

Phonotactic Constraints in Uchoi: Evidence From Syllable Structure

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Abstract

The paper is an attempt to understand the phonotactic constraints and syllable structure in Uchoi, a Tibeto-Burman language, under Bodo-Garo sub group. It is mostly spoken in Gomati district of Tripura in Karbuk subdivision. There are about 2447 people living here. The term Uchoi has come from a Kokborok word *Ulchoi*, where *ullo-* means ‘after’ and *čoi* means ‘to follow’. There is only one type of cluster formation in Uchoi, i.e. initial cluster formation. Initial clusters in Uchoi are typically created by mixing lateral /l/ or trill /r/ with plosives /p, p^h, b, k, k^h/. Similarly, plosives combine with /l/ or /r/ likewise created a medial cluster. Uchoi has two different kinds of syllables: major and minor. All consonant phonemes can occur in the onset position of an open syllable, and all vowels can appear in the final position of an open monosyllabic word with the exception of the vowel phoneme /ə/. The final position of a syllable can contain any voiceless unaspirated stops and nasal consonants. For this study we are considering the Jawlai variety for our data collection, which has been conducted in September and October, 2025.

Keywords: uchoi, phonotactic constraints, syllable structure, cluster, tibeto-burman

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Introduction

Every language uses a limited number of phonemic components to construct words. It is also true that there are restrictions on how these phonemes can be grouped to created syllables in any language. The number of syllables that would potentially be feasible if phonemes could be mixed in an unrestricted manner is severely limited by these limits, which are frequently referred to as phonotactic or phoneme sequence constraints. On the otherhand, a syllable is made up of a series of sounds with a single prominence¹ peak. Since there is no way to set precise points of minimal prominence, it is frequently hard to specify the boundaries of a syllable in practice. The syllable² is at the heart of phonological representations (Katamba, 1996, p.153). It serves as the organizational unit for phonological systems.

Uchoi is an endangered language spoken in the small hilly state Tripura, with a very marginal number of native speakers (Chakraborty,

2025, pp.50-60). The language is largely dominated by the two State languages Kokborok and Bangla. Significantly, very a smaller number of linguistic works has been done on this language. Like majority of the tribal population in northeast (Chakraborty & Sinha, 2025, pp. 16–17), the Uchoi community is also sparsely populated. The highest language population is concentrated in Gomati and South Tripura district.³ As Hutchinson (1906) and Debbarma (1983) stated, the tribe Uchoi is a mix of Tippera and Kuki, or the language is of Kuki origin. The purpose of this study is to examine the

syllable structure and consonant clusters in Uchoi, a Tibeto-Burman language that is a member of Bodo-Garo group under the same language family. It is neighbouring Bangladesh from east, at N 23°20.5543' latitude and E 91°44.9898' longitude.

As previously discussed, the Uchoi language is classified as a branch of the Bodo-Garo group within the Tibeto-Burman language family; Tibeto-Burman > Baric > Kamrupan > Bodo-Konyak > Bodo-Garo > Bodo > Uchoi, is a schematic representation of it. The following figure shows the village, from where the data has been collected.

Map 1

Ratanpur Village Area



Uchoi is a tonal language with N [CLF-NUM] features and SOV word order⁴. The language has a rich set of verb morphology and derivational noun. The paper will look into the syllable structure and consonant cluster in Uchoi. The paper is divided into six sections as introduction, methodology, objectives, background, consonant cluster in Uchoi, and lastly syllable structure in Uchoi.

Methodology

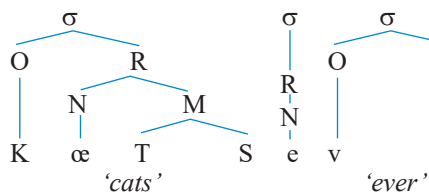
Secondary data is gathered from a variety of sources, including books, journals, articles, and records especially a PhD thesis on A Descriptive

Grammar of Uchai (2015) by Tamojoy Brahma. Most of the primary source data came from interaction with community speakers from the Gomati and South Tripura districts during field visit in September and October 2025, at Depachhera and Ratanpur village. Twelve language consultants, six from each of the two villages, took part in this study. The sample was carefully chosen to ensure diversity in terms of age, gender, and level of education and to give a more comprehensive picture of the formation of syllable and consonant cluster across different populations. The data was

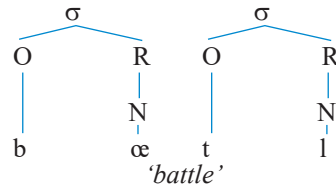
recorded and digitized using a Nikon D5300 digital camera and a Zoom H4N Pro audio recorder. For this study, we particularly use the data from Jawlai variety; this variety is socially accepted as standard and also used for literary purposes. Apart from this, two NGOs help us during field visit, namely *Uchai Welfare Society* (UAWS) and *Tripura Uchoi Youth Association* (TUYA). Data collection process has been divided into two sections; personal interviews of the community speakers and sentences and word-lists related to cluster and syllabic pattern. Random sampling method has been applied to analysis data and to reduce the biasness.

