

Yale

# Phonological domains within Blackfoot

Towards a family-wide comparison

Natalie Weber

52nd algonquian conference

YALE UNIVERSITY

October 23, 2020

# Outline

1. Background
2. Two phonological domains in Blackfoot verbs
3. Preverbs are not a separate phonological domain
4. Parametric variation

# Background

# Consonant inventory

	Labial	Coronal	Dorsal	Glottal
Stops	p p:	t t:	k k:	ʔ <'>
Assibilants		ts t:s	ks	
Pre-assibilants		<sup>s</sup> t <sup>s</sup> t:		
Fricatives		s s:	x <h>	
Nasals	m m:	n n:		
Glides	w	j <y>	(w)	

Long consonants written with doubled letters.

(Derrick and Weber n.d.; Weber 2020)

# Vowel inventory

	front	central	back
high	i i:		o o:
mid	ɛ: <ai>		ɔ: <ao>
low		a a:	

(Derrick and Weber n.d.; Weber 2020)

# Vowel inventory

	front	central	back
high	i i:		o o:
mid	ɛ: <ai>		ɔ: <ao>
low		a a:	

## PREDICTABLE MID VOWELS? (FRANTZ 2017)

Many [ɛ:] and [ɔ:] arise from coalescence across boundaries

- /a+i/ → [ɛ:]
- /a+o/ → [ɔ:]

(Derrick and Weber n.d.; Weber 2020)

# Contrastive mid vowels

Some [ɛ:] and [ɔ:] are morpheme-internal, in overlapping environments with other long vowels

[[ɔ:ní:t]]

aoníit

[aon-i-i]-t-Ø

[hole-by.needle/TI-TII]-2SG.IMP-IMP

‘pierce it!’

[[a:ní:t]]

aaníit

[aan-ii]-t-Ø

[say-AI]-2SG.IMP-IMP

‘say (s.t.)!’

(Weber 2020)

## Syntax within the stem

Intransitive (bi-morphemic) vs. syntactically transitive (trimorphemic).  
Transitive V is object agreement (Quinn 2006; Rhodes 1994)

$[\sqrt{\text{ROOT}}$	$-v^0$	$-V^0$	Stem type	Gloss
ikinn		-ssi	AI	'he is warm'
ikinn		-ii	II	'it is warm'
itap	-ip/i	-THM	TA	'take him there'
itap	-ip/ht	-oo	TI	'take it there'
itap	-ip/ht	-aki	AI(+O)	'take (s.t.) there'

(Déchaine and Weber 2015, 2018; Weber 2020)



# Syntax within the verbal complex

## TEMPLATE

${}_{CP} [ \text{person}-(\text{preverb})^* - {}_{vP} [ \sqrt{\text{ROOT}}-(\text{med})-v-V ]_{vP} - I^0 - C^0 ]_{CP}$

- Minimal verbal complex: stem plus suffixes ( $I^0$ ,  $C^0$ ).
- Optional preverbs; person prefixes only some clause types

(Weber 2020)

# Two phonological domains in Blackfoot verbs

# Two phonological domains in Blackfoot verbs

1. CP verbal complex = Phonological Phrase (PPh)
2. VP/vP stem = Prosodic Word (PWd)

## ROADMAP

- Stem-internal epenthesis
- Diagnosing the right edge of the stem
- Diagnosing the left edge of the stem

## DATA

- Primarily from Frantz and Russell (2017)
- Phonetic transcriptions are based on orthography; given in [ ]

# Stem-internal epenthesis

# Vowel-initial suffixes

[a]-initial suffix *-ap-* ‘CORD’

## AFTER C

[[ijí:stapapini:wa]]

iyíistapapinniiwa

[iyiistap-ap-inn-ii]-Ø-wa

[away-CORD-by.hand.TA-3SUB]-IND-3

‘he adjusted the strand out and away from it’

## AFTER V

[[níts:apin:awa]]

nítssapinnawa

nit-[sa-ap-inn-a]-Ø-wa

1-[out-CORD-by.hand.TA-3OBJ]-IMP-3

inside of it’

# Vowel-initial suffixes

[o]-initial suffix *-op* ‘sit’

## AFTER C

[[nitâ:ks:apopi:]]

nitâakssapopii

nit-aak-[sap-op/ii]-(hp)

1-FUT-[inside-sit/AI]-(IND)

