

Segmental unit phonemes are *p t tj k; b d dj g; f s sj; m n nj ng; w j* (semivowels); *r* ([r] and [l], though both are written, are nondistinctive, but said to differ stylistically); *i u, e o, a. tj* and *dj* are palatal affricates; *sj* is a hushing sibilant. In Sranan, the velar nasal *ng* is lenis (so that SM *lángá* and SN *lángá* are not homophonous), the sound of SM *ng*, rarely heard in Sranan, being shown as *ngg* in the latter language. Relevant stress is shown by the acute accent, vocalic nasalization as in Saramaccan by *Vn* or *Vm*. All words end in a vowel, oral or nasal; but initial and medial consonant clusters are common, though they arise from the elision of a vowel that is usually restored in songs and verse.

Taylor, Douglas. 1977. Languages of the West Indies.
Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.