

PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

EXAMPLES

/b/	b	/m/	m	/f/	f
/d̥/	dh	/n/	n	/s/	s
/t/	t	/p/	ny	/l/	l
/d̥/	d	/ŋ/	ng'	/r/	r
/tʃ/	ch			/x/	kh
/t͡ʃ/	j			/h/	h'
/k/	k			/ʰ/	h
/g/	g			/w/	w

/i/	i			/u/	u
/e/	e	/a/	a	/ɔ/	o

/V:/ VV

Tone:

high		
low		unmarked

Tone has both lexical and grammatical function. Precise rules for tone-marking have not yet been formulated.

a	bár	body mark
b	biché	water
ch	chán	five
d	dám	drink!
dh	dháb	fire
e	hér	warriors
f	fár	finger
g	gáal	camel
h	hóól	gazelle
h'	h'óól	problems
i	ín	house
j	jíjo	milk container
k	kokóob	cup
kh	khokhóom	club
l	lólyo	ox
m	mírís	clouds
n	náh	we (excl.)
ng'	ng'úr	slash
ny	nyóór	leg bell
o	tór	plain
r	ráh	frog
s	saah	separate!
t	tuumán	all
u	búr	hillock
w	wáákh	God
y	yáakh	pasture

Tone:

makhaabal	ínám	á	arge
			the man saw the boy
makháábal	ínám	á	arge
			it's the man (that)
			the boy saw
ínám	makháábal	á	arge
			the boy saw the man
ínám	makhaabal	á	arge
			it's the boy (whom)
			the man saw

ALPHABET

a b ch d dh e f g h h' i j k kh l m n ng' ny o r s t
u w y

number of graphemes 26

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