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A Tentative Phonemic Statement of Kadiwéu.

Griffiths

OUTLINE

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0. INTRODUCTION.

The Kadiwéu language is not as yet classified as belonging to any language group by most authorities. However, one classification places it within the Macro-Ge group. There are two surviving dialects - Guaicuru which is almost extinct, and Kadiwéu.

The Kadiwéus are located in the pantanal area of southern Mato Grosso state. The main settlements lie due west of Miranda in a reserve under the jurisdiction of the F.N.I. on the posts Presidente Alves de Barros, Nalique, and São João. The last of these is practically closed down. The main group of Indians live in three villages near to the post Presidente Alves de Barros. Most of the occupants of a fourth remoter village have recently moved to the main settlement area.

The number of speakers of the language is difficult to assess because of the very wide scattering of houses, and also because many of the Kadiwéus work away from the area on fazendas. The situation is further complicated by a large degree of inter-marriage with non-Kadiwéus. The number of speakers may lie in the region of 500.

Work on the language was commenced by S.I.L. members in 1958 but was discontinued after a short time. It was recommenced in 1968 by an S.I.L. linguistic team, a total of about ten and a half months being spent in the village Pé da Serra. A number of language informants were employed, including men, women, and younger people. The language material was repeated with at least three informants. It was found that there are small differences in the speech of men and women, but these differences have not been included in this paper because they do not affect the phonemic analysis. The differences lie at higher levels of analysis.

The following analysis was done using material which covered over a thousand utterances, ranging in length from single words to simple sentences.

1. SYLLABLE PATTERNS.

The non-suspect CV combinations which form syllables are:

CV as in

<u>g</u> oné'l·é·gwa'	homem
na'	coisa
<u>l</u> á'k·é·dɿ'	cobra
<u>l</u> ó'l·a·dógu'	casca
é' <u>l</u> ·é'	bom

V as in

<u>é</u> 'b·ikɿ'	chuva
<u>é</u> 'l·é'	bom
<u>é</u> 'm·ogu'	nevoeiro
<u>ó</u> 'k·o'	pessoa

Syllable sequences are listed in section 8.

2. INTERPRETATION OF SUSPECT SEGMENTS AND SEQUENCES.

2.1. Suspect segments.

These are [w], [y], [u], and [i].
They are interpreted as /w/, /y/, /u/, and /i/ respectively,
according to their position in syllables.

e.g.	á'k.i.dɪ'	rio
	díwɛ.tɛ'	está frio
	godá.'m.udi'	cabelo
	lá'w.udi'	sangue
	gowá'y.a.gáčɪ'	artelho
	béyagɪyó'k.odɪ'	o joelho está mau
	gowó'k.omága'	estômago
	ní'g.a.níkáwa.nɪgɪ'	nenê

2.2. Suspect sequences.

These are [tš] and [dʒ] (otherwise [č] and [j]).

They are treated as single segments in the absence of
[š] and [ž].

See Appendix 9.2a.

3. CHART OF PHONES.

p	t	k	ḳ
b	d	g	g̣ g̣̣
	ʋ c		
	j̣ j		
w	y		
m	n		
	l		
i ɿ ɿ²		u	u.
		o	o.
ɛ	ɛ.		
	a	a.	

All allophones are ringed. All contoids may be lengthened, and so contoid length has not been entered on the chart in order to preserve clarity.

4. CONTRASTIVE CHART OF PHONEMES.

CONSONANTS		LABIAL	ALVEOLAR	VELAR	UVULAR	
ORALS	STOPS	VL.	p	t	k	ḳ
		VD.	b	d	g	g̣
	CONTINUANTS	AFFRICATES	VL.	t̪		
			VD.	d̪		
		LATERAL		l		
LIQUIDS		LABIAL	NON-LABIAL			
		w	ɹ			
NASALS		m	n			