The syllable was not included in the theory of early generative phonology, despite the use of the syllabic feature. To define the sound systems of languages, it was thought that segments, boundaries, and rules specifying permissible combinations of segments in morphemes and words were adequate. However, later research (Hooper, 1972; Bell & Hooper, 1978; Kiparsky 1979) demonstrated that there are valid reasons to reject that viewpoint. One of the most fundamental roles of syllable is to control how the phonological hierarchy's lower-level unit (Consonants and Vowels) can blend together. However, phonologists have paid close attention to the syllable, particularly in the last few years, and several different theories have been proposed. Many of them proposed a Branching, Hierarchical syllable structure (Katamba, 1996, p.153). A revised version of the hierarchical branching theory within the context of a Multi-Tiered Phonological Theory⁵ has been offered more recently by phoneticians such as Kiparsky (1979).

For instance, a syllable can be represented as: in the figure.



(Katamba, 1996, p.154)



Note. σ -syllable, O-onset, R-rhyme, N-nucleus, and M-margin

'Cats' is a monosyllabic word. The Onset, which appears first, and the Rhyme, which follows, is the two components that make up that syllable. The rhyming of first syllable in e-ver is simple. It does not branch. The vowel is the only constituent it includes.

Another model, proposed by Hyman (1985), has a distinct tilt. Hyman contends that rhythmic weight units are the fundamental components of phonological representations as opposed to onsets, rhymes, or the C and V slots put forth by another phonetician. But a model that includes a CV-tier is assumed in the majority of recent theoretical phonology research. Hockett (1947) and Abercrombie (1967) are forerunners of this approach. A CV-model⁶ of phonology designed especially to address the syllable structure, was developed by Clements and Keyser (1983).

On the other hand, according to Matisoff (2003:11), Proto-Tibeto-Burman (PTB) syllable as consisting of the following structural elements: an onset comprising a root initial consonant (C_i), preceded by up to two consonantal prefixes (P_1, P_2) and optionally followed by a liquid or semivowel glide (G); and a vocalic nucleus consisting minimally of a simple vowel, followed optionally by a restricted set of possible final consonants (Cf) or a suffix (S). Schematically it can be presented as (P) C_i (G) V (: (C_p) (S), but Matisoff (2003) modified it to explain the two types tonal features proposed by Benedict (1972),

Syllable Canon of PTB

[T]
(P2) (P1) C_i (G) V (: (Cf) (S)

Consonant Cluster

A term used in the analysis of connected speech to refer to any sequence of adjacent consonants, occurring initially or finally in a syllable (Crystal, 1997, p. 65). Consonants are referred to as a consonant cluster when two or more of them occur as syllable margins. On the other hand, a consonant sequence is defined as two or more consonants that occur in a position immediately beyond the syllable. Similar to other languages in the family, Uchoi has very few cluster formations. The clustering pattern may differ from those of other languages spoken around the world. According to the findings, the language exhibits only initial cluster formation. Only stops and liquids can form initial and medial clusters out of Uchoi's eighteen consonant phonemes. A stop is always the first member, and a liquid is the second. This language's most notable characteristic is that, of the 18 consonant phonemes, only the stops (in the majority of cases, though there are some exceptions) make up the first member, while liquids /l/ or /ɾ/ make up the second member. These two phonemes fused to produce the initial and medial clusters while retaining a similar pattern.

Initial Cluster

In Uchoi, a cluster of two consonants at the beginning of a syllable is permitted. Uchoi contains two different kinds of initial clusters. A stop is the first member of the consonant cluster, while a liquid is the second member. On the otherhand, the second of cluster is formed with fricative as being the first member and the second member can be stop, or, nasal or liquid. This type of cluster formation is not frequent in Uchoi, here are few examples of Type II.

