



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

HANNES A. FELLNER
Tocharian
Phonology – Part 2

Roadmap

- 2. Phonology
- 2.1.2. Suprasegmentals
 - Stress

2.1.2. Suprasegmentals Tocharian B

- Tocharian B has a stress accent.
- Stress can be inferred by alternations in the central vowels:

	Pattern 1		Pattern 2	
underlying segment	/ə/ [ɨ]	/é/ [ə]	/a/ [ə]	/á/ [a]
written representation	<ä>	<a>	<a>	<ā>

2.1.2. Suprasegmentals Tocharian B

- Stress falls on the penultimate syllable.
- Descriptively, this leads to the following rules:

1. disyllabic words are stressed on the first syllable

nom.sg. <i>tarkär</i>	[tərkɪr]	'cloud'
3sg.pret. <i>śarsa</i>	[çərsə]	's/he knew'

2. trisyllabic words are stressed on the second syllable

nom.pl. <i>tärkarwa</i>	[tɪr'kərwə]	'clouds'
3pl.pret. <i>śärsāre</i>	[çɪr'sare]	'they knew'

2.1.2. Suprasegmentals Tocharian B

- Amendments to the basic principle

Disyllabic words with stress on the second syllable are underlyingly trisyllabic

nom.sg. <i>puwar</i>	/púwar/	'fire'
nom. pl. <i>pwāra</i>	/puwára/	'fire(s)'
nom. sg. <i>akālk</i>	/akálkä/	'wish'
underlying /-ä/ optionally appears in metrical texts as o		
nom. sg. <i>akālko</i>		

2.1.2. Suprasegmentals Tocharian B

- Amendments to the basic principle

Trisyllabic words bear initial stress if the first syllable has a full vowel (e, ā, o)

pret.ptcp.nom.sg.f. <i>yāmuwa</i>	/yāmuwa/	instead of [†] <i>yamuwa</i>	[†] /yāmúwa/	'done'
nom.sg. <i>pātär</i>	/pātärä/	instead of [†] <i>patar</i>	[†] /pātárä/	'father'

2.1.2. Suprasegmentals Tocharian B

- Example: Stress

TB CEToM THT 220 b5

<i>nraissana</i>	<i>wat</i>	<i>kliñem</i>	<i>lkātsi</i>	<i>kr_uj</i>	<i>läklenta</i>
infernal.ACC.PL	or	obliged.3PL.OPT.ACT	see.INF	if	suffering.ACC.PL

<i>pitsantse</i>	<i>ṣarntsə</i>	<i>nraisse</i>	<i>lakle</i>	<i>wat</i>	<i>warpoymar</i>
trifle.GEN.SG	because	infernal.ACC.SG	suffering.ACC.SG	or	feel.1SG.OPT.MID

“... or if I were obliged to see the sufferings of hell, or if I felt the suffering of hell because of a trifle...”