VOWELS	FRONT	MID	BACK
HIGH	i		u
LOW	e	a	o

Key: VL = VOICELESS

VD = VOICED

5. EVIDENCE FOR PHONOLOGICAL DECISIONS.

5.1. Contrasting pairs of sounds.

/r/		/b/	
ilapítah [?]	você chupa	ilapítah [?]	êle chupa
wájpátéta [?]	êle ouve	já [?] bata [?]	eu pago
náktapa [?]	êles tocam	dá [?] bata.	êle paga
gápeógu [?]	varreu	já [?] h·eyag·ó [?] l·a [?]	a fruta é
'gó [?] pa [?]	cora	gó [?] h·a·gá [?] l [?]	não estragada
gótupí.jé [?]	peito	lu [?] h·i·é [?]	chifre

/t/		/d/	
adá [?] ·b·itít [?]	voce está e/je	adá [?] ·bidít [?]	não levanta!
uléta [?] ·gá [?] l [?]	coisa pintada	léd [?] ·d·é [?]	mãe
á [?] ·c·ut [?]	pula	lu [?] ·á·yu [?] l [?] ·a·gá [?] ·c·ud [?]	os passaros estão voando.
ániat [?]	gente perde	'ániad [?]	perdeu
ánat [?]	voce viu?	ánad [?]	não enxergou

/t/		/č/	
í [?] ·t·im [?]	molhado	í [?] ·č·ig [?]	êle está puxando
nó [?] ·p·itína [?]	flecha	bígí [?] ·č·é·n·é [?]	gato
é·itoátaión·jíp [?]	tenho duas crianças	í [?] ·č·umagi·č [?]	êle é solteiro
ótakígu [?]	tipo de flor amarelo	ó [?] ·č·a·gu [?]	arco iris
níkotéd [?]	êle está sentado	níogó [?] ·č·é [?]	jacaré
wá [?] ·t·u [?]	baceja	á [?] ·č·ut [?]	pula
já [?] ·n·ie·gát [?]	nós caímos	gowá [?] ·y·a·gá [?] č [?]	artelho
étakádu [?]	agulha	éčaltógu [?]	saia
níwetága [?]	o tempo é frio	nígé [?] ·č·aka [?]	grosso

/d/

jibata.	Ele pega
jió't.é'	Ele está dormindo
já'w.i.	Ele está caçando
ú'g.élogóle'	lagoa
naí.	Ele viu
étahádu'	agulha
níogódi'	água

/j/

jibata.	eu pego
jió't.é'	eu durmo
já'w.i'	eu caço
ú'j.é.gádu'	bicho
naí'idé'	banha
nú'd.a.ju'	faca
ápi'jó'gá'	batata

/j/ (allophone [j])

jélole'	vou correr
jaráyu'	marão
já'chógu'	eu bato
jút.gíde.	faz tempo
jóhole'	eu jogo

/t/

yélowad.'	Ele mata
yá'r.akóga'	branco
yá'chógu'	Ele bate
jó't.édi'	estrela
jóhole'	Ele joga

/č/

níogó'č.é'g.'	jacaré
é'čubé'gá'	pedra branca
yá'č.akógu'	Ele bate
gowa'y.a.gáči'	artelho
á'č.uti'	pula
ú'č.agúdi'	vermelho
bi'gí'č.é.ne'	gato

/j/

nugó'j.é'g.'	peixe
é.'j.igu'	eu vou
jajánu'	já cheguei
á'h.a.mitiwajé'	veços
nú'd.a.ju'	faca
ú'ja.gé'	Ele fala
ní'j.a.ligú'jé'g.'	reptil

/m/

'm.é.tagoá'	Ele diz : "não"
-------------	-----------------

/n/

né'č.é'g.'	Ele raspa
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dí·migi?	casa	molét·inigi?	cheio
unókatagádi?	azul	unegéloati?	não mate, não!
já·a·	acabou	já·n·agi?	eu vim
é·lé·gi?	eu solo	é·né·l·agi?	rou grande
á·n·ogi?	neveleiro	agó·n·ot·é·gi?	ôle bonita