Type I (Stop+ Liquid)

/pl/	/plàŋ/	'bottle'
/pr/	/prāmō/	'spread'
/bl/	/blà/	'season'
/br/	/broi/	'woman'
	/brōuʔ/	'man'

/kl/	/klāu/	'long'
	/kloi/	'tender'
/kr/	/krā/	'father-in-law'
	/krāuʔ/	'strong'
/pʰr/	/pʰrà/	'thunder'
	/pʰrūʔ/	'silent'
/kʰl/	/kʰlōŋtʰōŋ/	'mosquito net'
	/kʰlāŋbū/	'cricket'

Type II (Fricative + Stop/ Nasal/ Liquid)

/sp/	/spūŋ/	'fill'
	/spáŋ/	'gap'
/st/	/stō/	'stretch'
	/stēʔ/	'small'
/sk/	/skáŋbu/	'snail'
	/skāšūmā/	'pebbles'
/sm/	/smai/	'swear'
	/smáʔ/	'sudden'
/sn/	/snī/	'seven'
	/snūhà/	'dirty'
/sr/	/sràŋ/	'active'
	/srīŋ/	'slow'

In this language there are more two kinds of initial consonant clusters. The first category, where the first component is a stop and the second member is a liquid. Conversely, the second type of the consonant cluster is formed by fricative with stop, or, nasal, or liquid as a second member.

Type I (Stop + liquid)

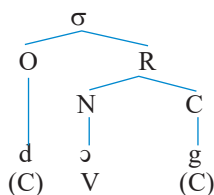
/pl/	/kə-plai/	'victory'
	/plai/	'to do'
/pr/	/čōŋ-praiŋ/	'clan in Uchoi'
	/mə-prà/	'together'
/bl/	/kūŋ-blà/	'nostril'
	/kíwai-blai/	'betel leaf'
/tr/	/bē-trà/	'comb'
	/kə-trē/	'crack'
/dr/	/ai-drō/	'morning'
	/ēn-drī/	'July'
/kl/	/ká-klā/	'chest'
	/mə-sū-klà/	'grandson'

Type II (Fricative + Stop/ Nasal/ Liquid)

/sk/	/jā-skōʔ/	‘elbow’
	/jā-skū/	‘fingernail’
	/sklāŋ/	‘buttock’
/sm/	/tʰai-smú/	‘cucumber’
	/mō-smā/	‘eyelash’
	/hā-smúk/	‘dust’
/sl/	/māŋ-sloi/	‘November’
	/mú-slai/	‘avenge’
	/mūʔ-srōŋ/	‘ant’

Syllable Structure

Since human writing transitioned from pictograms to a syllabary system that expressed sound sequences on tablets as onset—rhyme units (syllables) more than three millennia ago, the concept of the syllable has existed. This change is “the most important advance in the history of writing,” according to (Daniels & Bright, 1996, p. 8), and as such, it precedes the emergence of the first letters used in the alphabet. The development of the concept of sonority and related characteristics, as well as their impact on syllabification, was a significant addition to syllable studies in the late nineteenth century. The concept was first put forth by Jespersen (1899), then explored by American structuralist Bloomfield (1935), and Heffner (1949), and finally improved by Clements (1990). According to Trubetzkoy’s 1939 theory, syllables have an underlying structure that is similar to figure 1 depicts, and they serve as domains for assigning stress, as is the case with English. Fudge (1984) offered the first theory of syllable structure based on Trubetzkoy’s suggestion, breaking down the domain into the four components shown in Figure 2: onset, rhyme, nucleus, and coda.

Syllable Structure

All the major schools of thought in the field have largely acknowledged the syllable as a fundamental unit in phonological analysis since the advent of Prague School of Linguistics. For example, (Fudge, 1984, pp. 370-371) reacts to Kohler’s (1966) doubts regarding the universality of the syllable in phonology by saying, “I would like to state my firm belief that the syllable is a phonological universal.” He further continues, “If we want to state syllable-structure, we must explicitly introduce the element ‘syllable’ into our linguistic description, and state its relation to other elements of the linguistic hierarchy; it is precisely this which Chomsky and Halle fail to do (Fudge, 1984, p. 378),” he adds, emphasizing that the syllable must be defined in terms of its relationship to other linguistic constituents. In more recent times, (Goldsmith, 2011, p. 164) reminds us that “syllable is one of the oldest constructs in the study of language, and most studies of phonology have found a place for the syllable within them.” Nineteenth-century philologists were well aware that phonetic contexts—which could refer to a sound’s place inside a syllable rather than its proximity to other sounds in the speech chain—have a significant impact on how sounds develop.

