



WUR Ö NA WURESI 'TI KUKU YI KULYESI'

ORTHOGRAPHY OF KUKU

LABOKA BASIL M. A.

THE WRITING OF KUKU
ALPHABET IN WORDS

THE KUKU LANGUAGE BOARD KAMPALA

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ORTHOGRAPHY OF KUKU

FOREWORD

The adoption of the Thematic Curriculum and the introduction of the teaching and learning of local languages in Uganda's primary and secondary schools has led to increased demand for the development of instructional materials in the local languages.

In this respect, orthographies have come to the forefront of literacy and instructional materials development.

As a core resource, orthography is a critical tool in the promotion of literacy in any language. It prescribes a set of spelling rules and therefore, a very fundamental tool for writers in both private and public domain. An orthography is a prerequisite for the development of any written material.

As such, learners' books, teachers' guides, resource books, primers, storybooks, grammars, dictionaries, and all forms of written materials require the application of orthographic rules.

By establishing a common writing standard in the speech community, orthography rules help promote uniformity in spellings across different genres and forms of literature.

The writing styles and spellings in any language must be consistent across all education levels, from Early Childhood, Basic Education (Primary and Secondary), and Tertiary levels. This uniformity in spelling is partly crucial in attaining better learning outcomes across different levels of education. It makes learning easier and less burdensome by avoiding contradictory spellings.

As a key player in the education system, it is the role of the National Curriculum Development Centre to holistically and unequivocally promote all Ugandan languages, albeit with the support of the local linguistic communities. The development of Kuku orthography demonstrates a good example of the

much-needed communal support in education. It is hoped that the development of this orthography will spur various literacy activities. We hope that the Kuku will be inspired to read and write, and, a wide range of literature will be produced as a result of this orthography.

It is equally important to note that an orthography is a living document. As language changes, so does the orthography. This edition of the Kuku orthography should therefore be regarded as a springboard for further research and should give birth to better and improved versions of the Kuku orthography.

Users are encouraged to read with diligence and the authors are encouraged to continuously get feedback from the users.

As a national institution, NCDC is cognizant of the linguistic situation in Uganda. Uganda is a multiethnic nation with many dialectal variations in most languages and Kuku is no exception.

This orthography has been consciously developed to cater to speech variations within the language. Enormous effort has been made in this orthography to ensure that, most, if not all, dialectal variations within Kuku are catered for. It is hoped therefore that all variants of Kuku will be able to find this orthography useful for their consumption.

I congratulate all the Kuku for attaining this milestone and implore them to build upon it for posterity.



Dr Grace. K. Baguma

DIRECTOR

National Curriculum Development Centre

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORTHOGRAPHY OF KUKU

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kuku has had no orthography. We are very grateful to many individuals and entities in shaping the development of the orthography of Kuku. We thank the few dedicated and committed Kuku volunteers for participation and contribution to the development of the orthography led by Kuku Phonologist, Laboka Basil, including the Ad-hoc Steering Committee of the Kuku Community Initiatives, the Ad-hoc Kuku Language Committee, the Board and Management Committee of the Kuku Community Trust (KCT); the Kuku Community; Kuku representatives from the Districts of Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani, Kiryadongo, Luwero, Wakiso, Kampala, Mukono, Kayunga, Buikwe, and parts of Busoga. We are indeed grateful to the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Entebbe, and SIL International, Dallas, Texas, USA and the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), Kyambogo; and in a special way, thank and congratulate the following: -

1) **The Kuku Language Committee**

Immense gratitude goes to the members of the Ad-hoc Kuku Language Committee for their participation and contribution to the development of the orthography, without which the outcome of it, would not have been possible. The members comprised: Laboka Basil, Prof. Scopas J. Dima (Chairman), Eng. Tadayo Sulla Joseph, Dr. Anthony Sokiri Wani and his team (Charles Lo'boka and Chaplain Kenyi), late Dr. Christopher Modi Kenyi (Posthumous), Juwan Joyce Mary Akidas, Juru Beatrice B. Bungu, Nyokuwe' Rose Amandu, Duku Richard Kenyi, Zamba

D. Michael, Taban Evans, Anthony Sokiri Luwaya, Korsuk Charles and Rev. Felix Leju Waya, for his guidance and advice.

The Kuku community and non Kuku are recognized and appreciated for their time, financial support and encouragement in the development of the orthography.

