

A sound symbolic vowel feature in G|ui: [+round] of V1 in the food texture verb base

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Aims

- To outline the food texture (FT) verbs in G|ui
- To analyze the base of the FT verbs from a sound symbolic perspective
- To demonstrate [+round] is a phonesthemic feature in FT verbs:
[+round] is associated with certain types of food texture

Food texture verbs in Glui

(1) Lexical semantics

(2) Prosodic shape

(3) Morphosyntax

(4) Morphophonology

Food texture verbs in Glui

(1) Lexical semantics: Distinction of 32 food textures [handout 1]

FT verb (transitive)	example of food/beverage	ideophone
1* χárù-χārū	fresh tamma melon	(<χárù)
2* húm- húm	dried meat cooked with insufficient water	(< húp)
3* ^h úm- ^h úm	fibrous herb, or "fatless" small caterpillar	(< ^h úp)
4* qχ'úm- qχ'úm	crispy tamma melon seeds	(< qχ'úm)
5* χúbì- χúbì	meat powdered with sand	(< χúp)
6* †q'áù-†q'áù	broiled crispy gemsbok/giraffe skin	(<†q'áù)
7 k ^h án-k ^h án	nuts (<i>Tylosema esculentum</i>)	(<k ^h án)
8 ts ^h án-ts ^h án	tender fillet meat	(<ts ^h án)
9 χúm-χúm	dried <i>Grewia retinervis</i> berry, or crispy pie	(<χúp)
10 qχ'áù- qχ'áù	raisin and currant, or fully parched caterpillar	(< qχ'áù)
11 q'án- q'án	dried meat cooked with sufficient fat	(< q'án)
12 ^h ú- ^h ú	thin-skinned fruit full of juice	(< ^h ú)
13 qúm- qúm	crumbly foods like baked potato	(< qúm)
14 úm- úm	small insufficiently parched caterpillar	(< úp)
15 árù- árù	hard acacia gum, bad root of <i>Cucumis kalahariensis</i>	(< át)
16 †á'm-†á'm	edible root with hard surface	(<†ám)
17 †qám-†qám	pap	(<†qáp)
18 †q'án-†q'án	juiceless tamma melon, sticky dried prune	(<†q'án)
19 q'án- q'án	(broiled and pounded) hard skin	(< q'át)
20 gám- gám	water with dust, or water from <i>Raphionacme burkei</i>	
21 gúrā- gúrā	steenbok meat lacking gravy	
22 gáù- gáù	rubbery meat (e.g. aged giraffe, aged gemsbok)	
23 ǰá'n- ǰá'n	boiled egg white	
24 ǰá'bà- ǰá'bà	meat with "sourness" which is felt on tooth surface	
25 tsχ'ánù-tsχ'ánù	good root of <i>Cucumis kalahariensis</i>	
26 ts'án- ts'án	biscuit, or <i>Cucumis kalahariensis</i>	
27 hú'rā- hú'rā	lean dried meat cooked with too much water	
28 q'ábù- q'ábù	underdone meat (e.g. rare steak)	
29 ú- ú	meat with much gravy	
30 †gúñ-†gúñ	foods like doughnut	
31 †qábù-†qábù	foods like chewing gum	
32 ^h á- ^h á	nice cool water	

Food texture verbs in Glui

(1) Lexical semantics: Distinction of 32 food textures [handout 1]

