

Sharchagpakha and its main variant, Tsangla, are spoken by over 400,000 people in Eastern Bhutan. Tsangla is considered by some sources ("Bodish languages," 1992) to be a distinct language, rather than a dialect of Sharchagpakha (known colloquially as Shachop). Either way, both are members of the Tsangla group, which also includes the mutually intelligible Kebumtamp. Tsangla is the name given to a major division of the Bodish languages, all of which are united with the East Himalayan languages, and perhaps also with the isolate Dhimal, in a higher-level unit called Bodic within the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan family ("Bodish languages," 1992). The first speaker recorded speaks Tsangla proper.

### The Consonants of Tsangla Shachop:

Tsangla has an extremely rich system of obstruents, with plosives in four places of articulation for each of three manners of articulation, and two different affricates exhibiting the three manners. The aspirated series seems lenis rather than fortis, often exhibiting voiceless fricative allophones. The bilabial /p<sup>h</sup>/ in particular often manifests as [f].

The retroflex plosives are in free variation with corresponding retroflex clusters [ɭ, ɭ<sup>h</sup>, dɭ].

The fricatives also are distinguished along a fortis/lenis dimension; voicing is unimportant in [z, ʒ] provided the articulation is lax. The phoneme /r/ is a retroflex trill, which is pronounced as a flap intervocally.

The fortis and lenis plosives seem to affect the voice quality of following vowels; lenis plosives are most often followed by breathy voicing, while fortis plosives seem to induce a more tense voice quality. This may be related to the tone/voice quality distinctions which are phonologically distinctive in Dzongkha.

All consonants are possible as initials, and most occur intervocally. In final position, however, the only obstruents occurring are the fortis [p, k].

fortis	p	t	ts	tʃ	ɬ	k
lenis	b	d	dz	dʒ	ɖ	g
aspirated	p <sup>h</sup>	t <sup>h</sup>	ts <sup>h</sup>	tʃ <sup>h</sup>	ɬ <sup>h</sup>	k <sup>h</sup>
fricatives		s		ʃ		h
		z		ʒ		
nasals	m	n			ɲ	ŋ
liquids				r	l	
					ɭ	
glides	w					j

The Vowels of Tsangla Shachop:

Tsangla has essentially five full vowel phonemes (Egli-Roduner, 1987):

i	u
ɪ	o
a	

The high vowels are quite close; the back vowel /o/ is often pronounced as [ɔ], while the front vowel /ɪ/ seems to be a freely varying mid vowel showing the two allophones [ɛ, ɪ]. The only diphthong that I could find is [aj].

I. Word ListsConsonants:

1	[p]	[palaŋ]	"bamboo flask"
2		[apa]	"father"
3		[t <sup>h</sup> apa]	a breed of cow
4	[p <sup>h</sup> ]	[p <sup>h</sup> alɛ]	"to bring"
5		[p <sup>h</sup> akpa]	"pig"
6		[p <sup>h</sup> aj]	"house; bring (vocative)"
7	[b]	[baŋmɪ]	"to carry"
8		[bi]	"leg"
9		[braŋsa]	"shed, hut"
10		[ibi]	"who"
11	[t]	[toka]	"oxen"
12		[to]	"cooked food"
13		[tam]	"story"
14		[kɔta]	"younger brother"
15	[t <sup>h</sup> ]	[t <sup>h</sup> alɪ]	"to keep"
16		[t <sup>h</sup> urma]	"spoon"
17		[t <sup>h</sup> amɛ]	"to lay (eggs)"
18	[d]	[dani]	"cat"
19		[dapa]	"wooden plate"
20		[dɔma]	"pants"
21	[ts]	[tsa]	"veins"
22		[wɔktsa]	"a child"
23	[ts <sup>h</sup> ]	[ts <sup>h</sup> am]	"hair"
24		[ts <sup>h</sup> ampa]	a level of monkhood