2) **The Uganda Museum workshop, Kampala: 30th November, 2019**

We would like to thank the participation and contribution of the following members in the Uganda Museum workshop, where recommendations and improvement on critical areas of the orthography were discussed with inputs: Laboka Basil-The Organizer and Lead Phonologist, Prof. Scopas J. Dima, Tadayo Sulla Joseph, Nyokuwe' Rose Amandu, Juwan Joyce Mary Akidas, Juru Beatrice Bungu, Yawa Jaliet Ssekitto, Korsuk Charles, Kaya Robert, Taba Allen Meelin, Longa Michael, Luban Champlain, Rev. Stephen Lubajo, Kenyi Charles, Ronyo Samuel Thomas, Koma Emmanuel, Mawa James, Gonda Alex, Lo'du Apollo, Juwan Alice, Duku Kenyi Richard, Taban Evans, Anthony Sokiri Luwaya, Jekat Chris and Daniel Tomilyan Wani.

3) **The Katikomu Hotel workshop, Kayunga: 16th January, 2020**

The Katikomu Hotel workshop in Kayunga, was attended by representatives of the Kuku Community. It was graced by the Kayunga District Local Council Chairperson (LC5) and some local District Leaders. The workshop appreciated the developed Orthography and unanimously endorsed its improvement and use by all the Kuku for posterity. The members present: Laboka Basil, Organizer, Lead Linguist and Phonologist; Prof. Scopas Jibi Dima-Chairman, the Steering Committee of the Kuku Community Initiatives and the Kuku Language Committee. Korsuk Charles-Chairman, the Kuku Community Trust; Dr. Anthony Sokiri Wani-Deputy Chairman, the Kuku Community Trust; Duku Richard Kenyi-Chairman, the Management Committee, the Kuku Community Trust and Akonda Kenyi Scopas-the Patron of the Kuku Community. Others were, Tadayo Sulla Joseph, Dr. Lopita Inyagga Micah, Juwan Joyce Mary, Nyokuwe' Rose Amandu, Juru Beatrice B. Bungu, Taban Evans M, Lo'du Apollo, Juwan Alice, Mawa James, Leju Simon, Booro-lo-Joggo', Lowu Kebemetu, Gonda Alex L, Jekat Chris, Keyi Simon, Diilas James, Jaliet Yawa Ssekitto, Ayah Alice, Rev. Manasseh Kenyi, Dumba Levi, Abbi Betty, Luban Champlain, Kaya Robert, Koma Emmanuel, Kenyi Charles, Ronyo Samuel, Jibi Sumata Francis, Kasolo Joseph, Wani Chaplain, Butamanya Moses, Taba Allen Meelin, Moi Yeremiiya, Abajo Moses, Songa Micah, Laggu Edward, Lisoko Richard, Mogga' Ereto, Birungi K. Jackline, Longa Michael, Jansuk James, 'Bugga Emmanuel Gala and Rev. Canon, Captain Baraka Titus.

4) **Stakeholders' meeting in NCDC, Kyambogo, Kampala: 07th May, 2021**

We thank the following stakeholders' representatives from Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani, Kiryadongo, Luwero, Kampala, Kayunga, Mukono and Buikwe for the elections of the members of the Kuku Language Board and Panel of Writers: Abajo Moses, Aate Poni Helen, Gune Betty, Bonsuk Jeska, Lo'du Apollo, Lagguu Edward, Lubang Champlain, Wu-wö' Namale Miriam, Akonda Kenyi Scopas, Rev. Stephen Lubajo, Longa Michael, Korsuk Charles, Scopas J. Dima, Anthony Sokiri Wani, Tadayo Sulla Joseph, Nyokuwe' Rose Amandu, Jekat Chris and Laboka Basil and Duku Richard Kenyi, absent with apology.