‘I’ll ride in (a vehicle)’

## AFTER V

[[ípak:s:opi:wə]]

ípakksaoppiwa

[ipakkssa-op/ii]-Ø-wa

[bare-sit/AI]-IND-3

‘he’s sitting with nothing on (in the nude)’

# Vowel-initial suffixes

\* i > [i<sub>1</sub>]-initial suffix *-istot* ‘CAUS’

## AFTER C

[[sapí<sup>s</sup>totó:sa]]

sapí<sup>s</sup>istotóósa

[sap-<sup>s</sup>istot/o-:s]-Ø

[correct-CAUS/TA-2SG:3,IMP]-CMD

‘reach an agreement with him!’

## AFTER V

[[saté<sup>s</sup>toto:s]]

sata<sup>s</sup>í<sup>s</sup>istotoosa

[sata-<sup>s</sup>istot/o-:s]-Ø

[offended-CAUS/TA-2SG:3,IMP]-CMD

‘purposely make her angry!’

# Summary: Vowel-initial suffixes

## UNDERLYING SHORT VOWELS WITHIN THE STEM

V =	a	o	i <sub>1</sub>	i <sub>2</sub>
After C	a	o	i	i
a+V	a:	ɔ:	ɛ:	ɛ:
i+V	ja/a	jo/o	i:	i:
o+V	a:/a	o:	oi	oi

\* i > [i<sub>1</sub>]; \* e > [i<sub>2</sub>]; [i<sub>1</sub>] causes a preceding /k/ to assibilate

(Berman 2006; Elfner 2006; Weber 2020)



# Consonant-initial suffixes

## AFTER C

[[nitâ:ksox<sup>w</sup>ksip<sup>st</sup>ta]]

nitâaksoohksipistaa

nit-aak-[yoohk-p/ist-aa]-(hp)

1-FUT-[lid-tie/TA-AI]-(IND)

‘I will close the tipi flap’

## AFTER V

[[a:wápi<sup>st</sup>ta:t]]

aawápistaat

[aawa-p/ist-aa]-t-Ø

[wander-tie/TA-AI]-2SG.IMP-CMD

‘make a cradle swing!’

# Consonant-initial suffixes

## AFTER C

[[i:kómχksikawa]]

iikómahksikawa

iik-omah**k**-ka-Ø]-wa

IC\DEG-[big-**leg**-AI]-IND-3

‘he has big feet’

## AFTER V

[[amokápiʔat]]

amokápiʔaat

[amo-**ka**-p/ist-aa]-t-Ø

[gather-**leg**-tie/TA-AI]-2SG.IMP-CMD

‘hobble!’

## Summary: consonant-initial suffixes

### UNDERLYING CONSONANTS WITHIN THE STEM

After C	After V	UR	Gloss
[-ip]	[-p]	/-p/	'tie'
[-ika]	[-ka ]	/-ka/	'leg'

# Summary: consonant-initial suffixes

## UNDERLYING CONSONANTS WITHIN THE STEM

After C	After V	UR	Gloss
[-ip]	[-p]	/-p/	'tie'
[-ika]	[-ka ]	/-ka/	'leg'

## THREE CORRELATES

1. Concatenate directly after vowels (no mutation to vowel)
2. Epenthetic [i<sub>1</sub>] between consonants.
3. Epenthesis always causes *k*-assibilation.

# Diagnosing the right edge of the stem

# Diagnosing the right edge of the stem

Selected suffixes within the independent clause type.

- Central agreement suffixes (AGR) occur between  $I^0$  and  $C^0$
- Segments in parentheses occur in some phonological environments.

...V <sup>0</sup>	-I <sup>0</sup>	-AGR	-C <sup>0</sup>
-aa '3OBJ'	-∅	-(i)nnaan '1PL'	-(w)a '3'
-ok 'INV'	-hp	-oaa 'PL'	-(y)ini '3SG.OBV'
			-(y)i '3PL'

# Diagnosing the right edge of the stem

Selected suffixes within the independent clause type.

- Central agreement suffixes (AGR) occur between  $I^0$  and  $C^0$
- Segments in parentheses occur in some phonological environments.

