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Phonemic Inventory in Mising Language

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Abstract

The present study, "Phonemic Inventory in Mising Language," discusses the Mising language of Assam. The research study has been conducted to find out the phonological features of the language. According to the 2011 Indian Census, the total population of Mising is around 6,000 people.Mising belongs to the Tibeto-Burman language family of the Sino-Tibetan group, residing on the banks of the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam and in some parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

The paper attempts to discuss "Phonemic Inventory in Mising Language." The Mising language has a total of twenty-eight (29) segmental phonemes in its phonetic inventory, including fourteen vowels (14) and fifteen (15) consonants. Firstly, the paper emphasises the consonant sound in the language. Plosive /p, b, t, d, k/, nasal /m, n/, trill /r/, fricative /s, z/, approximant /j/, and lateral approximant /l/ are among the fourteen consonant sounds in the language. Secondly, the paper will emphasise the vowel sounds in the Mising language, including long and short vowels, /i, iː, e, eː, a, aː, o, oː, u, uː, ɨ, ɨː, ə, əː/. The paper focuses on contrastive pairs and the syllabic structure found in the language. Lastly, the paper attempts to find out the variety of consonant sequences in the language: germination, homorganic, and contiguous.

Keywords: Mising, consonants,vowels,contrastive pairs, syllabic structure, consonant sequence.

Review of Literature

The Mising language has drawn the attention of linguists and scholars for many years. The language marks literary works in the language's history. In the Linguistic Survey of India, G. A. Grierson grouped and labelled these languages as the North Assam Group of the Tibeto-Burman family. It has been discovered that even J.H. Lorrain wrote a dictionary of the Abor-Miri language (1910). Tabu Taid discusses on phonology in his work ‘A short note on mishing phonology’ (1987). Normoda Doley (2021) discusses the typological features of Mising in her work, "Typological Features: A Case Study of the Mising Language." Sarat K. Doley and Mark W. Post, in their 2012 paper "Classifiers in Mising," describe numeral-based classifiers of Mising in general and its morphophonemic types. Sharmila Taye discusses the syntactical study in her thesis, "Hindi and Mishing contrastive study syntaxes" (2015). Sarat K. Doley discusses adjectives in his two works, "Adjective in Tibeto-Burman: A Case of the Mising Language" (2017) and "The Misings and the Question of Adjectives in Mising" (2017). However, a dialectal study has also been conducted by Jugendra Pegu in his work "Dialectal variations in Mising and the interference of dominant languages" (2010). Aside from that, there have been a number of sociolinguistic studies conducted on the Mising language.

Introduction

Mis(h)ing, also known as "plain miri," is a Tani language from the Eastern Tani branch of the Sino-Tibetan subgroup belonging to the Tibeto-Burman language family. It is the second-largest community in Assam. It is one of the endangered languages spoken in the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. A British Administrator named J.F Needham in his publication of Outline of Grammar of Shaiyang Miri language in 1886 was the first to mention that the Miris call themselves ‘Mishing’ using ‘h’ in spelling the word(Chetia.M,2020).

Mising has a total population of 5,51,182 people, according to the 2001 Indian census. According to the Mising Autonomous Council 2001, the population is 7,87,436. According to the census of India 2011, the total number of Mising population is 6,00,000 approximately. Mising language speakers are mostly found in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley districts and Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang, Lower Dibang, Namsai, and Lohit districts in the hills of the upper Brahmaputra Valley. The language consists of nine dialects: Pagro, Dílu, Ojan, Sajang,

Moying, Dambug, Samuguria, Tamargoja, and Bongkhul. The Samuguria, Tamargoja, and Bongkhul groups have largely adopted Assamese (an Indo-Aryan language) in preference to Mising for the majority of language situations (Doley.S&Post.M.W 2012: 3.3). Based on the population and its rich culture, research has been conducted.

Methodology

- The interview and observation methods were applied to collect the primary data.
- The data for the present study was collected in several visits to the Mising inhibiting areas of Assam.

