

Naha dialect of Okinawa Ryukyuan

Subgroup: South Okinawan, Northern Ryukyuan

Location: Naha dialect is spoken in the city of Naha on the island of Okinawa

Data source: Uchima, Chokujin and Mitsuyoshi Nohara. 2006. *Okinawago jiten – Naha hōgen wo chushin ni* [Dictionary of Okinawan – focusing on Naha dialect]. Tokyo: Kenkyūsha.

Overview of Naha accent (based on our data)¹

Bimoraic

atonic	[HH-H]
final-mora accent	[HH-L]
final rising	[LL-H]

Trimoraic

atonic	[HHH]
final-mora rising	[LLH, LHH]
final rising	[LLL-H] ²

Tetramoraic

atonic	[HHHH]
third-mora rising	[LLHH]
final-mora rising	[LLLH]

¹ Uchima and Nohara (2006: xxvi) give ŌOO, OŌO, ŌOOO, and OŌOO. However, our data do not have any examples for those patterns.

² The word for ‘lightning’ is *furi:*. However, Uchima and Nohara do not include OOO↑ on the list of the rising accent classes (see Uchima and Nohara 2006: xxiv).

For bimoraic, there are three accent classes: /「OO/, /OO「/, and /「OO/. Interestingly, there is only one item each for /「OO/.

For trimoraic, there are three classes! they are /「OOO/ [HHH], /OO「O/ [LLH, LHH] depending on the syllable structure, and /OOO「/ [LLL-H] only one example.

For tetramoraic, there are three - /OO「OO/, /「OOOO/, and /ooo「O/. The final-mora-rising class has only one item. Final-mora rising and third-mora rising are not allophonic.

Bimoraic

Phonemic	Phonetic	Example
「OO atonic	HH-H	「?uri ‘arm’, 「?fe: ‘ash’, 「?sit̪a ‘below’, 「tui ‘bird’, 「tsi: ‘blood’, 「?ita ‘board’, 「haku ‘box’, 「jura ‘branch’, 「jumi ‘bride’, 「hasi ‘bridge; ladder’, 「tsibi ‘buttock, rear end’, 「nni ‘chest’, 「kkwa ‘child’, 「nunu ‘cloth’, 「?iru ‘color’, 「?usi ‘cow’, 「gani ‘crab’, 「?i: ‘daytime’, 「?in ‘dog’, 「mi: ‘eye’, 「maju ‘eyebrow’, 「tsira ‘face’, 「haru / 「mo: ‘field, plain’, 「?iju ‘fish’, 「?fe: ‘fly’, 「çisa ‘foot/leg’, 「rusi ‘friend’, 「rabi ‘funeral’, 「kami ‘god’, 「nitsi ‘heat’, 「kuma ‘here’, 「?ana ‘hole’, 「mi: ‘hole’, 「tt̪su ‘person’, 「utu ‘husband’, 「wan ‘I’, 「muši ‘insect’, 「?utsi ‘inside, interior’, 「sim̪a ‘island; hamlet’, 「?uri ‘it’, 「tsib̪u ‘jar, pot’, 「dʒi: ‘land’, 「fa: ‘leaf’, 「put̪a ‘lid’, 「siba ‘lip’, 「kuʃi ‘loins’, 「?asa ‘morning’, 「mui ‘hill’, 「kut̪si ‘mouth’, 「çidʒi ‘mustache; beard’, 「kudʒi ‘nail’, 「tsimi ‘nail, claw’, 「na: ‘name’, 「hata ‘near by, beside’, 「kubi ‘neck’, 「si: ‘nest’, 「niʃi ‘north’, 「hana ‘nose’, 「nama ‘now’, 「tsui ‘one person’, 「?uja ‘parent’, 「tani ‘penis’, 「?nni ‘rice (as a crop)’, 「ta: ‘rice field’, 「mitsi ‘road’, 「tsina ‘rope’, 「na: ‘rope’, 「fu: ‘sail’, 「sina ‘sand’, 「sani ‘seed’, 「sini ‘shin’, 「kata ‘shoulder’, 「juku ‘side’, 「tin / 「sura ‘sky’, 「habu ‘snake’, 「?utu ‘sound’, 「siru ‘soup’, 「kubu ‘spider’, 「fuʃi ‘star’, 「?isi ‘stone’, 「nat̪i ‘summer’, 「tu: ‘ten’, 「?anu ‘that (distal mod.)’, 「?unu ~ 「?un ‘that (mesial mod.)’, 「?ari ‘that (distal)’, 「?uri ‘that (mesial)’, 「?mma ‘there’, 「?ama ‘over there’, 「mumu ‘thigh’, 「mumu ‘thing’, 「kunu ‘this (mod.)’, 「kuri ‘this’, 「tsu: ‘today’, 「siba ‘tongue’, 「tabi ‘travel’, 「?wi: ‘up, above’, 「mura ‘village’, 「kwi: ‘voice’, 「midʒi ‘water’, 「nami ‘wave’, 「ka: ‘well’, 「?iri ‘west’, 「nu: ‘what’, 「?itsi ‘when’, 「dʒunu ~ 「tsjanu ‘which (mod.)’, 「dʒuri ‘which’, 「ta: ‘who’, 「tudʒi ‘wife’, 「kadʒi ‘wind’, 「hani ‘wing’, 「fuju ‘winter’, 「kidʒi ‘wound’, 「na: / 「?ja: ‘you’,

