

2 PHONOLOGY

2.1 Pronunciation of vowels, consonants, tone, and nasalization

There are sixteen letters in the alphabet of Fasu (Namo Me) which divide into five vowels and eleven consonants. There are also two pertinent tones at the word level and nasalization of vowels is contrastive with non-nasalized vowels. For more details see May-Loeweke, 1965. In the following list, vowels and consonants of the Fasu alphabet are followed by English words in which the letters are underlined which approximate the pronunciation of the Fasu letter.

i is pronounced as in keep

e is pronounced as in able

a is pronounced as in father

u is pronounced as in boot

o is pronounced as in port

p is pronounced as in sport

t is pronounced as in stop

k is pronounced as in skin

f is pronounced as in farm

h is pronounced as in hold

m is pronounced as in man

n is pronounced as in never

w is pronounced as in water

y is pronounced as in yes

s before i, e, and a is pronounced as in say

s before o and u is pronounced as in short

r word initially is pronounced as in ladder

r word medially is pronounced as in Adam

In the following list V stands for vowel. High and low tone is marked above the vowel and nasalization is marked below the vowel.

Ṽ high tone on vowels of single syllable words is pronounced as a downglide.

Ṽ high tone on vowels of syllables prior to the last syllable is pronounced as level high going to straight low tone on last syllable.

Ṽ high tone on vowels of last syllable of words is pronounced as adownglide.

Ṽ low tone on vowels of single syllable words is pronounced as an upglide.

Ṽ low tone on vowels of syllables prior to last syllable is pronounced as level low tone going to a downglide on last syllable.

Ṽ low tone on vowels of last syllable of word is pronounced as an upglide.

V nasalization indicates that the vowel is pronounced through the nose.