

EFFECTS AND FUNCTIONS OF EPENTHESIS IN THE TIV PHONOLOGY

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Abstract

A phonological process of inserting sounds into words is not foreign to the speakers of the Tiv language because of the introduction of loan-words into the Tiv language. These English loan-words brought vowel and consonant insertions. The objectives of this paper are to: classify epenthesis; discuss the effects of epenthesis on the Tiv syllabic structures; state the functions of epenthesis in Tiv Language and formulate epenthetic rules in Tiv phonology. The paper adopts Generative Phonological Theory which was popularized by Chomsky and Halle (1968) which marked the emergence of generative phonology as a new theory and framework of description. It has been observed that insertion occurred mostly in loan-words and the reason is for easing the pronunciation of such borrowed words. It is therefore recommended that Tiv language be taught to students at primary, secondary and tertiary institutions so that they will know when to insert sounds. Epenthesis is not a phonological 'crime' but it is a way of breaking the consonant clusters.

Keywords: Anaptyxis, excrescence, epenthesis, loan-words, paragoge, phonology and prothesis

Introduction

Tiv, a member of the Bantoid subgroup of Benue-Congo spoken in the North-central geopolitical zone of Nigeria, particularly in Benue State has rules that it obeys. These rules are found in all the levels of linguistic analysis. We have phonological, graphological, morphological, syntactic and semantic rules. Epenthesis is a phonological process and the phonology of any language has several rules that govern it. Sounds are not randomly used. They have to follow certain conventions or rules. Rules are part of every speaker's linguistic competence. A phonological rule is a formal way of expressing a systematic phonological or morphological process or diachronic sound change in a language. Goldsmith (1995) defines phonological rules as mappings between two different levels of sound presentation. Phonological rules simply mean the system of writing, using formal notation, which allows linguists to express how to pronounce or articulate words phonologically.

Chomsky and Halle (1968:169, 359-61) discuss assimilation, dissimilation, elision, metathesis and epenthesis. They observe that the 'entire phonetic segments, absent from classificatory matrices because of the predictability, are inserted by the phonological rules into the appropriate positions in phonetic representations.' Epenthetic vowels in Tiv provide case in point. Parasitic vowels are inserted for plurality, as a strategy for remedying hiatus and for breaking consonant clusters. The thrust of this paper is to: classify epenthesis; discuss the effects of epenthesis on the Tiv syllabic structures; state the functions of epenthesis in Tiv Language and formulate epenthetic rules in Tiv phonology.

Conceptual Clarification and Review of related Literature

According to McArthur & Knowles (1992:376), the word ‘epenthesis’ was derived in seventeenth century through Latin from Greek *epenthesis* which means ‘putting in.’ McArthur & Knowles (1992:376) and Fasold & Connor-Linton (2006:501) define it as ‘the insertion of a sound or letter into a word or phrase.’ Bussmann (1998:370) defines epenthesis as an ‘insertion of transitional sounds without etymological motivation.’ According to Matthews (2003:278), epenthesis is a process or change in which successive sounds are separated by an intervening segment. Trask (2005:132) opines that epenthesis is the ‘the insertion of a segment into a word in a position in which no segment was previously present.’ Crystal (2006:171) refers to an epenthesis as a ‘term used in phonetics and phonology to refer to a type of intrusion, where an extra sound has been inserted in a word; often subclassified into prothesis and anaptyxis. Epenthetic sounds are common both in historical change and in connected speech.