5) **The Kuku Language Board: 07th May, 2021**

We thank and congratulate the following for having been nominated and elected to serve in the Kuku Language Board: Laboka Basil, Yawa Jaliet Ssekitto, Tadayo Sulla Joseph, Nyokuwe' Rose Amandu, 'Bugga Emmanuel Galla, Scopas J. Dima, Bonsuk Jeska, Longa Michael, Taba Allen Meeling, Lubang Champlain, Korsuk Charles, Diilas James and Rev. Stephen Lubajo.

6) **The Panel of Writers: 7th May, 2021**

We congratulate the following for having been nominated and elected to serve as members of Kuku Writers Panel: Kaya Robert, Songa Micah, Gune Betty, Kenyi Charles, Juru Beatrice B. Bungu, Ronyo Samuel Thomas, Ide Jacqueline, Nyumbo Clement Timayo, Aate Poni Helen, Jede Festo, Lo'du Apollo, Modi Henry Remo and Modi Michael.

7) **The Technical Team**

Our gratitude and thanks go to the technical team that oriented and fine-tuned the orthography to acceptable written, teachable and learnable Kuku: Laboka Basil, Tadayo Sulla Joseph, Nyokuwe' Rose Amandu, Scopas J. Dima, Juru Beatrice Bungu, Oketcho Phillip and the Programme Coordinator, Nnampeera Maureen of National Curriculum Development Centre.

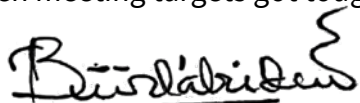
8) **Special Acknowledgement and Gratitude**

The Kuku community owes immeasurable gratitude to the Government of Uganda; through NCDC efforts for the offer of funds to facilitate the process of ensuring that, Kuku as a minority indigenous language, is written to preserve the Kuku language, traditional cultures and heritage for posterity.

The gesture enabled the dedicated management team of NCDC to host, organize and facilitate the swearing-in ceremony of the members of the Kuku Language Board by the Chief Magistrate of Nakawa Division and other processes. It has also enabled the facilitation in orienting and fine-tuning the draft of the orthography to acceptable, usable and written standards. We would like to further extend our special gratitude to the staff of NCDC for undertaking a ground-breaking meeting with Kayunga District Officials in matters related to the Kuku language as a matter of national concern.

We appreciate and are grateful to NCDC Director, Dr Grace Baguma, Deputy Director Dr. Bernadette Nambi and Head of Pre-Primary and Primary Ms. Nyandwoha Enid Joy, Dr. Phillip Oketcho, Nnampeera Maureen and the staff for enabling the successfully facilitation of the orthography. Our gratitude also goes to the Director of Summer Institute of Linguistics, Entebbe, Mr. Gift Asiku and the staff for support, inputs and guidance in the formative stages of developing the orthography. We are grateful to Mr. Dave Eberhard, SIL Int. who, with T. Lydia, visited the Kuku Community in Kayunga. We thank SIL International, Dallas, USA for guidance and support in the development of the Orthography, its recognition, approval and granting of Kuku ISO code [ukv]. We want to thank Mr. Watson Atukwatsi of the Uganda Society Library, at the Uganda Museum, Kampala, in using the library and for the conduct of the first workshop.

I want to thank and appreciate my wife, Maria Birungi Laboka, for being the dynamo and engine in providing the energy, tranquil and encouragement in the research, development and writing of the orthography in the quiet of my study room. I would like to thank my children for providing support and encouragement when the working spirits seemed to be getting low. It is their belief that the Kuku, our grandchildren and the generations to come will speak and write grammatical Kuku infinite. My apology goes to my grandchildren, who, I sometimes had to deny the pleasure and comfort of being with grandpa when meeting targets got tougher to their disadvantage.



Laboka Basil M. A., (Phonologist and Author),
The Orthography of Kuku,
Chairman - The Kuku Language Board, Kampala.