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2* húm̄- hūm̄	dried meat cooked with insufficient water	(< hūp̄)
3* ^h úm̄- ^h ūm̄	fibrous herb, or “fatless” small caterpillar	(< ^h ūp̄)
4* qχ'úm̄- qχ'ūm̄	crispy tsamma melon seeds	(< qχ'úm̄)
5* χúbì- χūbì	meat powdered with sand	(< χūp̄)
6* †q ^h áú-†q ^h āú	broiled crispy gemsbok/giraffe skin	(<†q ^h áú)
7 k ^h án-k ^h ān	nuts (<i>Tylosema esculentum</i>)	(<k ^h án)
8 ts ^h án-ts ^h ān	tender fillet meat	(<ts ^h án)
9 χúm̄-χūm̄	dried <i>Grewia retinervis</i> berry, or crispy pie	(<χūp̄)
10 qχ'áú- qχ'āú	raisin and currant, or fully parched caterpillar	(< qχ'áú)
11 q'ám̄- q'ān̄	dried meat cooked with sufficient fat	(< q'ám̄)
12 ^h ú- ^h ū	thin-skinned fruit full of juice	(< ^h ū)
13 qúm̄- qūm̄	crumbly foods like baked potato	(< qúm̄)
14 úm̄- ūm̄	small insufficiently parched caterpillar	(< ūp̄)
15 árù- ārū	hard acacia gum, bad root of <i>Cucumis kalahariensis</i>	(< ár̄)
16 †á'm̄-†á'm̄	edible root with hard surface	(<†á'm̄)
17 †qám̄-†qām̄	pap	(<†qāp̄)
18 †q'ám̄-†q'ān̄	juiceless tsamma melon, sticky dried prune	(<†q'ám̄)
19 q'án̄- q'ān̄	(broiled and pounded) hard skin	(< q'ān̄)
20 g ám̄-g ām̄	water with dust, or water from <i>Raphionacme burkei</i>	
21 g úrā-g ūrā	steenbok meat lacking gravy	
22 g áú-g áú	rubbery meat (e.g. aged giraffe, aged gemsbok)	
23 ŋ á'n̄-ŋ á'n̄	boiled egg white	
24 ŋ á'bā-ŋ á'bā	meat with “sourness” which is felt on tooth surface	
25 tsχ'án̄-tsχ'ān̄	good root of <i>Cucumis kalahariensis</i>	
26 ts'ám̄-ts'ān̄	biscuit, or <i>Cucumis kalahariensis</i>	
27 hú'rā- hū'rā	lean dried meat cooked with too much water	
28 q'ábù- q'ābù	underdone meat (e.g. rare steak)	
29 ú- ū	meat with much gravy	
30 †gúm̄-†gūm̄	foods like doughnut	
31 †qábù-†qābù	foods like chewing gum	
32 ^h á- ^h ā	nice cool water	

Food texture verbs in Glui

(2) Prosodic shape: Reduplication of bimoraic base; same tonal pattern

1*	χárù-χārū
2*	húm̄- hūm̄
3*	^h úm̄- ^h ūm̄
4*	qχ'úm̄- qχ'ūm̄
5*	χúbì- χūbì
6*	†q ^h áú-†q ^h āú
...	
...	

Food texture verbs in Glui

(3) **Morphosyntax:** intransitive (state) vs. transitive (action)

1. $kùī?à\grave{m} = bì$ $|q\chi'á\grave{u}\grave{~}|q\chi'á\grave{u}\grave{~}$
bean = PGN.NOM have.crispness
 S V (state)

'The bean is crispy.'

2. $q\chi'á\grave{o}k\grave{o} = bì$ $kùī?à\grave{m} = mà$ $|q\chi'á\grave{u}\grave{~}|q\chi'á\grave{u}\grave{~}$
man = PGN.NOM bean = PGN.ACC eat.feeling.crispness
 S O Vt (action)

'The man eats bean while feeling its crispness.'

Food texture verbs in Glui

(3) **Morphosyntax:** intransitive (state) vs. transitive (action)

1. $!ú\grave{m}\grave{~}-!ú\grave{m}\grave{~}$ (intransitive: subject=food)

'to have the texture of under-cooked caterpillar'

2. $!ú\grave{m}\grave{~}-!ú\grave{m}\grave{~}$ (transitive: subject=human)

'to eat feeling the texture of under-cooked caterpillar'

Food texture verbs in Glui

(4) Morphophonology: reduplication, tonal alternation, consonant alternation, and bimoraicization

Ideophone	!/ūp/ ‘sound of crushing an under-cooked caterpillar in the mouth’
1 Consonant alternation & bimoraicization	!um
2 Reduplication	!um-!um
3 Tonal placement	[!úm-!úm] (intransitive-state) [!úm-!ūm̃] (transitive-action)

Note:

- (1) Segmental alternation in the second mora.
- (2) Additional mora, allowing for tonal placement.
- (3) Adjustment of rhythmic structure.