Yule (2007:220) avers that epenthesis is an addition of sound to the middle of a word. Similarly, Richards and Schmidt (2010:199) substantiate that epenthesis is ‘the addition of a vowel or consonant at the beginning of a word or between sounds.’ Ladefoged and John (2010:306) define epenthesis as ‘the insertion of one or more sounds in the middle of a word.’ O’ Grady, Archibald and Katamba (2011:51) simply say an epenthesis is a process that inserts a syllabic segment within an existing string of segments. O’ Grady, Archibald and Katamba (2011:279) state that epenthesis involves insertion of a consonant or vowel into a particular environment. According to Katamba, epenthesis may occur in a variety of environments: intervocally, interconsonantly, word or syllable initially and word or syllable finally. The above definitions show that epenthesis involves the addition of a letter at the beginning of a word, middle or at the end of a word. These vowels and consonants can be added to make pronunciation easier. Bussmann identifies two types of epenthesis in his definition – prothesis and anaptyxis. Ladefoged and John only identify anaptyxis as a type of insertion. This definition of epenthesis is not comprehensive enough to capture this phenomenon in all ramifications. Yule’s definition, too, is not complete. It only dwells on anaptyxis (addition of medial vowels) or excrescence (insertion of consonants). Some linguists restrict the term epenthesis to consonant insertion, while others restrict it to word-medial position. Epenthesis is also called intrusion or insertion.

Walker (2005:294) opines that epenthesis, too, designates a variety of phenomena involving the insertion of both vowels and consonants. Walker (2005:295) attests that syncope and epenthesis, as characteristic of deletion and insertion in general, are directly involved with a wide variety of central phonological issues. He maintains that syncope and epenthesis are relevant to considerations of syllable structure and phonotactic constraints in general, of the rhythmic properties of speech, rule naturalness, and the use of phonetic explanations in phonology, and no doubt others. As such, the two processes merit wide-ranging and detailed attention.

Daly & Martin (1972:606) state that rules of epenthesis are used to introduce consonants, semi-vowels, and vowels either as phonological markers of syntactic information or as purely phonological phenomena. Kim & Kochetov (2011:551) investigate acoustic properties of epenthetic vowels used in the adaptation of English loanwords with final obstruents in Korean. Sabao (2015:122) examines vowel hiatus resolution strategies in (isi)Ndebele, through the theoretical explications of Optimality Theory (OT) and CV Phonology. Etakwa, Akidah &

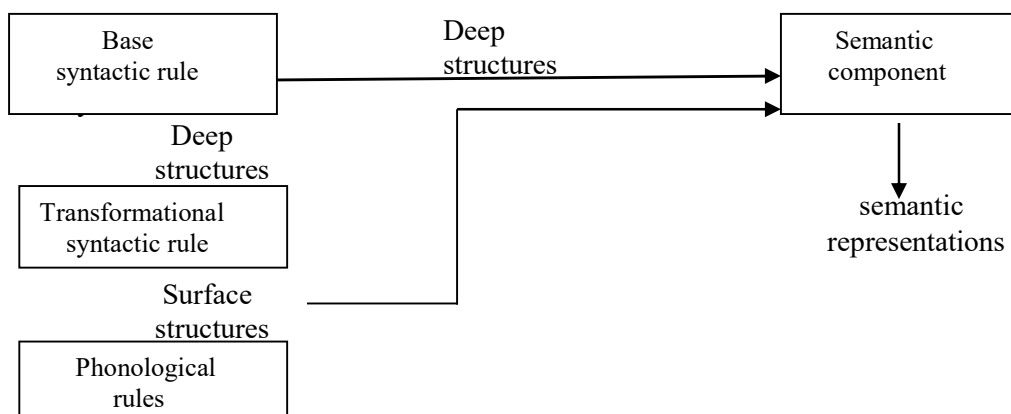
Mukhwana (2018:69) identify epenthesis and prosthesis in Olutura as strategies for resolving hiatus. Generally, the foregoing has shown that epenthesis is judiciously used to repair vowel hiatus.

Kwambeh (2014:51) has identified three primary strategies for the resolution of hiatus in Tiv which include assimilation, vowel elision and diphthong formation. He has demonstrated how the three strategies could be used to resolve hiatus via a constraint based theory technically called the Optimality Theory. His study did not mention epenthesis as a hiatus resolution. However, Kwambeh (2014:52) maintained that the identification of another strategy by other scholars in subsequent studies may form the bases for further research on hiatus resolution strategies in the language.

