

## PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

## EXAMPLES

/p/	p	/m/	m	/f/	f	a	pārā	egg
/b/	b	/mb/	mb	/v/	v	b	bājmbū	house
/t/	t	/mv/	mv	/s/	s	d	dūjma	room
/d/	d	/n/	n	/z/	z	e	zēre	bird
/k/	k	/nd/	nd	/r/	r	f	fuaj	track
/g/	g	/nz/	nz	/w/	w	g	gōro	neck
/kp/	kp	/ɲ/	ɲ	/y/	y	gb	gbērē	dance
/gb/	gb	/ŋg/	ng			i	ngimē	smoke
		/ŋgb/	ngb			k	kūmbā	man
						kp	kpōrō	village
						m	mārā	iron
						mb	mbara	elephant
						mv	mvutu	dust
						n	noro	thumb
/i/	i			/u/	u	nd	ndū	leg
/ɛ/	e	/a/	a	/ɔ/	o	ng	ngimē	smoke
						ngb	ngbāyā	corn
						ny	nyā	animal
						nz	nzēmē	cooking oil
						o	gōro	neck
						p	pārā	egg
						r	rokō	garment
						s	sijnā	custom
						t	tārā	root
						u	mvutu	dust
						v	vūjrū	belly
						y	yōmbō	perfume
						z	zēre	bird

Tense vowels: j after the first simple (double) vowel of the word indicates that all the vowels in that word are tense.

## Tones:

high	ˆ
mid	˘
low	unmarked

## ALPHABET

a b d e f g gb i k kp m mb mv n nd ng ngb ny nz o p  
r s t u v w y z

number of graphemes 29

## Alphabets of Africa

edited by

Published by UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar (BRED-A)  
12, Avenue Roume, B.P. 3311, Dakar, Senegal

Rhonda L. Hartell ISBN : 92-9091-020-3

© UNESCO, 1993

Printed by BRED-A Press