...V <sup>0</sup>	-I <sup>0</sup>	-AGR	-C <sup>0</sup>
-aa '3OBJ'	-∅	-(i)nnaan '1PL'	-(w)a '3'
-ok 'INV'	-hp	-oaa 'PL'	-(y)ini '3SG.OBV'
			-(y)i '3PL'

# Diagnosing the right edge of the stem

## AFTER C

[[nitsikákomim:oknra:ni]

Nitsikákomimmokinnaani

nit-ik-[akom-imm-ok]-Ø-nnaan-i

1-DEG-[favor-by.mind.TA-INV]-IND-1PL-3PL 2-daughter-AN.PL

‘Your daughters love us.’

(Frantz 2009: 56, (i))

kitániksi]

kitániksi.

k-itan-iksi

## AFTER V

[[nitsikákomim:anna:ni]

Nitsikákomimannaani

nit-ik-[akom-imm-aa]-Ø-nnaan-i

1-DEG-[favor-by.mind.TA-3OBJ]-IND-1PL-3PL 2-daughter-AN.PL

‘We (excl.) love your daughters.’

(Frantz 2009: 53, (g))

kitániksi]

kitániksi.

k-itan-iksi



# Diagnosing the right edge of the stem

After C		After V	UR	Gloss
[-in:a:n]	~	[-n:a:n]	/-n:a:n/	'1PL'

## RIGHT EDGE CORRELATES

- Agreement suffix begins with a consonant.
- But stem-final /k/ does *not* assibilate to [ks] before epenthetic [i].

# Diagnosing the left edge of the stem

# Verbal complex syntax

## ROOT ALTERNATIONS

1. Left edge of the verbal complex (IMP)
2. Medially, after a prefix (IMP OR IND)

### IMPERATIVE

[[i.pi.<sup>s</sup>to.tsi.t]]

iipístotsit

[√**yiip**-istot/Ø-i]-t-Ø

[√**decrease**-CAUS/TI-TI1]-2SG.IMP-CMD 1-IPFV-[√**decrease**-CAUS/TI-TI1]-IND-3

‘decrease the volume of it (e.g. of your load of ironing)!’

### INDEPENDENT

[[ni.tá.ji.pi.<sup>s</sup>to.tsi:?.pa]]

nitáyiiipistotsii’pa

nit-a-[√**yiip**-istot/Ø-i]-hp-a

‘I am decreasing the amount’

# Roots which begin with a non-continuant

Some roots begin with an obstruent or nasal as well.

## C-INITIAL ROOTS

pommáát

[pomm-aa]-t-Ø

[buy-AI]-2SG.IMP-CMD

‘buy!’

pommóós

[pomm-o-:s]-Ø

[transfer-TA-2SG:3.IMP]-CMD

‘transfer (e.g. the medicine bundle)  
to him!’

# Roots which begin with a non-continuant

Some roots begin with an obstruent or nasal as well.

## C-INITIAL ROOTS

pommáát

[pomm-aa]-t-∅

[buy-AI]-2SG.IMP-CMD

‘buy!’

pommóós

[pomm-o-:s]-∅

[transfer-TA-2SG:3.IMP]-CMD

‘transfer (e.g. the medicine bundle)  
to him!’

## V-INITIAL ROOTS

ohpóisskinisa

[ohpo-isski-n-:s]-∅

[grease-face-by.hand.TA-2SG:3.IMP]-CMD

‘paint his face!’

ipótsimatsísa

[ipotsim-at-:s]-∅

[poison-TA-2SG:3.IMP]-CMD

‘poison him!’

# Roots which begin with a non-continuant

## TWO MAJOR PATTERNS FOR PLOSIVE-INITIAL ROOTS

1. <oh> accretion at the left edge of root
2. <i> epenthesis at the left edge of root

### AFTER C

[[â:kx̣<sup>w</sup>pum:a:wa]]

áakohpommaawa

aak-[ohpomm-aa]-Ø-wa

FUT-[buy-AI]-IND-3

‘she will buy’

### AFTER V

[óx<sup>w</sup>pum:a]

áóhpommaawa

a-[ohpomm-aa]-Ø-wa

IPFV-[buy-AI]-IND-3

‘s/he is shopping’ (BB)

# Roots which begin with a non-continuant

## TWO MAJOR PATTERNS FOR PLOSIVE-INITIAL ROOTS

1. <oh> accretion at the left edge of root
2. <i> epenthesis at the left edge of root

### AFTER C

[[â:ksipóm:oji:wáji]]

