

**ORTHOGRAPHY.** The symbols used to transcribe the Micmac words and expressions in this lexicon may seem at first glance to involve a complete change over from the traditional thirteen (13) letter alphabet used by those among the elders who are literate in the Micmac language. As explained elsewhere, the modifications were made in order to facilitate the acquisition of reading and writing skills by children and adults alike. Moreover, a closer examination of the symbols used will reveal that the changes are not as drastic as they first appear; they are based, in large part, on modifications introduced by Father Pacifique himself in his *Leçons grammaticales*.

The most far-reaching modification is the use of the grave accent to indicate vowel length. Other important changes are the use of the apostrophe, the circumflex accent, and the letters *w* and *u* to mark other basic but heretofore ignored contrastive sound features.

The apostrophe, as used here, represents two distinct features of pronunciation. Within the word, it indicates that a following consonant or vowel is pronounced as if it were the onset of a new word. Before words that begin with a consonant cluster, it marks the very slight presence of a back unrounded vowel, represented elsewhere by the letter *ê*. In practice, this initial apostrophe might well be eliminated once the reader has adjusted to how clusters of this type are to be pronounced.

Another change is the systematic exclusion of the letter *ê* wherever it might occur before a following *l*, *m* or *n*, except when one of these same letters, or a *w*, precedes. Thus, we write *taign*, *sntug*, *pnèsugwati*, *glusgap*, *pm'tn*, but *nênéj*, *mên'tu*, *mêlagoj(g)*, *lêntug* [NS].

The modified list of symbols used to transcribe Micmac forms in the lexicon is as follows:

Symbols	Examples
a	atgitemit, tami, m̄ta
à	àpi, w̄aw, āà
ê	p̄tewei, nt̄êp, temtm̄n
e	epit, nepat, je
è	èpit, nèp̄t, niḡè
g	gopit, teḡeg, m̄n'tūagi
ḡ	ḡopisun, apt̄êḡḡeg, n̄ḡḡi, soḡḡwat
i	iḡḡ, wituit, nipi, w̄alop̄egw, eigig, tewiei
ì	ig, wig, gutput̄il
j	j̄n̄m, gejj̄g, nujj̄ḡḡ, gigj̄ju, n'mùj
l	luegnign, pilei, witap̄ai
m	mesgig, tm̄ign, temt̄m
n	nepg, men̄tu, gun'tew, wen
o	eḡw̄at, seḡim, get̄ieḡe
ò	èpiat̄u, gèpign
p	pat̄liàs, nusap̄un, tep̄gig, put̄êp
s	sipu, w̄astew, p̄usit, w̄apus
t	tīm, amat̄p̄òt, mat̄ues, mijjit
u	utan, gel̄usit, gul̄gis, siḡu
ù	ùn, gel̄ùsit, nemit̄n, nuḡù
w	wow, gewt̄m, gawigeaw, gwit̄n, ngwis, siḡgw, moḡwa
'	'p̄gu, mal'tew, tel't̄ètm, m̄n'tu, tm't̄è'èn, l'p̄at̄uj