final-mora 「OO」	HH-L	「?umi」 ‘sea’,
OO「	LL-H?	wata「 ‘belly; intestines’, suba「 ‘beside’, φuni「 ‘boat’, φuni「 ‘bone’, tʃi:「 ‘breast; milk’, tʃiri「 ‘cloth’, kumu「 ‘cloud’, mimi「 ‘ear’, çi:「 ‘fart’, su:「 ‘father’, çi:「 ‘fire’, hana「 ‘flower’, ?atu「 ‘footprint, trace; behind’, me:「 ‘front’, tʃin「 ‘garment’, kusa「 ‘grass’, ti:「 ‘hand’, tʃimu「 ‘heart’, ?aru「 ‘heel’, ?mma「 ‘horse’, ja:「 ‘house’, wata「 ‘intestine’, nutʃi「 ‘life’, ʃifi「 ‘meat’, ?awa「 ‘millet’, tʃitsʃi「 ‘moon’, jama「 ‘hill; mountain; wild’, ruru「 ‘mud’, ju:「 ‘night’, φuka「 ‘outside’, ?wa:「 ‘pig’, ni:「 ‘plant root’, ruku「 ‘poison’, ?ami「 ‘rain’, kumi「 ‘rice’, φe:「 ‘south’, wata「 ‘stomach’, ?afʃi「 ‘sweat’, ?mmu「 ‘sweet potato’, dʒu:「 ‘tail’, nara「 ‘tear’, tutʃi「 ‘time’, haka「 ‘tomb’, ha:「 ‘tooth’, ki:「 ‘tree’, ho:「 ‘vagina’, ma:「 ‘where’, ʃiwa「 ‘worry’, tuʃi「 ‘year’, ka:「 ‘skin, peel’ ³

Trimoraic

Phonemic	Phonetic	Example
「OOO atonic	HHH	「mai:「around」, 「?agari「east」, 「ja:tʃi「eight」, 「nidʒiri「right」, 「ka:ra「river」, 「nu:dʒi「rainbow」, 「katatʃi「shape」, 「ʃiruʃi「sign」, 「kibuʃi / 「tʃimuri「smoke」, 「tʃikara「strength」, 「mi:tʃi「three」, 「ta:tʃi「two」, 「?akubi「yawn」,
final rising	LLH	naga「ni「back of body」, φuku「ru「bag」, habe「ru「butterfly」, wara「bi「child」, ?itʃi「ku「cousin」, gara「ʃi「crow」, ?asa「ti「day after tomorrow」, jusan「ri「evening」, jina「gu「female」, ?iri「tʃi「fish scale」, ?itʃi「tʃi「five」, ?mma「ga「granchild」, kara「dʒi「hair of head」, tʃibu「ru「head」, kuku「ru「heart」, ?e:「dʒa ~ ?e:「ra ~ ?e:「ma「interval」, juku「ʃi「lie」, ?inu「tʃi「life」, sana「dʒi「loincloth」, jiki「ga「male」, tana「ka「middle, inside」, tʃim「pe:「saliva」, ma:「su「salt」, nana「tʃi「seven」, ?aga「ta「yonder?」, nusu「ru「thief」, gudʒi「ra「whale」, waʃi「ta「we」, ma:「ru「around」, ma:「mi「bean」, ?u:「bi「belt」, ?i:「tʃi「breath」, u:「ki「bucket」, ku:「ga「egg」, ?i:「bi「finger」, 「ju:tʃi「four」, 「tʃinʃi「knee」, ?en「tʃu「mouse」, ha:「i「needle」, ha:「ja「pillar」, n:「tʃa「soil」, ti:「ra「sun」, ku:「ga「testicles」, ka:「mi「turtle」, ho:「mi「vagina」, na:「ka「middle, inside」, ?u:「ʃi「mortar」, ju:「ru「night」, ?e:

