

## Anlo Ewe phrasing and tone

Data from Clements 1977; Clements 1978; Kenstowicz 1994; Kager & Zonneveld 1999; Clements, Michaud & Patin 2010.

- **These data illustrate the basic tone alternation**, plus items that don't undergo it, for contrast.
  - Don't worry about phrases yet—just use these data to figure out the basic tone changes
  - Anlo Ewe has four surface tones: low ( ` ), mid ( ˘ ), high( ˊ ), and superhigh( ˊˊ )
  - To get started, I suggest that, without yet worrying about syntactic or prosodic structure, you make a tableau for 'behind a tree'.
    - To rule out \*[ àtyí mǐgbé ], you'll need to invent a rather arbitrary markedness constraint—there are multiple options that could work.
    - Don't worry, here or below, about why the mid tone becomes superhigh ( ˊˊ ) instead of high or low or whatever. That is, include in your tableaux candidates with and without the change to superhigh, but not candidates with other possible tone changes (unless you have an idea to explain why superhigh! but I don't expect you to)

/ input / + gloss	[ output ]	translation
/ àtyíkē-ó / medicine- <i>plural</i>	[ àtyíké-ó ]	'medicines'
/ àtyí mǐgbé / tree behind	[ àtyí mǐgbé ]	'behind a tree'
/ èkpé dyí / stone on	<i>no change</i>	'on a stone'
/ èkpé mǐgbé / stone behind	[ èkpé mǐgbé ]	'behind a stone'
/ m- èkpé drzá-gé / I stone sell- <i>future</i>	<i>no change</i>	'I'm going to sell a stone'
/ m- èkpé flē-gé / I stone buy- <i>future</i>	[ m-èkpé flē-gé ]	'I'm going to buy a stone'
/ ākplō dyí / spear on	<i>no change</i>	'on a spear'
/ ākplō mǐgbé / spear behind	<i>no change</i>	'behind a spear'
/ m- ākplō drzá-gé / I spear sell- <i>future</i>	<i>no change</i>	'I'm going to sell a spear'
/ m- ākplō flē-gé / I spear buy- <i>future</i>	<i>no change</i>	'I'm going to buy a spear'
/ àtyíkē dyí / medicine on	[ àtyíké dyí ]	'on medicine'

Non-IPA: "y"=  
glide [ j ].

/ àtyíkē mēgbé / medicine behind	<i>no change</i>	‘behind medicine’
/ m- àtyíkē flē-gé / I medicine buy- <i>future</i>	<i>no change</i>	‘I’m going to buy medicine’
/ m- àtyíkē drzá-gé / I medicine sell- <i>fut</i>	[ m- àtyíkē <b>drzá</b> -gé ]	‘I’m going to sell medicine’ <b>Note this one well! Three underlying tones change</b>
/ nyónūví-á-wó vá / girl- <i>definite-plural</i> come	[ nyónūví-á-wó vá ]	‘the girls came’ <b>Note here also the multiple changes</b>
/ ākōdú dyí / banana on	<i>no change</i>	‘on a banana’
/ ākōdú mēgbé / banana behind	[ ākōdú mēgbé ]	‘behind a banana’
/ m- ākōdú drzá-gé / I banana sell- <i>future</i>	<i>no change</i>	‘I’m going to sell a banana’
/ m- ākōdú flē-gé / I banana buy- <i>future</i>	[ m- ākōdú flē-gé ]	‘I’m going to buy a banana’

- **Getting ready for the phrasal part**

- I suggest you next draw some syntactic trees of the data above and below.
- In ‘Abla and Kofi’ below there are different levels at which you could do the conjunction. You may not be able to decide till you have the analysis worked out.
- As you see, in this language a complement sometimes precedes its head and sometimes follows.
- Ignore the proclitic **subject pronoun / m(e)- / ‘I’**. Pronouns are often different from full words, especially when they move to a syntactically unexpected position.
- In ‘the girls came’, above, you may need to assume a VP-internal subject to make your analysis work later on (depends exactly on how you decide to explain the aspect of the data where more than one tone changes).

- **Identifying the phonological phrases**

- In the data below, the tone change doesn’t apply, although the input tones are similar to those in the data above.
- Look at your trees and experiment with ideas for how p-phrases might be formed, to explain this difference.

/ input /	[ output ]	translation
/ kpó ānyí / see bee	<i>no change</i>	‘saw a bee’
/ àblá kplé kōfí / Abla and Kofi	<i>no change</i>	‘Abla and Kofi’
/ mē ná àtyí kōfí / I gave stick Kofi	<i>no change</i>	‘I gave a stick to Kofi’
/ mē xé fē né kòdzó / I paid debt to Kwadzo	<i>no change</i>	‘I paid a debt to Kwadzo’
/ m- āmē yó-gé kā dyí / I person call- <i>future</i> line on	<i>no change</i>	‘I’m going to call someone on the phone’
/ mē yī dē tō-tó / I go to river-side	<i>no change</i>	‘I went to the riverside’
/ mí ā-dzó / we <i>future</i> -leave	<i>no change</i>	‘We will leave’

### Reference

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