Examples of FT verbs (transitive)

	to eat the food, feeling the texture of ...
1 !húì-!hūī	orange (juicy fruit)
2 tsháñ-tshāñ	tender fillet meat
3 kʰáñ-kʰāñ	nuts
4 !qúm-!qūm̃	crumbly baked potato
5 χúm-χūm̃	flaky pie
6 lχúbì-lχūbī	sand-powdered meat
7 †qábù-†qābū	chewing gum
8 g!áǔ-g!āǔ	rubbery meat
9 †gún-†gūñ	doughnut

Phonotactics of the root/base in G|ui

O V₁ (C_m) V₂

O V₁ N

Phonotactics of the root/base in G|ui

O V₁ (C_m) V₂
O V₁ N

all

/b r m n/ /i e a o u ĩ ā ũ/

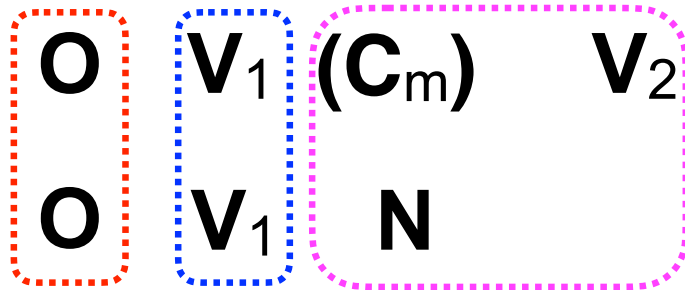
/a u a^ɾ u^ɾ/ /m n/

[±round]

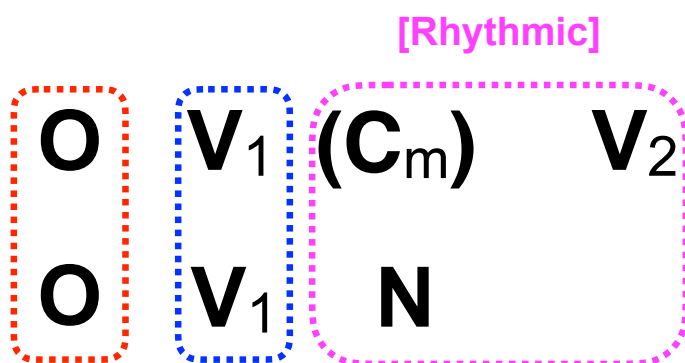
[±pharyngealized]

(cf. Handout 2)