Generative Phonological Theory

The 1960s saw discontent with orthodox phonemics in North America. A series of publications by Halle (1959, 1962, 1964), a vigorous attack by Chomsky (1964) on phonemics and structuralist linguistics in general, Postal (1968), and a large-scale treatment of English phonology jointly authored by Chomsky and Halle (1968) marked the emergence of generative phonology as a new theory and framework of description.

Clark, Yallop & Fletcher (2007:134) state that Generative Phonology belonged to a new school of linguistics, transformational-generative theory. Those who embraced this theory were critical of prevalent interests, particularly in North America and Chomsky himself accused his ‘structuralist’ predecessors of undue concern with inventories of elements and a classificatory or ‘taxonomic’ approach to linguistic analysis. Instead, linguistic description ought to aim to construct a grammar that would ‘generate’ linguistic forms. The phonological of such a grammar would be a set of phonological rules applying to the underlying forms of the language and yielding surface phonetic representations. Orthodox generative phonology is part of a model of language (more strictly a model of ‘linguistic competence’) which proposes the underlying representations are converted into surface representations by the application of rules. The model shows phonology as a component ‘fed’ by a syntactic component that generates grammatical sequences of the language.



Phonetic representations

Figure 1: Clark, Yallop & Fletcher's (2007:409) Generative Model of Grammar

These grammatical structures are complete with lexical items and reflect the grammatical rules of the language. The lexical items in surface structures bring with them their underlying phonological representation in the form of feature matrices. The surface structures serve as input to the phonological representations and to their syntactic and phonological context generate a phonetic representation.

Chomsky & Halle (1968/1991:238) classified rules into the rules of the readjustment component and the phonological rules. The former apply before any of the phonological rules. They express properties of lexical formatives in certain restricted syntactic contexts, and they modify syntactically generated surface structures in a variety of ways. The phonological rules are organised in a transformational cycle. A considerable number of phonological rules, however, are limited so that they apply in the cycle only when the level of word boundary has been reached. We have called the latter 'rule of word-level phonology.'

- a. $\emptyset \longrightarrow e / C ___ \left[\begin{array}{l} - \text{syllabic} \\ + \text{syllable} \end{array} \right]_{\text{word}}$
- b. $\emptyset \longrightarrow e / [Co ___ C]_{\text{word}}$

Figure 2: Hayes' (2009:238): Sonorant Cluster Epenthesis

Furthermore, O'Grady, Archibald & Katamba (2011:103) state that schwa /ə/ should be inserted after just liquid [l] and the insertion of schwa /ə/ after both [l] and [r] as in:

- c. $\emptyset \longrightarrow [ə] / [+lateral] ___ \left[\begin{array}{l} - \text{syllabic} \\ + \text{consonantal} \end{array} \right]_{\sigma}$
- d. $\emptyset \longrightarrow / [ə] / \left[\begin{array}{l} + \text{consonantal} \\ + \text{coronal} \\ - \text{sonorant} \\ - \text{nasal} \end{array} \right] ___ \left[\begin{array}{l} - \text{syllabic} \\ + \text{consonantal} \end{array} \right]_{\sigma}$

Figure 3: Schwa Epenthesis in English as a rule

The approach to phonology represented by *Sound Patterns of English (SPE)*, taken as a formal apparatus of description, scarcely survived in the 1970s; but the concept of generative model of phonology and assumption that theory must be expressed in explicitly formal terms amount to a still powerful tradition. Clark, Yallop & Fletcher (2007:134) affirmed that 'many phonologies still proclaim themselves generativist, and, in that sense, the spirit of *SPE* lives on.'