áaksipóm moyiiwáyi

aak-[ipomm-o-yii]-Ø-w=ayi

FUT-[transfer-TA-3SUB]-IND-3=OBV.SG IPFV-[transfer-TA-AI]-IND-PRX

‘he will transfer it to her’

### AFTER V

[[é:pum:akiwa]]

áípommakiwa

a-[ipomm-Ø-aki]-Ø-wa

‘the one transferring (previous owner)’

# Roots which begin with a non-continuant

	LEFT EDGE		AFTER PREFIX	UR		GLOSS
a.	* [[p...]]	~	* [[p...]]			
b.	[[pum:]]	~	[[ox <sup>w</sup> pum:]]			‘buy’
	[[pum:]]	~	[[ipum:]]			‘transfer’
c.	[[ohpo]]	~	[[ohpo]]		/ohpo/	‘grease’
	[[ipotsim]]	~	[[ipotsim]]		/ipotsim/	‘poison’



# Roots which begin with a non-continuant

	LEFT EDGE		AFTER PREFIX	UR	GLOSS
a.	* [[p...]]	~	* [[p...]]		
b.	[[pum:]]	~	[[ox <sup>w</sup> pum:]]	/ox <sup>w</sup> pum:, pum:/	'buy'
	[[pum:]]	~	[[ipum:]]	/pum:/	'transfer'
c.	[[ohpo]]	~	[[ohpo]]	/ohpo/	'grease'
	[[ipotsim]]	~	[[ipotsim]]	/ipotsim/	'poison'

# Diagnosing the left edge of the stem

- Epenthesis at the left edge of the stem causes *k*-assibilation.
- But differs from stem-internal epenthesis.
  - Not driven by phonotactic constraints.
  - Epenthesis occurs after consonants or vowels.

# Diagnosing the left edge of the stem

**Table 1:** Segments allowed at left edge of roots in two positions: the left edge of the verbal complex vs. after a prefix

	p	k	m	n	j	w	i:	o:	ɛ:	ɔ:	a:	i	o	a
Left edge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
After prefix	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

[-cont]                      [-cons]

**Proposal:** Root alternations and epenthesis occur in order to satisfy edge constraints of two distinct prosodic constituents.

# Analysis: two distinct phonological phrases

- o Verbal complex = CP                      Phonological Phrase (PPh)
- o Stem = VP/vP                              Prosodic Word (PWd)

**SYNTAX**      CP [ prefix-      vP [  $\sqrt{\text{ROOT-v-V}}$  ]<sub>vP</sub> -I<sup>0</sup>-C<sup>0</sup> ]<sub>CP</sub>

**PROSODY**      PPh ( prefix-      PWd (  $\sqrt{\text{ROOT-v-V}}$  )<sub>PWd</sub> -I<sup>0</sup>-C<sup>0</sup> )<sub>PPh</sub>

↑  
\*[-cons]

↑  
\*[-cont]

↑  
/k/ → [ks] / \_\_\_\_ i

# Analysis

# Analysis

- **Onset** Assign a violation mark for every syllable whose left edge aligns with the left edge of a moraic segment.
- **\*#[**-cont**]** Assign a violation mark for every [-cont] segment which is exhaustively dominated by a syllable and occurs leftmost within the PWd.
- **A1(**vP**,PWd)** The left edge of every vP phase aligns with the left edge of a PWd.
- **Dep(**μ**)** Assign a violation mark for every mora in the output which does not have a correspondent in the input.
- **A1(PWd,**σ**)** The left edge of every PWd aligns with the left edge of a syllable.
- **\*V<sub>l</sub>**: Assign a violation mark for every long vowel in the output.

# Analysis

[pom:ós:] *pommóos* ‘transfer to him’

[ [pom:-o] <sub>vP</sub> -s ] <sub>CP</sub>	ONS	*#[ -CONT ]	AL(vP,PWd)	DEP(μ)	AL(PWd,σ)	*V:
<sup>ESP</sup> a. ( ( pom.mó: ) <sub>PWd·s</sub> ) <sub>PPh</sub>		*				*
b. ( ( i.póm.mo: ) <sub>PWd·s</sub> ) <sub>PPh</sub>	*!		μ	*		*
c. ( i. ( póm.mo: ) <sub>PWd·s</sub> ) <sub>PPh</sub>	*!	*!		*	*	*

Crucial rankings: ONSET  $\gg$  \*#[ -CONT ]

