Phonology

3.1. Vowels:
The Dimasa as spoken in Barak Valley has six vowels /i, e, o, a, ə/. According to the advancement of tongue, it can be categorized into front, central and back. /i/ and /e/ are in front position, /a/ and /ə/ in central and /u/ and /o/ in back position. The vowels are distinguished at the three levels of tongue height - /i/ is the un-rounded high vowel and /u/ is the rounded high vowel, /e/ un-rounded mid vowel, /ə/ un-rounded central mid vowel, /o/ rounded mid vowel, /a/ is the un-rounded central low vowel.

Vowels Chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Front</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UR</td>
<td>UR</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>u</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>ə</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2. Contrasting Pairs:
Above mentioned vowel sounds are established on the basis of minimal pairs.
Examples of vowel phonemes are –

/i/ vs /u/

/ipʃima/ ‘back’
/buʃuma/ ‘mother in law’

/giʃi/ ‘wet’
/guʃə/ ‘impure’
/i/ vs. /o/

/bi/  ‘to pray’
/bo/  ‘he/she/that’

di/  ‘water’
do/  ‘to beat’

/i/ vs. /a/

/bi/  ‘to pray’
/ba/  ‘to carry on back’

/zabli/  ‘A stupid female person’
zabla/  ‘A stupid male person’

/e/ vs. /u/

deba/  ‘to be big’
duba/  ‘to be swelled’

/kre/  ‘slow’
/kru/  ‘to open’

/e/ vs. /o/

/seŋ/  ‘sword’
/jonŋ/  ‘to cook’

/ne/  ‘to push’
/no/  ‘house’

/e/ vs. /a/

/begreŋ/  ‘bone’
/bagranŋ/  ‘wing’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syllable</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/ʃeŋ/</td>
<td>‘to keep inside’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ʃan/</td>
<td>‘pride’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/a/</td>
<td>‘difficult’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/duba/</td>
<td>‘to have beaten’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/za/</td>
<td>‘rice beer’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/zo/</td>
<td>‘to speak’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/b/</td>
<td>‘to fly’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bar/</td>
<td>‘air’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bumu/</td>
<td>‘name’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/buma/</td>
<td>‘her/his mother’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/boho/</td>
<td>‘stomach’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/baha/</td>
<td>‘The sharpened edge’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/do/</td>
<td>‘to beat’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/da/</td>
<td>‘The prefix negative marker’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/di/</td>
<td>‘to be sweet’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/deba/</td>
<td>‘to be big’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/phːi/</td>
<td>‘to pluck’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/phːe/</td>
<td>‘to hang’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ə/vs./a/

/kʰəma/ ‘to lose’
/kʰama/ ‘to bind’

/rəda/ ‘vein’
/rada/ ‘to cut first’

3.3. Distribution of vowels:

All the vowel sounds have only one allophone for each vowel. All the vowels can occur in all three positions except /a/ which occurs only in the medial position.

/i/ Initial
/iʃiʃi/ ‘disturbance’

Medial
/zir/ ‘earthworm’

Final
/kʰani/ ‘food’

/e/ Initial
/ekʰadofji/ ‘eleventh day of a lunar fortnight’

Medial
/beʃkʰom/ ‘difference’

Final
/zel/ ‘fishing net’

/a/ Initial
/anʃ/ ‘I’
3.4. Diphthongs:

When the sequence of two vowels form a syllable, it is called diphthong. The Dimasa as spoken in Barak Valley has seven diphthongs such as /ai, ao, ei, ui, oi, iu, ou /. The following are the examples of diphthongs:

Medial
/kʰal/ ‘canal’

Final
/kʰuna/ ‘corner’

/o/ Initial
/odehe/ ‘and’

Medial
/zot/ ‘matted hair’

Final
/bonʃo/ ‘race’

/a/ Initial
/upʰai/ ‘remedy’

Medial
/kʰun/ ‘thread’

Final
/guru/ ‘sugarcane’