There are many theories for syllable studies one of such theory is the sonority theory. According to the Sonority Theory (ST), a sound’s sonority is defined as “its relative loudness compared to other sounds” (Giegerich, 1992, p. 132). According to what Selkirk (1984, p. 116) called a Sonority Sequencing Generalization (SSG), the sonority first rises, then reached a peak, and finally falls (Hogg & McCully, 1987, p. 34). The English sounds have the following relative sonority values on a seven-point scale: a plosive consonant has the lowest degree of sonority, while the most open vowel, /a:/ has the highest degree. For this study we will apply this Sonority Theory and CV-Phonology model of syllable structure⁷ for syllable analysis in Uchoi.

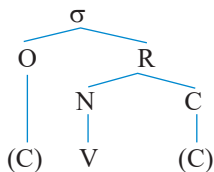
Table 1

Phonemes in Uchoi, and Their Sonority Level

Sonority Level	Manner of Articulation	Phonemes
7	Vowel	/i, e, ə, a, u, o/
6	Glide	/w, y/
5	Liquid	/l, r/
4	Nasal	/m, n, ŋ/
3	Fricative	/s, š, h/
2	Affricate	/č, ʃ/
1	Plosive	/p, p ^h , b, t, t ^h , d, k, k ^h , g, ʔ/

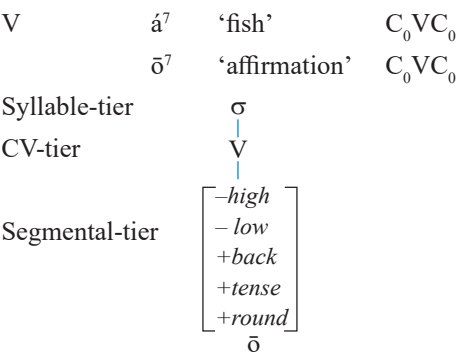
According to Uchoi, a syllable is made up of a nucleus that either has an onset or a coda.

Syllable Structure in Uchoi

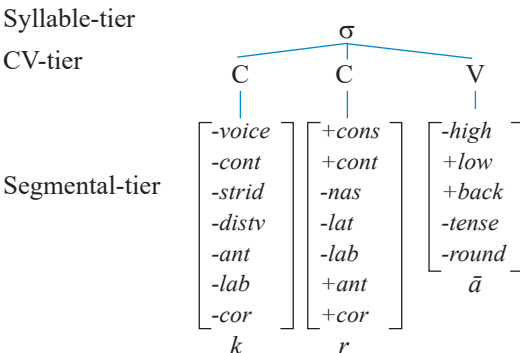
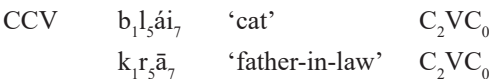
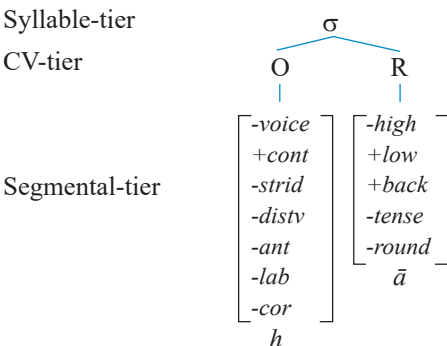
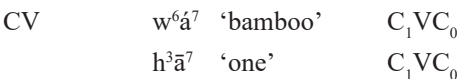


The Uchoi syllabic pattern's canonical form is (CC) V (C), which indicates that a Uchoi syllable may have zero to two consonants at the beginning and zero to one at the end. As a result, the V element is compulsory and the C element is optional. It can also be represented schematically as C₀₋₂VC₀₋₁. Like majority of the TB languages, Uchoi also shows tonal features⁸, and according to our study it shows 3 types of tones i.e. high tone, mid tone, low tone. All the phonemes will be marked diacritically according to their sonority level.

Open Monosyllabic Word



Here, first we have analysed the syllable structure following the Sonority Theory and later we have analysed it from CV-phonology model as suggested by Clements and Keyser (1983). For each CV-phonology model analysis we choose every second example.