[é:pom:akiwã] *áipommakiwa* ‘the one transferring’

[ a- [pom:-aki] <sub>vP</sub> -wa ] <sub>CP</sub>	ONS	*#[ -CONT ]	AL(vP,PWd)	DEP(μ)	AL(PWd,σ)	*V:
a. ( á. ( pom.ma.ki ) <sub>PWd·wã</sub> ) <sub>PPh</sub>	*	*!				
<sup>ESP</sup> b. ( é. ( é.pom.ma.ki ) <sub>PWd·wã</sub> ) <sub>PPh</sub>	*		μ	*	*	*
c. ( é: ( pom.ma.ki ) <sub>PWd·wã</sub> ) <sub>PPh</sub>	*	*!		*		*
d. ( ( é:.pom.ma.ki ) <sub>PWd·wã</sub> ) <sub>PPh</sub>	*		μμ!	*		*

Crucial rankings: \*#[ -CONT ]  $\gg$  {AL(vP,PWd), DEP-IO(μ), AL(PWd,σ), \*V:}

Left edge of PWd in optimal candidate does not align with the left edge of a syllable

Preverbs are not a separate  
phonological domain



# Preverbs are not a separate phonological domain

## PREVERB

Any constituent which freely precedes a verb stem (*excluding* person prefixes and certain tense prefixes which occur in a fixed order).

$CP[preverb$

$\nu P[\sqrt{ROOT-V-V}]_{\nu P}^{-I^0-C^0}]_{CP}$

1.  $PPh(preverb-$
2.  $PPh(PWd(preverb-)_{PWd})_{PPh}$
3.  $PPh(PWd(preverb-)_{PWd})_{PPh}$
4.  $PPh(PWd(preverb- PWd^{-I^0-C^0})_{PWd})_{PPh}$

# Left edge restrictions: preverbs vs. verbal complex

## LEFT EDGE

(( i.ˈts( i.póm.ma.to: )<sub>PWd</sub> )<sub>PWd</sub>·t )<sub>PPh</sub>  
[ [ yiist-[ ipomm-at-oo ]<sub>vP</sub> ]<sub>vP</sub> -t-∅ ]<sub>CP</sub>  
[ [ on.back-[ transfer-TI-TI2 ]<sub>vP</sub> ]<sub>vP</sub> -2SG:3.IMP-CMD ]<sub>CP</sub>  
‘unload it from your back!’

## AFTER V

( ni:.tá?.pa. ( ji.ˈts( i.pum.ma.to: )<sub>PWd</sub> )<sub>PWd</sub>·ma )<sub>PPh</sub>  
[ niita’p-a-[ yiist-[ ipomm-at-oo ]<sub>vP</sub> ]<sub>vP</sub> -m-a ]<sub>CP</sub>  
[ really-IPFV-[ on.back-[ √transfer-TI-TI2 ]<sub>vP</sub> ]<sub>vP</sub> -IND-3 ]<sub>CP</sub>  
‘he started to take it off his back/body’

# Left edge restrictions: preverbs vs. verbal complex

The left edge of the preverb is not at the left edge of a PPh.

$_{CP}$ [preverb

$_{vP}$ [ $\sqrt{\text{ROOT-v-V}}$ ] $_{vP}$ - $I^0$ - $C^0$ ] $_{CP}$

1.  ~~$_{PPh}$ (preverb  $_{PWd}$ ( $\sqrt{\text{ROOT-v-V}}$ ) $_{PWd}$ - $I^0$ - $C^0$ ) $_{PPh}$~~
2.  $_{PPh}$ ( $_{PWd}$ (preverb-) $_{PWd}$ ) $_{PPh}$   $_{PPh}$ ( $_{PWd}$ ( $\sqrt{\text{ROOT-v-V}}$ ) $_{PWd}$ - $I^0$ - $C^0$ ) $_{PPh}$
3.  $_{PPh}$ ( $_{PWd}$ (preverb-) $_{PWd}$ ) $_{PPh}$   $_{PWd}$ ( $\sqrt{\text{ROOT-v-V}}$ ) $_{PWd}$ - $I^0$ - $C^0$ ) $_{PPh}$
4.  $_{PPh}$ ( $_{PWd}$ (preverb- $_{PWd}$ - $I^0$ - $C^0$ ) $_{PPh}$

# Minimal size constraints: preverbs vs. verbal complex

## Different minimal size constraints

### MINIMAL PREVERBS

CV sa- 'out'