/o/ Medial
/bəda/ ‘brother’
Diphthongs | Example
---|---
/ai/ | /baigo/ ‘come out’
/ao/ | /baola/ ‘drunkard’
/ei/ | /dei/ ‘ok’
/ui/ | /hui/ ‘hide’
/oi/ | /goipan/ ‘betel-nut tree’
/iu/ | /ziu/ ‘sound of noise’
/ou/ | /houbo/ ‘that’

3.5. Distribution of diphthongs:

The occurrence of seven diphthongs in the three positions are as follows –

/aι/ Initial
/aida/ ‘a kind of chopper’
/ail/ ‘a kind of demarcation indicating boundary of land’

Medial
/baiza/ ‘wake up’
/baigo/ ‘come out’

Final
/bai/ ‘dance’
/nai/ ‘look’

/ao/ Initial
It does not occur.

Medial
/daono/ ‘hen’
/baoli/ ‘pincer’

Final
/dao/ ‘bird’
/gao/ ‘shoot’

/ei/ Initial
It does not occur.

Medial
/beiman/ ‘scoundrel’

Final
/dei/ ‘ok’

/ui/ Initial
/uima/ ‘silkworm’

Medial
/pʰuiʃa/ ‘money’

Final
/hui/ ‘hide’
/dui/ ‘two’

/oi/ Initial
/oi/ ‘address term’

Medial
/goipʰaŋ/ ‘betel-nut tree’
/moila/ ‘dirt’

Final
/kʰoi/ ‘decay’
/noi/ ‘nine’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/iu/</th>
<th>Initial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It does not occur.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>It does not occur.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>/ʃiu/ ‘sound of blowing air’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>/ziu/ ‘sound of noise’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/ou/</th>
<th>Initial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It does not occur.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medial</th>
<th>/houbo/ ‘that’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>/noukʰa/ ‘boat’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>It does not occur.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3.6. Consonants:

The Dimasa spoken in Barak Valley has sixteen consonantal sounds such as p, b, t, d, k, g, h, m, n, ʃ, f, z, r, l, w and y. /p, t, k/ are voiceless aspirated stops in syllable initial position and /b, d, g/ are voiced unaspirated stops in this language. The consonantal sounds can be placed into Place of Articulation such as Bilabial, Alveolar, Post-Alveolar, Palatal, Velar, Glottal and Manner of Articulation such as Stops, Nasals, Fricatives, Lateral, Trill, Semi-vowels and also into voiceless and voiced categories.
Consonants chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Post-Alveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VI. Stops Vd.</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>k</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
<td>d</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasals Vd.</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>η</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Fricatives</td>
<td></td>
<td>f</td>
<td>h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vd.</td>
<td>z</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateral Vd.</td>
<td>l</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trill Vd.</td>
<td>r</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi Vowels Vd</td>
<td>w</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.7. Contrasting pairs:

/p/ vs. /b/

/pa/ 'to put'
/ba/ 'to carry on back'

/pai/ 'to come'
/bai/ 'to dance'

/t/ vs. /d/

/tan/ 'to go'
/dan/ 'to work'

/ton/ 'pillar'
/don/ 'to stay'

/k/ vs. /ɡ/ l

/ka/ 'to tie'
/ga/ 'to ride'
/kai/    ‘to run’
/gai/    ‘to plant’

/ʃʃ/    ‘pride’
/ʃaŋ/    ‘with’

/ʃep/    ‘to squeeze’
/ʃep/    ‘to cage up’

/ʃʃ/    ‘feeling pain’
/ʃadu/    ‘raining’

/mai/    ‘paddy’
/nai/    ‘to see’

/kum/    ‘flower’
/kun/    ‘thread’

/burun/    ‘goat’
/buruŋ/    ‘to talk’

/dapun/    ‘do not wear’
/dapunŋ/    ‘do not close’

/dam/    ‘to beat the drum’
/dan/    ‘to pour liquid’
/danŋ/    ‘to do’

