

## 1. PHONOLOGY

### 1.1. Vowels

Nine vowels are phonemically recognized in Khaling:

Front unrounded vowels: i, e, ɛ

Front rounded vowels: ɨ, ø

Central vowel: aa

Back vowels: u, o, a

### 1.2. Consonants

The 23 consonants are as follows:

Stops: p, t, k, ph, th, kh, b, d, g, bh, dh, gh

Affricates: c, ch, j, jh

Fricatives: s, h

Liquids: r, l

Nasals: m, n, ng (one segment, for velar nasal).

There are two semivowels: w, y

### 1.3. Syllable patterns

There are seven contrastive syllable patterns in Khaling:

V	i-	'your'
VC	ung	'I'
CV	'ro	'cliffe'
CVC	nɔl	'day'
CCV	'grä	'it burns'
CCVC	khlep	'dog'
CCCV	phlwaamnä	'to knead'

The formula for a Khaling syllable may be written as

$$\uparrow C \uparrow C + V \uparrow C$$

The syllable is distributed in the word.

### 1.4. Tone

There are two contrastive tones, high and low, the distinctive pitch of the whole word being carried on the first syllable. The pitch classification of a word is determined by the stem. Affixes have no influence upon the tone pattern of a word. High tone is marked by a single quote ' in front of that word. In the examples below a horizontal line indicates the pitch pattern.

'ke	'a k.of bird'	<u>ke</u>	'maternal uncle'
're-nä	'to write'	<u>re-nä</u>	'to build'
'mentwe	'brass cymbal'	<u>mewaase</u>	'personal name'

In the polysyllabic word, the norm is a stepping down of the pitch.

KHALING

Sueyoshi TOBA



BUNPŌ KYŌDŌ KENKYŪ PROJECT  
ASIA AFRICA GENGO BUNKA KENKYŪZYO  
TOKYO GAIKOKUGO DAIGAKU

1979