THE DEVELOPED ORTHOGRAPHY OF KUKU

INTRODUCTION

Orthography of Kuku is, *Wurö na wuresi' ti Kuku*. *Wuresi'* is alphabet. Kuku is both a language of the Kukù. The tribe and people are Kukù or *Kukuu*. The gazetted official name is Kuku. Kuku is a cross-international boundary language, spoken in Uganda and South Sudan. The Kuku tribe is a cross-cultural community in Uganda. It has significant population in Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani, Kayunga and in other Districts (*Uganda Population and Housing Census, 2002*). Some sounds of Kuku articulated diacritic vowel and consonant phonemes are marked in different positions in words. The markings conform to the sounds of Kuku speech, phonology and tonality in the sound system. The marked sounds conform to articulated Kuku diacritic vowel and consonant phonemes to differentiate pronunciations, spellings and meanings of words in order to avoid confusion ambiguity. Kuku orthography is developed for writing, teaching and learning Kuku. It conforms to stipulated writing rules. The taught and learnt Kuku, shall emphasize the use of correctly spoken and written grammar in literacy, teaching and learning materials, translation of works, documents and religious materials. The written materials will preserve Kuku identity, language and traditional customs for posterity. Kuku should be used for composing music, singing hymns, traditional songs, performing arts and in preaching the word of God.

The language family of Kuku

Kuku is an Eastern Nilotic (formerly referred to as Lango, Nilo Hamites or Plain Nilotes) language, spoken in Uganda and South Sudan. Kuku belongs to the large family of Eastern Nilotic languages, spoken in Uganda [Kakwa, Kuku, Reli, Gimara, Aliba/Rigbo; (described as *Wöti*), Iteso, communities in Karamoja, Pokot and Sabiny], parts of north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania (*Greenberg's Grouping of Language Families, 1955*).

The Eastern Nilotes belong to Nilo-Saharan-Chari-Nile stem. The group is named Eastern Nilotes because they once lived east of the River Nile in Egypt. It was where they were reported to have lived before they migrated in the seventh century (c641 AD) to south western Ethiopia. They followed the Red Sea, transverse across present Eritrea and Ethiopia. They then veered towards south, where they settled in south western Ethiopia. In the end and beginning of the 15th and 16th centuries, they gradually migrated to their present settlements in East Africa as enumerated above. The Western Nilotics (Lou, Dinka, Nuer) were reported to have lived west of the Nile in Egypt. They migrated south in their formations along the Nile. Some Lou, extended to eastern and western directions. But all the groups moved south, pushing the Sudanic Ma'di and Moru to the south and west of River Nile respectively.

The orthography of Kuku, apostrophe (') and hyphen (-) symbols

The orthography of Kuku is developed for writing Kuku. It is to guide in the writing, teaching and learning of Kuku. A good writing system of a language has specific needs for its users.

The principle in developing the orthography of Kuku is in using all contrastive sounds of articulated Kuku vowel and consonant phonemes. These include the use of apostrophe (') and hyphen (-) symbols to mark distinguishable sounds of articulated Kuku diacritics according to Kuku speech.

Apostrophe (') symbol is used to mark sounds of articulated Kuku diacritics in specific positions of phonemes in Kuku words. The use of apostrophe and hyphen symbols in free hand written Kuku is easy to use, identify, very consistent, neat and not crowded.

The apostrophe is used for marking prolonged, stressed and voiced/constricted doubled marked vowels in the middle as in (a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö); voiced/constricted vowels at the end of words (a', e', o', u', ö'); voiced/constricted vowels in the beginning of words as in ('a, 'i, 'o) and voiced/constricted consonants 'M/'m, and 'N/'n.

The apostrophe is used to mark implosive consonants 'B/'b, 'D/'d, and 'Y/'y, to avoid confusing them with unmarked consonants B/b, D/d, and Y/y.

The marked sounds of vowel and some consonant phonemes in specific positions in words is to differentiate the sounds of articulated Kuku diacritics in the sound system of their pronunciations, spellings and meanings of Kuku written words and names.

Kuku is severely a tonal language. The tonality is reflected in the sounds of various articulated Kuku diacritics in its phonology in the sound system. Tone is phonemic. Kuku shall mark tonal sounds of articulated diacritic vowel and some consonant phonemes in conformity with Kuku speech. Kuku tonality affects the sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel and some consonant phonemes, in order to have the correct pronunciations, spellings and meanings of written Kuku words.