25	[dz]	[dzɔŋ]	"fortress"
26		[dzampa]	"bridge"
27	[tʃ]	[tʃatɿ]	"to cut"
28		[kurtʃo]	"to bend"
29	[tʃ <sup>h</sup> ]	[tʃ <sup>h</sup> am]	"dance"
30		[tʃ <sup>h</sup> owaŋ]	"knife"
31		[omtʃ <sup>h</sup> aŋ]	"again"
32	[dʒ]	[dʒa]	"tea"
33		[dʒamɿ]	"to drink"
34	[k]	[karba]	"ladle"
35		[ku]	"statue"
36		[kurta]	"horse"
37	[k <sup>h</sup> ]	[k <sup>h</sup> a]	"bird"
38		[k <sup>h</sup> ajla]	"tiger"
39		[k <sup>h</sup> u]	"dog"
40	[g]	[gɔtɿ]	"to look"
41		[gu]	"nine; drum"
42		[gʌɿ]	"vehicle"
43	[t]	[tʌmafikpa]	"naughty"
44		[tʌʔalɿ]	"ostentatious"
45	[t <sup>h</sup> ]	[t <sup>h</sup> a]	"pattern"
46		[t <sup>h</sup> ikɛn]	"correct"
47		[t <sup>h</sup> apa]	a breed of cow
48		[t <sup>h</sup> aŋpɛ]	"to straighten"
49	[d]	[dʌk]	"dragon"
50		[dʌma]	"weak"
51		[dʌbɛ]	"to write"
52		[dʌ]	"enemy"
53		[dʌm]	"box"
54		[dʌ]	"boat"
55		[namdʌ]	"airplane"
56	[s]	[sa]	"soil"
57		[sam]	"three"
58		[sants <sup>h</sup> am]	"boundary"
59	[z]	[za]	"son"
60		[zamin]	"girl"
61		[zala]	"monkey"
62		[zalɿ]	"eat"
63		[zo]	"carpenter"
64	[ʃ]	[ʃa]	"meat"
65		[ʃum]	"dirt; sheath"
66		[ʃɿ]	"glass"
67	[ʒ]	[ʒumpu]	"tasty"
68		[kuʒu]	respectful address form
69		[aʒaŋ]	"father-in-law"
70	[h]	[ha tʃ <sup>h</sup> atpa]	"astonished"

Continued on Tape #2

71		[ham]	"yawn"
72		[halam]	"ok"
73	[m]	[mi]	"arrow; wool"
74		[ama]	"mother"
75	[n]	[namniŋ]	"tomorrow"
76		[ana]	"elder sister"
77	[ŋ]	[ŋoŋpe]	"to get"
78		[ŋoŋkɪŋ]	"soaked (with water)"
79	[ŋ]	[ŋa]	"fish; five"
80		[ŋama]	"chewed" (past participle)
81	[l]	[lɛ]	"tongue"
82		[la]	"hill"
83		[lap <sup>h</sup> ɪ]	"to beat"
84	[l]	[la]	"deity"
85		[lakpɪ]	"to read"
86	[r]	[ralɪ]	"to call"
87		[raba]	"goat"
88		[riŋan]	"ladder"
89		[gʌɾi]	"vehicle"
90	[j]	[jap <sup>h</sup> ɪ]	"to sift"
91		[jaka]	"yak"
92	[w]	[wa]	"cow"
93		[walɪ]	"to copulate"

Vowels:

1	/i/	[libi]	"soybean"
2		[ibi]	"who"
3		[di]	"pot"
4	/ɪ/	[mɪmɪ]	"grandfather"
5		[pɪpɪ]	"great-grandfather"
6		[dɪ]	"go" (vocative)
7	/a/	[ama]	"mother"
8		[haŋ]	"what"
9		[da]	"to masturbate" (slang)
10	/u/	[ubi]	"great-grandmother"
11		[up <sup>h</sup> ɪ]	"to come" (1p.)
12		[du]	"poison"
13	/o/	[gɔtpɪ]	"to look"
14		[oma]	"now"
15		[do]	"string"
16	[aɨ]	[bajnaŋ ʃɪŋ]	"oak tree"
17		[ajba]	"we"

II. Spontaneous SpeechAddendum: intervocalic consonants:

The preceding list illustrating the Tsangla consonants is rather lacking in examples showing their use in intervocalic position. The following list collects the earlier examples and adds some new ones to flesh out the data in this area.

1	[p]	[apa]	"father"
2	[p <sup>h</sup> ]	[sap <sup>h</sup> ɪ]	"to insert"
3	[b]	[ibi]	"who"
4	[t]	[kota]	"younger brother"
5	[t <sup>h</sup> ]	[got <sup>h</sup> am]	"eggs"
6	[d]	[koda]	"spade"
7	[ts]	[atsaʔ]	an exclamation
8	[ts <sup>h</sup> ]	[ɬats <sup>h</sup> aŋ]	"monastery"
9	[tʃ]	[patʃala]	"shoot of a banana"
10	[tʃ <sup>h</sup> ]	[dʒatʃ <sup>h</sup> ɪtʃ <sup>h</sup> ɪ]	"good looking"
11	[dʒ]	[madʒɪktʃo]	"don't shout" (imperative)
12	[k]	[nakɪr]	"earring"
13	[k <sup>h</sup> ]	[lak <sup>h</sup> aŋ]	"temple"
14	[g]	[bago]	"hut"
15	[ʈ]	[paʈa]	"imprint (art)"
16	[tʰ]	[lowanaŋtʰi]	"lungs"
17	[d]	[namdʊ]	"airplane"

Continued on Tape #3

18	[s]	[losar]	"new year"
19	[z]	[daza]	"small"
20	[ʃ]	[aʃam]	"maize"
21	[ʒ]	[aʒaŋ]	"father-in-law"
22	[m]	[ama]	"mother"
23	[n]	[ana]	"elder sister"
24	[l]	[gɪwala]	"right (correct)"
25	[r]	[gɻi]	"vehicle"
26	[j]	[saja]	"earthquake"

References:

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