Motivating the prosodic hierarchy in Itunyoso Triqui

Christian DiCanio University at Buffalo cdicanio@buffalo.edu

Triqui languages

- 3 major language variants with limited mutual intelligibility.
- All complex tone languages within the Mixtecan family.
- Average distance between the major Triqui regions is ~5 km, but it is very mountainous terrain with large elevation differences.

HOACÁN



Genetic affiliation (Otomanguean: Eastern)



Scientific questions

- Prosodic phrasing is often motivated by variable suprasegmental phenomena (pitch, lengthening, phonation type, etc) in different languages (Bennett and Elfner, 2019).
- Given the extremely high functional load of suprasegmental contrasts within words in Otomanguean languages, such variable phenomena are much harder to examine (DiCanio and Bennett, 2020). Though, domains within the *tonal phonology* may be revealing.
- Can we motivate *some sort of* prosodic hierarchy in Triqui?

Status of my scholarship on Itunyoso Triqui

- 2004 2008 Dissertation research, focus on phonetics and phonology of tone/phonation/length.
- 2009 2014 Post-doctoral research (France, US), focus on perception of tone, phonation; tonal coarticulation
- 2014 2019 NSF DLI/DEL documentation grant, focus on text collection, transcription, morphophonology, and prosody
- 2020 2022 Continued focus on translation and documentation; UB Humanities institute grant
- 2023 present Focus on reference grammar; NEH fellowship grant
- 2004 present The Triqui-Spanish dictionary

Roadmap

- **1. Final stress and motivating the iambic foot** with evidence from distributional asymmetries and foot-level phonological processes.
- 2. Iambic foot with unfooted extrametrical syllables on the left edge that constitute a **prosodic word** (cf. Hernández Mendoza, 2017, in Chicahuaxtla Triqui), with evidence from tonal distribution, tonal morphophonology, and speech reduction.
- 3. Prosodic word compounds as a domain for the phonological phrase?

Phonetic possibilities are functionally limited

- 9 lexical tones (5 levels, 4 contours) that are also heavily used in the morphology. There is **little space for shifting F0.**
- Half of Triqui morphemes end with open syllables and half end with coda glottal consonants. These are often realized with non-modal phonation. There is **little space for shifting voice quality.**
- Duration is the main cue used by speakers and listeners in distinguishing CV: and CV?/CVh syllables (DiCanio, 2012, 2014). There is **little space for shifting duration.**
- There is *stem*-final and utterance-final lengthening, but **no noticeable change to tones in different prosodic positions** and **no declination** (DiCanio and Hatcher, 2018).

Syllable duration by word and utterance position



II. Final stress

Final syllable lengthening and utterance-final lengthening

/ĥ/

no coda

(DiCanio and Hatcher 2018)

Tone in monosyllables and disyllables

 $\beta\beta\beta eh^{(3)5}$ $\beta\beta e^4$ () nne³ () nne² nne¹ ()))nne³² nne³¹ t∫e⁴³ ⁿga¹³

t∫i³?joh⁵ 'straw mat / petate' ka³to⁴ 'hair / pelo' na³ra³ 'plough / arado' $a^2m\tilde{a}^2$ 'to lie / mentir' na¹ka¹ 'naked / desnudo' $a^{3}\beta i^{32}$ 'water / agua' $a^3 n \tilde{i}^1$ 'meat / carne' $a^4 ne^{43}$ 'my father / mi padre' $k\tilde{a}^1?\tilde{a}^3$ 'when (SUBORD) / cuando'

'swamp / ciénaga' 'shirt / camisa' 'refill / rellenar' 'when / cuando' 'new / nuevo' 'leave / salir' 'explode / estallar' 'chew / masticar' 'four (N) / cuatro'

())) $\left(\right)$ ())

Morphological load of tone

- Sole exponent for **verbal aspect**
- Exponent for 1s, 1p clitics

t∫a⁴³ t∫a² PERF.eat t∫ah⁴ PERF.eat.1s t fo $?^4$ PERF.eat.1p t∫ah³ PERF.eat.TOP t∫a?⁴