Kuku prefers to mark sounds of its articulated diacritic vowel and some consonant phonemes to simplify and to effectively actualize the meaningful writing, teaching, learning and reading of Kuku. The apostrophe is used to mark some vowels and consonants, to identify the writing and reading of Kuku words as pronounced, spelt, written and read.

Kuku shall mark with apostrophe the sounds of articulated diacritics vowel and some consonant phonemes; to avoid distorting Kuku speech, altering meanings of words, names and to avoid confusion and ambiguity in Kuku written words and names.

The unmarked and marked sounds of vowel and some consonant phonemes in words is to differentiate pronunciations, spellings and meanings of written Kuku words, names and expressions; as stated in the examples and explained in the tables here below:

Unmarked vowel phonemes			Marked vowel phonemes		
Vowels	Kuku words	English words	Vowels	Kuku words	English words
a	mogga	catch	a'	Mogga'	male name
e	Nye kase	him/he, her/she, it theirs	e'	nye' ke', kuwe'	cannot fry, mine

Unmarked vowel phonemes			Marked vowel phonemes		
Vowels	Kuku words	English words	Vowels	Kuku words	English words
i	kidi, minda Nyiri	well, fasting name of mountain	i'	yi', nyesi' kulyesi', wuresi'	we, ordered to eat words; alphabet
o	poggo ponda	behind the house came	o'	ŋo' Soro'	matters/things Board game/Mweso
u	kudu Wudu	rain male name	u'	puru' ŋutu'	appear, appearance a person
ö	ködö	if	ö'	rö'	to rebuke

Unmarked doubled vowel phonemes			Marked doubled vowel phonemes		
Vowels	Kuku words	English words	Vowels	Kuku words	English words
aa	kaata, kataa	inside, ill feelings	a'a	ka'ata'	sweet potatoes
ee	kee, kpee	guess, show	e'e	ke'esi'	guesses
ii	kiiden, kiidi	middle, shoulder	i'i	ki'ir	mahogany
oo	Sooddu	pushing into	o'o	so'oro'	insert/enter
uu	Wuudu	place name	u'u	ku'uti	bird
öö	wööyi!	loud reply to a call	ö'ö	kö'ötöli	sweet potato

Unmarked consonants			Marked consonants		
Consonants	Kuku words	English words	Consonants	Kuku words	English words
B/b	bongo banja	dress, skirt, shirt debt	'B/'b	'balan 'boja	salt weeding
D/d	derja dujō	cooking milking	'D/'d	'de'de' 'deja	quickly plucking
Y/y	yandu yaa, yiini	divorce where, there	'Y/'y	'yō'yu, 'yale	visiting to increase
M/m	Mōjuu Mōju	male name drinking	'M/'m	'Mbölötu Yee'mba	Chimpanzee male name
N/n	Nan Nanan	I, me which	'N/'n	'N, 'Natu. 'ntuu.	I, I can't go. I went.

Kuku uses apostrophe (') and hyphen (-) symbols to mark sounds of articulated Kuku diacritics in Kuku speech. The two symbols can be proven in Kuku linguistics, science and in articulated natural sounds of Kuku diacritics, tonality and Kuku speech in the sound system.

Kuku orthography has avoided the use of some IPA markings of vowel phonemes like [a, á, â; e, é, ê; i, î, î; o, ó, ô; u, ú, û] [ã, ã, ã, õ, õ] and [à, à, è, i, î, ò, ù] in preference to Kuku vowel phonemes such as doubled vowels: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu, öö; marked in-between vowels; a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö; a', e', i', o', u', ö' and 'a, 'i, 'o. Apostrophe (') marks the sounds of vowel and some consonant phonemes in articulated written Kuku. Kuku vowel phonemes are easy to use, write, teach, learn and neat. The marked voiced/constricted sounds of articulated Kuku diacritics, conform to Kuku speech as they are written as spoken. The hyphen (-) joins reduplicated, compound and more than two words. Kuku shall develop, generate and write, teach, learn and read materials in various shades of genres to enrich Kuku literacy and knowledge. Kuku alphabet shall be used in the translation of written works, documents and religious materials.

