

Lesson 8

Insertion and sharing of Consonants in C₂ with an anaphoric word

A very important rule the learner must learn is that when the consonant in C₂ shares the initial of an anaphoric word, the consonant in C₂ is retained and simultaneously dropped in the anaphoric word except in cases where the consonant is a nasal; in which, case C₂n is not represented. However, if the anaphoric word ends up in a V structure, the n in C₂ (sliding initial) should be dropped from the C₂ but appended to the anaphoric word as an initial. Since the consonant shares the initial of the anaphoric word, it is omitted as an initial in the anaphoric word except in cases where the consonant is a nasal; in which, case C₂n is not represented.

- (1) anaphoric means: a word or phrase that takes its reference from a preceding word or phrase.
- (2) initial means: the first letter that appears at the beginning of a word

CVn Nominal Roots				
Noun 1		Anaphoric 1	Noun 2	Anaphoric 2
n-kwén	ɲkwén	ntsâ	ɲkwén	tsâ
ben	bɛm	mbâ	bɛm	bâ
a-ban	aban	ndzâ	aban	dzâ
món	móɲ	ɲgwâ	móɲ	gwâ
ibón	ibón	nbâ	ibóm	bâ
nibón	nibón	nâ	nibó	nâ
nifon	nifon	nâ	nifo	nâ
ifon	ifon	ntsa	ifon	tsa

From the table above, we have the following:

1. The consonant [C₁] is in green, followed by the vowel or diphthong, and finally the second consonant **n** (or C₂) which is shown in red; resulting in the acronym CV**n** or Consonant Vowel **n**.
2. Since the consonant n in C₂ glides into the initial of anaphoric 1, or shares the initial of anaphoric 1, it is dropped as an initial in anaphoric 2.
3. The consonant **n** (CVn) in **n**ibó and **n**ifo is appended as an initial in anaphoric 2 to avoid having an anaphoric with the structure V even though the consonant **n** glides between the noun and the anaphoric.
4. If the consonant of the nominal root or C₂ is nasalized, it is dropped as an initial of the anaphoric word.

What we see above is the sharing of the C₂**n** with the anaphoric word. We have also learned that when the anaphoric word ends in a V structure, the **n** is appended to it to give it a CV structure. In all other cases, the **n** is retained in the nominal root of the noun. We also learned that when the consonant of the root or C₂ is nasalized, it is dropped as an initial of the anaphoric word.

Now, let us take a look at the verbal root of CV**n**.

CV n Verbal Root				
Verbal Root	Nasalized Root Verb	Object	Sentence	English Translation
fen	f [̃] ŋ	mibóʔó	ma f [̃] ŋ mibóʔó	I have sold mushrooms
kən	k [̃] ŋ	bibúʔó	ma k [̃] ŋ bibúʔó	I drove away the chimpanzees
zon	z [̃] ŋ	fisájə	ma z [̃] ŋ fisájə	I have bought a broom
zen	zɛ̃	bɛ	ma zɛ̃ bɛ	I have seen people
san	sɔ̃	nibió	ma sɔ̃ nibiό	I split a colanut
tón	tɔ̃	misayə	ma tɔ̃ misayə	I have roasted plums

The first thing we realize is that when the root verb has vowel that is **semi close**, such as **e**, **ə** and **o** the consonant **n** (C₂) of the root verb is realized as **ŋ** regardless of the initials of the object. The next thing we realize is that when the vowel is **open**, such as,

ɛ, a and ɔ, the consonant n (C₂) is not represented but nasalized in the vowel as ɛ̃, ɔ̃ and ɔ̃ respectively. The tilde under the vowel indicates the vowel is nasalized.

Summary

As noted in earlier lessons, the writing system for our language requires that we understand certain rules in penning our thought. Based on the rules outlined in this lesson, it would be inappropriate to map our speech pattern one for one with the way we write. For instance, while we may say “bɛm mbâ,” it would be grammatically correct to write it down that phrase as: bɛm bâ. That is because the m in bɛm glides or is shared by the anaphoric word bâ.