Phonemic Inventory in Mising Language

Phonology is the study of the patterns of sounds in a language and across languages. "A branch of linguistics which studies the sound systems of languages. Out of the very wide range of sounds the human vocal apparatus can produce, and which are studied by phonetics, only a relatively small number are used distinctively in any one language" (Crystal, David: 365). The Mising language has a total of twenty-eight (28) segmental phonemes in its phonetic inventory including thirteen vowels (13) and fifteen (15) consonants.

Vowels

Mising has an inventory of thirteen vowel phonemes including long and short vowels, i,e,, /i,iː,e, eː, a, aː,o, oː,u, uː,ɨ, ɨː,ə/ as illustrated below:

	Front(unrounded)	Central(unrounded)	Back(rounded)
Close	i iː	ɨ ɨː	u uː
Close-mid	e eː	ə,əː	o oː
Open	-	-	a aː

Table 1: Vowel phonemes in Mising

Description and Distribution of Vowel Phonemes

Mising has seven short vowel phonemes /i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, /u/, /ɨ/, /ə/. All the seven short vowels occur in all three positions as discussed below.

➔ The phoneme /i/ is close, front unrounded vowels and it occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/igiŋ/	'axe'	/apin/	'rice'	/ori/	'coriander
/iraŋ/	'family'	/jikə/	'ridge gourd'	/pəmi/	'eagle'

➔ The phoneme /e/ is close-mid, front unrounded vowels and it occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/eg/	'pig'	/eted/	'short'	/gure/	'horse'
/eŋe/	'yam'	/ger/	'work'	/sibe/	'monkey'

➔ The phoneme /a/ is open, back unrounded vowels and it occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/ako/	'one'	/bati/	'bowl'	/lotta/	'field'
/aum/	'three'	/sinam/	'death'	/liga/	'Wednesday'

➔ The phoneme /o/ is close-mid, back rounded vowels and it occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/ori/	'coriander'	/mosolaŋ/	'spices'	/ako/	'one'
/okum/	'house'	/mo/	'make'	/oŋo/	'fish'

➔ The phoneme /u/ is close, back rounded vowels and it occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/ukum/	'house'	/ukum/	'house'	/malu/	'mud oven'
/uju/	'tuesday'	/rutum/	'friday'	/abu/	'father'

➔ The phoneme /ɨ/ is close, central unrounded vowels and it occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/ɨjiŋ/	'ten'	/ɨsiŋ/	'tree'	/assɨ/	'water'
/ikɨ/	'dog'	/kɨniɨd/	'seven'	/bɨ/	'he/she'

➔ The phoneme /ə/ is close, central unrounded vowels and it occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/əsa:la:/	'how'	/pətu/	'Mustard'	/amɨrsə/	'body'

/əlluŋ/ ‘boat’ /məlo/ ‘yesterday’ /jikə/ ‘ridge gourd’

Consonants

Consonants can be defined in terms of both phonetics and phonology. Phonetically, they are sounds made by a closure or narrowing in the vocal tract so that the airflow is either completely blocked, or so restricted that audible friction is produced. Phonologically, these sounds are consonants, because their role in syllables is the same as that taken by [f], [p], etc.(Crystal.David:103). Mising has fifteen consonants. On the basis of place of articulation consonants can be divided into bilabial, alveolar, palatal and velar. In terms of manner of articulation, the consonants can be further divided into stops, nasal, trill, fricative, approximant and lateral approximant as shown in the table.

Description and Distribution of Consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Post-Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	p b				k g
Nasal	m	n		ɲ	ŋ
Trill		r			
Fricative		s	z		

Mising has fifteen consonant phonemes /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /ɲ/, /k/, /g/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /r/, /s/, /z/, /j/ and /l/. All the fifteen consonants occur in all three positions as discussed below.