Reality check

The above discourse is on Kuku linguistics. Linguistics is not a common subject. It is about phonology and how spoken languages are written in their individual designated alphabet.

Languages are not spoken and written in the same identical alphabet. Cultures of different people are not equally similar and the same. Identity, language and traditional cultures are central in individual communities. The absence of these begets community extinction.

In life situation, people define themselves not as belonging to ideological, political and economic groupings but in terms of ancestry, identity, language, traditional cultures and cultural institutions.

The Kuku community, in Uganda and South Sudan has been experiencing decline in identity, language and traditional cultures for various reasons. These have resulted in uncertainties. Key amongst them are, no written Kuku history and language, decline in traditional cultures and scanty cohesion.

It is the uncertainties which motivated the development of the orthography as an answer to the gradual decline of the identity of the community. Written Kuku is to preserve the Kuku identity, language, history, traditions, cultures and beliefs of the Kuku for posterity.

Finally, the quotations from Dr. Sigal Uziel-Kari of Achva Academic College, Israel, serve the very essence of teaching indigenous languages (Mother Tongue) in her presentation; “The Language Industry and Mother Tongue Use: Sunday Vision, 18.02.2018, page 4”; at Uganda Christian University, Mukono.

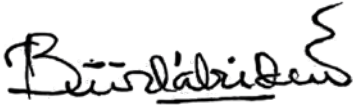
On teaching and learning of Mother Tongue, Dr. Sigal said, “All written languages of the world, have orthographies whose origins are from their speech languages”. Dr. Sigal discussed the negative effects of not exposing children to early class-room teaching and learning in their mother tongue and said, “... the early exposure of children to learn their mother tongue boosts their cultural identity, economic and personal growth.”

This is a challenge to minority speech languages in many African countries, where teaching of mother tongue is unvalued, ignored and even despised.

It is true that orthographies of minority communities are not developed, written and taught. The people remain presumably ‘unexposed, uneducated and; socially, economically and politically uninformed’; and are often marginalized.

Dr. Sigal argued, “...people who lose their mother tongue also lose their words, souls and visions”. She emphatically stressed that, “...children learn fast and also understand better what they read when their written language is close to their spoken language”.

According to Dr. Sigal, “... children who read and write in a language that is different from their spoken language have been found to have lower rates of literacy”. Kuku is thus written as closely as it is spoken.



Laboka Basil M. A

Phonologist and Author,
The orthography of Kuku.

15th June, 2021.

Kyebando, Nsooba Central, Kampala.

WRITING RULES FOR THE ORTHOGRAPHY OF KUKU

Rule 1: The Alphabet

The alphabet of Kuku shall comprise six (6) primary vowels, six (6) doubled vowel phonemes, twelve (12) marked sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes and twenty-three (23) consonant phonemes. Kuku vowels and some consonants should be marked with apostrophe to differentiate the articulated sounds of Kuku diacritic vowel and consonant phonemes; which emanate from Kuku speech, phonology and tonality in the sound system.

1.1: Kuku vowel phonemes

Kuku shall be written with primary vowels, doubled vowels and marked sounds of articulated Kuku diacritics vowel phonemes which are composed of:

Kuku vowels and diacritic Kuku vowel phonemes	Capital vowel phonemes
a, e, i, o, u, ö.	A, E, I, O, U, ö
aa, ee, ii, oo, uu, öö.	AA, EE, II, OO, UU, ÖÖ
a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö.	A'A, E'E, I'I, O'O, U'U, Ö'Ö
a', e', i', o', u', ö'.	A', E', I', O', U', Ö'.
'a, 'i, 'o.	'A, 'I, 'O.

