

2.1.4. Bantik phonology

2.1.4.1. Segmental phonemes

Ban has the following segmental phonemes:

p	t	k	ʔ
b	d	g	
m	n	ŋ	
	s		h
w	y		
i		u	
e	ə	o	
	a		

b, d and g are realised as voiced stops in all environments.

l is a retroflexed lateral flap [ɭ] in all environments.²⁶

2.1.4.2. Stress

Word stress is unpredictable and therefore phonemic. Stress usually falls on the penultimate syllable: *káyu wood*, *báley house*, *makapála? thick*. In a large number of words it falls on the final syllable, this being synchronically unpredictable: *mahemé full*, *mabahá? heavy*, *lumampán to walk*. In other words stress falls on the third-last syllable: *líkudu? back*, *dákele? many*.

Stress contrast is shown by the following pairs: *sáhaŋ tree sp.* and *sahán ant*, *mamúku (stem búku) to kneel* and *mamukú (stem pukú) to bend*, *pahígi well* and *pahigí knife*.

In the present work stress in Ban is indicated wherever it does not fall on the penultimate syllable of the word.

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