Classification of Epenthesis in Tiv

Epenthesis is broadly classified into four types depending on its position in a word. These are prothesis, anaptyxis, excrescence and paragoge. Etymologically, prothesis is a derivation from two Greek words: *pro-* means 'before' and *thesis* refers to 'placing'. Prothesis is the insertion of sound at the beginning of words without changing the word's meaning. The insertion of *i* and *u* changes singular words to plural words. These words are *pyaven* ~ *upyaven* (division or divisions), *mita* ~ *umita* (metre or metres), *sentimita* ~ *usentimita* (centimetre or centimetres), *erdo* ~ *uerdo*

(goodness), *kpekpe* ~ *ukpekpe* (wall or walls) and *tempel* ~ *utempel* (temple or temples), *windou* ~ *uwindou* (window or windows) and *gambe* ~ *ugambe* (bed or bed).

Anaptyxis is derived from Greek words *ana-ptusso* meaning ‘unfold, open up, and expand. It means the addition of extra vowel between two consonants (also called *parasitic vowel* or *svarabhakti* /*sværəbækti*/ vowel/ epenthetic vowel). Words with epenthetic vowels are: *Kirimishi* (Christmas), *Igipiti* (Egypt), *bokoti*, (bucket), *tebul* (table), *pelengi* (plate), *kelase* (class), *batisema* (baptism), *mesatadi* (mustard), *Keleopa* (Cleopas) and *Iserael* (Israel). The parasitic vowels identified in the above words are *a*, *e*, *i* and *o*.

Excrescence (or *vyanabhakti* /*vjændʒəbæk*/), derived from Latin words: *ex-* meaning ‘out’ and *crescentia* referring ‘growth.’ It refers to the addition of consonant between other consonants which according to Lyle (2005:4), ‘results in phonetic sequences which are somewhat easier to pronounce than the original clusters.’ In Tiv phonology it is obvious that certain words that do not have *y* /*j*/ consonant are usually articulated with it. The insertion of a consonant between two consonants or between a consonant and a vowel ‘smoothens’ the pronunciation of the words bear them. The phenomenon of excrescent consonant is illustrated below:

Table 1: Insertion of letter y

Words without y	Transcriptions	Epenthetic y	Transcriptions	Glosses
<i>ihwa</i>	[ihwá]	<i>ihywa</i>	[ihjwá]	hour
<i>Kwande</i>	[kwándè]	<i>Kywande</i>	[kjwándè]	name of a LG
<i>iwēn</i>	[iwēn]	<i>iywēn</i>	[ijwēn]	stone
<i>iwanger</i>	[iwàngɛ:]	<i>iywanger</i>	[ijwàngɛ:]	light
<i>iwásen</i>	[iwásèn]	<i>iywásen</i>	[ijwásèn]	help
<i>iwua</i>	[iwua]	<i>iyua</i>	[ijwúá]	gift
<i>iwuese</i>	[iwuese]	<i>iyua</i>	[ijwúésè]	praise

Paragoge is an insertion of a sound (mostly vowels) to the end of a word. Trask (2005:256) says paragoge is the ‘addition of one or more segments to the end of a word. According to Trask (2005:256; 292), paragoge is also called *epithesis*. He further maintains that the addition of a word-final vowel is ‘proparalepsis.’ Matthews (2007:221) sees paragoge as an addition of a sound at the end of a word. A typical example of a consonantal paragoge is an addition of *h*. Also, the commonest paragogic vowels in Tiv language are *u*, *i*, *o* and *a*. Tiv language adds sounds to the end of a loanword when it should otherwise end in a ‘forbidden sound’. Examples of paragogic words are *pristì* (priest), *profetì* (prophet), *Kristu* (Christ), *apostolì* (apostle), *Bibilo* (Bible) and *paradiso* (paradise).

Epenthesis and Loan-words

It is indisputably clear that the domestication of loan-words into the borrowing or recipient languages has in fact resulted in a phonological process tagged epenthesis. This linguistic phenomenon cuts across multitudes of languages including Tiv. It mostly occurs in English loans that are incorporated into Tiv language. There are myriad of loan-words in the *Tiv Holy Bible*. These loans cut across the names of biblical characters, animals, birds, stones, rivers, mountains, countries, cities, villages, books in the Bible; science and technology, Information Communication Technology. Nouns provided main sources of epenthesis in the Tiv language.

