Tukang Besi is an archipelago in southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia, where an Austronesian language is spoken. The speech represented here is that of the north-west coast of the island of Wanci. With mainly slight lexical variation it represents the speech of the two northernmost islands in the archipelago, Wanci and Kaledupa.

Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plosive</th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labio-dent.</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Post-alveolar</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plosive</td>
<td>p (b)</td>
<td>t (d)</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implosive</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>d</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>ð</td>
<td>s (z)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenasalized plosive</td>
<td>mp mb</td>
<td>nt nd</td>
<td>ηk ηg</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prenasalized Fricative</td>
<td></td>
<td>ns</td>
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<td>Trill</td>
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<td>r</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lateral Approx.</td>
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<td>l</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The consonant table represents phonemic contrasts with the exception of [d] and [z], which are allophones of the loan phoneme /ðz/; only borrowed words show this phoneme. /b/ is also a loan phoneme, present only in a few recently borrowed words.

\[\begin{array}{lcccc}
p & apa & 'up to' & t & titi & 'breast' \\
b & aña & 'previous' & d & piditi & 'rubbish' \\
m & ama & 'father' & n & ana & 'child' \\
ð & ?aña & 'obtain' & s & asa & 'one' \\
mp & kompa & 'eel' & nt & tinti & 'run' \\
mb & kombi & 'moon' & nd & pindi & 'faeces' \\
n & ala & 'fetch' & h & hada & 'imminent' \\
\end{array}\]

Vowels

i ᶀali "turn around"
ε ᶀale "frond of a young coconut tree"
ɑ ᶀala (classifier for soap and small objects)
o ᶀalo "answer"
u ᶀalu "buy"

Stress

Stress, realised as a generally higher and level pitch on the whole syllable, is almost always on the penultimate syllable of the word. The definition of the word is sometimes extended to include the following (inherently stressless) absolutive article /tʃ/. Thus the sentence nomanga te bae 'He ate the rice' can be pronounced either as [nɔ'maŋa.teːbæː] or as [nɔmaŋatebæː]. A secondary stress, consisting of a greater amplitude without the higher pitch that is the characteristic of the primary stress, is also found on every second syllable away from the primary stressed syllable.

Contrastive stress patterns have arisen from the introduction of loan-words with final nasals; the final nasal is borrowed as a separate syllabic nucleus, with predictable effects on stress, and then later dropped. This has produced at least one case of a lexical difference based solely on stress: [kɛnta] 'fish (archaic)' vs [kɛnta] 'potato (loan)'.

Conventions

Free variation is observed between [b], [ɸ] and [v], with [b] being the most common phone except amongst children, who prefer [ɸ]; the implosives and /g/ are pragmatically followed by a stressed syllable ([ʔb], [ʔd] and [ʔg]). /h/ varies with [ɸ] before a high back vowel. The lateral /l/ is sometimes realised as a retroflex lateral flap [l] after back vowels. The phoneme /l/ varies between [l], [ɾ], [ɾ] and [ɾ]; thus, after a back vowel, realizations of /l/ and /ɾ/ overlap. The loan phoneme /dʒ/ varies idiolectally between [dʒ] (most common), [d] (contrasting with [dʃ]), and [ʒ]. Thus: [kaʃdʒa] - [kaʃdʒa] karajaa 'work (for a wage)', [dari] - [zari] - [dʒari] jari 'then, thus'.

Voiceless or sonorant consonants are often geminated in the stressed or post-stressed syllable, in a restrictive set of vocalic environments that depends on the consonant. Thus; [akal] - [akal] 'root', [motu] - [motu] 'sleepy'. The voiced prenasalised stops sometimes reduce to a geminate nasal in casual speech. Thus: [ba.rbai] - [ba.rbai] 'comb', [ndaŋa] - [ndaŋa] 'jackfruit', [iŋa.bi] - [iŋa.bi] 'yesterday'. A glottal stop deletes or is replaced by [k] in a syllable adjacent to another glottal stop; Thus, /tʃu/ '2nd person singular possessive' and [ŋo] 'nose', but [ŋoʔu] 'your nose' (<ŋoʔo + ñu), /Re/ '3rd person object' and [tuʔo] 'chop down', but [tuʔe] 'chop it down' (< tuʔo + e).
The high front vowel shows little variation in quality, nor does the low back vowel. The high back unrounded vowel /u/ can round to [u] in a syllable immediately following the vowel /o/ or following /w/. In these and other environments it shows occasional variation with [u]. The front mid vowel /e/ tends to raise when not followed by a consonant (i.e., finally or before a syllable without an onset), with the notable exception of the absolute article te, which is invariably [te]. The mid back vowel is higher than the mid front vowel, again tending to be higher when followed by a vowel, especially when the following syllable contains /o/ or /u/. Following a bilabial consonant the height of the vowel is also more pronounced, and the closer the syllable to the end of the word, the higher the vowel. All the vowels tend to de-syllabify if they occur before the stressed syllable adjacent to another vowel, or in the stressless words; usually the highest of the vowels desyllabifies. When two vowels come together across a word boundary, the first of these often deletes. See the text for examples of these phenomena.

Transcription of recorded passage

sa'pajra sa'pajra 'ana, 'ane ke la 'bela ba'ndensus'ia 'kene la 'bela ?o'lo: ... te a'mai 'ana ,nopobusubusu' akoko te e'mai na mebuku. mbe'veka molengo ?umpa ,nomaimo na 'mia fumi'la pu'make ?e 'badzu moko?ba. ... sa'/?a'a'ko, nospetu'du ku'a te 'barbano pumaluru'we na 'mia fumi'la 'iso, te 'ia na,holo'atau i po'ta'atu?ano 'is?o aj. 'maka te la 'bela ba'ndensus'ia 'ana no'topi, no'topia, no'topu, tis'ka ,samesbuku no'topu, samesbuku te 'ia 'iso no'kanta te 'badzu ,moko?ano. ka'mbea ,moni'nino. makala'amo ,mbe'veka'mo no'so'ba na la 'bela ba'ndensus'ia 'ana. po'oli 'iso, la 'bela ?o'lo: nospaso'soa te 'mia me'badzu iso 'kene ,mbe'veka'mo ?ha'ra pake te 'badzumo. 'djar ,a'bana''atu no,holo'atau na la 'bela ?o'lo, 'kene no'mo'ta'lu na la 'bela ba'ndensus'ia i po'ta'ru? u ka'basa 'iso aj. sapa'ira ,sapa'ira ,tan'ka'nom?.

Orthographic version