Approximant				j	
Lateral approximant		l			

Table 2: Consonant Phonemes in Mising

➔ The phoneme /p/ is a voiceless bilabial stop consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/pa:puk/	'banana flower'	/pa:puk/	'banana flower'	/sikap/	'close'
/pəpit/	'sparrow'	/pəpit/	'sparrow'	/raŋko/	'rabbit'

➔ The phoneme /b/ is a voiced bilabial stop consonant. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**
/bati/	'bowl'	/kəbuŋ/	'mouse'	-
/bottan/	'elder'	/abaŋ/	'zero'	-

➔ The phoneme /t/ is a voiceless alveolar stop consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/tabad/	'sugarcane'	/bati/	'bowl'	/tamit/	'mosquito'
/tu/	'kick'	/məto/	'end'	/taŋut/	'bee'

➔ The phoneme /d/ is a voiced alveolar stop consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/do/	'eat'	/muduri/	'guava'	/dumɨd/	'hair'
/duk/	'run'	/ke:di/	'mango'	/eted/	'short'

➔ The phoneme /k/ is a voiceless velar stop consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/kabə/	'see'	/kaki/	'mother's brother'	/galuk/	'tshirt'
/kottaŋ/	'spoon'	/ako/	'one'	/rogporok/	'hen'

➔ The phoneme /g/ is a voiced velar stop consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/gakɨr/	'Milk'	/salgum/	'knolkhol'	/galug/	'Tshirt'
/gɨ/	'go'	/səgum/	'vulture'	/leg/	'kick'

➔ The phoneme /m/ is a voiced bilabial nasal consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/milo/	'husband	/mamoi/	'mother sister'	/makum/	'cucumber'
/makum/	'cucumber'	/ʒamun/	'java'	/məjum/	'last night'

➔ The phoneme /n/ is a voiced alveolar nasal consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/nig/	'punch'	/paminsupa/	'fight'	/genn/	'green'
/ŋa/	'breath'	/mona/	'make'	/bottan/	'elder'

➔ The phoneme /ɲ/ is a voiced palatal nasal consonant. It occurs in only medial position.

Initial	**Medial**		**Final**
-	/aɲi/	'two'	-
-	/iɲə/	'pinch'	-

➔ The phoneme /ŋ/ is a voiced velar nasal consonant. It occurs in Medial and Final positions.

Initial	**Medial**		**Final**	
-	/eŋe/	'yam'	/akkəŋ/	'six'
-	/liŋko/	'hundred'	/lo:ŋ/	'clove'

➔ The phoneme /r/ is a voiced alveolar trill consonant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**	
/raŋkop/	'rabbit'	/porok ao/	'chicken'	/ger/	'work'
/rokom/	'naughty'	/soro/	'rhinoceros'	/gakɨr/	'milk'

➔ The phoneme /s/ is a voiceless alveolar fricative consonant. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**
/sibe/	'monkey'	/ɨsiŋ/	'tree'	-
/silo/	'today'	/isa/	'stand'	-

➔ The phoneme /z/ is a voiced alveolar fricative consonant. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**
/zalug/	'black pepper'	/sozina/	'drumstick'	-

/zernam/	‘sliced wood’	/azio/	‘little/short’	-

➔ The phoneme /j/ is a voiced palatal approximant. It occurs in initial and medial positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**
/jigo/	‘brother-in-law’	/sumjo/	‘tiger’	-
/jala/	‘false’	/ponmejo/	‘narrow’	-

➔ The phoneme /l/ is a voiced alveolar lateral approximant. It occurs in all three positions.

Initial		**Medial**		**Final**
/la/	‘bring’	/ʒalug/	‘black pepper’	-
/leg/	‘kick’	/girilau/	‘gourd’	-

Contrastive Pairs of the Phonemes

The contrastive pairs in Mising are schematized below:

Vowel Phonemes

i vs ə

ali	‘yam/roots’
alə	‘leg/foot’
ipɨ	‘to save’
əpɨ	‘on gratis’

ɨ vs u

ɨpit	‘drop grains’
upit	‘to overflow in boiling’
apɨt	‘burrow’
aput	‘foam’

e vs ə

open	‘to wreck’
opən	‘to wreck’
pet	‘to weave’
pət	‘to sweep’

i vs ɨ

i vs o

ipen	‘to ruin’
open	‘to wreck’
por	‘to split in lengthwise’
pir	‘to bend, classifier’

i vs a

ipit	‘to complete’
apit	‘burrow’
ipɨ	‘to save’
apɨ	‘an egg, heart’

o vs e

apom	‘a heap’
apem	‘wide, broad’
pot	‘to happen(misfortune)’
pet	‘to weave’
pi	‘to slap/clap/pat’

pɨ	‘to create/dry’	u	‘to bark/shout/scream’
bɨ	‘he, she’	a	‘to roast in pan’
bi	‘to give’	ubɨ	‘rear/bring up for’
i vs e		abɨ	‘address/meaning’
bi	‘to give’	**u vs e**	
be	‘to be lascivious’	ansu	‘alertness’
pi	‘to slap/clap/pat’	anse	‘showiness’
pe	‘to bless/curse’	u	‘to bark/shout/scream’
u vs a		e	‘to excrete faeces’