VC on- 'hurry'

### MINIMAL VERBS AND NOUNS

CVVC píi-t 'enter!'

sóó-t 'go to war!'

kóón 'ice'

CVCC pónn 'bracelet'

kó's 'dish, bowl'

# Edge constraints: preverbs vs. verbal complexes

No verbal complex ends in an underlying glottal stop

[[s:kéjʔpapum:a]]

sskáíʔpapomma

sskaʔ-[ipap-o]-mm-a

shock-[emit.burst-II]-IND-3

‘the lightning really flashed’

cf. [[ipapum:a]]

ipapómma

[ipap-o]-mm-a

[emit.burst-II]-IND-3

‘there was lightning’

(Frantz and Russell 2017; Peterson 2004)

# Edge constraints: preverbs vs. verbal complexes

Final [j] before [i]; final [w] elsewhere

[[i:ksíjɨçpijwə]]

iiksíyihpiyiwa

iì\iksiw-[ihpi-yi]-Ø-a

IC\ground.level-[dance-AI]-IND-3

‘he danced low’

[[i<sup>s</sup>tsiksiwé:nakaʔsit]]

istsiksiwáínakaʔsit

ist-iksiw-a-[inak-aʔsi]-t-Ø

there-ground.level-[roll-AI]-2SG.IMP-CMD

‘roll there!’

# Edge constraints: preverbs vs. verbal complexes

## Verbal complex can end in a non-alternating [j]

itó:x<sup>w</sup>toji

iitáóhtoyii

iìvit-[yooht-o-ii]-Ø-wa

IC\then-IPFV-[hear-TA-3SUB]-IND-3

amí            i:maxkçinaj            óx<sup>w</sup>komi:nε:

amí            iimahkihkinay            áóhkomiinai.

am-i            iimahkihkinaa-yi            a-[ohkom-i]-Ø-yini=ayi

DEM-OBV    sheep-OBV            IPFV-[bellow-AI]-IND-3OBV=OBV.SG

‘[He was still picking and] he heard this goat.’

Pear Story, told by Totsinámm

# Summary: preverbs vs. verbal complex

Preverbs are not prosodified as a PPh.

$CP$ [preverb

${}_{vP}[\sqrt{ROOT-v-V}]_{vP}^{-I^0-C^0}]_{CP}$

1.  ~~${}_{PPh}(\text{preverb-} \text{ }_{PWd}(\sqrt{ROOT-v-V})_{PWd}^{-I^0-C^0})_{PPh}$~~
2.  ~~${}_{PPh}(\text{ }_{PWd}(\text{preverb-})_{PWd})_{PPh} \text{ }_{PPh}(\text{ }_{PWd}(\sqrt{ROOT-v-V})_{PWd}^{-I^0-C^0})_{PPh}$~~
3.  ${}_{PPh}(\text{ }_{PWd}(\text{preverb-})_{PWd} \text{ }_{PWd}(\sqrt{ROOT-v-V})_{PWd}^{-I^0-C^0})_{PPh}$
4.  ${}_{PPh}(\text{ }_{PWd}(\text{preverb-} \text{ }_{PWd}(\sqrt{ROOT-v-V})_{PWd})_{PWd}^{-I^0-C^0})_{PPh}$



## Edge constraints: preverbs vs. stem

Stem-final /k/ does not assibilate before epenthetic [i]

r<sup>t</sup>:x<sup>w</sup>ksísokaʔsimi  
isttohksísokaʔsimi  
isttohk–sokaʔsim–i  
thin–shirt–IN.SG  
‘shirt’

cf. sokáʔsimi  
sokáʔsimi  
sokaʔsim–i  
shirt–IN.SG  
‘shirt, dress, outer garment’

# Summary: preverbs vs. stem

Preverbs are not prosodified as a PWd.