/k/

/k/

/d/

/d/

wá·h·alú·t·i·di?	á·h·a·n·i?	aga·nagani?	agá·n·iodi?
leite	voçê	voçê canta	ôle não come
é·jáwalá·é?	yá·l·é·	é·w·ot·ená·m·age·	í·já·é·
eu racho	sarou	ôle está dando volta	ôle fala
jú·i·é?	é·t·akulí·g·lo·pó·w·i·é·é?	l·é·l·é?	'l·i·é·eladi·
ESTOU roubando	o vilão é amarelo	barriga	casa d'ele
góló·l·é·ligi?	adé·n·é·n·é·u·di?	yé·é·é?	góló·l·é·é·é?
língua	ôle sempre mata	arara	olhos
gól·d·á·woken?	góló·l·é·omá·ga?	óp·á·í·l·og·é·	logó·n·é·é?
barriga de perna	estorago	rato grande	pé d'ele
'é·liod·t·é·lo·u?	jó·w·é·u?	ná·lo·u?	'l·á·wogu?
largo, amplo	eu penso	pulga	flor
	l·i·n·i·é·u?	'i·é·u?	'i·é·u?
	nariz d'ele	coisa que foi	terra
agí·'k·a?	d·ilá·j·i·é·é·a?		
não tem	ôle está rindo		
ní·k·a·gá·b·i?		ní·g·a·n·igi?	in·é·ga·j·i·niodá·ga?
ano		criança	vamos comer
	j·é·l·ó·t·i·é·é·a?		wé·t·i·é·ga?
	estou doente		morro, pedra
gól·d·á·k·ilu?	á·h·i·d·i?	l·i·b·i·t·á·gi?	agí·'k·a?
cabeça	rio	osso	não tem
'i·w·l·é·é·i?	l·i·l·é·é·i·	'i·w·l·é·gi·	
voçê lava		êle lava	
já·á·'k·u?		já·á·'g·u?	vou coar
saco			

/ɔ/

/ɔ/

(contrasting in utterance initial position)

gátɛ?

água calobra

gát.t.udi?

tocano

gu?

brasa

guu.du?

mosquito

/i/

/ɛ/

á.t.i.di?

rio

lá.t.ɛ.di?

cobra

dá.w.i.

êle está caçando

niwó'k.udi.godá.w.ɛ? o vento está
sooprando

uníni.téki?

um

niwá't.ɛkɛ?

canoa

ná'd.ɛdi?

êle está inchado

lédɛ.dɛ?

mãe

niogódi?

água

gó'd.ɛ?

ventre

ní'k.a.gábi?

ano

né'k.ɛ.ní'g.u?

cachorro

í'w.a.lu

mulher

é'w.aligatédíbeki? êle está andando

íla.gági?

passaro

é'l.a?

fruta

igó.wi?

amarelo

gadó.w.ɛ?

dente

/u/

/o/

nugó'j.ɛgi?

peixe

nóko?

dia

yú't.ikɛ?

minha leiteira

yó't.ɛdi?

estrêla

'i'.gunóɛ?

panela de barro

igó'n.agi?

pé

dú't.iwádi?

areia

dó't.aga't.ibeki? êle está falando

gún'gi.nugu?

nosso prata

gón.lagá'd.i?

água para tomar
banho

já't.ikege

tira leite

jú't.ikogo?

tira leite

dá'p.ikógu?

quente

wá.donaga.ló.

ela é casada

dá'l.u.

