

§5. PHONETIC SYSTEM.

CONSONANTS.

b.	p.
ǃ, resembles gb ; with glottal stop ; often near ǃ́.	r, flap r. r̄, rolled r.
d.	s.
f.	š, fricative, as in show.
f, bilabial.	t, postdental, unexploded ; resembles English th in sound.
h (rare).	ʈ (tš), retroflex t, often heard as tr, or č,
k.	
l.	w.
m.	y.
n.	
ñ, velar nasal.	

VOWELS.

a, father.	i, ravine.
ǎ, forward a.	ĩ, it.
o, the (before consonant).	o, so.
ʌ, but.	q, all, pot.
e, close e.	u, fool.
ɛ, very narrow e.	ʉ, foot.
ɛ̄, let.	

DIPHTHONGS.

ai.	qi, oi.
au.	ui.
ei.	ei.

TONES.

high ; ` low ; ✓ falsetto (long), or numbered (1, high ; 4, low).
 ~ sign of nasalisation.

§6. As regards the consonants the most conspicuous features are the absence of g, and relative unimportance of d on the one hand, and the presence of an exploded retroflex t (ʈ); as an auslaut it is derived, at least in some cases, from an earlier form tu.

It should, however, be noted that g is found in combination with b (ḅ), though the sound often resembles kp more closely than gb.

Final r̄ is frequently strongly rolled ; š is midway between s and sh and is perhaps a retroflex s.

Among the vowels the distinction between open a (a) and closed a (ā) is sometimes important ; the latter sometimes becomes ē ; generally speaking ā is the common vowel ; the difference is made in these pages only when confusion might arise.

a, ā, e, ē, and i, ī, are distinguished only where there is risk of confusion.

Letters are pronounced as in Southern English, unless otherwise stated. It should be remembered that consonants are usually very fully articulated, so as to produce the effect of a neutral vowel sometimes, *e.g.*, Tumqk, səmqk (= smoke). In the texts, which present the sounds as heard, these intensive vowels have, as a rule, been noted, where the individual words are not separated, as in qkaḷəpa (= q kaḷ pa), he again said.

Some of the vowels are diphthongised, especially before ñ ; and the vowel in ʈeñ is almost the same as in English chain.

The falsetto tone is used with monosyllables such as *şənk*, all.

§7. **Stress.**—The stress usually falls on the first syllable of a word, exclusive of prefixes; the incidence is not changed by a suffix. There are a few exceptions such as *kəbalāi*, basket; *karā*, scrape off. In the case of nouns with inseparable prefixes the first syllable takes the stress, as the vowel is properly part of the word, though normally no Timne word begins with a vowel, pronouns excepted. Where a noun is associated with a word that may be a verb or an adjective, the main stress falls on the verb in the first case, on the noun in the second.

§8. **Tones.**—The rôle of tones in Timne is comparatively small, owing largely, no doubt, to the part played by prefixes in distinguishing the homophones. Among words distinguished by tones may be cited :

bì, hole; *bí*, black.
asùm, fast; *asúm*, dark.

Tones also play a certain rôle in sentences, *e.g.*:

kǽwǽn, and the other.
kǽwǽn, and he went inside.
kǽwǽwǽn, and the other went inside.