

4. ALPHABET

There are 22 symbols in the Halia alphabet, each representing a separate meaningful sound. They are listed alphabetically as follows:

a au b e ei g h i k l
m n ng o ou ø p r s t ts u

Five of these symbols are double letters:

au ei ng ou ts

All the sounds in the Halia sound system are not symbolized separately, because the people did not want to completely change the old alphabet, written originally by Fr. Lamarre. See the pronunciation guide (Section 7) for a complete list of the meaningful sounds in Halia and how they are spelled.

The dictionary entries are in alphabetical order as in the above list of 22 symbols. There are nine vowels:

a au e ei i o ou ø u

and thirteen consonants:

b g h k l m n ng p r s t ts

The following six letters are used in loanwords, but they are never used to spell Halia words:

d f j v w y

The only symbol in the Halia alphabet that is not found in English is ø. See appendix 1 for a complete list of all Halia words spelled with ø, either in the middle or at the end of the word. The symbol ø never comes at the beginning of words.

Following is a chart of symbols which do not occur in every part of a word (i.e. beginning, middle or end). The x indicates what part of a word the symbol may occur in. A blank box indicates the symbol does not occur in that position. Symbols not in this chart may occur in any part of a word.

Symbol	POSITION IN		WORD
	Beginning	Middle	End
ø		x	x
au			x
b	x	x	
g	x	x	
h	x	x	

Therefore, by the chart you can see that no words begin with ø or au. So there is no section in the dictionary for these two symbols. The Halia to English section is divided into 20 parts, one part for each of the 20 symbols which may begin a word.

For a guide to the pronunciation of the Halia vowels, see Section 7.

The spelling of a few dictionary words with the ø sound has been changed since the publication of the Halia New Testament. For example, **røto** "examine" (previously **ruto**) and **opø** "lie down" (previously **opu**). These, however, do not involve a lot of changes in the New Testament.

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HALIA LANGUAGE

Halia to English

English to Halia

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