

Blackfoot is an Algonquian language spoken by about 5000 speakers of the Blood, Peigan, and Siksika tribes in southern Alberta and Northern Montana.

Blackfoot is currently in a transitional period between what is classified by its speakers as "Old Blackfoot" and "New Blackfoot". What is presented here is a female New Blackfoot Speaker raised on the Siksika reserve. She is in her forties.

Blackfoot Phonemic Consonants:

Stops:	p	t		k	ʔ
Fricatives:		s		x	h
Affricates:		ts			
Nasals:	m	n			
Glides:	w		j		

Consonants Encountered:

Stops:	p	t		k
Fricatives:		s	ç	x
Affricates:		ts	(tç)	
Nasals:	m	n		
Glides:	w		j	

There are no voiced non-sonorant consonants and no liquids. Stops are not aspirated, but they are released. Length is contrastive. [ç] is an allophone of /x/ that occurs near high front vowels. [tç] occurs allophonically in only one instance. [h] is not exhibited in New Blackfoot and [ʔ] is not common, although both according to Frantz (1989) are contrastive in Blackfoot. At first it was hypothesized that this was a characteristic change of New Blackfoot, however after recording an Old Blackfoot speaker, it seems more likely that there is a dialectal difference between the Siksika Tribe (that is recorded here) and the Blood Tribe upon which Frantz's dictionary was primarily based. However, currently, there is no recording of a Blood speaker to confirm this hypothesis.

Blackfoot Vowel Phonemes:

i	
	o
a	

Vowels Encountered:

i		u
ɪ		ʊ
e	ʌ	o
ɛ		ɔ
	a	ɑ

Vowel length is contrastive although it is mostly prevalent on tense vowels. Two homorganic vowels may occur sequentially. Vowels exhibit creakiness when in proximity to an underlyingly phonemic glottal stop, and

occasionally, nasalization in the environments of nasals. Vowels are devoiced when they precede /x/.

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Consonants:

1.	[p]	[pík:s:ɪ]	'bird'
2.		[pukáw]	'child'
3.		[matápi]	'person'
4.		[ʌpi:t]	'sit'
5.		[te:nip]	'I see it'
6.		[nits:ksɪnip]	'I know it'
7.		[nitáp:sɪksɪkimɪ]	'coffee'
8.	[t]	[tuka:]	'who'
9.		[tʉxki:mam]	'wife'
10.		[matakawuw]	'few'
11.		[i:taxtan]	'river'
12.		[estut]	'come'
13.		[istsɪnit]	'cut'
14.		[sɪksɪnæt:sɪ]	'black'
15.		[nit:úkska:]	'one'
16.	[k]	[kuʔkun]	'night'
17.		[kitsɪn]	'door'
18.		[pukáw]	'child'
19.		[ɪs:pikiw]	'thick'
20.		[kʲekawajekʲuk]	'they're gonna hit you'
21.		[umaxkʲoxkutuk]	'a large stone'
22.		[úk:a:t]	'sleep'
23.		[puk:i:]	'small'
24.	[ʔ]	[ʔan:it]	'say'
25.		[ʔʌpi:t]	'sit'
26.		[kuʔkun]	'night'
27.		[nits:ksɪniʔ]	'know'
28.	[s]	[sa:]	'no'
29.		[sɪksɪnæt:sɪ]	'black'
30.		[niʃitʉj]	'five'
31.		[e:sokut:aw]	'he is spitting'
32.		[ʉxtu:kɪs]	'ear'
33.		[kʉtsɪs]	'give'
34.		[ɪs:i:næt:sɪ]	'it's foggy'
35.		[is:úkuj]	'heavy'
36.	[ç]	[ɪkɪçkininatsɪ]	'dull'
37.		[utsɪnɪçkɑ:sɪn]	'name'
38.	[x]	[çxtsɪmɪt]	'hear'
39.		[nekçxpi]	'it's swollen'

Blackfoot (New)