êle está brindando

é'k.o?

nós

jówo.ku?

eu penso

/v/

/v•/

ába?	está trabalhando?	ába.	voçê vai pegar?
agéliodi?	não é grande	agé'l•iodí.	não é o pai dele
ítuní?	mollado	ítuní.	Ele está satisfeito
íçigí?	voçê puxa	íçigí.	Ele puxa
dá't•io•de?	está chovendo?	dá't•io•de?	está chovendo
ábotíwaki?	Ele sabe	ábo•tiwaki?	voçê sabe

5.2. Sounds which do not contrast.

5.2.1. [j] and [j̃]

[j̃] occurs only utterance initially in unstressed syllables. It occurs in soft speech, and freely fluctuates with [j]. Elsewhere only [j] occurs.

e.g.	jagadá•lati?	até logo
	nú'd•a•ju?	face
	ná'j̃•idí?	banha

5.2.2. Lengthened and normal phones. (contoids)

Lengthened phones occur in stressed syllables, normal phones occur elsewhere.

e.g.	wá•'t•u?	bocaja	'né•t̃e•oá?	êle diz: "não"
	naçá'p•u?	garro	ná'ç̃•okoni?	papagaio
	lá'm•udi?	pluma	'di•mígi?	casa
	'í'gunóle?	panela	l'•b•ó•le?	carne
	lá'w•udi?	sangue	'l•í•waga?	anta

5.2.3. [ɕ] and [ɕ̃]

[ɕ̃] and [ɕ] fluctuate freely. [ɕ̃] more generally occurs in careful speech, but rarely in utterance initial position. [ɕ] usually occurs in the utterance initial position. [ɕ̃] does not occur in stressed syllables.

e.g.	<u>g</u> odá·'m·udí'	cabelo
	é'g·iúdi'	macaco
	<u>g</u> oná'p·a· <u>g</u> atí'	orelhas

5.2.4. [i] , [i^e] , [ɨ]

[i] occurs in VV combinations and in non-final stressed syllables.

[i^e] occurs preceding uvular stops.

[ɨ] occurs elsewhere.

e.g.	dí·m <u>i</u> úí'	casa
	níogódi'	agua
	ná'j·i <u>i</u> úí'	banha
	íni ^e gago'dí ^e geladí'	vamos para casa
	ní'g·a·n <u>i</u> úí'	criança

6. PREDICTABLE PHONETIC DATA NOT LISTED ABOVE.

6.1. The Glottal.

The glottal stop is of morpho-phonemic significance rather than phonemic. It occurs utterance finally, sometimes signifying the loss of a final syllable. It is absent when the last vowel of the utterance is lengthened.

Seiler (IJAL 31 No.1, p.58) quotes Kroeber¹Grace, "Many of our forms were recorded at times with, and at times without, a glottal stop. Most of the cases involve an intervocalic position. It seems probable that the glottal stop is inserted for added distinctiveness in careful speech, but is omitted in rapid speech."

There are a few instances in Kadiwéu of an inter-vocalic glottal stop and the interpretation quoted above would seem to reasonably explain these instances. Similar forms were recorded with and without the inter-vocalic glottal at different times.

6.2. Voiceless Vowels.

Ultimate syllables in an utterance often lose the voicing of both consonant and vowel. Voiceless vowels do not occur elsewhere and are not considered to be of phonemic significance. The same forms were recorded both with and without this voiceless tendency.

6.3. Voiceless Uvular Fricative.

The occurrence of this is rare, found in the speech of a few people belonging to the same family group. It is intervocalic, replacing /tV/ or simply /t/. It may represent therefore a small dialectical difference at the morpho-phonemic level.

6.4. High Tone.

High tone on a syllable is of morpho-phonemic significance and will be dealt with more fully in a later paper.

A provisional set of rules for its occurrence are:

- High tone occurs on (i) the first syllable of a verb stem
- (ii) " " " " " noun "
- (iii) penultimate syllables of utterances

The occurrences of high tone are sometimes modified by intonation patterns. (See Appendix 9.1.1.)

6.5. Reduction of Vowel Length.

In certain sequences of syllables the vowel of the first syllable tends to become shorter.

The sequences are CVgV where the vowels V are identical, and C may be a stop or nasal.

The effect in rapid speech is to give CgV and this was recorded at times. This last form is not in accord with the established syllable patterns.

