 on next page