1.2: Kuku consonant phonemes

Kuku shall write consonant phonemes separately but disjunctively with vowels in the consonants in the formation of words, names and expressions with commonly used doubled consonants in some words, names and expressions as segmented in the table here below:

Kuku capital consonants	Small consonants	Double consonants
B, D, G, J, K, L	b, d, g, j, k, l	-bb-, -dd-, -gg-, -jj-
M, N, P, R, S, T	m, n, p, r, s, t	-tt-
W, Y, 'B, 'D, 'Y, N	w, y, 'b, 'd, 'y, n	-yy-, -ng-,
GB, KP, Ny, 'M, 'N	gb, kp, ny, 'm, 'n	

Rule 2: Vowel phonemes

2.1: Kuku primary and doubled vowel phonemes

Kuku shall write short and long sounds of articulated primary and doubled vowels in words, names and expressions, as in primary vowels: *banja, gelen, jone, Kiden, mu'din, ηutu', ryö, rö'...* and in long sounds of double vowels in words as, *geelen, kaata, kiidi, Kpiiatti, Lagguu, muu'din, Poggoo, Porooggo, nyesuu...* according to the sounds of Kuku articulated speech.

The sounds of single and doubled vowels	Phonemic effects
<i>a, e, i, o, u, ö</i>	Short sounds vowels in words, names and expressions with the mouth open.
<i>aa, ee, ii, oo, uu, öö</i>	Long sounds vowels as articulated in the middle and the end of words, names and expressions as above, with the mouth open.

2.2: Comparable Kuku articulated diacritic vowels with some International Phonetic Alphabet

Kuku shall use and write the sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes instead of some IPA vowel phonemes as compared in the table below:

International Phonetic Alphabet (Vowel Phonemes)	Kuku Vowel Phonemes
<i>a, e, i, o, u</i>	<i>a, e, i, o, u, ö.</i>
<i>à, ə, è, ì, ɔ, ù</i>	<i>aa, ee, ii, oo, uu, öö.</i>
<i>ã, ê, ï, õ, ù</i>	<i>a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö.</i>

The comparison in the table above shows the challenge in learning to write some

IPA marked vowels, vis-à-vis the sounds of marked articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes. The use of marked sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes is less cumbersome to identify, use, mark, teach, learn and read. They are easy to write in free hand. They are clearly visible, neat and easy to write and read in free hand written work. Some IPA vowel phonemes, need the use of computers or machines with readycrafted marked vowel phonemes. Computers and machines are not the domain of most Kuku learners; who only hand write Kuku alphabet/*wuresi*'.

2.3: Marked vowel phonemes (a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö); (a', e', i', o', u', ö') and ('a, 'i, 'o)

Kuku shall mark with apostrophe (') symbol the sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes in specific positions in words as shown above. The marking is to differentiate their pronunciations, writing of spellings and meanings of words, names and expressions in Kuku.

Kuku shall use the terms 'voiced' and 'voiceless' not to the equivalent of the voiced English consonants /b/, /d/ and /g/ and voiceless consonants /p/, /t/ and /k/. But Kuku shall apply these terms to describe the marking of the severity or lightness of constricted sounds of Kuku articulated diacritic vowel phonemes as shown above and consonants 'M and 'N.

2.3.1: Kuku shall describe 'voiced' as, when the voice and vocal cords is/are almost closing (koo gboro' ko karorokan a ri'diki)

Kuku shall describe, 'voiceless' as when the voice and vocal cords is/are opened (*koo gboro' ko karorokan gboŋ ŋa*). The terms should not be confused with their usage in the English linguistics. The marked vowel phonemes are: (a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö); (a', e', i', o', u', ö'); ('a, 'i, 'o) and marked consonants ('M/'m and 'N/'n). The sounds of implosive consonants shall be marked as in implosives 'B/'b, palatal 'D/'d and velar 'Y/'y; to differentiate them from unmarked bilabial B/b, alveolar D/d and glide Y/y.

2.3.2: Kuku shall mark with apostrophe, the sounds of prolonged and stressed articulated Kuku, voiced/constricted and diacritic doubled vowel phonemes in the middle as; *a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö*; written as in *'da'addu, ka'ata', ŋa'asi', ke'esi', so'oro', lowo'oroin, ku'uti, dö'öddu.....*

2.3.3: Kuku shall mark with apostrophe, the short voiced/constricted sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes at the end of words as; *a', e', i', o', u', ö'*, written in words as in; *Mogga', Gale', ke', nye', jore', joore', getesi', ŋo', Kiju', kulyesi', kuwe', puru', ŋutu', rö', wuresi'.....*