PERF.eat.EMPH

tja⁻ POT.eat t∫ah¹ POT.eat.1s t∫o?² POT.eat.1p

t∫ah²³ POT.eat.TOP

t∫a?²⁴ POT.eat.OPT

 Exponent of topical and emphatic/optative marking

Tonal contrasts by final syllable type

Table 5: Tonal patterns on disyllabic words

	Open σ		Coda /ɦ/		Coda /?/	
4.4			t∫a ⁴ t∫iĥ ⁴	`tarantula'	a^4t Jĩ? ⁴	`we pass'
4.43	$a^4 t \int \tilde{t} t^{43}$	`to pass'				
3.45			a ³ t∫ĩĥ ⁴⁵	`to ask for'		
3.4	${ m ti}^3 { m t}$ ĩ ${ m t}^4$	`to roast'	ti ³ kih ⁴	`to shove in'	a ³ t∫ĩ? ⁴	`we ask'
3.3	a ³ t∫ĩr ³	`to lack'	a ³ t∫iĥ ³	`to grow'	a³t∫ĩ?³	`to bury'
3.2	ta ³ ?ŋgor ²	`each'	t∫a ³ t∫iĥ ²	`sheep'		
3.1	$ka^3 t$ ir ¹	`hip'	$k^{w}e^{3}$?nifi ¹	`Wednesday'	$si^3si?^1$	`sweet (N)'
3.43	ka ³ stir ⁴³	`oil'				
3.32	ti ³ nix ³²	`nopal cactus'				
2.3	$nu^2m\tilde{r}^3$	`tied'	$ru^2m\tilde{i}h^3$	`bored'	ta ² ka? ³	`bent'
2.2	ku ² rãx ²	`clear'	t∫i²kofi²	`jealous'	ka²ra?²	`wide'
2.32	$ma^2 rex^{32}$	`green'				
1.3	ja ¹ kor ³	`poor'	nu ¹ k ^w ah ³	`hard, strong'		
1.1	ka ¹ si ¹	`white'	ni¹t∫iĥ¹	`fried'	ni¹t∫ũ?¹	`near'

DiCanio et al 2020

Moraic structure and leftward tonal association

- Final syllables are bimoraic.
- In most morphemes, the penultimate syllable tone is predictable based on <u>the</u> <u>final tone</u>. Tones *associate* to penultimate syllables.
- This is argued for *all* Triqui languages (DiCanio 2008, DiCanio et al 2020, Hernández Mendoza 2017, Hollenbach 1984).



Leftward association convention:

Assign a tone or tone contour, right to left, starting on the rightmost mora (tone-bearing unit) of the word and then associate the leftmost tone in the word to all preceding moras within the word.

(DiCanio et al 2020)



Final stress – lots of evidence (but not just phonetic)

• **Phonetic evidence**: stem-final syllables are longer than preceding syllables within the morpheme (DiCanio 2010, DiCanio and Hatcher 2018).

• Phonological evidence:

- 1. Nasal vowels only occur in final syllables.
- 2. Glottal consonants only occur in final syllables.
- 3. Prenasalized stops only occur in final syllables.
- 4. Full tonal contrasts (all 9 tones) only occur in final syllables.
- 5. Final syllables license contrasts in pre-final (non-final) syllables.
- Virtually identical properties are found throughout Triqui languages (DiCanio, 2008, 2010, 2016; DiCanio et al., 2020; Elliott et al., 2016; Hollenbach, 1984; Hernández Mendoza, 2017).

What about other units?



III. Foot structure

- What type of foot parsing might be possible?
- Evidence comes from three sources:
 - a) high tone /4/ is restricted to the foot
 - b) Spanish loanword adaptation
 - c) variable deletion or shortening of extrametrical vowels
- Possible analyses:
 - 1) No feet
 - 2) Iterative Iambic feet
 - 3) Non-iterative iambic feet

(a) The distribution of high tones is limited to the foot

- Tones on most pre-tonic syllables *mostly* result from leftward association from the final stressed syllable.
- This predicts high tone /4/ will spread leftward across the word, but it **does not**. Instead, we get tone /3/ as a default here.