³ This is written as 力一「 [ka:'] in the dictionary on p.66. However, two-mora words with final-rising pitch are OO「, but not O「O (see Uchima and Nohara 2006: xxiv). *ka:'* is possibly a typo.

		「ku ‘oar’, ?an「ra ‘oil’, ti:「tʃi ‘one’, na:「bi ‘pan; pot’, ka:「gi ‘shade’, 「mu:tʃi ‘six’, mu:「ku ‘son-in-law’, ſi:「fi ‘soot’, u:「dʒi ‘sugar cane’, ?ut 「tu ‘younger sibling/one’, ſi:「dʒa ‘elder’,
	LHH	ku「sui ‘drug’, ći「dʒai ‘left’, ma「kai ‘rice bowl’, ma「ja: ‘cat’, ći「tʃe: ‘forehead’, ka「gan ‘mirror’, ga「dʒaN ‘mosquito’, gu「te: ‘strength’, ?a 「tʃa: ‘tomorrow’, tʃi「nu: ‘yesterday’, ?it「ta: ‘you (pl.)’
OOO「	LLL-H	ɸuri:「 ‘lightning’,

Tetramoraic

Phonemic	Phonetic	Example
「OOOO atonic	HHHH	「jugakiti ‘evening’, 「ji:kkwa ‘nephew’, 「tembusu ‘navel’, 「ći:bi: ‘everyday’,
3rd-mora rising	LLHH	çiti「miti ‘morning’, ?atu「kata ‘trace’, kuku「nutʃi ‘nine’, sak「kwi: ‘cough’, ut「ti: ‘day before yesterday’, ?e:「dʒu: ‘friend’, ći:「dʒa: ‘goat’, tam「me: ‘grandfather’, pa:「pa: ‘grandmother’, mi:「mi: ‘hole’, jam「me: ‘illness’, ?am「ma: ‘mother’, mi:「kkwa ‘niece’, ka:「ga: ‘shadow’, tʃo: 「re: ‘sibling’, ku:「ba: ‘spider’, sa:「ta: ‘sugar’, ?i:「tʃu: ‘thread’, nu:「ri: ‘throat’, wat「ta: ‘we’, ni:「se: ‘youth’, ba:「tʃi: ‘aunt’, tʃo:「re: ‘siblings’, gu:「san ‘cane’, mi:「nara ‘tear’, kan「nai ‘thunder’, me:「natʃi ‘everyday’, waŋ「kuru ‘myself’, udʒa「sa: ‘uncle’, uba「ma: ‘aunt’, wara「ba: ‘child’, ?utu「ge: ‘chin’, gara「sa: ‘crow’, tuʃi「?wi: ‘elder’, ?uɸu「tʃu: ‘adult’, waka「mun ‘youth’,
final rising	LLLH	?mme:「fi ‘chopsticks’,

other longer words -----

- 「OOOOO 「kuʃinagani ‘back of body’, 「?ukuigata ‘funeral’
 OOoo「O jinaguŋ「gwa ‘daughter’, jikigaŋ「gwa ‘son’
 OOO「oo ?atabi「tʃa: ‘frog’, karadʒi「gi: ‘hair of head’, ?amamu「ti: ‘yonder?’
 OOO「OO haʃiru「gutʃi ‘door; lodging’, jikiga「?uja ‘father’
 oooo「oo ?a:ke:「dʒu: ‘dragonfly’
 Ooo「oo ?uke:「me: ‘rice porridge’
 O「oooo ?u「ɸumʃma: ‘aunt’,

jikigawara「bi ‘son’