$CP$  [preverb

${}_vP$  [  $\sqrt{ROOT-v-V}$  ]  ${}_vP$   $-I^0-C^0$  ]  $CP$

1.  ~~$PPh$  (preverb—  $PWd$  (  $\sqrt{ROOT-v-V}$  )  $PWd$   $-I^0-C^0$  )  $PPh$~~
2.  ~~$PPh$  (  $PWd$  (preverb—)  $PWd$  )  $PPh$   $PPh$  (  $PWd$  (  $\sqrt{ROOT-v-V}$  )  $PWd$   $-I^0-C^0$  )  $PPh$~~
3.  ~~$PPh$  (  $PWd$  (preverb—)  $PWd$  )  $PWd$  (  $\sqrt{ROOT-v-V}$  )  $PWd$   $-I^0-C^0$  )  $PPh$~~
4.  $PPh$  (  $PWd$  (preverb—  $PWd$  (  $\sqrt{ROOT-v-V}$  )  $PWd$  )  $PWd$   $-I^0-C^0$  )  $PPh$

(contra Windsor 2017a,b)

# Summary: preverbs vs. stems vs. verbal complexes

	Preverbs	Stem	Verbal complex
Left edge allows glides	✓	✓	✗
Minimal size	CV, VC	CVV	CVVC, CVCC
Right edge allows [ʔ]	✓	✗	✗
Right edge allows [w] ~ [j]	✓	✗	✗
Right-edge /k/ → [ks] before [i]	✓	✗	✗

# Implications for preverbs

Many definitions define preverbs phonologically.

- For Bloomfield, preverbs form “compounds” with the stem via word *composition*; ‘the members are treated phonetically like words in a phrase’ (Bloomfield 1946: 103).
- A preverb is a phonologically independent word that is syntactically part of a compound verb stem. (Goddard 1990: 478)

Blackfoot shows this is not always true, and is a point of variation within the family.

# Parametric variation

# Parametric variation

1. Which prosodic boundary (if any) has edge constraints? This determines the locus of alternation.
2. Can prosodic boundaries mismatch from syllable edges?
3. How are preverbs prosodified? As independent PWds, as a recursive PWd, or something else?

# Which prosodic boundary (if any) has edge constraints?

## BLACKFOOT

- left edge of stem (initial)
- [[pomm]] ~ [[ipomm]] ‘transfer’

- mâtataskêw ‘s/he begins work’
- mâci-ataskêw ‘s/he starts working’

## PLAINS CREE

- right edge of preverb;
- [mât] ~ [mâci] ‘start’

(Wolvengrey 2011)

# Can prosodic boundaries mismatch from syllable edges?

## BLACKFOOT

Always (unless stem begins with a glide)

- |    |                         |                        |          |
|----|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| a. | mâ.ci.-pî.kis.kwêw      | ‘s/he starts speaking’ | match    |
| b. | mâ.ci.-a.tos.kêw        | ‘s/he starts working’  | match    |
| c. | mâ. <b>c</b> -â.tos.kêw | ‘s/he starts working’  | mismatch |

## PLAINS CREE

- Before C: never
- Before V: optionally

(Russell 2008; Wolvengrey 2011)



# How are preverbs prosodified?

## BLACKFOOT

PWd adjunct

(daughter and sister to a PWd)

- a. (mâ.ci)-(pî.kis.kwêw) ‘s/he starts speaking’
- b. (mâ.ta.tos.kêw) ‘s/he begins work’
- c. (mâ.ci.)-(a.tos.kêw) ‘s/he starts working’  
mâ.ca)-(a.tos.kêw) ‘s/he starts working’

## PLAINS CREE

- Before C: separate PWd
- Before V: internal to PWd or separate PWd (variable?)

# “Dispersed” workshops on Algonquian prosody

- Remote, partly a-synchronous, small groups
- Workshops oriented around concrete questions about prosody
- Goal: develop a set of Algonquian “diagnostic tests” for determining prosody
- So far: Cheyenne, Blackfoot, a bit of Plains Cree, a bit of Saulteaux Ojibwe

# Acknowledgements

- Thanks especially to Rose-Marie Déchaine, Douglas Pulleyblank, and Gunnar Ólafur Hansson, for reading endless revisions.
- Thanks to Beatrice Bullshields, Natalie Creighton, Rod Scout, and others who have shared their language with me and literally made this project possible. Nitsíkohtaahsi'taki!
- Inge Gence, for being my advisor-away-from-home at Lethbridge.
- Jacobs Fund and the APS Phillips Fund.
- Yiding Hao for the slides template.
- Too many others to name at UBC and Yale University!