Contrastive Pairs of Long Vowels and Short Vowels

i vs iː		**o vs o**ː	
I	‘to made/do /act’	obi	‘to give birth for’
iː	‘blood, a bow’	oːbi	‘to rear, tend for’
ipuŋ	‘to purify, clean’	onə	‘mother’
iːpuŋ	‘to blow nose’	oːnə	‘one who rear’
ɨ vs ɨː		**u vs u**ː	
ɨlen	‘to pound out’	upo	‘easy to rear’
ɨːlen	‘to find out by enquiry’	uːpo	‘to cover’
ɨbum	‘to bow down the head’	ulu	‘there’
ɨːbum	‘shoulders’	uːlu	‘ape’
e vs eː		**a vs a**ː	
epo	‘to easy to excrete’	apɨ	‘heart’
eːpo	‘a to turban,to wrap a turban’	aːpɨ	‘to dry’
elik	‘to evaluate’	ak	‘to be angry, annoy’
eːlik	‘to bind a turban’	aːk	‘to dedicate’

Taid. T (1987), mentioned that “/iː/ and /i/ have qualitative difference. Thus, /iː/ is slightly higher than /i/./eː/ and /e/ has hardly and qualitative difference and /eː/ is lower than cardinal /e/. /oː/ and /o/ have hardly any qualitative difference, /oː/ is much lower than cardinal /o/. Long /uː/

is higher than the short /u/. The long /a:/ is lower and backer than short /a/. Long /ə:/ and /ə/ has hardly any qualitative difference. /ɨ:/ is higher than /ɨ/".

However, contrasting short vowels and long vowels draws line in the sounds and meaning. The long vowels are elongated while pronouncing and short vowels are not elongated. This marked difference makes changes in the phonemes and its meaning, when used in words.

> "All Tani languages seem to distinguish vowel length, the lexical function of which differs from language to language.Most instances of long vowels in modern Tani occur in open syllables and are clearly secondary; yet there is some evidence of length contrast in closed syllables as well, suggesting that distinctive vowel length could be an old feature from Proto-Tani".(Graham. T & LaPolla. J.R, 2003).

Mising, being in the Tani group witnesses this feature, as given below.

/i:/ open		**/i:/ close**	
/i:nə/	'redish'	/i:biŋ/	'molar teeth'
/pi:so/	'kind of reeds'	/ki:saŋ/	'lifting up'
/e:/ open		**/e:/ close**	
/e:po/	'turban'	/e:bom/	'start of fruiting'
/e:nə/	'female pig'	/e:lik/	'to bind a turban'
/a:/ open		**/a:/ close**	
/a:pɨ/	'to dry'(paddy)	/a:put/	'foam'
/a:je/	'teeth'	/ija:lik/	'put inside'
/o:/ open		**/o:/ close**	
/ipo:mo/	'continuity'	/opɨ/	'dry up'(water body)
/aso:pə/	'slowly'	/o:pak/	'miscarriage'
/u:/ open		**/o:/ close**	
/u:lu/	'ape'	/pu:ləm/	'floating'
/pu:mi/	'flood'	/pu:lat/	'floating up'
/ɨ:/ open		**/ɨ:/ close**	
/ɨ:su/	'establishing relation'	/pɨ:ram/	'shortcoming'

/pɨ: ɲi/	‘eight’	/bɨ:dum/	‘root’
/ə:/ open		**/ə:/ close**	
/ə:jo/	‘old’	/ə:pak/	‘creeping away’
/ə:lo/	‘yes’	/ə:pot/	‘break something while creeping’