Table: Absence of tone /4/ on antepenults

Underlying tone	Surface tonal melody	Predicted tonal melody	Gloss
at∫ini ⁴³	a ³ t∫i ⁴ ni ⁴³	$a^4 t \int i^4 n i^{43}$	'to get drunk'
t∫ukuti ⁴³	t∫u ³ ku ⁴ ti ⁴³	*t∫u ⁴ ku ⁴ ti ⁴³	'basket (canasta)'
${ m tuk^w}$ ã ${ m ?}$ ãh ⁴	${ m tu}^3{ m k}^{ m w}{ m {\tilde a}}^4{ m ?{\tilde a}h}^4$	$tu^4 k^w \tilde{a}^4 ? \tilde{a} h^4$	'pitchfork'
kroh ³² tukutah ⁴	k:oh ³² tu ³ ku ⁴ tah ⁴	$*k:oh^{32} tu^4ku^4tah^4$	'fern' (plant + fern)
kasiti ⁴³	$ka^{3}si^{4}ti^{43}$	$*ka^4si^4ti^{43}$	'oil' < Sp. <i>aceite</i>
$skaleta^{43}$	$\mathrm{ska}^{3}\mathrm{le}^{4}\mathrm{ta}^{43}$	$ska^4 le^4 ta^{43}$	'bicycle' < Sp. <i>bicicleta</i>

(b) Spanish loanwords

• Words from Spanish with penultimate stress are almost always borrowed with tone /43/ on the final syllable and tone /4/ on the penult.

Spanish	Triqui	
pera ['pera]	pe ⁴ ra ⁴³	'pear'
<i>queso</i> ['keso]	ke ⁴ su ⁴³	'cheese'

• Words from Spanish with *final* stress are borrowed with tone /43/ on the final syllable but tone /3/ on the penult.

Spanish		Triqui	Triqui		
cartón	[kar'ton]	ka ³ rtũ ⁴³	'cardboard'		
camión	[ka ^l mjon]	ka ³ mjũ ⁴³	'truck'		

• But there is a strong preference for loanwords to be disyllabic.

What about words with more than 2 syllables?

Spanish name	Triqui loanword	Gloss
[fer'nando]	na ⁴ ndox ⁴³	Fernando
[flo'rensja]	$le^4nt\int ax^{43}$	Florencia
[te'resa]	re^4sax^{43}	Teresa
[apo'lonjo]	lo^4 nix 43	Apolonio
[mar'tin]	$eta a^3$ tix 43	Martín
$[isa'\beta el]$	$\mathrm{sa}^{3}\mathrm{etaes}^{43}$	Isabél
[natißi'ðad]	$ti^3 tax^{43}$	Natividad

• Longer words are shortened to a two syllable-sized unit.

What about words with one syllable?

Table: Spanish loanwords with final epenthesis or lengthening

Spanish word	Triqui Ioanword	Gloss
par [par]	pa ³ ri ¹	'pair'
dios [djos]	$tjo^3 sir^1 \sim tjo^4 sir^{43}$	'god, deity'
arroz $[a'ros]$	ro^3sir^1	'rice'
rey [rej]	$re^4.ix^{43}$	'king'

• Shorter words are **lengthened** to two syllables.

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An iambic template for loanwords

- There is a strong tendency for loanwords to satisfy a 2 syllable, iambic template.
- Similar templatic structure is suggestive of foot-based units in languages like Japanese (Poser 1990).