40.		[nuxkatsi]	'leg'
41.		[awaxka:t]	'play'
42.	[ts]	[tsani:tsi:]	'when'
43.		[tsima:]	'where'
44.		[kutsis]	'give'
45.		[nuxkatsi]	'leg'
46.		[umska:puxts]	'south'
47.		[so:xts]	'outside'
48.		[siksina:t:sɪ]	'black'
49.		[is:i:næt:si]	'it's foggy'
50.		[písæts:es:kɪ]	'flower'
51.	[m]	[mami:]	'fish'
52.		[matapi]	'person'
53.		[ɔxtsimɪt]	'hear'
54.		[a:mɔ]	'here'
55.		[is:ks:i:nam]	'fly'
56.		[num]	'husband'
57.	[n]	[num]	'husband'
58.		[nin]	'father'
59.		[ijɪnit]	'hold'
60.		[ninaw]	'man'
61.		[ɔxkukɪn]	'neck'
62.		[kuʔkun]	'night'
63.		[in:i]	'die'
64.		[in:uj]	'long'
65.	[w]	[ukowan]	'stomach'
66.		[awaxksiman]	'making tea'
67.		[pukaw]	'child'
68.		[imɪta:w]	'dog'
69.	[j]	[ijɪnit]	'hold'
70.		[ksistujɪ]	'warm'
71.		[umaxkuj]	'big'
72.		[mɔxsəkɔj]	'road'

Vowels:

73.	[i]	[ikupuxsin]	'fear'
74.		[is:ks:i:nam]	'fly'
75.		[imɪta:w]	'dog'
76.		[ɔxtsimɪt]	'hear'
77.		[mis:ts:i]	'stick'
78.		[matapi]	'person'
79.		[i:ksiman]	'hunt'
80.		[is:ks:i:nam]	'fly'
81.		[mami:]	'fish'
82.	[ɪ]	[is:tɔjɪ]	'cold'
83.		[is:i:næt:si]	'it's foggy'
84.		[kutsis]	'give'
85.		[tsima:]	'where'

86.		[pik:sá:k:sɪ]	'splitting wood'
87.		[es:ɪnmɪ]	'stab'
88.		[i:n:ɪ:]	'buffalo'
89.	[a]	[an:it]	'say'
90.		[akawuj]	'many'
91.		[matsɪni:]	'tongue'
92.		[matakawuw]	'few'
93.		[n'ukska]	'three'
94.		[ʌnja]	'is that right?'
95.		[a:ki:]	'woman'
96.		[pina:puxts]	'east'
97.		[tuka:]	'who'
98.	[e]	[esɪkstæks:ɪ]	'bite'
99.		[estut]	'come'
100.		[né:sak:s:ujɪ]	'they burnt themselves'
101.		[nekɔxpɪ]	'it's swollen'
102.		[e:sukot:aw]	'he is spitting'
103.		[te:nip]	'I see it'
104.	[ɛ]	[pɪsæts:es:kɪ]	'flower'
105.		[kəkawajek'uk]	'they're gonna hit you'
106.	[æ]	[esɪkstæks:ɪ]	'bite'
107.		[okstæksɪn]	'count'
108.		[aputskinæ]	'cow'
109.	[ʌ]	[ʌpi:t]	'sit'
110.		[ʌn:ɪm]	'there'
111.		[awʌʌna:kɪ]	'dig'
112.		[mami:]	'fish'
113.	[o]	[okstæksɪn]	'count'
114.		[ot:akatsiman]	'bartender'
115.		[içtɔjup]	'what one eats with'
116.	[u]	[ukuwan]	'stomach'
117.		[ut:sɪs]	'hand'
118.		[is:ukuj]	'heavy'
119.		[num]	'husband'
120.		[uxtu:kɪs]	'ear'
121.		[nis:u:wuj]	'four'
122.	[ʊ]	[uwaps:pɪn]	'eye'
123.		[upst:u:kɪn]	'insides'
124.		[kutsɪs]	'give'
125.		[nit:ukska:]	'one'
126.	[ɔ]	[nistu]	'I'
127.		[ɔxtsɪmit]	'hear'
128.		[ɔxkukɪn]	'neck'
129.		[ɔxsɔjɪs]	'tail'
130.		[a:mɔ]	'here'
131.		[sɔ:xts]	'outside'