Table 2: English Loan-words and Epenthesis in the Tiv language

Sources	Epenthetic Words	Epenthetic Letters	Un-epenthetic Words
Person	<i>Aberaham</i>	[e]	Abraham
Place	<i>Igipiti</i>	[ɪ]	Egypt
Animal	<i>derakon</i>	[e]	dragon
Tree	<i>ouki</i>	[u, ɪ]	oak
Stone	<i>oniki</i>	[ɪ, k]	onyx
River	<i>Uferati</i>	[u, f, e, ɪ]	Euphrates
Book	<i>Upasal[a]mi</i>	[u, a, ɪ]	Psalms
Celebration	<i>Kirimishi</i>	[ɪ]	Christmas
Building	<i>tenti</i>	[ɪ]	tent

From the above table, it has been found out that all types of epenthesis can be identified in Tiv loan words. Prosthetic vowels are found in the short back vowel /u/ as in *Uferati* and *Upasal[a]mi* and short /ɪ/ as in *Igipiti*. The /u/ vowel in two borrowed words marks plurality. That is why the /u/ comes before the stem. It is from this backdrop that the phonology of the Tiv can be said to have prosthesis. The translators of the Tiv Holy Bible tried to maintain some pronunciations as can be seen in the initial letter of *Igipiti*. An English equivalent – Egypt – is transcribed /ɪdʒɪpt/ thus having the same pronunciation.

There are many instances of anaptyctic vowels in the above examples. Parasitic vowels such as /ɪ/, /e/, /æ/ and /ʊ/ are inserted in *oniki*, *derakon*, *ouki* and *Kirimishi*. Excrescence also appears in *derakon*, *oniki* and *Kirimishi*. A voiceless velar nasal /k/ is inserted in the place of a voiced velar nasal /g/. The addition of *h* changes *s* to a voiceless palato-alveolar fricative /ʃ/. Finally, there is a paragogic /ɪ/ in *Igipiti*, *ouki*, *oniki*, *tenti* and so on. English loan words in Tiv do not have additional consonants in the word-final position.

Effects of Epenthesis on Syllabic Structure

Most insertions affect the syllabic structure of the original words. Monosyllables can be change to bisyllables or even trisyllables. Any addition of a sound initially, medially and finally can elongate the already existed word. This can be graphically captured below:

Table 3: English Monosyllables changed to Bisyllables

Monosyllables	Transcription	Bisyllables	Transcriptions
coat	/kəʊt/	<i>koti</i>	/kɔti/
Christ	/kraɪst/	<i>Kristu</i>	/krɪstʊ/
tent	/tent/	<i>tenti</i>	/tenti/
card	/ka:d/	<i>kati</i>	/kæti/
Mark	/ma:k	<i>Marku</i>	/ma:kʊ/

The above table clearly shows that English words have monosyllables whereas their counterparts (loan-words) have two syllables. In other words, words such as *coat* and *Christ* which constitute one syllable initially, become two syllables after epenthesis.

Table 4: English Monosyllables changed to Trisyllables

Monosyllables	Transcriptions	Trisyllables	Transcriptions
ark	/a:k/	areki	/æreki/
plate	/pleit/	pelengi	/peleŋgi/
John	/dʒɒn/	<i>Yohane</i>	/jɔhæne/
James	/dʒeɪmz/	<i>Yakobu</i>	/jækɔbɔ/
onyx	/ɒnɪks/	<i>oniki</i>	/ɒniki/

Table 5: English Bisyllables changed to Trisyllables

Bisyllables	Transcriptions	Trisyllables	Transcriptions
bucket	/bʌkɪt/	<i>bokoti</i>	/bɔkɔti/
doctor	/dɒktə/	<i>dôkutô</i>	/dɔkɔtɔ/
Christian	/krɪstʃən/	<i>Keretu</i>	/keretɔ/