Consonant Phonemes

p vs b		bet	‘to break’
po	‘to weave’	**b vs d**	
bo	‘to serve, nurse’	bu	‘to pull, stretch, uproot’
gipo	‘to be accessible’	du	‘to stay, remain, reside’
gibo	‘to lead to’	buk	‘to burst/explode’
p vs m		duk	‘run away’
po	‘to weave’	**t vs k**	
mo	‘to make, build’	tu	‘to kick with leg’
aup	‘handful’	ku	‘sour’
aum	‘three’	but	‘to break’
p vs z		buk	‘to burst’
pɨ	‘to dry, create’	**t vs d**	
zɨ	‘to soak, dip’	tu	‘to hang up’
pin	‘to pinch’	du	‘to dig, paddle’
zin	‘to shiver’	sitə	‘elephant’
b vs m		sidə	‘this’
bo	‘to serve, nurse’	**t vs s**	
mo	‘to make/build’	ti	‘sweet, tasty’
gub	‘to brood’	si	‘to faint’
gum	‘to tie’	tu	‘to kick with leg’
b vs t		su	‘now’
ti	‘sweet, tasty’	**d vs n**	
bi	‘to give’	do	‘to eat’
tet	‘to sit, jerk’	no	‘you’

din	‘flesh, meat’
nin	‘near, close’
ɲ vs n	
ɲi	‘two’
ni	‘to wash clothes’
liːɲi	‘hundred’
liːni	‘eight hundred’
k vs m	
kin	‘to know, feel’
min	‘to name, ripe’
ŋok	‘my’
ŋom	‘me’
k vs s	
ki	‘pain, ache’
si	‘to faint’
doko	‘place of eating’
doso	‘to eat less’
k vs r	
ki	‘to pain, ache’
ri	‘to string, spit’
tək	‘to chop’
tər	‘stop, end’
k vs n	
ki	‘to pain/ache’
ni	‘to wash clothes’
ke	‘to bite with teeth’
ne	‘to detach’
k vs g	
ki	‘pain, ache’
gi	‘to migrate, shift’
kiŋ	‘tu pull, trigger’
giŋ	‘to be thin’
k vs l	
kɨ	‘to count, test’
lɨ	‘to fade’
ku	‘sour, to shout’
lu	‘to say, speak’
k vs j	
ki	‘to pain, ache, ill’
ji	‘to put down’
kiŋ	‘to pull/trigger’
jiŋ	‘to blow, support’
g vs r	
gu	‘to be hot’
ru	‘to aim with gun’
bəg	‘to be heavy’
bər	‘to look’
g vs s	
gi	‘to migrate, shift’
si	‘to faint’
git	‘to scrape’
sit	‘to strike’
g vs j	
gu	‘to be hot’
ju	‘to bury’
gi	‘to migrate, shift’
ji	‘to put down’
m vs n	
apon	‘width, breadth’
apom	‘a heap’

pum	‘to cradle together’	amɨŋ	‘a tree’
pun	‘to bloom’	**n vs j**	
m vs ŋ		no	‘you’
mo	‘to make, build’	jo	‘mother, night’
ŋo	‘I’	nok	‘your’
gibom	‘to go, come with’	jok	‘to be lost’
giboŋ	‘to over take’	**r vs l**	
m vs r		ru	‘to aim with gun’
mo	‘to make, build’	lu	‘to say, speak’
ro	‘early morning’	rɨ	‘to set fire’
pum	‘to cradle together’	lɨ	‘to fade’
pur	‘to pluck’	**s vs m**	
n vs ŋ		silo	‘today’
apon	‘a heap’	milo	‘husband’
apoŋ	‘rice bear’	sili	‘a spring’
amɨn	‘grinded rice’	mili	"a clan of Mising

Syllable

A syllable is a sequence of units of speech sound. A syllable consists of a nucleus and consonants. The initial consonant is known as onset, while the final consonant is known as coda. Three types of syllabic structure are found in Mising language: monosyllabic, disyllabic, and trisyllabic structure. The following are some examples: V stands for vowel, and C stands for consonant.