/la/    ‘to take’
/ra/    ‘to cut’
/lan/ ‘to take away’
/ran/ ‘money’

/w/vs./y/
/wa/ ‘bamboo’
/ya/ ‘a sound used in expressing physical pain.’
/waf/ji/ ‘a kind of hard bamboo’
/ya/ji/ ‘toe’

3.8. Distribution of Consonants:
/p/ has two allophones /ph/ and /p/. /ph/ occurs in word initial and medial positions.
/p/

/ϕ/ Initial
/ϕerek/ ‘nail’
/ϕaik′ar/ ‘whole sale dealer’

Medial
/ɡϕu/ ‘white’
/upϕaj/ ‘fast’

/p/ occurs in word medial position when it is followed by voiceless consonants or in word final position.
/p/

/ϕt/ Medial
/reptϕar/ ‘write all’
/kϕpϕi/ ‘to tear’

Final
/rep/ ‘to write’
/map/ ‘excuse’

/b/ has one allophone /b/. It occurs in word initial, medial and final positions.
/b/

/ϕ/ Initial
/ϕai/ ‘to dance’
/ϕagal/ ‘shepherd’
Medial

/ʃubuŋ/ ‘person’
/khobza/ ‘hinge’

Final

/gorib/ ‘poor’
/lab/ ‘profit’

/t/ has two allophones /tʰ/ and /t/. /tʰ/ occurs in word initial and medial positions.

/tʰ/

Initial

/tʰanŋ/ ‘to go’
/tʰan/ ‘affection’

Medial

/loŋtʰai/ ‘stone’
/tʰuktʰak/ ‘in small quantity’

/t/ occurs in medial position when it is followed by lateral /l/. /t/ also occurs in final position.

/t/

Medial

/kʰatle/ ‘tasting bitter’

Final

/got/ ‘water jar’
/gat/ ‘bathing place in the river’

/d/ has one allophone /d/. It occurs in word initial, medial and final positions.

/d/

Initial

/danŋ/ ‘to do’
/dila/ ‘loose’
Medial
/'bondo/ ‘wood’
/'aida/ ‘a kind of chopper’

Final
/'horad/ ‘funeral ceremony’

/k/ has two allophones /kʰ/ and /k/. /kʰ/ occurs in word initial and medial positions.

/kʰ/
Initial
/kʰam/ ‘to sit’
/kʰamla/ ‘labourer’

Medial
/mukʰan/ ‘face’
/ukʰil/ ‘lawyer’

/k/ occurs in word medial position when it is followed by voiceless consonants and word final position.

/k/
Medial
/diktʰan/ ‘to become cold’
/dukʃi/ ‘an item (eatable)’

Final
/zuk/ ‘female’
/fuk/ ‘happiness’

/g/ has one allophone /g/. It occurs in word initial, medial and final positions.

/g/
Initial
/gorai/ ‘horse’
/gari/ ‘car’
Medial
/begreŋ/ ‘bone’
/bagal/ ‘shepherd’

Final
/log/ ‘company’
/zugazug/ ‘communication’

/m/ has one allophone /m/. It occurs in initial, medial and final positions.

Initial
/miʃi/ ‘tiger’
/murali/ ‘a kind of rice’

Medial
/bumu/ ‘name’
/kʰamranga/ ‘starfruit’

Final
/jem/ ‘salt’
/kʰofom/ ‘oath’

/n/ has one allophone /n/. It occurs in initial, medial and final positions.

Initial
/na/ ‘fish’
/niramiʃi/ ‘vegetarian’

Medial
/nana/ ‘child’
/kʰani/ ‘food’
Final
/hon/  ‘biscuit’
/bamun/  ‘Brahmin priest’

/ŋ/ has one allophone /ŋ/. It occurs in medial and final positions.

/ŋ/  Medial
/loŋ⁵hₐi/  ‘stone’
/mongol/  ‘good fortune’

Final
/muk⁵hₐŋ/  ‘face’
/doŋ/  ‘joke’

/l/ has one allophone /l/. It occurs in initial, medial and final positions.

