

### 3 Phonology

#### 3.1 Alphabet

Below is a list of the letters used in the Oksapmin alphabet with their nearest English pronunciation:

a	as in father (written as ä in the dictionary)
a	as in but (written as a in the dictionary)
b	as in but; umbrella
d	as in dub; candor
e	as in date
e i	(vowel glide) as in bite
g	as in gone; finger
h	as in Bach
i	as in even; been
k	as in cat; pumpkin
m	as in mother; summer; milkman
n	as in not; another; catnap
ng	as in sing; ringing
o	as in open; tote
p	as in fat; captin; oven; soap
r	as in ladder
s	as in some; mess; reason
t	as in tea; atom; set
u	as in soup (tongue forward)
uu	as in boot (tongue backed and more rounded)
w	as in willow
y	as in yellow

Velar stops and fricatives may be labialized.

Voiced stops between vowels (even across word boundaries) are prenasalized. (That is, b ---> <sup>m</sup>b; d ---> <sup>n</sup>d; g ---> <sup>ŋ</sup>g.) Prenasalization across word boundaries and most

morpheme boundaries are not written. It is written in compounds such as **wändeipät** ‘look at it/him/her/them’, even though the **deipät** is obviously an auxiliary (compare **wä-nahapät** ‘look at me/us’), because **wä** is not a separable word.

*Lawrence, Marshall, compiler. 1993. Oksapmin dictionary. Dictionaries of Papua New Guinea, 13. Ukarumpa: Summer Institute of Linguistics. 244 p.*