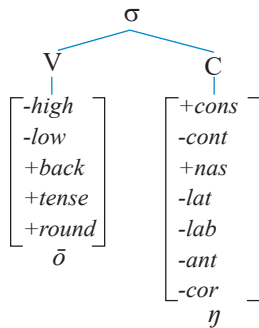
Closed Monosyllabic Word

VC $\bar{a}^7\eta^4$ 'I' C_0VC_1
 $\bar{o}^7\eta^4$ 'to happen' C_0VC_1

Syllable-tier

CV-tier

Segmental-tier

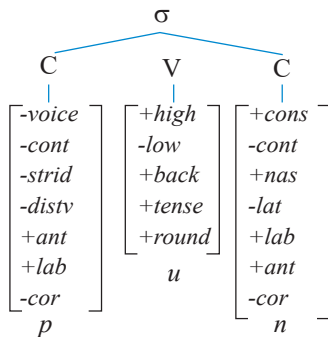


CVC $r^5\bar{a}^7\eta^4$ 'money' C_1VC_1
 $p^1\bar{u}^7n^4$ 'goat' C_1VC_1

Syllable-tier

CV-tier

Segmental-tier

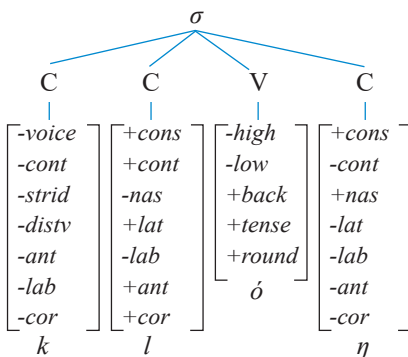


CCVC $b^1l^5\bar{o}^7\eta^4$ 'jungle' C_2VC_1
 $k^1l^5\bar{o}^7\eta^4$ 'stone' C_2VC_1

Syllable-tier

CV-tier

Segmental-tier

**Di-Syllabic Word**

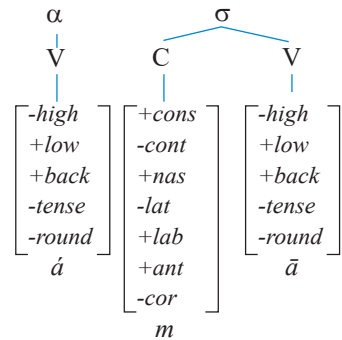
The notion stands for a word having two syllables. In Uchoi the di-syllabic words formed with various combination of Consonant and Vowel. The following examples will explain it further:

