

# Orthography and Basic Phonology

Roman script is used based on 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. Word-final glottal stop is rendered with a grave accent.

Waray Waray has the following contrastive consonant sounds (shown in Table 1 by their orthographic symbols). Stops are unaspirated, and unreleased in final position, and the voiceless velar stop (*k*) often fricates between vowels.

Waray Waray has three native vowel phonemes /i, a, u/, and two phonemes /o, e/ acquiring contrastive status after contact with SPANISH. Due to phrase-final high vowel lowering, word final /u/ is often written /o/ and /e/, respectively. Diphthongs include *aw, iw, ay, and uy*. Vowel sequences (except old spelling forms *ia, io, ua*) are produced as two syllables with an intervening glottal stop, e.g., *laon* 'original Waray deity' > [la.'on].

**Table 1: Consonants**

		Bilabial	Dental/ Alveolar	Alveo- palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	Voiceless	p	t	(ch/ti+V)	k (qu)	ʔ, (-)
	Voiced	b	d	(dy, di+V)	g	
Fricatives			s			h
Nasals		m	n		ng	
Laterals			l			
Trill/Flap			r			
Glides		w		y		

**Table 2: Vowels**

	Front	Mid	Back
High	i (i, e) e		u (u, o) o
Low		a	

Rubino, Carl. 2001. 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.