

Orthography and Basic Phonology

The Roman alphabet is used today in two forms. The SPANISH system (including the symbols *c*, *ch*, *ñ*, *ñg*, *qu*, and *z*) is preferred by most writers. Because of the TAGALOG-based educational system, some speakers employ the Tagalog system which employs 20 letters: A B D E G H I K L M N N G O P R S T U W Y. This outline employs the latter system.

The alveolar trill (*r*) does not occur word initially; it is an intervocalic variant of the phoneme /d/. The orthographic sequences /ch, ti + V/ and /dy, di + V/ represent voiceless and voiced alveo-palatal affricates, respectively. Stops are unaspirated and unreleased in final position, and the voiceless velar stop (*k*) often fricates between vowels (see Table 1).

Pangasinan has four native vowel phonemes /a e i u/, and two phonemes /o/ and /ɛ/, introduced after Spanish contact. Vowels are represented orthographically by five symbols /a e

i o u/. The orthographic symbol *e* stands for two separate phonemes. In native words *e* is pronounced as a centralized high back unrounded vowel, while in Spanish loans it is pronounced as a front mid unrounded vowel like its Spanish counterpart. The other vowels of the language closely resemble their Spanish equivalents (see Table 2 below).

Table 1: Consonants

	Labial	Dental/ Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops					
Voiceless	p	t		qu, k	ʔ, (-)
Voiced	b	d		g	
Fricatives		s			
Nasals	m	n		ng	
Lateral		l			
Trill/Flap		(r)			
Glides	w		y		

Table 2: Vowels

	Front	Central	Back	
			Unrounded	Rounded
High	i		e [ɯ]	u
Mid	(e [ɛ])			(o)
Low		a		

Stress is phonemic in Pangasinan. Vowels are lengthened in stressed open syllables (those that have no consonantal coda) → *lákí* ‘grandfather’ [lá:.kí], ≠ *lakí* ‘male’ [la.kí]; *bálo* ‘new’

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[bá:.lo] ≠ *baló* ‘widow’ [ba.ló]; ≠ *naáwat* ‘will receive’, ≠ [na’.á:.wat] *naawát* ‘received’ [na’.a.wát].

Rubino, Carl. 2001. Pangasinan. In: Garry, Jane and Carl Rubino (eds.) *Facts About the World's Languages: An Encyclopedia of the World's Major Languages, Past and Present*. New York: H. W. Wilson.