6.6. Stress.

Stress is of morpho-phonemic significance and is therefore outside of the scope of this paper. Generally, stressed syllables follow the first high tone syllables within word boundaries in the case on nouns and verbs. Stress does not seem to occur in noun and verb modifiers.

6.7. Lengthening of Consonants.

Lengthening of consonants occurs in stressed syllables. It is particularly noticeable in the case of the unvoiced stops and affricate.

7. FORMATIONAL STATEMENT OF PHONEMES.

7.1. Consonants.

There are fifteen consonants.

7.1.1. Consonants are lengthened in stressed syllables. Alveolar stops and nasals tend to be slightly dentalized.

7.1.2.

/p/	[p]	voiceless bilabial stop	é'p.əná'?	lua
			ná'p.əlú't.ɛ'?	machado
/b/	[b]	voiced bilabial stop	'b.ɛyag'?	mau
			'bo.nig'?	presente
/t/	[t]	voiceless alveolar stop	dá'tiódɛ'?	vai chover
			wá't.i'ɛ'ɔa'?	pedra
/d/	[d]	voiced alveolar stop	'd.i.nig'?	casa
			yó'd.awa'?	minha mulher
/k/	[k]	voiceless velar stop	wá'k.i'ɛ'?	êle bebe
			yá'p.akáɟa'?	Branco
/g/	[g]	voiced velar stop	gu'?	brasa
			ná'd.ɛgó'g.u'?	capim
/x/	[x]	voiceless uvular stop	á'k.i.d'?	rio
			yálaɟɛ.	sarou
/ʒ/	[ʒ]	voiced uvular stop	ɟá'd.iú'd.u'?	sua mãe
			nugó'j.ɛg'?	peixe
	[ʒ]	voiced uvular fricative freely fluctuates with [ʒ] in unstressed syllables.		
/tʃ/	[tʃ]	voiceless alveolar affricate	ínɛ'čú'd'?	meu tio
			ná'č.okon'?	papagaio
/dʒ/	[dʒ]	voiced alveolar affricate	ǰálu	eu brinco
			ná'ǰ.id'?	banha

[j] voiced alveolar fricative,
occurs utterance initial in
unstressed syllables. It may
fluctuate with [ʃ] in this
position.

/m/	[m]	voiced bilabial nasal	'n.é.taɣoá'	êle diz: não
			dí.nɪɣi'	casa
/n/	[n]	voiced alveolar nasal	nioɣódi'	agua
			é'n.oáɪe'	noite
/l/	[l]	voiced alveolar lateral	ló'l.idi'	figado
			é'l.a'	fruta
/ɻ/	[ɻ]	voiced palatal resonant	yó't.ɛdi'	estrêla
			'b.ɛyagi'	mau
/w/	[w]	voiced labio-velar resonant	wá't.u'	boceja
			'w.o.ɣu'	pau

7.2. Vowels.

There are five vowels.

7.2.1. Voiceless vowels may occur in unstressed final syllables in soft speech.

7.2.2.

/i/ [i] voiced high close front unrounded vocoid.
Occurs in VV combinations and stressed non-final syllables.

dí.nɪɣi' casa

nioɣódi' agua

dú't.iwádi' arcia

[i^c] falling glide from voiced high open front unrounded vocoid to mid-closed position. (falls from high close position in stressed syllables)
Occurs preceding uvular stops.

		<u>ní</u> 'gíótɛ'	não durra, não
		godí'm·i'hu'	nosso nariz
	[ɪ]	voiced high open front unrounded vocoid. Occurs in all other positions.	
		<u>ní</u> 'g·a·nigí'	criança
/e/	[ɛ]	voiced mid open front unrounded vocoid.	
		wi'·t· <u>ɛ</u> lu'	marimbundo
		nɛ'k· <u>ɛ</u> ·nígu'	cachorro
/a/	[a]	voiced low mid unrounded vocoid	
		ápolukagana <u>ga</u> '	cavalo
		ʒaʒánu'	já cheguei
/u/	[u]	voiced high open back rounded vocoid.	
		nɪgɛ'·'j· <u>u</u> '	quando eu chego
		nú'č· <u>u</u> pa'	curto
/o/	[o]	voiced mid open back rounded vocoid.	
		ó'k·o·	verde
		nó'l·ɛdɛ'	fogo

