CHAPTER - 4

PHONOLOGY

In order to do morphological analysis, it is considered necessary to describe the sound system of Adi. Hence this chapter will briefly describe the consonants, vowels and diphthongs in Adi. Data is also presented to illustrate the Sandhi phenomenon in Adi.

4. Phonology of Adi

Adi has 15 consonants, 8 vowels and six diphthongs. The Adi (Padam) sound system consists of the following:

4.1. CONSONANTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bilabial</th>
<th>dental</th>
<th>alveolar</th>
<th>palatal</th>
<th>velar</th>
<th>glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stops p, b, t, d</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>k, g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fricatives s, j</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nasals m, n, ŋ</td>
<td></td>
<td>ŋ(ŋy)</td>
<td>ŋ(ŋ)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liquids l, r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semi vowels y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1.1. Description of the consonants:

/p/ voiceless, unaspirated, bilabial stop, occurs initially, medially and finally (unexploded).

/b/ voiced, bilabial stop, occurs initially, medially and finally (unexploded).
/t/ voiceless, dental stop, occurs initially, medially and finally (unexploded).

/d/ voiced, dental stop, occurs initially, medially and finally (unexploded)

/k/ voiceless, unaspirated, velar stop, occurs initially, medially and finally (unexploded).

/g/ voiced, unaspirated, velar stop, occurs initially, medially and finally (unexploded).

/l/ voiced, unaspirated, palatal affricate, occurs initially and medially

/s~sh/ voiceless, alveolar fricative, occurs initially and medially.

/m/ bilabial nasal, occurs initially, medially and finally.

/n/ dental nasal, occurs initially and medially.

/ń/ palatal nasal, occurs initially, medially and finally.

/ŋ/ velar nasal, occurs initially, medially and finally.

/l/ dental lateral, occurs initially, medially and finally.

/r/ rolled, palatal liquid, occurs initially and medially.

/y/ palatal semi vowel, occurs initially and medially.

Adi does not have, as indicated from the inventory, any aspirated consonants.

4.2. **VOWELS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>front</th>
<th>central</th>
<th>back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>ĭ</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>ė</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low</td>
<td>α</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.1. Description of the vowels:

/ī/ high, front, close, short vowel.

/i!/ high, central, close, long vowel.

/u/ high, back, rounded, short vowel.

/u:/ high, back, rounded, long vowel.

/e/ mid, front, spread, short vowel.

/è/ mid, central, spread, long vowel.

/o/ mid, back, rounded, short vowel. (as 'o' in the English word ‘pot’)

/ə/ low, central, open, short vowel.

/a/ low, back, open, long vowel.

4.3. Diphthongs

Adi makes very little use of diphthongs, the diphthongs are six in number.

ua as in gual
ue as in kue
ia as in nia, siang
ai as in kai, aipe
oe as in pesoe
io as in pyona, simyo
4.4. Sandhi in Adi:

Sandhi is a term used in Syntax and Morphology to refer to the Phonological Modification of Grammatical Forms, which have been juxtaposed. The concept of Sandhi corresponds to the traditional notion of ‘euphony’ also known as ‘vowel harmony’. The Concise Oxford Dictionary explains ‘euphony’ as ‘the tendency to make phonetic change for ease of pronunciation’. Similarly the Century Dictionary says that ‘as a principle active in the historical changes of language euphony is a misnomer, since it is ease of utterance, economy of effort on the part of the organs of speech, and not agreeableness to the ear, that leads to and governs such changes.’

Sandhi is mainly of two types: assimilation and dissimilation: In assimilation two elements are made more alike and in dissimilation two elements are made more different. Assimilation is again of two types- regressive assimilation, where the final sound of the preceding morpheme is changed to be more like the initial sound of the following morpheme, and progressive assimilation where the initial sound of the following morpheme is changed to be more like the final sound of the preceding morpheme.

Adi also shows features of Sandhi evident with specific final consonants. The feature is mostly regressive assimilation.
4.5. Sandhi rules in Adi

Rule 1

Words ending with $k$, $t$, $p$, $b$, $g$, $d$ and $o$, are often assimilated by the initial sound of the word immediately following it.