Table 6: English Bisyllables changed to Quadrasyllables

Bisyllables	Transcriptions	Quadrasyllables	Transcriptions
Christmas	/krɪsməs/	<i>Kirimishi</i>	/kɪrɪmɪʃi/
balloon	/bəlu:n/	<i>bolonbolo</i>	/bɔlɔnbɔlɔ/
devil	/devl/	<i>diabolo</i>	/diabɔlɔ/

Furthermore, English loan-words change open syllables to close syllables. A close syllable ends with a consonant while an open syllable ends with a vowel. English words that end with consonants change to vowels when they are borrowed into Tiv language. Examples of these words: priest ~ *pristi*, David ~ *Davidi*, bread ~ *bredi*, Amos ~ *Amoshi*, onyx ~ *oniki*. The insertion of *i* has changed ‘priest’ and ‘bread’ which are monosyllables to bisyllables; David, Amos and onyx which are bisyllables to trisyllables.

Paragogic words may lead to lexical ambiguity. There are vowels that are inserted after a word to change declarative sentences to interrogative sentences. The addition of paragogic vowels may give rise to different meanings. *The Icighan Bibilo* (2017) has the following instances:

- i. ‘*Ka hanma shie je man Ú shi va hen a moo?*’ (Psalm 101:2). ‘O when wilt thou come unto me?’ (St James Version).
- ii. ‘*Iyange nan kaa kwagh u mimi je, yôô?*’ (Isaiah 41:26). ‘...so that we might say, He is right?’ (New Revised Standard Version).

As a result of questioning, *moo* and *yôô* which are written as *mo* (*I* or *me*) and *yô* can equally mean ‘arise or stand and proclaim or announce.’ Another effect of epenthesis on syllabic structure is the elongation of short vowels. Vowels that are short become long when they come at the end of some interrogative sentences in Tiv. The following examples are:

- i. ‘... *nan kera ta amine kua ishwa ga?*’ (Isaiah 28:25). ‘... not ... the appointed barley and rie in their place?’ (King James Version).
- ii. ‘*Kwagh u Mo M er yô, ka an je nan á yangee?*’ (Isaiah 43:13). ‘I will work, and who shall let it?’ (King James Version).
- iii. ‘*Man ka an je yange nan hen sha kwagh Na, er un á va luu?*’ (Isaiah 53:8). ‘... and who shall declare his generation?’ (KJV).

As a questioning process, *ga* /gæ/ which contains a short vowel changes to *gaa* /ga:/. *Ga* and *gaa* mean ‘not.’ Again, the last syllable of *yange* /jæŋge/ has a short /e/ but when used in interrogative sentence, it changes to a long /e:/ sound as in *yangee* /jæŋge:/. Both *yange* and *yangee* mean ‘to stop or to restrict.’ Finally, *lu* /lʊ/ has been inflected to *luu* /lu:/ in interrogative sentence to refer to ‘what will be’ or ‘what will happen.’

Epenthetic vowels are always syllabic. Where epenthetic vowels (prosthetic, anaptyctic and paragogic vowels) appear they act as Tone Bearing Units (TBUs). All vowels and syllabic sounds such as nasals /m, ŋ, n, ɲ, ŋ, ɲ/, lateral /l/ and liquid /r/ are syllabic sounds. In the case of Tiv phonology, only /ŋ/ and /ɲ/ consonant can bear syllables. /ŋ/ is a voiced labio-dental fricative and it is realised in a personal pronoun *m* (meaning I or me); words that have the following combinations: *mb*, *mn*, *mng*, *ml*, *mp*, *mt*, *mv*, *mf*, *mch*, *ms*, *my*, *mz*. Some examples are *mba* /ɲba/ (they), *mnongo* /ɲnɔŋo/ (I tried), *mngu* /ɲŋu/ (I am), *mliam* /ɲljam/ (tears), *mp* /ɲpase/ (revelation), *mtem* /ɲtem/ (pots), *mchiem* /ɲʃiem/, *msurshima* /ɲsu:ʃima/ (comfort), *mfe* /ɲfe/ (knowledge), *mtwem* /ɲtwem/ (loneliness) *mze* /ɲze/ (to, going). The voiceless nasal /ɲ/ is also syllabic in few words such as ‘ngu’ /ɲu/ (is) and *mnguashima* (I have heart).