V-CV $\acute{a}^7-m^4\bar{a}^7$ 'mother' V. C_1VC_0

Syllable-tier

CV-tier

Segmental-tier

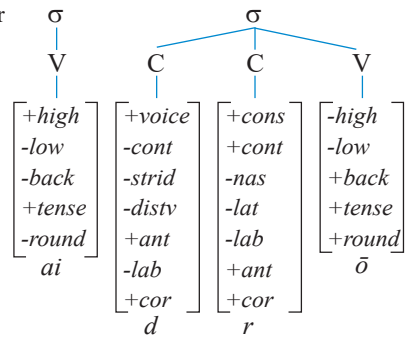


V-CCV $ai^7-d^1r^5\bar{o}^7$ 'morning' V. C_1C_2V

Syllable-tier

CV-tier

Segmental-tier

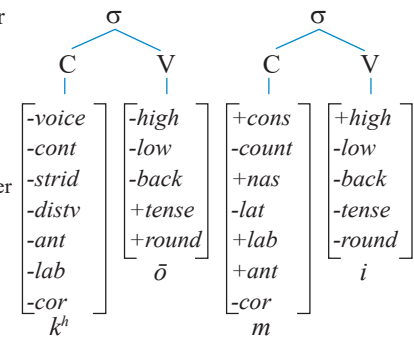


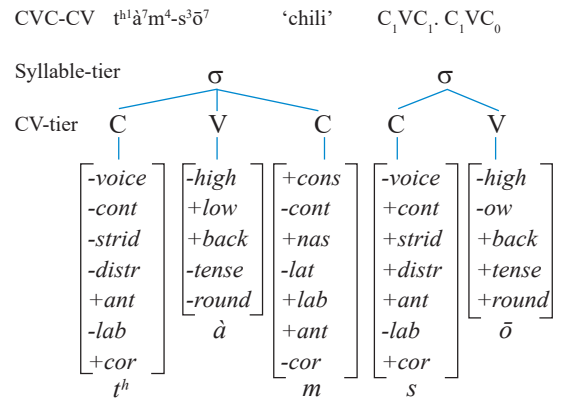
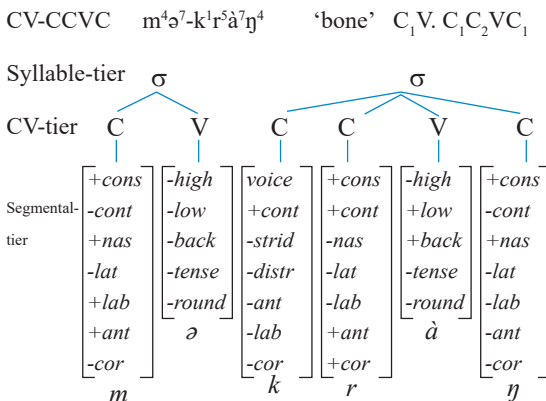
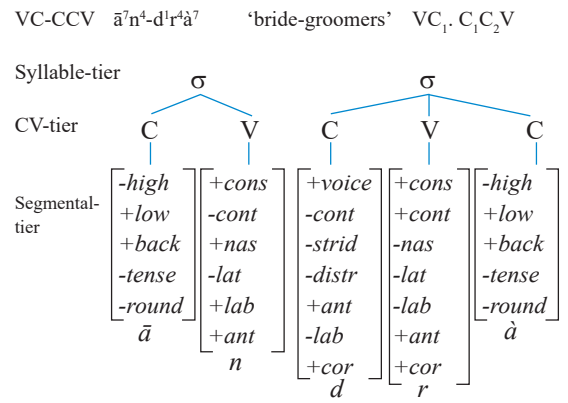
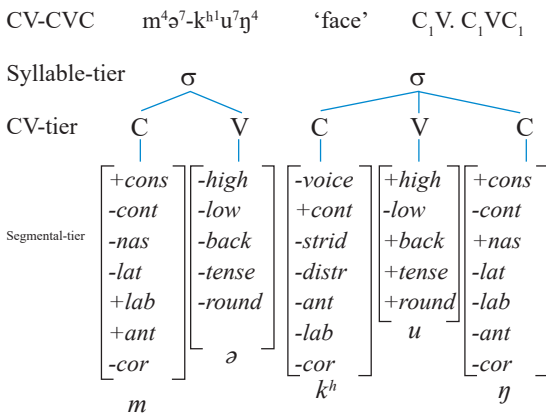
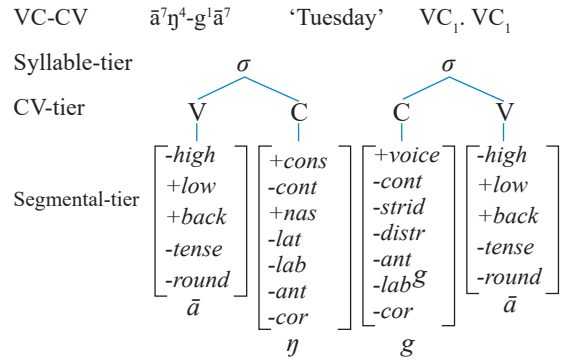
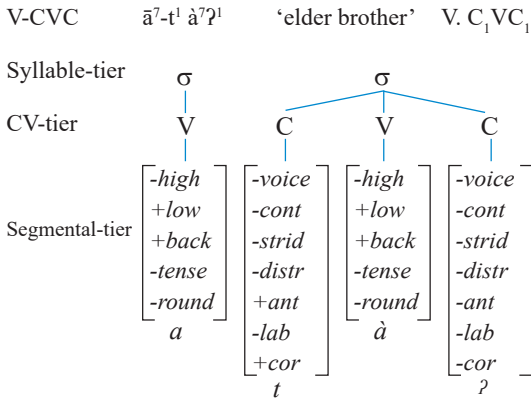
CV-CV $k^h1\bar{o}^7-m^4i^7$ 'crocodile' C_1VC_0, C_1VC_0

Syllable-tier

CV-tier

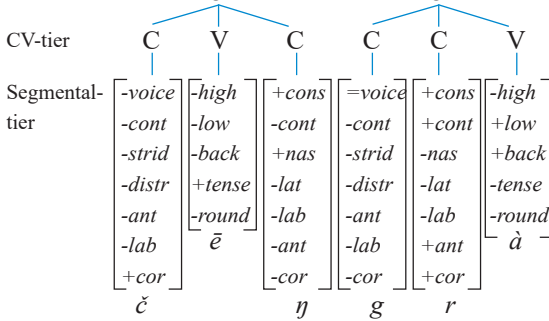
Segmental-tier



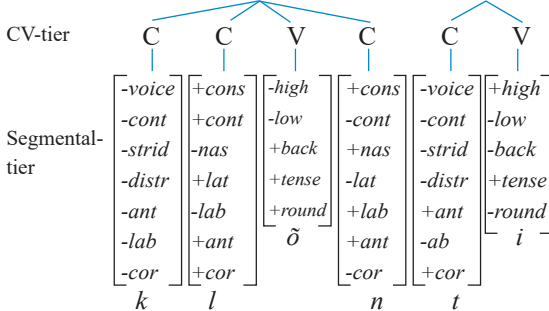


CVC-CCV $\text{č}^{\text{h}}\text{ē}^{\text{h}}\text{ŋ}^{\text{h}}\text{g}^{\text{h}}\text{r}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}$ 'February' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1\text{C}_1\text{C}_2\text{VC}_0$