Final $k$ often changes to:

1. $g$ before initial $e$.
   
   e.g. bi ngok alig e
   
   He is my substitute. (alik $\rightarrow$ alig)

2. $g$ before initial $y$.
   
   e.g. dug yoka
   
   Do not run. (duk $\rightarrow$ dug)

3. $g$ before initial $g$.
   
   e.g. ig gen
   
   to push away (as boat from shore) (ik $\rightarrow$ ig)

4. $g$ before initial $a$.
   
   e.g. ig ang
   
   to shine in or upon. (ik $\rightarrow$ ig)
5. *g* before initial o.
   e.g. Tapi pileg ope i-dung
       There is nothing but reed jungle. (pilek ➔ pileg)

6. *ng* before initial *m*.
   e.g. ngo lobang mang
   I am not lazy. (lobak ➔ lobang)

7. *ng* before initial *a*.
   e.g. ing ang
   *To shine in or upon.* (ik ➔ ing)

8. *ng* before initial *n*.
   e.g. si aye si airupe jing kang –ne ko
   This is a very fine fruit. (kak ➔ kang)

Final *t* often changes to:

9. *d* before initial *d*.
   e.g. anyoko lu ed dak
   He pronounces it a little differently. (et ➔ ed)

10. *d* before initial *e*.
    e.g. asi te ye milo apud e bojepe yu do
    When the river rises there is a lot of foam floating on it.
    (eput ➔ epud)
11. / before initial /.
   e.g. bukad lo yut bul la, gi la ma bong

   Getting his feet stuck in the mud, he cannot walk.

   (bukat → bukad)

12. n before initial m.
   e.g. dak ten mape gi yar toka

   Go straight on without stopping. (tet → ten)

13. r before initial r.
   e.g. am gar ruk

   Rice stubble. (gat → gar)

14. i before initial y.
   e.g. jei ye

   (it) will dissolve. (jet → jei)

Final o often changes to:

15. u before initial e.
   e.g. no ngok biru e

   you are my brother. (biro → biru)
16. o: before initial e.
   
   e.g.  nok aminem ingku e
         what is your name? (ingko—→ingku)

17. o: before initial o.
   
   e.g.  (a) Bi ngok u e
         he is my son. (o —→ u)
   
         (b) ko: e mote pe gi kang
         the child has gone a long way away.
         (ko —→ ko:)
   
         (c) ngo: o gi pe
         Only I will go. (ngo —→ ngo:)

Rule 2

Change to which final ng is subject: Final ng is never changed to
another letter, but is often omitted altogether. 1

Eg:

(18) kenong  ngo  keno- dung
      hungry  1s  hungry-Pres
      ‘I am hungry.’

Shillong: Eastern Bengal and Assam Secretariat Press.
Verbs, however, usually retain their final *ng* before *k, g, a* and sometimes before *e* and *n*;

E.g.: kenong e (I) am hungry.

In Nouns, the final *ng* seems to be part of the root noun itself, and its omission takes place irregularly, therefore making it difficult to formulate rules.

E.g.s:

apong apo si
beer beer DET
‘This beer’

arang ekum ara-lo
inside house inside-LOC
‘Inside the house’
Rule 3

The next rule characterizes progressive assimilation. The initial letter / is sometimes changed to n when the final letter of the preceding word is n.

E.g.: Each italicized n was originally l.

amin no close to
men nen to drive out
men na gak toka run (after it) and catch (it.)

(21) ngo mutkon nok sim mo-tung
1s wax ABL DET make-PST

“I have made this from bees’ wax.”

Conclusion

Adi has 15 consonants, 8 vowels and 6 diphthongs. The consonants include, among others, four nasals. And distinctions are made between the front and central i and also between the front and central e. Although there are diphthongs, the language makes very little use of diphthongs. This study does not deal with the Phonology of the Adi language extensively. However, it is included only in order to give one a general idea of the Adi sound system. The assimilation process (sandhi) is very common, especially in the conversational language.