Three sound symbolic domains



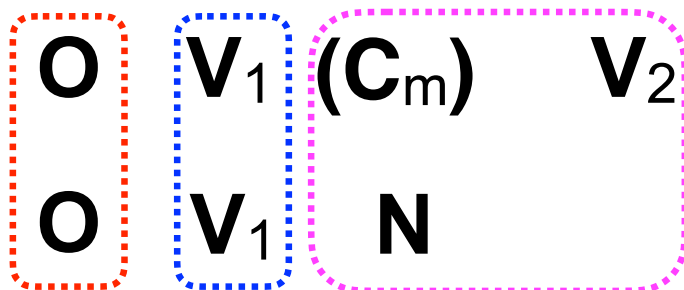
Three sound symbolic domains



imitation of rhythmic
sound & movement
of mastication

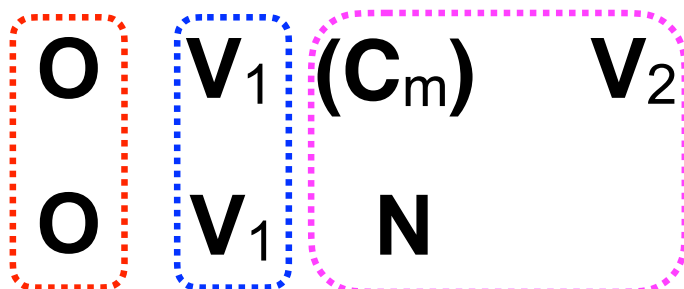
Three sound symbolic domains

[Onomatopoeic]



Mimicking sounds of
biting/chewing/crushing
between teeth

Three sound symbolic domains



[Articulatory]

[+round] ... mouth-covering by lips

Semantics of FT verbs with V₁ = [+round]

Foods requiring mastication with constricted lips

FT verb	example	trait of the food
1 !qúm-!qūm̃	crumbly baked potato	crumb-dropping
2 !qχ'úm-!qχ'ūm̃	roasted tsamma melon seeds	
3 χúm-χūm̃	flaky pie	
4 !úi-!ūī	juicy (dripping) meat	juice/oil-spilling
5 !húi-!hūī	juicy fruit with thin skin	juice-splashing
6 !úm-!ūm̃	under-cooked caterpillar	

Semantics of FT verbs with V₁ = [+round]

Foods requiring mastication with constricted lips

FT verb	example	trait of the food
7 !húm-!hūm̃	fibrous herb	mastication with sufficient saliva
8 !húm-!hūm̃	dried meat cooked with insufficient water	
9 #gún-#gūñ	doughnut	
10 glúra-glūrā	gravy-lacking meat	
11 !xúbì-!xūbī	sand-powdered meat	?

FT verbs of V₁ = [-round]

FT verb	example	trait of the food
1 #qábù-#qābū	sticky foods (e.g. resin)	no leaking from mouth
2 #qám-#qām	pap	
3 !'árù-!'ārū	hard acacia gum	
4 tsxánù-tsxānū	good root of <i>Cucumis kalahariensis</i>	
5 g!áǔ-g!āǔ	rubbery meat	
6 lq'ám-lq'ām	dried meat cooked with sufficient fat	
7 !q'ábù-!q'ābū	underdone meat	
8 ts'hán-ts'hān	tender fillet meat	
9 llq'án-llq'ān	(broiled and pounded) hard skin	
10 #qháǔ-#qhāǔ	(broiled and pounded) hard skin	
11 ts'ám-ts'ām	bistuit (<i>eaten little by little</i>)	
12 k'hán-k'hān	nut (<i>eaten little by little</i>)	
13 lqχ'áǔ-lqχ'āǔ	raisin and currant, or fully parched caterpillar (<i>eaten little by little</i>)	

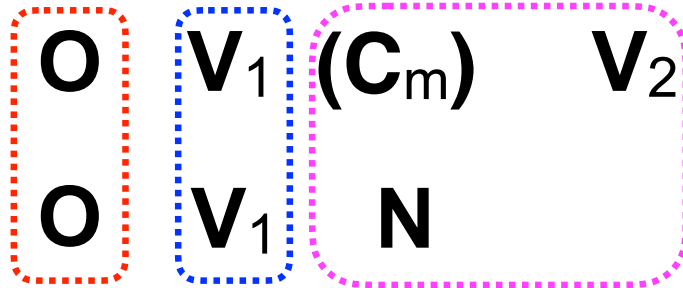
FT verbs of V₁ = [-round]

FT verb	example	trait of the food
14 χárù-χārū	fresh tsamma melon	no juice-splashing
15 #q'án-#q'ān	juiceless tsamma melon, sticky dried prune	
16 glám-glām	water with dust	without mastication
17 llháǔ-llhāǔ	cold and tasty water	

Summary

[Onomatopoeic]

[Rhythmic]



[Articulatory]