

## PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

## EXAMPLES

|      |    |     |    |     |    |
|------|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| /p/  | p  | /m/ | m  | /f/ | f  |
| /b/  | b  | /n/ | n  | /s/ | s  |
| /t/  | t  | /ɲ/ | ny | /l/ | l  |
| /d/  | d  | /ŋ/ | ŋ  | /r/ | r  |
| /tʃ/ | ky |     |    | /h/ | h* |
| /dʒ/ | gy |     |    | /w/ | w  |
| /k/  | k  |     |    | /y/ | y  |
| /g/  | g* |     |    |     |    |
| /kp/ | kp |     |    |     |    |
| /gb/ | gb |     |    |     |    |

\* only in borrowed words

|     |   |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| /i/ | i |     |   | /u/ | u |
| /ɛ/ | ɛ |     |   | /ɔ/ | ɔ |
| /e/ | e |     |   | /o/ | o |
| /ɛ/ | ɛ |     |   | /ɔ/ | ɔ |
|     |   | /a/ | a |     |   |

|    |        |               |
|----|--------|---------------|
| a  | sa     | to give       |
| b  | bɔŋ    | to be square  |
| d  | kwadu  | banana        |
| c  | lee    | to take out   |
| ɛ  | dabɛ   | big           |
| e  | neɛnɛɛ | well [adv]    |
| f  | fa     | to think      |
| g* | gari   | cassava flour |
| gb | gbaa   | also          |
| gy | gyono  | dog           |
| h* | hama   | hammer        |
| i  | buwi   | to search for |
| k  | kano   | mouth         |
| kp | kpa    | to love       |
| ky | kyan   | guinea fowl   |
| l  | loŋ    | house         |
| m  | mɲan   | quickly       |
| n  | narg   | to walk       |
| ny | kanye  | night         |
| ŋ  | loŋ    | house         |
| o  | gyono  | dog           |
| ɔ  | kɔwɔɛ  | cloud         |
| ɔ  | kano   | mouth         |
| p  | pipeɛ  | red           |
| r  | karg   | to read       |
| s  | sa     | to give       |
| t  | tɛppa  | cat           |
| u  | kuruma | donkey        |
| w  | buwi   | to search for |
| y  | yuri   | coldness      |

\* loan words only

## ALPHABET

a b d e ɛ f g gb gy h i k kp ky l m n ny ŋ o ɔ  
p r s t u w y

number of graphemes 30

## Alphabets of Africa

edited by  
Rhonda L. Hartell

Published by UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar (BKEDA)  
12, Avenue Roume, B.P. 3311, Dakar, Senegal  
ISBN : 92-9091-020-3

© UNESCO, 1993  
Printed by BREDA Press