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The phonology of Proto-Central Chadic : the reconstruction of the phonology and lexicon of Proto-Central Chadic, and the linguistic history of the Central Chadic languages

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9 Summary of the Phonologies

In this section we will present a brief summary of the phonological characteristics of each of the languages mentioned in the previous four sections, along with the proto-languages of groups and subgroups.

A question mark denotes situations where the characteristic is unknown or uncertain. When describing the number of vowels, ‘two plus one’ refers to two phonemic vowels plus an epenthetic vowel, ‘three+’ refers to three core vowel phonemes, plus one or more marginal vowel phonemes.

| Group | Language | Prosodies | Labialized Consonants | Palatalized Consonants | Vowels |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bata | Jimi | Consonant PAL | Velars and Labials | | Three, plus long vowels |
| | Sharwa | Consonant PAL | Velars and Labials | | Three |
| | Gude | Consonant PAL | Velars and Labials | | Two, plus long vowels |
| | Tsuvan | Consonant PAL | Velars and Labials | | Three |
| | Bata, Bachama | Consonant PAL | All? | | Three |
| | Proto-Bata | Consonant PAL | Velars and Labials | | Three |
| Daba | Daba | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Buwal | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Mbudum | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Mina | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Gavar | None | Velars | Laminals | Four |
| | Proto-Daba | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| Mafa | Mafa | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Cuvok | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Mefele | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Proto-Mafa | Vowel PAL and LAB (?) | Velars | | Two |

| Group | Language | Prosodies | Labialized Consonants | Palatalized Consonants | Vowels |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tera | Tera | ?Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | ? |
| | Ga'anda | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | ? |
| | Proto-Tera | ? | ? | | ? |
| Sukur | Sukur | Mixed PAL | All | | Three |
| Hurza | Mbuko | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Vame | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Proto-Hurza | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| Margi | Margi | | All | All | Two plus one |
| | Bura | | Velars and Labials | All | Four |
| | Kilba | | Velars and Labials | Laminals and Velars | Two or four |
| | Proto-Margi | Consonant PAL | Velars and Labials | | Three |
| Mandara | Podoko | Mixed PAL | Velars | | Three+ |
| | Matal | Mixed PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Mandara | | Velars | Laminals and Velars | Three |
| | Malgwa | | Velars | Laminals and Velars | Six |
| | Glavda | Consonant PAL | Velars | | Three+ |
| | Dghwede | | Velars | | Three+ |
| Proto- Mandara | | Mixed PAL | Velars | | Three+ |
| | | | | | |
| Mofu | Ouldeme | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Muyang | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Moloko | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Mada | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Proto- Tokombere | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Zulgo | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |

| Group | Language | Prosodies | Labialized Consonants | Palatalized Consonants | Vowels |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Gemzek | Gemzek | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Merey | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Dugwor | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Proto-Meri | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| Mofu | Mofu North | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Mofu-Gudur | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Pre-Mofu | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| | Proto-Mofu | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| Maroua | Mbazla | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Giziga North | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Giziga South | Vowel PAL and LAB | Velars | | Two |
| | Proto-Maroua | Vowel PAL | Velars | | Two |
| Lamang | Hdi | | Velars | | Five |
| | Lamang | | Velars | | Four |
| | Proto-Lamang | | Velars | | Four |
| Higi | Bana | | Velars | All | Three |
| | Psikye | | Velars | Laminals | Three |
| | Kamwe | | All | All | Three |
| | Nkafa | | | | |
| | Kamwe Futu | | All | All | Three |
| | Kirya-Konzel | | All | Laminals and Velars | Four? |
| | Proto-Higi | | Velars | Laminals | Three |
| Kotoko Island | Buduma | | ? | | Six |
| | Mpade | | Velars(?) | | Four |
| Kotoko North | Afade | | | | Six |
| | Malgbe | | (Labial-velars) | | Six |
| | Maltam | | | | Six |

| Group | Language | Prosodies | Labialized Consonants | Palatalized Consonants | Vowels |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Proto-Kotoko North | | Velars | | Five |
| Kotoko Centre | Lagwan | | Velars | | Three |
| | Mser | | Velars | | ? |
| | Proto-Kotoko Centre | | Velars | | Four |
| Kotoko South | Zina | | Velars | | Three |
| | Mazera | | Velars | | Three |
| | Proto-Kotoko South | | Velars | | Three |
| Musgum | Mbara | Vowel PAL and LAB | | | Two, plus long vowels |
| | Muskum | Vowel PAL and LAB | | | Two, plus long vowels |
| | Musgu (Mulwi, Munjuk, Vulum) | Vowel PAL and LAB | | | Two, plus long vowels |
| | Proto- Musgum | Vowel PAL and LAB | | | Two |
| Gidar | Gidar | Vowel PAL and LAB | | | Two, plus long vowels |

Table 110 - Summary of Phonological Characteristics