# References

# References I

- Derrick, Donald and Natalie Weber. *Blackfoot*. Ms, to be submitted to the Illustrations of the IPA series of the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, ca. end of September 2020. In preparation.
- Berman, Howard. 2006. Studies in Blackfoot prehistory. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 72(2): 264–284.
- Bliss, Heather. 2013. *The Blackfoot configurationality conspiracy: Parallels and differences in clausal and nominal structures*. University of British Columbia, PhD thesis.
- Bloomfield, Leonard. 1946. Algonquian. In *Linguistic structures of Native America*, Hoijer, Harry (ed.), 85–129. (Publications in Anthropology 6). New York: Viking Fund.
- Déchainé, Rose-Marie and Natalie Weber. 2015. Head-Merge, Adjunct-Merge, and the Syntax of Root Categorisation. In *Proceedings of the Poster Session of the 33rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, Umbal, Pocholo and Kyeong-min Kim (eds.), 38–47. (SFUWPL 5).

## References II

- Déchaine, Rose-Marie and Natalie Weber. 2018. Root syntax: Evidence from Algonquian. In *Papers of the Forty-seventh Algonquian Conference*, Macaulay, Monica (ed.). Michigan State University Press.
- Elfner, Emily. 2006. Contrastive syllabification in Blackfoot. In *Proceedings of the 25th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, Baumer, Donald, David Montero and Michael Scanlon (eds.), 141–149. Cascadilla Proceedings Project. Somerville, MA.
- Frantz, Donald G. 2009. *Blackfoot grammar*. 2nd edn. University of Toronto Press.
- Frantz, Donald G. 2017. *Blackfoot grammar*. 3rd edn. University of Toronto Press.
- Frantz, Donald G. and Norma Jean Russell. 2017. *Blackfoot dictionary of stems, roots, and affixes*. 3rd edn. University of Toronto Press.
- Goddard, Ives. 1990. Primary and secondary stem derivation in Algonquian. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 56(4): 449–483.
- Newell, Heather and Glyne Piggott. 2014. Interactions at the syntax–phonology interface: Evidence from Ojibwe. *Lingua* 150: 332–362. URL <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0024384114001740>.

## References III

- Peterson, T. 2004. Theoretical issues in the representation of the glottal stop in Blackfoot. In *Proceedings from the 7th Workshop on American Indigenous Languages [WAIL 7]*, Harper, Lea and Carmen Jany (eds.), 106–121. (Santa Barbara Papers in Linguistics vol. 15). Santa Barbara.
- Quinn, Conor. 2006. *Referential Access Dependency in Penobscot*. Harvard University, PhD Dissertation.
- Rhodes, Rhichard A. 1994. Agency, inversion, and thematic alignment in Ojibwe. In *Proceedings of the 20th Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, Gahl, Susanne, Andy Dolbey and Christopher Johnson (eds.), 431–446.
- Russell, Kevin. 1992. Palatalization and epenthesis in Plains Cree. In *Proceedings of the Canadian Linguistics Association*.
- Russell, Kevin. 1999. The "word" in two polysynthetic languages. In *Studies on the phonological word*, Hall, T Alan and Ursula Kleinhenz (eds.), 203–222. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing.
- Russell, Kevin. 2008. Sandhi in Plains Cree. *Journal of Phonetics* 36(3): 450–464.
- Vogel, Irene. 2008. The morphology-phonology interface: Isolating to polysynthetic languages. *Acta Linguistica Hungarica* 55(1/2): 205–226.

## References IV

- Weber, Natalie. 2016. Accent and prosody in Blackfoot verbs. In *Papers of the Forty-fourth Algonquian Conference: Actes du Congrès des Algonquinistes*, Macaulay, Monica, Margaret Noodin and J. Randolph Valentine (eds.), 348–369. SUNY Press.
- Weber, Natalie. 2017. *Structure at the right edge of prosodic words in Blackfoot*. Paper, Workshop on the Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas [WSCLA] 22. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Apr. 21–23, 2017.
- Weber, Natalie. 2020. *Syntax, prosody, and metrical structure in Blackfoot*. University of British Columbia, PhD thesis.
- Windsor, Joseph W. 2017a. *From phonology to syntax — and back again: Hierarchical structure in Irish and Blackfoot*. University of Calgary, Doctoral dissertation.
- Windsor, Joseph W. 2017b. Predicting prosodic structure by morphosyntactic category: A case study of Blackfoot. *Glossa* 2 (1).
- Wolvengrey, Arok (comp.). 2011. *nêhiyawêwin: itwêwina [Cree: Words]*. Regina, SK: University of Regina Press.