(c) Variable deletion and reduction of extrametrical (pre-penultimate) vowels

• In many Triqui varieties, there is a general pattern whereby pre-tonic vowels are lost.

ltunyoso	Chicahuaxtla	Copala	Gloss
t∫u ³ k ^w ah ⁵	∫u ³ k ^w a ⁵³	∫k ^w a ⁵	'snake'
t∫a ³ .ĩx ³	$\int a^3.$ ix ³	$\int \tilde{1} x^3$	'mosquito'
$ m ru^1m\tilde{r}^1$	ru ¹ mĩ: ³	rmĩx ¹	'lazy'
$\beta x eh^{5}$	wxe ⁵³	$ju^{3}\beta e^{5}$	'petate'
$\mathrm{t}\mathrm{:}\mathrm{uh}^{5}$	tu^{53}	$\mathrm{i}^3\mathrm{tu}^5$	'knot'
$^{2}\beta i^{1}$	[?] wi ³²	$ju^{3?}\beta e^1$	'raw'

Causative prefix /tu³-/ in an antepenult before /k- $a^{3}\beta i ?^{3}/$ 'to die.'



Extrametrical vowels (in antepenults) are variably deleted and reduced more than penults are.

The vowel in /tu³-/ is almost gone here.



The same prefix is not reduced in $/tu^3-t\int a^{43} = neh^3/$ CAUS-eat = 3P 'They made (her) eat...'

This is now a disyllabic stem.

Time (s)

Antepenults are shorter than penults in 1 hr spontaneous speech (just about 200 trisyllabic words) (p < .05).



All these pieces of evidence converge



- The evidence here converges on a two syllable unit being important in Triqui prosody
 - An iambic foot is the domain of high tone /4/
 - Spanish loanwords are preferably borrowed as single iambic feet.
 - Antepenults are reduced or deleted more than penults are.
- In addition to suggesting that Triqui words are mostly iambic feet, it seems like antepenults are *extrametrical*.

IV. Evidence for the prosodic word

- Prefixation can generate words with up to four syllables in Itunyoso Triqui. How are such syllables parsed on the left edge of the foot?
- The prosodic word is the domain of three types of tonal processes related to Triqui morphology.
 - a) The prosodic word is the domain of possessed stems and **two** stem-level tonal changes associated with *nominal stem formation*.
 - b) The prosodic word is the domain of aspect-marked verbs and tonal changes associated with *aspectual prefixation*.

a. Nominal possession

- (4) si³-ka³tofi⁵
 POSS'D-shirt.1s
 'my shirt.'
- (5) $si^3-ka^3to^4=\tilde{u}h^3$ POSS'D-shirt=3F

'her shirt.'

(6) si³-ka³to⁴ sĩ?³
POSS'D-shirt child
'the child's shirt.'

- Alienably-possessed nouns require a possessed prefix /si³-/.
- This prefix is required regardless of whether the possessor is an *endoclitic* (4), an *enclitic* (5), or a separate noun phrase (6).

Prefix-conditioned tone changes

Root	Possessed stem	Gloss	
ka ³ si? ³	si ³ -ka ² si? ³	'honey'	• This prefix
ku ³ ruh ³	si ³ -ku ² ruh ³	'large pot'	conditions tone
$na^3s\tilde{i}^3$	si^3 -na ² sĩ ³	'tomato'	changes on roots
rã ³ ?ã ³	si^3 -r \tilde{a}^2 ? \tilde{a}^3	'mushroom'	With tone $/3/$ or $/32/$.
$t \int o^{32}$	si ³ -t∫o ²	'comal/griddle'	• Tone /3/ > 2.3
$\rm kk^w eh^{32}$	$\rm si^3$ - $\rm k^w eh^2$	'quelite/edible green'	
ti ³ ni ³²	si^3 - ti^2ni^2	'nopal/edible cactus'	• Tone $(32) > 2$
$ru^3 ne^{32}$	si^3 -ru ² ne ²	'beans'	$\sim 10 \text{IIC} / 52 / \sim 2$
$se^{3}?eh^{2}$	$si^3-se^2?eh^2$	'ring'	



Representation of possessed stems as prosodic words with stem tonal alternations. The underlying roots do not show the output of the leftward tonal association rule. Thus, non-final syllables in roots are tonally-unspecified.

Prefixed stems as the domain of low tone spreading



Low tone spreading applies across not just morphemes, but prefixed nouns where tone /3/ is absorbed (DiCanio, 2008; DiCanio et al., 2020).

What is the domain here?

