

## Utterance-final plosives in Mpur

Mpur is a Non-Austronesian language with ca. 5000 speakers in Kebar and Amberbaken in the North-East Bird's Head of Papua, Indonesia. The geographical names Kebar and Amberbaken are sometimes used to refer to Mpur. The lexicon is of Non-Austronesian origin, but many loans entered the language from Numforese, Local Malay, Standard Indonesian and some also from Dutch. Mpur morphology and syntax show Austronesian features (Reesink 1998, Odé 2002a), such as subject-verb-object word order and the absence of heavy verb morphology. As a result of experimental-phonetic analyses, four lexical tone contrasts were found to exist: high, midrising, mid/midfalling and low, for example *bé* 'but', *bě* 'pay', *bē* 'in', *bè* 'fruit' (Odé 2002b, 2004).

During fieldwork, in utterance-final syllables two phenomena were frequently observed that contribute to the perception of the duration of such syllables: 1) a delayed release of non-phonemic nasal plosives and 2) a delayed release of phonemic voiceless stops /p/, /t/ or /k/. The phenomena occur in daily conversation and in story-telling, and were also found in neighbouring Papuan languages Hatam, Maybrat and Sougb (Reesink, p.c.).

1) Nasal plosives are utterance-final non-phonemic voiceless uvular plosives with voiceless nasal aspiration, released hundreds of milliseconds after word-final syllables ending in a vowel. Nasal plosives sometimes sound like a sigh, puffing out one's last bit of breath. I suggest describing the sound with symbol  $q^{hn}$ . The silence between vowel and nasal plosive contributes to the perception of the vowel as being realized with lengthening. For example, in the utterance *dokwaret doyami aworo pa q^{hn}* 'when they were washing their eyes he had seen them',  $q^{hn}$  is released 200ms after final *-a*. Non-phonemic nasal plosives must not be confused with delayed releases of word-final phonemic voiceless stops /p, t, k/.

2) A sound similar to a nasal plosive occurs when final voiceless stops /p, t, k/ are released with a delay. An example is *minya nonfuk mpano bapak/ na toka nser non* 'tomorrow you must sew a big sleeping mat/ so that I can make love to both of you', where at a boundary in *bapak* 'big' final *-k* was released with a delay of 240ms. Final voiceless stops also occur without delay or remain unreleased.

In tonal Mpur, pitch is mainly reserved to mark lexical contrasts. A means to lending prominence and marking boundaries is final vowel lengthening. It is suggested that the delayed release of non-phonemic nasal plosives and voiceless stops has the same effect.

In my presentation I will demonstrate the two phenomena with audiovisual examples. In order to give a sketch of the Mpur language, I will also briefly demonstrate the tone system of Mpur and present some audiovisual fragments from narratives with interlinearization.

### Literature

- Odé, Cecilia (2002a) "A Sketch of Mpur" in *Languages of the East Bird's Head*, Ger P. Reesink (ed.). Pacific Linguistics, Canberra, Australia, p.45-107.
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Dr Cecilia Odé  
Institute of Phonetic Sciences  
Spuistraat 210  
1012 VT Amsterdam  
tel +31-20-5252190  
fax +31-20-5253021  
c.ode@uva.nl, <http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/c.ode/>