8. DISTRIBUTION OF PHONEMES.

8.1. Patterns.

8.1.1. Syllable patterns.

These are:

V

CV

(see Appendix 9.2c)

8.1.2. Combinations of syllable patterns.

Maximum vowel sequences occurring are

(a) two dissimilar vowels or three vowels, two adjacent being similar, within word boundaries

(b) three dissimilar vowels across word boundaries

(see 8.2.2.)

8.2. Distribution.

8.2.1. Consonants.

There is one limitation on the distribution of consonants:

the unvoiced stops and affricate do not occur in the word initial position.

8.2.2. Vowels.

Any vowel can occur in any position singly. Limitations occur in vowel sequences and are shown in the following charts. The chief limitations concern the vowel /u/ and are probably due to its appreciably lower rate of incidence. (see 9.3b.)

8.2.2.1. V, V₂ within word boundaries.

		V ₂				
		a	e	i	o	u
V ₁	a	1	.	3	.	.
	e	.	6	.	8	.
	i	5	9	4	2	10
	o	6	11	1	12	.
	u	13	.	14	.	15

numbers in the squares refer to the examples listed below.

8.2.2.2. V, V₂ across word boundaries.

	V ₂				
	a	e	i	o	u
a	1	2	3	4	.
e	5	6	7	8	.
V ₁ i	5	9	4	2	10
o	6	11	1	12	.
u	13	16	14	.	15

Key to examples in charts above:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | ctoinaga nudaa <u>ju</u> | a faca está cega |
| 2. | liçigagawaa elio <u>duu</u> | êle anda com a mãe |
| 3. | na <u>gi</u> | caminho |
| 4. | nigijowa oçii <u>gudi</u> | êle é velho |
| 5. | niale abide <u>ge</u> | a árvore está queimando |
| 6. | meete go <u>a</u> | êle diz: "não" |
| 7. | igame ite | onde está? |
| 8. | igamigote me <u>te</u> | como êle faz? |
| 9. | ligietegi | ôvo |
| 10. | eeliodi iutaga | com sono |
| 11. | jigo <u>eti</u> | vou amarrar |
| 12. | gogekoo <u>ge</u> | nossos olhos |
| 13. | ee ijaçijun eletidi | eu e outros |
| 14. | napiy <u>ui</u> | sujo |
| 15. | gunu <u>udu</u> | mosquito |
| 16. | igu elodi | êle vai correr |

3.2.2.3. Three (dissimilar) vowel sequences occurring across word boundaries:

/aio/	ee itoat <u>a</u> <u>lonigipi</u>	tenho duas crianças
/coi/	ʃalcedi <u>uacylee</u> <u>ibexataga</u> <u>dinaiti</u>	
		Ele está chorando porque caiu
/oai/	etide <u>a</u> <u>igvete</u> di	Ele está amarrando
/uae/	ee <u>ʃagijua</u> <u>eletidi</u>	eu e outros.

3.2.2.4. Three vowel sequences (two vowels similar) occurring within word boundaries:

/oii/	ad <u>oiitibehi</u>	voçê tem medo
/ioo/	dat <u>ioode</u>	está chovendo

3.2.2.5. Three vowel sequences (two vowels similar) occurring across word boundaries:

/aae/	li <u>çigagawaa</u> <u>alioduu</u>	Ele anda com a mãe
/eei/	ee <u>ijole</u> di	eu e outro
/eeu/	ee <u>uçiigudi</u>	eu sou velho
/iiu/	eeli <u>odi</u> <u>iutaga</u>	com sono
/iaa/	emi <u>aswi</u>	vai caçar?
/iee/	al <u>aaami</u> ee	voçê e eu
/uii/	yadilu <u>iigu</u>	a terra é seca

9. APPENDICES.

9.1. Intonation and Intensity.

9.1.1. Effect of intonation on high tone.

The general intonation pattern is a falling one. This tends to emphasize high tone on syllables occurring early within utterances, and to mask high tone occurring later within utterances.