/l/  Initial
/lama/  ‘road’
/logno/  ‘auspicious moment’

Medial
/jamlai/  ‘curry’
/boli/  ‘sacrifice’

Final
/mel/  ‘meeting’
/langol/  ‘plough’

/r/ has one allophone /ɾ/. It occurs in initial, medial and final positions.

/r/  Initial
/ri/  ‘to give’
/rugi/  ‘patient’
Medial

/\textipa{marbari}/ ‘monday’
/\textipa{boʃʃork^h_i}/ ‘annual funeral ceremony’

Final

/\textipa{hor}/ ‘night’
/\textipa{zir}/ ‘earthwarm’

/\textipa{h}/ has one allophone /\textipa{h}/. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

/\textipa{h}/ Initial

/\textipa{hon}/ ‘biscuit’
/\textipa{horad}/ ‘funeral ceremony’

Medial

/\textipa{bahao}/ ‘father in law’
/\textipa{grohon}/ ‘eclipse’

/\textipa{ʃ}/ has one allophone /\textipa{ʃ}/. It occurs in initial, medial and final positions.

/\textipa{ʃ}/ Initial

/\textipa{ʃem}/ ‘salt’
/\textipa{ʃorok}/ ‘street’

Medial

/\textipa{ʃifu}/ ‘dog’
/\textipa{k^h_oʃom}/ ‘oath’

Final

/\textipa{zeʃ}/ ‘The sound used in expressing disgust’
/\textipa{maʃ}/ ‘month’
/z/ has one allophone /z/. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

/z/  
Initial
/zu/   ‘rice beer’
/zir/   ‘earthworm’

Medial
/tʰaizu/   ‘mango’
/tʰikʰana/   ‘address’

/w/ has one allophone /w/. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

/w/  
Initial
/wa/   ‘bamboo’

Medial
/hawar/   ‘grassland’

/y/ has one allophone /y/. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

/y/  
Initial
/yapʰonŋ/   ‘thigh’

Medial
/miyʊŋ/   ‘elephant’

3.9. Syllable:

Syllable is an uninterruptible unit of the spoken language. A syllable typically consists of a vowel sound flanked by one or more consonants. The opening segment of the syllable is the onset. The central segment of the syllable is the nucleus i.e. the vowel and the closing segment of the syllable is the coda.
In Dimasa, a syllable consisting of only a nucleus is not found. It consists of a nucleus with an onset or coda. The different types of syllable found in Dimasa are:

3.9.1. Monosyllabic:

Open syllable:

Example

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
\text{cvv}^1 & /k^h\text{oi}/ & \text{‘decay’} \\
\text{cv} & /k^h\text{a}/ & \text{‘to tie’} \\
\text{cv} & /\text{no}/ & \text{‘house’} \\
\end{array}
\]

Closed syllable:

Example

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{cvc} & /\text{hon}/ & \text{‘biscuit’} \\
\text{vc} & /\text{ag}/ & \text{‘I’} \\
\text{cvc} & /\text{rin}/ & \text{‘debt’} \\
\end{array}
\]

3.9.2. Disyllabic:

Open syllable:

Example

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{vcv} & /\text{alu}/ & \text{‘cat’} \\
\text{cvvcv} & /\text{t}^h\text{ailu}/ & \text{‘banana’} \\
\text{cvcv} & /\text{baba}/ & \text{‘father’} \\
\end{array}
\]

Closed syllable:

Example

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{cvvcvc} & /k^h\text{op}^h\text{al}/ & \text{‘luck’} \\
\text{cvvcv} & /\text{guʃum}/ & \text{‘black’} \\
\text{cvcccvc} & /\text{mandap}/ & \text{‘squirrel’} \\
\end{array}
\]

\[^1\text{V stand for non syllabic vowel}\]
3.9.3. Trisyllabic:

Open syllable:
Example

cvvccvccv  /baigolai/  ‘to come out together’
cvvcccv  /baifagi/  ‘the first month of Indian calendar’
cvvcccv  /ramdonu/  ‘rainbow’

