

The Selepet language has fifteen consonant phonemes: p, t, k, b, d, g, m, n, ŋ, w, y, h, s, l and r; and six vowel phonemes: i, e, a, â, o and u. Allophonic variation is conditioned by the occurrence of contiguous segments. An articulatory description of the allophones with their acoustical correlates as well as a description of intonation and higher level phonology is found in McElhanon (1969c). For detailed treatment of the problems of interpreting vocoid clusters see McElhanon (1967a) and for the problems of interpreting stops and fricatives see McElhanon (1968b).

The Selepet orthography has been styled primarily after that currently in use by the Lutheran Mission New Guinea for their publications in the Kâte language and secondarily after English. Thus the symbols ŋ and â have been borrowed from Kâte but the symbol y has been borrowed from English in preference to the j of Kâte. The symbol â represents phoneme ɔ. The alphabetical order used in this dictionary is as follows: a, â, b, d, e, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, ŋ, o, p, r, s, t, u, w and y.