

## Pitch & Free variation:

Two very important aspects of the sound system of the Jarawa language appear to be the presence of pitch or intonation as a significant feature in the language and free variation between sounds in many words.

## Pitch or Intonation:

It can easily be noticed from the recorded speech of Enmen and others during the contact expeditions that some of the portions in utterances are uttered with a very high pitch while some other portions occur with low pitch. Whether these pitch variations are significant only on the sentence/utterance level or on the level of the word is still to be investigated. However, there are some words which show this type of pitch variation even on the word level. They are given below:

1. [ðno:ḑə] 'hair' ( high level to low falling)
2. [ti:ta] '(I) eat' ( " )
3. [ti:tama] '(I) do not eat' (high level to low level)
4. [ka:] 'what' (high level )
5. [kã:] 'a kind of shell' (high to low falling pitch)
6. [mi:] 'I' (high level )
7. [ mî: ] 'a jungle goat' (high to low falling pitch)

Pitch variation between 4 and 5 and 6 and 7 seem to be significant on the word level. However no valid statement can be made before a thorough investigation is made in this regard.

## Free variation in sounds:

Free variation is observed in some words between voiced and voiceless stops, between dental and retroflex consonants and between J and Y, c and š. However, whether they are actually freely varying or whether there are any other conditions not