Syllable-tier

CCVC-CV $\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{l}^{\text{h}}\text{ō}^{\text{h}}\text{n}^{\text{h}}\text{t}^{\text{h}}\text{i}^{\text{h}}$ 'sweat' $\text{C}_1\text{C}_2\text{VC}_1\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$

Syllable-tier

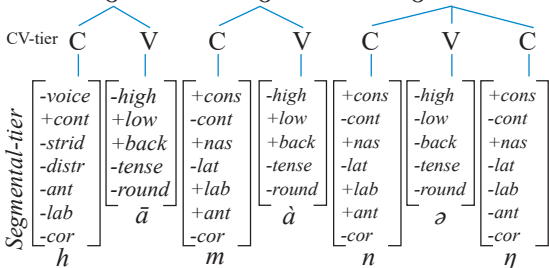


Tri-syllabic Words

Uchoi have tri-syllabic words with various combination patters as first, second and third syllable open; first syllable is closed, second and third syllable open; first syllable closed, second and third syllable open; second syllable closed, first and third syllable open:

V-CV-CV $\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{č}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{m}^{\text{h}}\text{ō}^{\text{h}}$ 'birth' $\text{V.C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$
 V-CV-CCV $\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{t}^{\text{h}}\text{u}^{\text{h}}\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{r}^{\text{h}}\text{ō}^{\text{h}}$ 'star' $\text{V.C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{C}_2\text{VC}_0$
 CV-CV-CV $\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{ū}^{\text{h}}\text{l}^{\text{h}}\text{ū}^{\text{h}}\text{m}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}$ 'cockroach' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$
 CV-CV-CCV $\text{m}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{s}^{\text{h}}\text{ū}^{\text{h}}\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{l}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}$ 'grandson' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{C}_2\text{VC}_0$
 CVC-CV-CV $\text{t}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{ŋ}^{\text{h}}\text{p}^{\text{h}}\text{ui}^{\text{h}}\text{m}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}$ 'butterfly' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$
 CV-CVC-CV $\text{m}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{l}^{\text{h}}\text{ō}^{\text{h}}\text{ŋ}^{\text{h}}\text{d}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}$ 'corn' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$
 CV-CV-CVC $\text{h}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{m}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{n}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{ŋ}^{\text{h}}$ 'world' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1$

Syllable-tier

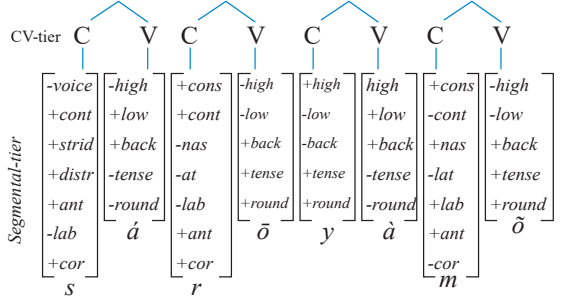


Tetra-syllabic Words

Tetra-syllabic words are those words, having four syllables. In Uchoi tetra-syllabic words are formed in four ways like—first, second and third syllables are open but fourth syllable is closed; first, third and fourth syllable are open but second syllable is closed; first and fourth syllables open but second and third is closed and lastly all syllables are open.

