

CVC	<i>ca:b</i>	'yawn'
CVVC	<i>nail</i>	'plough'
CVCC	<i>soND</i>	'trunk of elephant'
CVCC	<i>ha:ns</i>	'goose'

**Structure** (C) (  $\frac{u}{v}$  ) (C) (  $\frac{u}{v}$  ) (C) (C)

In all these the vowel constitutes the peak of a syllable and forms vocalic cluster within the same syllable. In the case of consonant clusters they occur in between the syllables that mean they form syllable boundaries resulting in abutting.

Now considering the syllable as the basic constituent of an utterance we can say that the whole utterance is a sequence of syllables. Any Ho utterance can be represented by the general structure.

# V { V (C) } CV [VC] #

The di-, tri-, tetra-, penta- and hexa- syllabic forms confine to the above structure and they all show open- and close-type syllables.

### Morphology

#### Noun

In Ho noun stems are classified into three classes, namely substantives, pronouns and numerals. Of these, substantives are further categorized into non-derived and derived noun stems and the non-derived noun stems are divided into animate nouns and inanimate nouns.

#### Animate nouns

All those noun stems, which in addition to the genitive suffixes and post positions, can take dual and plural number suffixes *kin* and *ko* respectively belong to the category of animate nouns. These number suffixes are also marked in the verb phrase in the case of third person subject and object.

Example

<i>Teom</i>	'wolf'	<i>kuid</i>	'vulture'
<i>tu:?</i>	'squirrel'	<i>Tua:u</i>	'cuckoo'
<i>ho</i>	'human being'		

#### Inanimate nouns

The inanimate noun stems differ from the animates by not taking suffixes for number and are not marked in the verb phrase. In cases where the duality or plurality is to be emphasized upon they may take such suffixes. Example

<i>Duki</i>	'urine'	<i>ula:</i>	'vomit'
<i>ji:</i>	'soul'	<i>tetaM</i>	'thirst'

#### Gender

The animate nouns undergo genderisation basing on the sex differences conveyed through meaning of the words.

Masculine		Feminine	
<i>kua</i>	'male'	<i>era:kui</i>	'female'
<i>kuma:M</i>	'maternal uncle'	<i>hatom</i>	'maternal aunt'
<i>honja:r</i>	'father-in-law'	<i>hana:r</i>	'mother-in-law'
<i>bor</i>	'groom'	<i>nama era</i>	'bride'
<i>sa:ND seta</i>	'dog'	<i>eMga sata</i>	'bitch'
<i>sa:ND si:m</i>	'cock'	<i>eMgasi:m</i>	'hen'
<i>ruda miNDi</i>	'sheep' (M)	<i>eMga miNDi</i>	'sheep' (F)
<i>keDa:</i>	'buffalo' (M)	<i>moisi</i>	'buffalo' (F)