- It could be the *nominal stem*, but that's a morphological domain and not strictly-speaking a phonological one.
- It could also be a phonological domain like the **prosodic word**.

b. Verbal aspect marking as a prosodic domain

• Vowel-initial verbs take a /k-/ prefix for aspect marking and consonantinitial verbs take a /kV-/ prefix. Note the **potential aspect tone**.

Class	Root	Gloss	Potential form	Perfective form
V-initial	$a^3 ni^3$	'to expel'	ka^2ni^3	ka ³ ni ³
V-initial	a ³ t∫i ³	'to peel'	$ka^2t \int i^3$	ka ³ t∫i ³
V-initial	$\mathrm{u}^3\mathrm{t}\tilde{\mathrm{a}}^3$	'to suck'	$ m ku^2 t { ilde a}^3$	${ m ku}^{3}{ m t}{ m { ilde a}}^{3}$
C-initial	t∫i ³ ?i ⁴	'to defecate'	ka²-t∫i³?i⁴	ka³-t∫i³?i⁴
C-initial	ni^3kah^2	'to carry'	ki^2 - ni^3kah^2	ki ³ -ni ³ kah ²
C-initial	$ta^3\beta i^{32}$	'to ascend'	ki^2 - $ta^3\beta i^{32}$	ki^3 - $ta^3\beta i^{32}$

Overwrite with the potential aspect tone

Certain verbs undergo *complete tonal overwrite* with potential aspect tone /2/ (DiCanio 2023)

Root	Gloss	Potential form	Perfective form
a ³ t∫ih ³	'to grow'	ka^2t jih ²	ka ³ t∫ih ³
$a^4 t \int \tilde{i}^{43}$	'to pass by'	$\mathrm{ka}^2\mathrm{t}\mathrm{J}\widetilde{\mathrm{i}}^2$	$\mathrm{ka}^4\mathrm{t}\mathrm{J}\widetilde{\mathrm{i}}^{43}$
u ⁴ t∫ũh ⁴	'to smell'	ku²t∫ũh²	ku ⁴ t∫ũh ⁴
$t \int u^4 m \tilde{a}^{43}$	'to help'	ku²-t∫u²mã²	ku³-t∫u⁴mã ⁴³
$\mathrm{na^3ri^3y}\widetilde{\mathrm{u}^3}$	'to measure'	${ m ki}^2$ -n ${ m a}^2$ ri 2 y ${ m \widetilde{u}}^2$	ki ³ -na ³ ri ³ yũ3
?na? ³	'to come'	ka^2 -?na? ²	ka ³ -?na? ³
${ m n}{ ilde{ m a}}{ m h}^5$	'to wash'	ki^2 -nã h^2	${ m ki}^3$ -n ${ m a}{ m h}^5$



Prosodic representation of /na⁴tuh⁴/ 'to fall' with potential aspect prefixation. Note that there is no underlying tone on the penult of the verb stem here, as the penult receives its tonal assignment via leftward tonal association when no potential prefix is present.

Parallelism across prefixed words

- Note the parallelism here between (a) nominal prefixation and tonal changes on stems and (b) verbal prefixation and tonal changes on stems.
- Both involves processes which overwrite roots with a low tone.
- The domain here could be disyllabic, trisyllabic, or quadrisyllabic.
- This appears to be a prosodic domain like the **prosodic word**.



In a trisyllabic root like $/t \int u^3 t \int u^4 \beta a^{43} /$ 'peanut', there would be two extrametrical syllables.

Summary of evidence for prosodic structure

	Phonetics	Segmental phonology	Tonal phonology	Structural
Stress	Lengthening	Maximal contrast	Maximal contrast and tonal licensing	
lambic foot	No reduction	Minimal contrast	Tone /4/ licensed	Frequent template
Prosodic word	Extrametrical reduction	Minimal contrast	Domain of prefixal morphophonology	

Returning to our hypotheses

- Possible analyses:
 - 1) No feet
 - 2) Iterative Iambic feet

3) Non-iterative iambic feet $(\sigma_{\mu\mu}), (\sigma_{\mu}\sigma_{\mu\mu}), \sigma_{\mu}(\sigma_{\mu}\sigma_{\mu\mu}), \sigma_{\mu}\sigma_{\mu}(\sigma_{\mu}\sigma_{\mu\mu})$

• Itunyoso Triqui has final iambic feet, but **stem formation processes** occur on prosodic words which may be longer.

