

# PHONOLOGY OF YAGHNOBI

## Vowels

### Short:

/i/	[i]	Short vowel in basic realisation, wide spectre of articulation variants [i - ɪ - e].	
	[i̯]	Ultra short realisation of /i/ in open syllable in front of stressed syllable.	x̯ <sup>i</sup> šift, t̯ <sup>i</sup> ray
	[i]	Realisation in vicinity of fricatives and in closed syllable after palatal /k, g/.	firók, virót, kiš-, gird
	[e]	Variant in word-final position, and in front of pharyngeal or uvular.	mórti, áwi, ix, dih-
/a/	[a]	Short vowel in its basic articulation. <sup>1</sup>	
	[a:]	Result of a compensatory lengthening in case of loss of /h/ or /ɛ/.	kādūn < kahdūn, jām < ja <sub>ɛ</sub> m < jam <sub>ɛ</sub>
	[æ]	Realisation in vicinity of a uvular sound.	yār, xār
/u/	[u]	Basic vowel articulation, wide diapason of realisations [u - ʊ - o].	
	[ʊ]	Ultra short variant in open pre-stressed syllable.	s̯ <sup>u</sup> túr, š̯ <sup>u</sup> móx, p̯ <sup>u</sup> xóy-
	[u]	Realisation in vicinity of a fricative.	
	[o]	Articulation in closed syllables containing plosive.	urk, uxš, kut
	[y]	Realisation in position in front of uvular or pharyngeal. ( <i>Dialectal feature?</i> )	

### Long:<sup>2</sup>

/ī/	[i:]	Long vowel in its basic articulation.	
	[ī:]	Variant of articulation between plosives.	tīk

<sup>1</sup> Short /a/ changes to /o/ in verbal stems ending in -ar when follows an ending beginning with -t/-s (< \*θ) or -či: x<sup>o</sup>ar- > xorči, xort/xors; var- > vórtišť, vórči; gudar- > gudórt/gudórs, gudórci. Word-final -a changes to -o before plural ending -t: póda > pódot; púlla > púllot; hamsóya > hamsóyot.

<sup>2</sup> By current observations it seems plausible, that long vowels are half-long according to IPA system of transcription: /ī, e, ā, o, ū, y/ read [iː, eː, aː, ɔː, uː, yː]. Some speakers do not distinguish long and short vowels, all are short in their speech, long vowels can appear only in stressed syllables – historical long or short vowel can be long than under the influence of stress.

/e/	[e:]	Long vowel with in its basic realisation, in native words always carries stress and can not appear word-initially. Variants of articulation [ɛ - e -	
	[e:]	In vicinity of /š, ž/ and nasals.	šer, meṭ
	[ɛ:]	Pronunciation of historical *ay in the eastern dialect, usually merges with historical *ē. In the western dialect is realised aḷ.	men / maḷn, weš / waḷš
	[aḷ]		
/o/	[ɔ:]	Long vowel in basic realisation, articulation variants [ɔ: - ɔ: - o:].	
	[o:]	In stressed closed syllables.	
	[u:]	Variant of /o/ in front of a nasal.	nom / nām, pirónt- / pirūnt-
/ū/	[u:]	Long vowel developed from historical *ō and *ū, in native words does not appear in unstressed position.	
	[y:]	Variant of historical *ū in stressed position; pronunciation can merge with /ī/. Dialectal feature.	xūr / xýr (xīr) < *xūr, kabūd / kabýd (kabīd) < *kabūd

### Consonants

/p/	[p]		
	[p <sup>h</sup> ]	Realisation of /p/ in word-initial or word-final position.	
/b/	[b]		
/t/	[t]		
	[t <sup>h</sup> ]	Realisation of /t/ in word-initial or word-final position.	
	[t <sup>jh</sup> ]	Plausible realisation of word-initial /t/ in front of /ī/.	
/d/	[d]		
	[d <sup>j</sup> ]	Plausible realisation of word-initial /d/ in front of /ī/.	
/č/	[tʃ]		
/ǰ/	[ʧ]	Articulation can merge with /ž/.	

/k/	[k]		
	[k <sup>h</sup> ]	Realisation of /k/ in word-initial or word-final position.	
	[c]	Articulation of /k/ in vicinity of front vowel.	
	[c <sup>h</sup> ]	Articulation of /k/ in word-initial or word-final position in vicinity of a front vowel.	tík, fík
/g/	[g]		
	[j]	Articulation of /g/ in vicinity of a front vowel.	
/q/	[q]		
/m/	[m]		
/n/	[n]		
	[ŋ]	Allophone of /n/ before a velar.	
/f/	[f]		
/v/	[v]		
/s/	[s]		
/z/	[z]		
/š/	[ʃ]	Yaghnobi pronunciation of /š/ is more palatal than in Tajik.	
/ž/	[ʒ]	Yaghnobi pronunciation of /ž/ is more palatal than in Tajik.	
/x/	[χ]		
/ʁ/	[ʁ]		
/x <sup>o</sup> /	[χ <sup>w</sup> ]	In Yaghnobi there can be no consonant clusters word initially, so /x <sup>o</sup> / is considered to be single labialised vowel, not a cluster of /x/ + /w/. <sup>3</sup>	
/h/	[h]		
	[ħ]	Possible realisation of historical *ħ of Arabic origin, the pronunciation merges with /h/. <sup>4</sup>	ħiss > hiss, suħbát > suhbát
/ʕ/	[ʕ]	Realisation of ‘ayn often disappears or is pronounced as [.] in some words. <sup>5</sup>	ʕúdda > údda; qál

<sup>3</sup> /x<sup>o</sup>/ changes to /x/ when following /a/ is prolonged to /o/: x<sup>o</sup>ar- > xorči.

<sup>4</sup> Pronunciation of /ħ/ as [ħ] is a hyper-correct pronunciation of Arabic loans by Mullahs, ordinary people usually pronounce [h]

			ε a > [qáel.a]
/w/	[β]	According to <i>Xromov</i> Yagnobi /w/ is realised as bilabial approximant, on the other hand <i>Vinogradova</i> writes, that it should be realised more like bilabial fricative.	
	[β]		
	[w̥]	Realisation of /w/ after a vowel at the end of a syllable. <i>Xromov</i> and <i>Andrejev - Peščereva</i> use /w̥/ in this case.	dew [de:w̥]
/y/	[j]		
/r/	[r]		
/l/	[l]		

In loans the Arabic pharyngealised /s̤, t̤, z̤, d̤/ [s̤, t̤, z̤, ð̤] and aspirates /t̥, d̥/ [θ, ð] are realised same as /s, t, z, z/ respectively /s, z/ (i.e. the same way as in Tajik).

### References:

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<sup>5</sup> *Аун* /ε/ appears only in loans from Arabic, its pronunciation [ʔ] was used by Mullahs, normally it disappears or in some cases is realised as [ʔ] or [·].