CV-CV-CV-CVC $\text{r}^{\text{h}}\text{i}^{\text{h}}\text{s}^{\text{h}}\text{ū}^{\text{h}}\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{p}^{\text{h}}\text{ū}^{\text{h}}\text{k}^{\text{h}}$ 'garlic' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1$ CV-CVC-CV-CV $\text{č}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{k}^{\text{h}}\text{ū}^{\text{h}}\text{ŋ}^{\text{h}}\text{j}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{s}^{\text{h}}\text{oi}^{\text{h}}$ 'toe' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$ CV-CVC-CVC-CV $\text{t}^{\text{h}}\text{au}^{\text{h}}\text{l}^{\text{h}}\text{ē}^{\text{h}}\text{ŋ}^{\text{h}}\text{s}^{\text{h}}\text{i}^{\text{h}}\text{ŋ}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}$ 'fly' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1\text{C}_1\text{VC}_1\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$ CV-CV-CV-CV $\text{s}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{r}^{\text{h}}\text{ō}^{\text{h}}\text{y}^{\text{h}}\text{ā}^{\text{h}}\text{m}^{\text{h}}\text{ō}^{\text{h}}$ 'eclipse' $\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0\text{C}_1\text{VC}_0$

Syllable-tier



The contrast between light syllables (usually those ending in a short V) and heavy syllables is often invoked by linguistic rhythm phenomena, such as stress and meter. Heavy syllables are typically linked to metrically powerful locations, especially emphasis. This relation has two aspects (Prince, 1992). On the one hand, a strong syllable tends to draw emphasis. However, syllables that are naturally light (such as those with shortened vowels that cannot be lengthened) are consistently avoided as stress recipients. In contrast, syllables that acquire stress—possibly for reasons unrelated to their weight—tend to surface as heavy.

Conclusion

The paper has discussed the syllable structure in Uchoi language and the result shows that Uchoi has mono-syllabic, di-syllabic among the most common syllable formation, on the other hand tri-syllabic and tetra-syllabic as least common syllable patter in Uchoi. The paper further discusses on the

consonant cluster and typically divided into initial cluster and medial cluster, in both the initial and medial consonant cluster stop and fricative is the first member and liquid and stop/nasal/liquid as a second member, which has been elaborated as Type I and Type II. In this paper two theories have been applied while analysis the syllable pattern, first is Clements and Keyser's CV-phonology model and Fudge's (1984) theory of syllable structure. Majority of the syllables are open syllable whereas the number of closed syllables is generally least common. There are many scope to explore the Uchoi language from the Phonological point of view. The paper is trying to bridge the gap between the existing literature and the future research on this endangered language.

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- Note.**
1. The prominence of sounds may be due to inherent sonority to length or to stress or to special intonation, or to combination of these (Jones, 2012, p. 55).
 2. A unit of pronunciation uttered without interruption, forming the whole or part of a word and usually having one vowel sound with a consonant or consonants before or after it (Prasad, 2019, p.18).
 3. As Chakraborty (2025) documented the villages of Uchoi speaking community, they are found—
The villages where Uchois currently reside in large numbers, are Kewai Uchoi Para, Dhanachandra Uchoi Para, Purna Uchoi Para, Punniram Uchoi Para, Sagoram Para, Khumbaiha Uchoi Para, Thandachandra Uchoi Para, and Mission Hathai Para under the Karbuk subdivision of Gomati district; they also sparsely populated Dasda & Jampui villages in Kanchanpur sub-division of North Tripura District and Ratanpur, Muhuripur, villages under Belonia sub-division of South Tripura district.
For more details kindly go through; Chakraborty, N. (2025). Language vitality and endangerment: A case study of Uchoi. *Vaak Manthan*, 10(2), 50–60.
 4. For more details, kindly go through Chakraborty, N. (2025). Classifiers in Uchoi. *Vaak Manthan*, 10(2), 16–27.
 5. According to this theory, phonological entities are viewed as consisting of a set of independent levels that are linked to each other.
 6. As Katamba quoted (1996, p.156), in order to fulfil the requirements—
...the syllable is assumed to have a Three-Tiered Structure consisting of a Syllable Node ‘σ’; a CV-tier whose C and V elements dominate consonantal and vowel segments; and a segmental tier consisting of bundles of distinctive feature matrices which represent consonant and vowel segments...
 7. In order to address the syllable, Clements and Keyser (1983) developed a CV-model phonology. Although the following requirements are necessary for Clements and Keyser’s theory:
 - a) Describe the universal rules that control syllable structure: The syllable is assumed to have a three-tiered structure in order to fulfil function (a). This structure consists of a Syllable Node (σ), a CV-tier whose C and V elements dominate consonantal and vowel segments, and a segmental-tier made up of bundles of distinctive feature matrices that represent consonant and vowel segments.

8. Like majority of the Tibeto-Burman languages, Uchoi has also distinct tonal system, which is less documented feature of this language. Here in this paper, we try to mark the sounds

with their tonal properties, and interestingly the language exhibit three-way tonal patterns as high tone (ˈ), low tone (ˉ) and mid tone (ˊ) with their diacritic marks.