Blackfoot Consonant Clusters:

132.	initial	[ksístuʃɪ]	'warm'
133.	medial	[esíkstæks:ɪ]	'bite'
134.		[ɪkí:s:tapstsi]	'far'
135.		[is:ks:i:nám]	'fly'
136.		[ʊpst:u:kɪn]	'insides'
137.		[ɔ̃xtsɪmɪt]	'hear'
138.		[nɪts:ksɪniʔ]	'know'
139.		[ɪst:síksʊpʊkʊj]	'salt'
140.		[ɪs:ɪststán]	'wash'
141.		[in:Áksts:ɪ]	'young'
142.		[matúms:tsɪ]	'early'
143.	final	[ʊmska:pʊxts]	'south'
144.		[pina:pʊxts]	'east'

Palatalization

145.		[kʰəkawajekʰʊk]	'they're gonna hit you'
146.		[nʰukska]	'three'
147.		[ʊmska:pʊxts]	'south'
148.		[mʊxkátɛ]	'foot'

Glottal-Nasal Coarticulation

149.		[mɔ̃xkɪms:tsɪs]	'west'
150.		[ksɪʔms:á:t]	'think'

Double Vowels

151.		[aa:pán]	'blood'
152.		[nɔ̃ɔ̃j]	'mouth'

Loss of [ʔ], /#h/, /#w/

		<u>Example</u>		<u>Dictionary Form</u>
153.	[ʔ] evident	[kuʔkʊn]	'night'	/koʔko/
154.		[ʊʔtsɪs]	'arm'	/moʔtsɪs/
155.		[ʊʔtsɪsɪw]	'smoke'	/oʔtsɪsi/
156.	no [ʔ]	[muká:p:sɪn]	'bad'	/okaʔp/
157.		[kakatʊ:sɪ]	'star'	/kakatoʔsi/
158.		[má:tsɪt]	'take it'	/maʔtsɪ/
159.		[ne:sák:s:ʊji]	'they burnt themselves'	/saʔks:/
160.		[natʊk:a]	'two'	/na:toʔka/
161.		[sʊ:pát:sɪs]	'chair'	/so:paʔtsɪs/
162.	no [#h]	[Ánja]	'is that right'	/han:ia/
163.	no [#w]	[axkana:t]	'sew'	/wa:xkania:ki/

[m:] -> [nm]

164.	[ɪjɪnmɪt]	'laugh'	/jim:i/
165.	[es:ɪnmɪ]	'stab'	/sim:/

Voiceless Vowels

166.	[úmə̀xkuj]	'big'	
167.	[ɪkɪçkɪnɪnatsɪ]	'dull'	
168.	[ikupuxsɪn]	'fear'	
169.	[nakɔ̀xpi]	'it's swollen'	
170.	[tɔ̀xki:ma:n]	'wife'	
171.	[ɔ̀xtu:kɪs]	'ear'	
172.	[iɛtɔ̀xpi]	'it's floating that way'	
173.	[ɔ̀xtsimɪt]	'hear'	
174.	[axkana:t]	'sew'	
175.	[ɪs:pikiw]	'thick'	
176.	[supuj]	'wind'	
177.	[ksistujɪ]	'warm'	
178.	[sɪksupowɪ]	'the wind is alming down'	

Diphthongs

179.	[úmə̀xkuj]	'big'	
180.	[imita:w]	'dog'	
181.	[matakawow]	'few'	
182.	[ɪs:pikiw]	'thick'	

Vowel Nasalization

183.	[is:ãntsɪn]	'lie'	
184.	[is:ãms:ɪ]	'old'	
185.	[mã:ni:]	'new'	
186.	[mãʔstujɪ]	'new year'	

References:

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