

Western Oregon University

Digital Commons@WOU

---

Academic Excellence Showcase Proceedings

Student Scholarship

---

2019-05-30

## Bozome: How to Create Your Own Language

Cheyenne Bumgardner

Western Oregon University, cbumgardner17@mail.wou.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/aes>



Part of the [Morphology Commons](#), and the [Phonetics and Phonology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Bumgardner, Cheyanne, "Bozome: How to Create Your Own Language" (2019). *Academic Excellence Showcase Proceedings*. 161.

<https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/aes/161>

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at Digital Commons@WOU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Academic Excellence Showcase Proceedings by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@WOU. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@wou.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@wou.edu), [kundas@mail.wou.edu](mailto:kundas@mail.wou.edu), [bakersc@mail.wou.edu](mailto:bakersc@mail.wou.edu).

# Bozooome: How to Create Your Own Language

Cheyenne Bumgardner | Western Oregon University

## Consonants and Vowels

### Consonants

Consonant inventory: /b d f g h j k l m p s t v z ð ŋ ɹ ɕ ʄ θ/

Click IPA symbols for audio

↓ Manner/Place →	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal	m						ŋ	
Stop	p b			t d			k g	
Affricate					ʄ ɕ			
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z				h
Approximant				ɹ		j		
Tap				r				
Lateral approximant				l				

The World Atlas of Language Structures states that languages typically have around 20-30 consonant sounds. There are 21 consonants in Bozooome because there are sounds not used as often as others that were not deemed necessary. Sounds like /s/ and /t/ are common in many languages, whereas sounds like /w/ are less common, and these observations influenced consonant choice. The consonants in Bozooome were chosen because they are the most useful, can create a large variety of words, and are most commonly used. Similar sounds in the language were used to avoid confusion, like /f/ and /v/ and /p/ and /b/, because as minimal as the differences may seem, they impact the pronunciation of words greatly. Bozooome also includes a variety of where the sounds are formed in the mouth. As you can see on the chart, there are consonants in every section and in every manner.

### Vowels

Vowel inventory: /e i o u æ ə ɔ/

Diphthongs: None

	Front	Near-front	Central	Near-back	Back
High	i				u
Near-high					ɔ
High-mid	e				o
Mid				ə	
Low-mid					
Near-Low			æ		
Low					

The World Atlas of Language Structures states that languages typically have around 4-6 vowel sounds. There are 7 vowels in Bozooome because vowels are the "core" of the word and are very useful when it comes to the creation of words. This is a good contrast to the lower number of chosen consonant sounds (21 on a 20-30 average). These specific vowel sounds were chosen because they are common and complement the consonant choices, as well as to create a variety of where the sounds are formed in the mouth. As you can see on the chart, the vowels are scattered widely throughout the range.

## Phonological Rule

**Phonological Rule:**  
C > C[+voice] / \_V

### What does this mean?

Consonants followed by a vowel become voiced. A "voiced" sound means your vocal cords vibrate when you produce the sound.

### Example of Phonological Rule:

The English word "scoop" is sfōyo / sfəðʒo / in Bozooome. The consonant sound [ɕ] becomes voiced because it appears after the vowel sound [ə].

## Morphology and Word Classes

### Noun morphology Affixes

		Singular		Plural	
Nominative	Masculine	man	grūu /gɹu:/	men	Suffix: -i /-i/ /grūui /gɹu:ui/
	Feminine	woman	bɹuengu /bɹu'eŋu/	women	Suffix: -e /-e/ /bɹuengu /bɹu'eŋu/
Accusative	Masculine	man	Suffix: -(u)th /-(u)θ/ /grūuth /gɹu:θ/	men	Suffix: -(e)m /-(e)m/ /grūum /gɹu:m/
	Feminine	woman	Suffix: -(ð)b /-(ə)b/ /bɹuengub /bɹu'eŋub/	women	Suffix: -(u)th /-(u)θ/ /bɹuenguth /bɹu'eŋuθ/

Bozooome has two grammatical genders: masculine and (nm) feminine nouns (nf). This choice for genders was made to encourage simplicity during a complicated step of language creation. The nm and nf affixes were chosen because they allow categorization of nouns into classes. It is less confusing to have only nm and nf rather than also including noun neuter (nn), because this means there are only two options when it comes to affixes for masculine and feminine noun classification.