Closed syllable:
Example

cvcvcvccvcv  /alaŋtʰam/  ‘thrice’
cvcvcvccv  /olainŋ/  ‘like that’
cvcvcvcvccv  /hолнŋlen/  ‘sunken stomach’

3.9.4. Tetrasyllabic:

Open syllable:
Example


cvcvcvccv  /haitʰibari/  ‘Sunday’
cvcvcvccv  /adifari/  ‘indigestion’
cvcvcvcvccv  /bubagənai/  ‘nephew’

Closed syllable:
Example

cvcvcvccvccv  /duhaʃinung/  ‘only now’
cvcvcvccccv  /bifabritʰam/  ‘eighty three’

Here the last example is the compound word.
(i) /bifabri/  ‘eighty’
(ii) /tʰam/ which is a contracted form of /maktʰam/ meaning ‘three’.

3.9.5. Pentasyllabic:

The pentasyllabic words are available only in the compound words.

Open syllable:
Example


cvcvcvccccv  /zudaotʰaoyaba/  ‘tallest one’
(i) /zu/ which is a contracted form of /guzu/ meaning ‘tall’.
(ii) /-dao/ comparative degree maker.
(iii) /-tʰao/ superlative degree marker.
(iv) /-yaba/ adjectival participle.

Closed syllable:

Example

cvcvcvcvcvcv /biʃabrizitʰam/ ‘ninety three’

(i) /bisabri/ ‘eighty’
(ii) /zi/ a contracted form of /mazi/ meaning ‘ten’.
(iii) /tʰam/ a contracted form of /maktʰam/ meaning ‘three’.

3.9.6. Hexasyllabic:

Only the compound words fall under the category of hexasyllabic words.

Open syllable:

Example

cvcvcvcvcvcv /biʃabrizibowa/ ‘ninety five’

(i) /biʃabri/ ‘eighty’
(ii) /zi/ a contracted form of /mazi/ meaning ‘ten’.
(iii) /bowa/ a contracted form of /mabowa/ meaning ‘five’.

3.10. Consonant Clusters:

The term cluster is used in the analysis of connected speech to refer to any sequence of adjacent consonants occurring in a syllable. Consonant clusters occur within a syllable.

The Dimasa as spoken in Barak Valley does not have three consonant clusters at the initial clusters. Also the Dimasa dialect of Barak Valley does not have any final consonant clusters.

Few linguists consider the medial consonant combination as consonant sequence not clusters because they occur across syllable but we are treating them as consonant clusters because there is no uniformity regarding this argument.
3.10.1. Initial clusters:

The Dimasa as spoken in Barak Valley allows two consonant clusters at the initial position. The first member of the initial clusters are /p, b, k, g, m, f, z/, while the second members are /t, m, n, l, r/. As we have mentioned earlier, the voiceless unaspirate stops /p/, /t/ and /k/ become aspirated in the initial and medial positions. Therefore, we have shown these as /pʰ/, /tʰ/ and /kʰ/ which are basically allophones of /p/, /t/ and /k/ in these two positions. The initial two consonant clusters are shown in table no.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First members</th>
<th>Second members →</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tʰ   m   n   l   r</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pʰ</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kʰ</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>m</td>
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<td>√</td>
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<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The following are the examples of the initial two consonant clusters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant Clusters</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop+Liquid:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/pʰl-/</td>
<td>/pʰlan/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/pʰr-/</td>
<td>/pʰroman/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bl-/</td>
<td>/bla/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/br-/</td>
<td>/brai/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/kʰl-/</td>
<td>/kʰlai/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.10.2. Medial clusters:

The Dimasa dialect of Barak Valley has a wide variety of two consonant clusters at the medial position. The first members of the clusters are the stops, nasals, liquids, and fricatives whereas the second members of the clusters are the stops, nasals, fricatives and a semi-vowel. The medial two consonant cluster are shown in table no.2
Table no. 2
Two Medial Consonant Clusters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First members</th>
<th>Second members →</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>p    b    t    d    k    g    m    n    ʃ    z    h    l    r    y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>η</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ʃ</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>+    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +    +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following are the examples of the medial two consonant clusters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant Clusters</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop+Stop:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-pt/-</td>
<td>/kʰepʰai/ ‘the way of cutting something’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-pk/-</td>
<td>/repkʰu/ ‘to copy by writing down’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-kp/-</td>
<td>/dukphʰa/ ‘to hammer something’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-kt/-</td>
<td>/diktʰan/ ‘to become cold’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop+Fricative:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-pf/-</td>
<td>/kʰepʃʰi/ ‘to cut (violently or unconsciously)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-kf/-</td>
<td>/bakʃaba/ ‘loud sound’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-gz/-</td>
<td>/hagzet/ ‘a clan name of Dimasa’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stop+Liquid:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>phoneme</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/-pl-/</td>
<td>/bupʰam/</td>
<td>‘fat’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-pr-/</td>
<td>/nepʰre/</td>
<td>‘to squeeze’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-bl-/</td>
<td>/zbla/</td>
<td>‘stupid person’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-br-/</td>
<td>/nobra/</td>
<td>‘house owner’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-tl-/</td>
<td>/butʰum/</td>
<td>‘brain’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-kl-/</td>
<td>/fukʰli/</td>
<td>‘to grind’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-kr-/</td>
<td>/fukʰri/</td>
<td>‘Friday’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-gl-/</td>
<td>/daglai/</td>
<td>‘this year’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-gr-/</td>
<td>/hagra/</td>
<td>‘jungle’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nasal+Stop:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>phoneme</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/-mp-/</td>
<td>/kʰumpʰəŋ/</td>
<td>‘flower plant’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mb-/</td>
<td>/jumbəri/</td>
<td>‘Monday’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mt-/</td>
<td>/lamʰo/</td>
<td>‘bald’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-md-/</td>
<td>/kʰandə/</td>
<td>‘to say to sit temporarily’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mk-/</td>
<td>/zemkʰo/</td>
<td>‘to say to keep cloths under water for some more time.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mg-/</td>
<td>/kʰaŋmər/</td>
<td>‘to say to sit down now’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-np-/</td>
<td>/ranpʰa/</td>
<td>‘to say to try utmost’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nb-/</td>
<td>/kʰinba/</td>
<td>‘to fear’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nt-/</td>
<td>/gamtʰi/</td>
<td>‘stain’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nd-/</td>
<td>/kʰundʰing/</td>
<td>‘an instrument for reeling the yarn before preparing loom’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nk-/</td>
<td>/kʰonkʰu/</td>
<td>‘to say to pick up from down’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ng-/</td>
<td>/rorəŋgar/</td>
<td>‘to say to distribute without any delay’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ŋp-/</td>
<td>/fəŋpʰoŋ/</td>
<td>‘surname’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ŋb-/</td>
<td>/duŋba/</td>
<td>‘hot’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ŋt-/</td>
<td>/duŋtʰoŋor/</td>
<td>‘summer season’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ŋd-/</td>
<td>/gaŋduŋba/</td>
<td>‘to stagger’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ŋk-/</td>
<td>/lonjŋkʰor/</td>
<td>‘hollow’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ŋg-/</td>
<td>/mangama/</td>
<td>‘snail’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nasal+Nasal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>phoneme</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/-mn-/</td>
<td>/danmanj/</td>
<td>‘will play’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
/-nm-/ /lonma/ ‘faithfulness’
/-ŋm-/ /yuŋma/ ‘silk worm’
/-ŋn-/ /danŋany/ ‘will be done’