Monosyllables

A word which has one syllable is called monosyllable or monosyllabic word. In Mising monosyllabic words can be found in the following patterns.

Monosyllable (open)

/do/	CV	‘eat’
/ki/	CV	‘pain’
/lu/	CV	‘give’

Monosyllable (Close)

/eg/	VC	‘pig’
/i:d/	VC	‘heavy’
/i:n/	VC	‘color’

Disyllables

A word consisting of two syllables are called disyllables or disyllabic words. In Mising disyllabic words can be found in the following patterns.

Disyllable (Open)

/ɨkɨ/	VCV	‘dog’
/imə/	VCV	‘Father’s brother’s son’
/isa/	VCV	‘stand’

Disyllable (Close)

/ukum/	VCVC	‘house’
/ijiŋ/	VCVC	‘ten’
/iraŋ/	VCVC	‘family’

Tri-syllables

A word consisting of three syllables are called tri syllables or trisyllabic words. In Mising trisyllabic words can be found in the following patterns.

Trisyllable (open)

/kaŋkano/	CVCCVCV	‘beautiful’
/talə:pə/	CVCVCV	‘die’(in accident)

Trisyllable (Close)

/igabom/	VCVCVC	‘continue’ (in work)
/iliŋəm/	VCVCVC	‘to fulfill’ (desire)

Consonant Sequence

The term "consonant sequence" refers to the type of occurrences of two or three consonants with a syllable break. However, Mising has a wide variety of consonant sequences. Gemination, Homorganic, and Contagious are the consonant sequence found in Mising language.

Gemination

A term used in phonetics and phonology for a sequence of identical adjacent segments of a sound in a single morpheme. (Crystal.David:206). The examples are discussed below.

Stop+Stop

p+p

dop.pi.joŋ	‘theif’
dop.pak	‘to steal’

b+b

pi.gab.bom	‘to hold with hand’
tab.bum	‘to fall and decay’

t+t

mit.tuk	‘head’
tat.tup	‘to hear’

d+d

sid.dɨ	‘much’
sid.dar	‘here’

k+k

pok.kul.up	to shrink
mik.ki	smoke

g+g

pag.gap	‘to tie’
pag.git	‘to make tight knot"

Nasal+Nasal

m+m

dəm.mik	‘to destroy’
gum.map	‘to bend down’

n+n

bin.nə	‘flowing’
mun.nen	‘to dig’

Fricative+Fricative

s+s

mus.sum	‘sub clan of Mising’
das.səm	‘to crack’

Trill+Trill

r+r

par.rup	‘to grow’
bur.raŋ	‘brother’

Approximant+Approximant

l+l

pil.lum	‘to sow’
mul.laŋ	‘honey’

Lateral approximant+Lateral approximant

j+j

bij.jaŋ	‘mud deposition by river’
loj.jom	‘to make slanting cut’

Homorganic

A general term in the phonetic classification of speech sounds, referring to sounds which are produced at the same place of articulation. (Crystal.David:231). The examples are discussed below.

Stop+Stop

p+m

pim.pir	‘crumbs of food particles’
pɨm.put	‘foam’

d+p

bed.por	‘break’
mud.puŋ	‘to blow off’

g+b

lag.bik	‘right hand’
lag.biŋ	‘the fist’

Nasal+Nasal

n+ɲ

pin.ɲo	intellect/brain
san.ɲum	to wither

n+m

mun.mit	‘to blow out light’
kan.maŋ	‘unsuitable’

ŋ+m

miŋ+mit	‘eyebrow’
miŋ+mo	‘face’

Contiguous

The term ***contiguous*** refers to the sequence of sounds having adjoining relation either in place and manner of articulation. The examples are discussed as:

Stop+Fricative

pi.kab.su	‘to cover face with hand’
pid.saŋ	‘tuck up’
bug.zer	to be protruded
mad.zun	‘to straighten the leg’

Stop+Trill

pag.ro	‘section of Mising’
bed.rəg	‘crack’

Stop+Approximant

pi.dad.lik	‘to slap’
pid.lik	‘to sow’
bog.loŋ	‘open space’
mig.lu	‘blind’

