

These Consonants and Vowels may be thus tabulated according to the mode of formation of the sounds which they represent.

PHONETIC SCRIPT.

		Labial.								
		Bi-labial.	Labio-dental.	Dental.	Alveolar.	Palatal.	Velar.	Uvular.	Glottal.	
Consonants.	{	Plosive	b p	d	t d	tʃ dʒ	tʃ ^w dʒ ^w	g k		
		Affricate				tʃ dʒ	tʃ ^w dʒ ^w			
		Nasal	m			n nl	n	ŋ		
		Lateral				l nl				
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ	x ɣ		ʁ	h	
Vowel glide		w								

		Front				Back			
		i	ɪ	e	ɛ	ɔ	o	ʊ	u
Vowels.	{	Close							
		Half-close							
		Half-open							
		Open				a			

GOLD COAST SCRIPT.

		Labial.							
		Bi-labial.	Labio-dental.	Dental.	Alveolar.	Palatal.	Velar.	Uvular.	Glottal.
Consonants.	Plosive	b p		d	t d ky gy	tw dw ny	g k		
	Affricate				n nl l nl		ŋ		
	Nasal	m			s z	hy r y		ʁ	h
	Lateral		f v						
	Fricative								
	Vowel glide	w							
		Front			Back				
		i			u				
		i			a				
		e			o				
		e			a				

C.—NZIMA ALPHABET

Arranged, therefore, according to the familiar sequence of the Roman alphabet, the letters and combinations of letters used in Nzima are as follows :

Phonetic Script (36)

a b d ð dʒ dʒʷ e ɛ f g h i ɪ j k l m n ɲ
ŋ nl o ɔ p ɾ ʁ s ʃ t tʃ tʃʷ u ʊ v w z.

Gold Coast Script (36)

a b d ð dw ɛ e f g gy h hy ɪ i k ky l m n
ny ŋ nl ɔ o p r ʁ s t tw ʊ u v w y z.

D.—SPECIAL SIGNS

A line over a vowel indicates that it is much prolonged, as occurs, for instance, with the *o* at the end of friendly greetings, etc., *e.g.* nnasiō, thank you.

A nasalised vowel is indicated by the sign ~ over it.

The sign ' over a vowel means that the voice is raised to a higher tone than normal (see Chapter VI.—Tones). Example : kalc, a child ; kálé, a woman ; kalc kálé, a girl (*i.e.* a woman child).

The sign ` over a vowel means that the voice is dropped to a lower tone than normal.

CHAPTER VI

TONES

AFTER a short preliminary study of the Nzima language it is only at present possible to record that "tone," or the pitch of the voice, is used to distinguish differences of meaning, and a full account of the extent to which this is the case, of the number of gradations of tone in use, and of the relation of the tones to vowel-length and stress, cannot as yet be given. Some notice, however, must be taken of tone from the very first, as there are words in common use in which an identical combination of consonant and vowel sounds is given a totally different meaning by the tone of the voice. Provisionally I distinguish only between three tones, a normal tone, a tone higher than normal, and a tone lower than normal; and for the two latter I use the signs ' and ` , commonly known as acute accent and grave accent, the acute accent denoting that the voice is raised to a higher tone than normal, and the grave accent denoting that the voice is dropped to a lower tone than normal. I have used these marks very sparingly, only in fact where it has become known to me that they were necessary to give words their correct meanings. The subject requires further study and elucidation. In the meantime I give a short list of words in Nzima of the same form, but with different meanings, indicated by tone.

Words of the same form, but with *different meanings indicated by tone.*

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A PRELIMINARY STUDY
OF THE
NZIMA LANGUAGE

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