Nasal+fricative:
/-mʃ- /hǝʃmʃa/ ‘a clan name of Dimasa’
/-mz-/ /lǝmzǝo/ ‘to receive guest’
/-mh-/ /kʰamha/ ‘to request to sit down’
/-nʃ-/ /foŋʃi/ ‘to tell to scrape the grass’
/-nz-/ /kʰonzi/ ‘to pick up something from the ground and eat one by one.’
/-nh-/ /ronha/ ‘to request to distribute’
/-ŋʃ-/ /yoŋʃima/ ‘caterpillar’
/-ŋz-/ /lǝnζaŋo/ ‘get out (informal)’
/-ŋh-/ /foŋha/ ‘to request to cook’

Nasal+Liquid:
/-ml-/ /dǝmlaŋo/ ‘do not play’
/-mr-/ /damrǝtʰo/ ‘pimple’
/-nl-/ /zoŋlaŋo/ ‘to wait together’
/-nr-/ /kʰinri/ ‘to cause to fear’
/-ŋl-/ /tʰaŋlaŋo/ ‘to go together’
/-ŋr-/ /tʰaŋri/ ‘to cause to go’

Nasal+Semi vowel:
/-my-/ /kʰamya/ ‘to refuse to sit’
/-ny-/ /zonya/ ‘to refuse to wait’
/-ŋy-/ /foŋya/ ‘to refuse to cook’

Fricative+Liquid:
/-ʃl-/ /bǝʃla/ ‘sprout/shoot’
/-fr-/ /boʃfo/ ‘lung’
/-zl-/ /pʰozloŋpʰozloŋ/ ‘use to express the act of jumping condition’
/-zr-/ /kʰuzru/ ‘hump’

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### Liquid+Stop:

\(-lt/- & \text{/k}^{h}l\text{t}^{h}i/ & \text{‘the bride price’} \\
\(-lg/- & \text{/golgol/} & \text{‘turbid’} \\
\(-rp/- & \text{/burp}^{h}a/ & \text{‘to jump and attack’} \\
\(-rb/- & \text{/marbari/} & \text{‘Tuesday’} \\
\(-rt/- & \text{/burt}^{h}\text{ai/} & \text{‘the way of flying’} \\
\(-rd/- & \text{/bardin/} & \text{‘cyclone’} \\
\(-rk/- & \text{/mark}^{h}u/ & \text{‘the small pieces of broken rice’} \\
\(-rg/- & \text{/nargao/} & \text{‘straw’} \\

### Liquid+Nasal:

\(-lm/- & \text{/melma/} & \text{‘sheep’} \\
\(-rm/- & \text{/garmai/} & \text{‘soot’} \\
\(-rn/- & \text{/harni} & \text{‘gum’} \\

### Liquid+Fricative:

\(-lh/- & \text{/melhoza/} & \text{‘president’} \\
\(-rf/- & \text{/horjon/} & \text{‘whole night’} \\
\(-rz/- & \text{/k}^{h}\text{orzen/} & \text{‘shovel’} \\
\(-rh/- & \text{/horha/} & \text{‘at night’} \\

### Liquid+Liquid:

\(-lr/- & \text{/melrazi/} & \text{‘general conference’} \\
\(-rl/- & \text{/barlaŋ/} & \text{‘to take away carrying on mouth’} \\

### Liquid+Semi vowel:

\(-ry/- & \text{/baryuŋ/} & \text{‘the high degree of blowing wind’} \\

On the basis of above examples, we can say that when unaspirated stops /p/, /t/ and /k/ occur in the second syllable of the bisyllabic words, they become aspirated. For example, \(/k^{h}\text{eptai}/\sim /k^{h}\text{ept}^{h}\text{ai/} \text{‘the way of cutting something’}, /\text{repku}/\sim /\text{repk}^{h}\text{u/} \text{‘to copy by writing down’}, /\text{dukpa}/\sim /\text{duk}^{h}\text{a/} \text{‘to hammer something’} etc.
3.10.3. Three consonant clusters:

There are also medial three consonant clusters found in this dialect. The first members are the nasals /m, n, ŋ/ and a liquid /r/. The second members are always stops or fricatives. The third member is always the lateral or the trill. We have found the occurrence of a stop and a nasal as the third member only in one example. The medial three consonant clusters are shown in table no.3.

