

Fon. Fon (Gbéto 2000) is one of the principal varieties of Gbe (Ewe) spoken in Bénin. It is an open syllable language with three tonal levels and rising and falling tones. The data below are taken from Gbéto's study of loanword adaptation (primarily from French). The author raises but does not address the question of the extent to which the truncations found here are the product of French grammar vs. Fon. Evidently, the process is not operative in Fon. In any case, the segmental adaptations fully conform to the patterns found in Fon loanword phonology.

1. **Type A** Disyllabic shape at left edge
 Low-High tonal pattern presumably mimicking French final stress

Nicola	nīkōlâ	nīkó
Sébastien	sēbātjê	sèbá
Colette	kōlétī	kòlé
Micheline	mītšēlīnǎ	mītšé

2. Epenthetic vowels included in count; the epenthetic vowel is [u] in the context of a labial and otherwise [i].

Pascal	pāsīkâ	pàsí
Claude	klódù, kólódù	kòló
Cristine	kīlīsínù, kīlīsínǎ	kīlí
Delphine	dēlūfīnǎ	dèlí
Sylvestre	sīlūvéšǎ	sīlí

3. Vowel-initial stems have a rising tone instead of high after a voiced consonant. The replacement of high by rising after a voiced consonant only occurs in the initial syllable of the stem in Fon. Evidently, Fon speakers treat the initial vowel in these data as a prefix.

Epiphane	ēpīfánǎ	èpí
Adèle	ādēfī	àdē
Elodie	ēlōđī	èlō
Adolphe	ādófù	àdǎ

Min >> Max-BTruncate, Anchor-Left >> Markedness; Min abbreviates the emergence of the unmarked PW (bimoraic foot).

4. **Type B.** Disyllabic shape with reduplication; left edge orientation; High Mid tonal pattern; used as a vocative (cf. English, French).

Mireille	mímī	Guillaume	gígī
Joseph	dʒódʒō	Zita	zízi
Peggy	pépē	Benoit	bébē

In this pattern the truncate has a reduplicated structure, say Base#Reduplicant. But the Bimoraic minimal word is still imposed on the entire structure restricting the size of the reduplicant's base. There are thus two correspondence relations at play: Base-Truncate and within the truncate a Base-Reduplicant correspondence.

/Zita/	<u>Min</u>	>>	<u>Max-BT</u>
zitāzita	*		
zīzi			ta

/zita/	<u>Anchor-Left BT</u>	>>	<u>Anchor-RT BT</u>
zīzi			*
tāta	*!		

5. Vowel-initial syllable is skipped. The reduplicated structure would produce a hiatus: Habib -> [a.a]. Evidently this marked structure is avoided by misaligning the left edge.

Habib	bibi	Ella	lala
Hervé	veve	Alain	lɛlɛ
Antoinette	tutu	Epiphane	pipi
Adeline	dede	Huguette	gɛgɛ

Onset >> Anchor-Left

/abib/	<u>Onset</u>	<u>Anchor-Left</u>
āa	°	
bībi		ˉa

6. Initial rhotic syllable is skipped. Initial rhotics are adapted as a cluster / ʁl / . e.g. rideau -> [ʁlɪdô]. But the / ʁl / cluster is not found word medially and so evidently the reduplication structure of the template could not be satisfied and hence a noninitial syllable is chosen instead.

Rufine	fifi	Rogatien	gaga
Rémi	mīmī	Rodolphe	dɔdɔ

/ʁlufine/	<u>°vʁlu</u>	<u>Anchor-Left</u>
ʁlūʁlu°		
fifi		ʁlu

7. other misalignments

Flavien	vivi	though flafla is phonotactically legal it is avoided in favor of a CV syllable
Florentin	tɛtɛ	double misalignment due to special status of rhotic.
Erik	kiki	double misalignment due to rhotic; final epenthesis

*Complex >> Anchor-Left

/flavien/	<u>*Complex</u>	<u>Anchor Left</u>	
flāfla	**		
vīvi		˘fla	
/florentin/	<u>*Complex</u>	<u>*vʁlu</u>	<u>Anchor-Left</u>
flōflo	*!		
reñren		*!	
tiñtin			˘floreñ
/eriki/	<u>Onset</u>	<u>°vʁlu</u>	<u>Anchor-Left</u>
ēe	*!	˘	˘e
kīki			˘eri

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

24.961 Introduction to Phonology
Fall 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.