

## CLUSTER AND SYLLABIC STRUCTURE OF IRULA TRIBAL LANGUAGE

**Dr. M.A. SIVARAMAN**

Post Doctoral Fellow, Department of Linguistics  
Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-21

### Introduction

Irula is a Dravidian tribe. They spread over Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnadaka States of Indian subcontinent. Who are also known as Erullava, Iruliga, Illiga, Kasaba, Urali, Velliga and Kadupujari. They are major tribal community among the Coimbatore in and around. Irula are speaking a Language entirely different from Tamil and Malayalam, though there are so many similarities in the vocabulary and phonology with Tamil and Malayalam. Many words are borrowed from Tamil, Malayalam and Kanata. They have been a part of many ancient dynasties and empires in its glorious history. The ancient name of it was Kongu Nadu, and during the 10<sup>th</sup> century, it was conquered by medieval Cholas. In 12th Century, it was ruled by Irulas (Tribe), whose tribal chief Kovan named this city on his name.

### Syllabic structure

A syllable is a unit of pronunciation typically larger than a single sound and smaller than a word. There are three types of syllables viz., (1) Initial syllable (2) medial syllable (3) final syllable. Each of these three types is further classified in to open and closed syllables.

### Initial syllable

There are seven type of initial syllables of which three are open and four are closed.

### Open type

1. v	e- tu	which
2. cv	pa-na	mony
3. ccv	vra-lu	finger

### Closed type

1. vc	i:k-ku	piece of wood
2. vcc	ent-ri	getup

3. cvc	ka:t-tu	air
4. ccvc	pra-ca-ne	problem

**Middle syllable**

There are three type of middle syllables of which one are open and two are closed.

**Open type**

1. cv	ki-ri-vi	bird
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**Closed type**

1. cvc	na-muk-ku	us
2. ccvc	can-tarp-pa	situation

**Final syllable**

There are four type of final syllables of which two are open and two are closed.

**Open type**

1. cv	ki:-vu	sharp
2. ccv	pon-dri	father

**Closed type**

1. cvc	mi:-tal	swim
2. cvc	pla:-ka:y	jack fruit

**Cluster structure**

There are no vowel clusters found to occur in the speech variety analyses here. However, consonantal clusters are found to occur both initially and medially.

**Consonant Clusters**

The consonant clusters are found to occur in the word initial and medial positions only. They are grouped into three type, viz., (1) two consonant clusters (2) three consonant clusters and (3) four consonant clusters.

**Two consonant clusters**

Two consonant clusters are found in the word initial as well as in the medial positions.

**Initial Clusters**

All the initial clusters are of the type C1 C2

S.NO	Cluster	Illustration	English
1.	/pl/	plichi	sour
2.	/kl/	klaka:yi	unfruit
3.	/ pr-/	prakuñcu	dove
4.	/ kr-/	kra:ma	village

**Germination Clusters****Medial two consonant Clusters**

S.NO	Cluster	illustration	English
1.	/-pp-/	dappe	bamboo splits
2.	/-ṅṅ-/	kaṅṅu	eye
3.	/-tt-/	ruṭṭu	role
4.	/-vv-/	kavve	instruments
5.	/-yy-/	keyyi	hand
6.	/-kk-/	takke	nut
7.	/-cc-/	pacce	green
8.	/-mm-/	amme	mother
9.	/-nn-/	cinna	small
10.	/-ll-/	bella	big
11.	/-jj-/	ujji	wash
12.	/- ll-/	callai	littre
13.	/- rr /	ti:rru	feed

**-C1 C2- cluster type**

1.	/-nd-/	gondi	hop
2.	/-mb-/	dumbi	insect
3./	-nt-/	coraṅduto	search
4.	/-ñj-/	mañja	turmaric
5.	/-rd-/	erdu	bull
6.	/-rm-/	erme	buffalow
7.	/-ng-/	e:nge	wherep
8.	/-ṅd-/	peṅdu	wife
9.	/-nt-/	panti	pig

10.	/-rc-/	verca	speed
11.	/-ry-/	surya	sun
12.	/-ñc-/	mañcu	mist
13.	/-rv-/	kirvi	bird
14.	/ńg-/	rońgu	ongu
15.	/-yt-/	ka:yta	paper
16.	/ -yn- /	myna:	bird
17.	/- nr- /	ponri	wife
18.	/- yl- /	taylo	essents
19.	/ -gv- /	agve	mother

### Three consonant Clusters

There are four type of three consonant clusters in this speech namely,

- (1) C1 C1C2 type (2) C1 C2 C1 type (3) C1 C2C2 type (4) C1 C2 C3 type  
(2) and (5) C1 C2C1

#### -C1 C1 C2-type

1. / kky/ mukkya Important

#### -C1 C2 C1-type

1. / - yry- / teyrya bold

#### -C1 C2 C2- type

1. /-vkk-/ cavkku causerina tree  
2. /-rpp-/ ti:rppu judgment  
3. / -lpp- / kolppu fat

#### -C1 C2 C3 - type

1. /-mpl-/ a:mple gens  
2. /-ņdr-/ poņdri wife  
3. /- vņt- / kavņtma:ru caste

### Conclusion

In this paper, the syllabic structure and cluster of Irula language are described with examples. In syllabic structure there is V (vowel) and C (consonant) structure are analyzed. In cluster, two consonant clusters, Germination are found in the data and also of the tri consonantal cluster words are listed to show the vocabulary of Irula language.