Table no.3

Medial Three Consonant Clusters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First members</th>
<th>Second members →</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>↓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pn pl pr bl br tl tr dr kl kr gl gr ft fl fr zl zr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + + +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + + +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŋ</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + + +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + + +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following are the examples of the medial three consonant clusters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonant Clusters</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/-mpl/</td>
<td>/kʰampʰlai/ ‘low wooden seat’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mpr/</td>
<td>/kʰempʰrai/ ‘a clan name of Dimasa’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mbl/</td>
<td>/zamblu/ ‘boil’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mbr/</td>
<td>/dambra/ ‘heaven’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mkl/</td>
<td>/lemkʰlai/ ‘throw off’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mʃr/-</td>
<td>/damʃru/ ‘utensil for cooking rice’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-npr/-</td>
<td>/rainpʰre/ ‘nearly dried’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nbl/-</td>
<td>/fainblai/ ‘evening’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ntl/-</td>
<td>/kʰuntʰlai/ ‘cotton’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ntr/-</td>
<td>/ʃentʰrema/ ‘centipede’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ndr/-</td>
<td>/kʰandrema/ ‘cicada’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nkł/-</td>
<td>/ʃainkʰlum/ ‘shadow’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nʃr/-</td>
<td>/rainʃro/ ‘half dried’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nɔx/-</td>
<td>/ʃainzro/ ‘west’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-ŋpl/-</td>
<td>/tʰoŋpʰla/ ‘a kind of pillar uses during animal sacrifice’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On the basis of above examples, we can say that when unaspirated stops /p/, /t/ and /k/ occur in the second syllable of the bisyllabic words, they become aspirated. For example, /rainpre/ ~ /raɪnˈpre/ ‘nearly dried’, /zeŋʃtu/ ~ /zeŋʃˈtu/ ‘waist band’, /maŋkloŋ/ ~ /maŋkˈloŋ/ ‘cremation’ etc.

3.10.4. Geminates:

It refers to the cluster of two identical adjacent segments of a sound in a single morpheme. In Dimasa as spoken in Barak Valley geminates are found with the stops, the nasals and the liquid. Geminates occur only in the medial position in this dialect. Geminates are shown in the table no.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First members</th>
<th>Second members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following are the examples of the geminate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geminates</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/-bb/-</td>
<td>/brabbi/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-dd/-</td>
<td>/aladda/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-mm/-</td>
<td>/bdamma/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-nn/-</td>
<td>/lonnaŋ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/-rr/-</td>
<td>/burri/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.11. Supra-segmental:

3.11.1. Tonal contrasts:

The Dimasa as spoken in Barak Valley has two tones which are contrastive such as High which is marked as ‘ˊ’ and Low which is marked as ‘ˋ’. So the tone is phonemic in this dialect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High tone</th>
<th>Low tone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/ʃú/</td>
<td>‘to wash’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tú/</td>
<td>‘to tell’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/hatái/</td>
<td>‘tooth’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/miʃi/</td>
<td>‘tiger’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/dáo/</td>
<td>‘bird’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tán/</td>
<td>‘to go’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/fóŋ/</td>
<td>‘to cook’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/buʃú/</td>
<td>‘thorn’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/maitái/</td>
<td>‘the way of getting something’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bái/</td>
<td>‘to dance’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ʃlài/</td>
<td>‘to change’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ʃú/</td>
<td>‘to measure’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tú/</td>
<td>‘to die’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/hatái/</td>
<td>‘market’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/miʃi/</td>
<td>‘to wet’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/dáo/</td>
<td>‘to become hot iron’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tán/</td>
<td>‘to survive’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/fóŋ/</td>
<td>‘to stand’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/buʃú/</td>
<td>‘a festival of Dimasa’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/maitái/</td>
<td>‘the year’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bái/</td>
<td>‘to announce’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ʃlài/</td>
<td>‘tongue’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>