V. Discussion

- What about phonological words? Are there higher levels still?
 - Yes, "compounds" fall into this group, but they have a quirk in Triqui/Mixtecan they must be two prosodic words.
- What about pronominal clitics?
 - Endoclitics fall within the domain of the prosodic word, but enclitics may comprise an intermediate domain higher than the prosodic word.

Aside from these categories, there does not seem to be much phonological or phonetic evidence for higher level prosodic parsing.



Figure: The cliticized word in Itunyoso Triqui. Example is /ki³-na⁴tufi⁴=sifi³/ PERF-fall=3M 'he fell.'



(7) ki³-na³ri?³=t∫uh³ ^ŋgo² tu³k^wa⁴ t∫u³tã³ ni³ko?¹ t∫a³¹ t∫xũ³ PERF-look.for=ANIM one house.of bee hang head tree
 'The animal looked for a beehive hanging from the tree branch.'

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Conclusions

- Most arguments for a prosodic hierarchy lean heavily on variable processes found in non-tonal languages, e.g. relative prominence. That's just not available in complex tone languages.
- The hierarchy here is not modulated by variable processes involving pitch given its high functional load in the language.
- The prosodic hierarchy in Itunyoso Triqui is best motivated by examining the locus of phonological contrast (cf. Harris, 1997), phonetic domains of reduction, and the relation between phonological and morphophonological processes related to tone.

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 $ku^{2}ru^{4}a^{43}a^{3}ni^{2}ih^{5}re^{1}!$

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Appendix 1: How big can words get?

- Most roots (~65%) are disyllabic in the language. About 8-10% are trisyllabic.
- Up to two prefixes (each a CV syllable) may occur on verbs an aspect marker preceding the verb root; and an iterative or causative prefix before this.
- Only one prefix may precede nouns that marking POSSESSED status.
- With enclitics, words can be up to 6 syllables, but this is rare in actual speech.

- (1) $ku^3 tu^3 t\int u^{3?}\beta i ?^3 = sih^3 = \tilde{u}h^3$ PERF-CAUS-be.afraid = 3M = 3F'He scared her.'
- (2) $na^3-ru^3n\tilde{u}^4 = \tilde{u}h^3 \beta e^{23}$ ITER-paint = 3F house 'She repainted the house.'
- (3) (ki^2) -na²-ru³nũ⁴ = ũh³ βe?³ (POT)-ITER-paint = 3F house 'She will repaint the house.'

Appendix 2: Compounds as two prosodic words

Compounds involve two prosodic words. They are always headinitial and often the modifier undergoes tonal replacement to tone /2/.

Compound	Gloss	Tone-changing compound	Gloss
t∫a ³¹ ti ³ si ³	'nipple'	t∫a ³ kah ⁵ krih ²	'wild boar'
$t\int a^{31} + ti^3 si^3$		t∫a ³ kah ⁵ + kıih ³	
`head/point' + `breast'		'pig' + 'mountainside'	
t∫u ³ k ^w ah ⁵ stu ³ ku ³²	'coral snake'	t∫u ³ k ^w aĥ ⁵ t∫i ² ri? ²	'gray beetle'
t∫u ³ k ^w aĥ ⁵ + stu ³ ku ³²		t∫u ³ k ^w ah ⁵ + t∫i ³ ri? ³	w/red stripes'
'snake/critter' + 'jewelry'		<pre>'snake/critter' + 'intestines'</pre>	



Figure: A nominal syntactic compound with tone lowering (to /2/) in Itunyoso Triqui – an example of a phonological word. Here, the word $/t \int u^3 k^w a f^5 t \int i^2 r i r^2/t dr^2 r dr^2/t dr^2 r dr^2/t dr$