Where a vowel is inserted, that syllable is always unstressed. The commonest epenthetic vowels in English or Tiv are usually /e/, /i/, /æ/, /o/, /ə/. Examples of such words with parasitic vowels found in the following English loans as in *mekanikī* (mechanic), *talenti* (talent), *Heberu* (Hebrew), *yeseḡpi* (jasper), *katikisema* (catechism), *Feliku* (Felix) and *Paulu* (Paul).

Functions of Epenthesis in Tiv Language

Insertion is used for breaking consonant clusters in words that have them. The cluster can be broken up by means of a vowel or a consonant which is inserted between its elements. The effect of this is to create an extra syllable so that the first element of cluster belongs to one syllable (the original one) and the second to the newly created syllable. For example, apostle /æpsl/ is a trisyllabic word and when a paragogic /ɪ/ is inserted terminally it contains four or five syllables as in /a-pos-to-li/ or /a-po-sɪ-to-li/. It has been noted that epenthesis prevents consonant clusters that violate syllable structure constraints in the language and eases transitions between segments that have multiple incompatibilities.

Vocalic epenthesis typically occurs when words are borrowed from a language that has consonant clusters or syllable codas that are not permitted in the borrowing language. The following examples of words that have parasitic vowels that can break the consonants are: insertion of *e* between *s* and *t* to ease the pronunciation of *Eseter* (Esther); insertion of *e* between *ch* and *r* as in *keretu* (Christian); insertion of *u* between *k* and *t* in *dōkutō* (doctor). There is also an insertion of paragogic vowels in ‘strange’ syllable codas that the borrowing languages do not have. These include *katī* (card), *kotī* (court/coat), *profetī* (prophet), *Yukaristia* (Eucharist) and *Feliku* (Felix).

In Tiv language, prosthetic vowels can be added to show plurality. One of the ways of forming plural is the addition of *u* to the singular nouns. These are given below:

two vowels. Apart from English loan, there are some Tiv words that are used to prevent hiatus as in *ruam* ~ *rwam* (food) and *ruamabera* ~ *rwamabera* (scroll).

It is worthy to mention that Idoma, a language spoken in Benue State of Nigeria, uses a paragogic *h* to distinguish a masculine gender from a feminine gender. For instance, *Ada* means ‘father’ and *Adah* refers to ‘the first daughter’s name.’ Idoma language has vowel-consonant structure in which all loan-words that begin with consonant sounds are pronounced with prothetic vowels. For instance, George and Mary will be pronounced as *Igeorge* and *Omeri*, respectively. These two functions of epenthesis in Idoma language are not found in the Tiv language.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Epenthesis is a common phonological feature that is found world-languages. It has been discovered that insertion occurred mostly in loan-words and the reason is for easing the pronunciation of such borrowed words. The commonest kinds of insertion in Tiv are anaptyxis (insertion of vowel within a word) and paragoge (insertion of vowels at the end of words). The parasitic vowels that are often used are *i* and *u*. It has also been discovered that the use of insertion by the native speakers of the Tiv language, in some cases, is a sign of bastardisation. It becomes a mockery if a speaker of Tiv extraction adds sounds to words while communicating.

It is therefore recommended that phonological rules be taught to students so that they will know when to insert sounds. Articles, papers and textbooks on phonological rules should be written. Epenthesis is not a phonological ‘crime’ but it is a way of breaking the consonant clusters. Students should carry out series exercises so as to be conversant with phonological rules. Epenthesis in Tiv language is not be seen as an outright aberration to the phonology of Tiv.

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