Stop+Lateral approximant

mig.jap	‘blink’
mag.jaŋ	‘weak’
tub.jak	‘hit and remove small flesh from the body’

Nasal+Stop

pin.pan	‘to divide’
piŋ.kur	‘to pierce a hole’
buŋ.ki	‘narrowed’
min.poŋ	‘ripen/juicy’
Nasal+Fricative	
pi.kon.su	‘pouring from one vessel to another’
bom.zə	‘large family’
min.su	‘together’
tum.saŋ	‘hang up’
Nasal+Trill	
pin.ro	‘fresh cooked rice’
bom.ram	‘lazy’
mam.ruk	‘womb’
ton.ruk	‘waste of rice bear’
Nasal+Lateral approximant	
sum.len	‘weave out’
sun.lik	‘feed’(liquid)
Trill+Stop	
par.bot	‘to root’
par.dor	‘setting fire’
bir.mə	‘sister’
bɨ.raŋ	‘brother’
Trill+Fricative	
pir.saŋ	‘to roll up’
ber.sum	‘to gather’
mɨr.sɨ	‘chilly’
mo.tur.su	‘to save oneself’
Trill+Nasal	
tur.nə	‘living’
dor.me	‘small animal’
dar.nu	‘stir’
ser.mik	‘tear into small piece’

Conclusion

On the basis of the structural description of Mising, the following conclusions and findings are drawn: The Mising language has a total of twenty-eight (29) segmental phonemes in its phonetic inventory, including fourteen vowels (14) and fifteen (15) consonants. Mising has thirteen vowel phonemes in its inventory, including long and short vowels: /i, iː, e, eː, a, aː,o, oː,u, uː,ɨ, ɨː,ə, əː/. The vowels in "Mising" are oral, and /i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, /u/, /ɨ/, /ə/ occur in all three positions of the word.

Mising has fifteen consonants. On the basis of place of articulation, consonants can be divided into bilabial, alveolar, palatal, and velar. In terms of manner of articulation, the consonants can be further divided into stops, nasal, trill, fricative, approximant, and lateral approximant as /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /m/, /n/,/ɲ/, /ŋ/, /r/, /s/, /z/, /j/, and /l/. The consonant

phonemes /p/, /t/, /d/, /k/, /g/, /m/, /n/, /r/ occur in all three positions, while the consonant phonemes /b/, /s/, /z/, /j/, /l/ occur in only the initial and medial positions, /ɲ/ in the medial position, and /ŋ/ occur in the medial and final positions of the word.

While the contrastive vowel pairs can be found between /i vs ə/, /ɨ vs u/, /e vs ə/, /i vs o/, /i vs a/, /o vs e/, /i vs ɨ/, /i vs e/, /u vs a/, /u vs e/, /i vs iː/, /ɨ vs ɨː/, /e vs eː/, /o vs oː/, /u vs uː/, /a vs aː/. The short and long vowels distinguish themselves in stress, which results in different meanings. Whereas the contrastive consonant pairs can be found between /m vs n/, /n vs ŋ/, /t vs k/, /r vs g/, /r vs l/, /m vs r/, /b vs m/, /p vs z/, /t vs d/, /k vs m/, /k vs s/, /t vs s/, /b vs t/, /r vs k/, /b vs d/, /n vs d/, /s vs m/, /n vs k/, /t vs b/, /s vs g/, /p vs b/, /p vs m/, /m vs ŋ/, /b vs m/, /k vs g/, /l vs k/, /j vs n/, /j vs g/, /j vs k/, /ɲ vs n/. In terms of syllabic structure, Mising has monosyllabic, disyllabic, and tri-syllabic structures.

Mising language has consonant sequences that include germination, homorganic, and contiguous. The germination sequences are stop+stop, nasal+nasal, fricative+fricative, trill+trill, approximant+approximant, and lateral approximant+lateral approximant. The homorganic sequences are stop+stop and nasal+nasal. And the contiguous sequences: Stop+Fricative, Stop+Trill, Stop+approximant, Stop+lateral approximant, Nasal+Stop, Nasal+Fricative, Nasal+Trill, Nasal+lateral approximant, Trill+Stop, Trill+Fricative, Trill+Nasal.

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