9.1.2. Effect of intensity on voicing.

The general intensity pattern is a diminishing one over an utterance. This tends to emphasize earlier syllables and to weaken later ones. Final syllables may lose voicing of both consonant and vowel in soft or rapid speech. They may even be lost completely and replaced by a glottal.

Similar utterances were noted both with and without voicing of phonemes in the last syllable.

The general effect upon stressed syllables is parallel to the effect of intonation upon high tone. (9.1.1.)

9.2. Phonemic evidence provided by borrowed words.

9.2.1. Absence of common phonemes.

The phoneme changes in borrowed words point to the absence of certain common types of phonemes, e.g. fricatives and /r/.

(a) In the assimilation of borrowed words into the language, non-alveolar fricatives become stops and alveolar fricatives become affricates,

e.g.	<u>f</u> ei <u>z</u> ã <u>o</u>	<u>b</u> ei <u>ʃ</u> ao
	ca <u>f</u> é	ga <u>a</u> pe
	me <u>s</u> a	na <u>m</u> e <u>ʃ</u> a
	a <u>ç</u> ucar	a <u>ç</u> uka-lapakigigi

(b) The phoneme /r/ was included in tentative earlier work done by other workers. This cannot be substantiated. In the assimilation of borrowed words /r/ becomes /l/.

e.g.	abó o ra	aboob i le
	r ádio	l aadiu
	gar r afa	gala a pa
	chale i ra	j alee a

(c) The Portuguese feature of nasalisation does not occur in Kadiwáú and is dropped completely in borrowed words.

9.2.2. Presence of common phonemes.

Phoneme changes in borrowed words substantiate the presence of certain phonemes, e.g. stops and affricates. This evidence is of more importance in the case of phonemes with a lower rate of incidence. (see 9.3.)

Examples of these changes can be seen in sections above and below, especially 9.2.1a.

9.2.3. Syllable patterns.

The changes in borrowed words point to the absence of any CC combinations in the syllabic structure. Changes in words must conform to both phonemic and syllabic structure. To b separate consonant clusters, vowels are interposed.

e.g.	qu a tro	goat o lo
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9.2.4. Phoneme distribution.

Changes in borrowed words point to limitations of phoneme distribution.

The voiceless stops and affricate cannot occur word initially,

e.g.	s abão	j abao
	s aco	j aaku
	ch inela	j ineela
	ch aleira	j aleela
	c opo	g oopa
	c aneta	g aaneta
	p aletó	b alitu

9.3: Relative occurrence rates of phonemes.

A phoneme count was made in a large number of utterances. The following lists show the phonemes in order ranging from the highest to the lowest rates of incidence. The first column of figures gives the actual count, the second shows the incidence rate relative to the least occurring phoneme.

(a) Consonants.

Phoneme	Count	Ratio (relative to lowest)
d	153	7.0
n	140	6.4
l	116	5.3
g	110	5.0
g	97	4.4
t	89	4.0
w	72	3.3
k	50	2.3
j	38	1.7
k	34	1.5
m	34	1.5
p	27	1.2
y	27	1.2
b	24	1.1
c	22	1.0

(b) Vowels.

i	425	6.0
a	349	5.0
e	208	3.0
o	143	2.0
u	70	1.0

Comment

It is noticeable in the case of consonants that generally the higher counts lie with two features - voicing and alveolar position.

This would suggest that although the relative rates of occurrence of /n/ to /m/ is a ratio greater than 4 to 1, there is no need to look for a possible allophonic relationship, ruled out by other phonemic evidence. There are similar high ratios for other alveolar sounds with respect to bilabials.

For vowels, the higher counts lie with front and mid vowels.
The back vowels have an appreciably lower ratio.

S.I.L.

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