### Case

Personal pronouns

	Nominative	Accusative	Genitive	Dative
1st.sg	I	me	mine	to me
2nd.sg	you	you	yours	to you
3rd.sg	he/she/it	him/her/it	his/hers/its	to him/her/it
1st.pl	we	us	ours	to us
2nd.pl	you	you	yours	to you
3rd.pl	they	them	theirs	to them

### Tense

Verbs

	Indicative mood		
	Past	Present	Future
	studied	study	will study
1st.sg	Suffix: -o /-o/ /yōo /jɔ:/	Suffix: -(u)ð /-(u)θ/ /yūð /jɔ:θ/	Suffix: -(ð)ng /-(ə)ŋ/ /yūng /jɔ:ŋ/
	Suffix: -(a)yrð /æjɹə/ /yōyrð /jɔ:jɹə/	Suffix: -(a)ŋ /-(ə)ŋ/ /yūŋ /jɔ:ŋ/	Suffix: -(ə)p /-(ə)p/ /yōp /jɔ:p/
3rd.sg	Suffix: -(ð)ppi /appi/ /yōppi /jɔ:ppi/	Suffix: -(u)th /-(u)θ/ /yūth /jɔ:θ/	Suffix: -(a)ðu /æðu/ /yōðu /jɔ:ðu/
	Suffix: -u /-u/ /yōu /jɔ:/	Suffix: -u /-u/ /yūu /jɔ:u/	Suffix: -(ə)y /-(ə)ɟ/ /yōy /jɔ:ɟ/
1st.pl	Suffix: -u /-u/ /yōu /jɔ:/	Suffix: -i /-i/ /yūi /jɔ:i/	Suffix: -(u)r /-(u)r/ /yūr /jɔ:r/
	Suffix: -(a)ng /-(ə)ŋ/ /yūng /jɔ:ŋ/	Suffix: -(u)y /-(u)ɟ/ /yūy /jɔ:ɟ/	Suffix: -(ə)r /-(ə)r/ /yūr /jɔ:r/

## Word Classes

Adjective → noun = suffix -o  
Noun → adjective = suffix -ɔ  
Noun → verb = If ends with vowel: suffix -mθ  
Else: suffix -epla  
Verb → noun = suffix -iθ  
Verb → adjective = If ends with vowel: suffix -s  
Else: suffix -əd  
Adjective → adverb = suffix -i  
One who Xs (e.g. paint → painter) = If ends with vowel: suffix -z  
Else: suffix -iz  
Place of (e.g. wine → winery) = If ends with vowel: suffix -ɟ  
Else: suffix -ez  
Diminutive = If ends with vowel: suffix -rə  
Else: suffix -əθu  
Augmentative = If ends with vowel: suffix -bɹæ  
Else: suffix -ipi  
nm = suffix -æ  
nf = suffix -u

It was determined that speakers or readers of Bozooome could identify a word's class by looking at the suffix attached. Nouns can be pluralized, meaning they can be more than an individual. Masculine nouns can be made by attaching the suffixes -i or -(e)m, as the suffixes denoting nominative and accusative classes, respectively. The feminine equivalents are -e and -(u)th. Additionally, masculine nouns on their own have an ending vowel of /æ/ and feminine nouns have an ending vowel of /u/.

## Word Creation Strategies

1.) Addition – Compounds: Combining two words together to create one new word.

### Example:

Amūyreōpu (idiot) + yubōmith (proof) = Amūyreōpuyubōmith

In English, "Amūyreōpuyubōmith" translates to "idiotproof."

### In a Sentence:

"Anyone who says furniture building instructions from IKEA are amūyreōpuyubōmith is lying."

2.) Initialism

### Example:

Raōpa Hōstōy Ipa becomes RHI

In English, RHI translates to "Region Specific Weather"

3.) Change – Eponyms: A noun created after which something has been named.

### Example:

evethūng (eager)

In this case, "eager" is an eponym for "Cheyanne"

### In a Sentence:

"That's a very Cheyanne thing to do." This means "That's a very evethūng/eager thing to do."

## Syntax and Phrase Structure (PS) Rules

**Constituent Order:** Subject, Object, Verb

**Phrase Structure Rules:** 1.) NP → DET N | 2.) VP → (NP) V (P) | 3.) S → NP VP

NP = Noun Phrase, DET = Determiner, N = Noun, VP = Verb Phrase, V = Verb, P = Preposition, S = Sentence

### Sentence Examples:

1. English: The dog caught the stick.

Bozooome: Sfōng ōzu sfōng sfov fōbliōppi.  
DET N DET N V

2. English: The horse ate the carrot.

Bozooome: Sfōng zastēppihia sfōng ōezūu ngomōppi.  
DET N DET N V

3. English: The fish swam to the rock.

Bozooome: Maz tōyu maz ethangothopa ōmbuppi mas mūng.  
DET N DET N V P

## Key Points for Language Creation

- Phonetic variety and complementary when choosing consonants and vowels
- Testing phonological rules within various circumstances
- Phonological syllable, onset, and coda distinctions
- Grammatical (nf, nm, nn) versus natural gender (the expected gender of a word) for affixes
- Testing word creation strategies within various circumstances
- Following the chosen constituent order closely to avoid confusion when using phrase structure rules