2.3.4: Kuku shall mark with apostrophe, the sounds of articulated Kuku voiced/constricted and vibrating vowel phonemes in the beginning of words as; *'a, 'i, 'o*, written in words as *'Amen, 'aden, 'awule, 'awoonon, 'adara...* However, marked (*'a*), is a stem attached to verbs, used positively in contrast with negative unmarked (*a*) as in *adenda, awule, awoonon, adara.....*

The table below explains clearly the tonal activities of marked sounds of Kuku speech in the sound system and the effects on the sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes as in:

Marked sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes	Marked sounds of phonemic effects on vowel phonemes in words
<i>a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö</i>	Prolonged, stressed and voiced/constricted sounds, marked in the middle of doubled vowels as articulated in Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes in words: <i>Ka'ata, ki'ir, so'oro', ku'uti...</i>

<i>a', e', i', o', u', ö'</i>	Short and voiced/constricted sounds, marked at the end of words as articulated in Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes in words: <i>Mogga', jore', joore', Kiju', nye', möji'...</i>
<i>'a, 'i, 'o</i>	Short, voiced/constricted and vibrating sounds, marked phonemes in the beginning of words as articulated in Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes: <i>'awoonon, 'awule, 'ilon, 'iyya', 'o-oo..</i>

2.4: Primary vowels: a, e, i, o, u, ö

Kuku shall write short sounds of primary vowels in consonants singly in any position in words, names and expressions. These are written as single vowels as shown in the table below:

Short sounds of vowels (<i>a, e, i</i>), with the mouth opened towards the front.			Short sounds of (<i>o, u, ö</i>), with round-mouth opened towards the back.		
Vowels	Kuku	English	Vowels	Kuku	English
a	kata laggu nyaret	present untie love	o	wone poroggo mogga	shout compound catch
e	gelen wele gedda	one selfish ticking	u	kudu kuwe kume	Rain head nose
i	Kiden kidi kadi minda	female name well house fasting	ö	gbörö möju döru wöti	craning to see drinking green grass relatives

2.5: Double vowels: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu, öö

Kuku shall write double vowels of long sounds in the middle and end of words and names:

Long sounds of double vowels (<i>aa, ee, ii</i>), with the mouth opened towards the front			Long sounds of double vowels (<i>oo, uu, öö</i>), with round-mouth opened towards the back		
Vowels	Kuku	English	Vowels	Kuku	English
aa	kaata waaran kataa naron Kpiiyatti	inside morning/at dawn evil/ill hearted Revelation	oo	totoongu goroo Poggoo toongu/Tongu	heavy weight house for goats male name heavy/male name
ee	kee 'yorotee kpiyeesi'	guess squeeze demonstrations	uu	Wuudu Lagguu nyesuu	place name male name eating
ii	kiidi miindi tiina/tina	shoulder want like that/like this	öö	gböörö Dööru wöndu u	buying female name singing a second song

2.6: Marked sounds of vowels in the middle: a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö

Kuku shall use apostrophe (') to mark prolonged, stressed and constricted (*voiced*) sounds of double vowels in the middle as; *a'a, e'e, i'i, o'o, u'u, ö'ö*; in the sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes.

This is to differentiate pronunciations, spellings and meanings of words, names and expressions in written Kuku as explained in the examples below:

Prolonged, stressed voiced marked sounds of (a'a, e'e, i'i), with the mouth opened towards the front.			Prolonged, stressed voiced marked sounds of (o'o, u'u, ö'ö), with round-mouth opened towards the back.		
Vowels	Kuku	English	Vowels	Kuku	English
a'a	ka'ata' 'da'addu	sweet potatoes jumping towards	o'o	so'oro' Lo'opo	insert/enter place name
e'e	ke'esi'	guesses	u'u	ku'uti	bird
i'i	ki'ir	mahogany	ö'ö	dö'öddu	Searching for barter trade

2.7: Marked vowels at the end of words: a', e', i', o', u', ö'

Kuku shall use apostrophe (') to mark sounds of articulated Kuku short, voiced/constricted vowel phonemes a', e', i', o', u', ö' at the end of words as *Mogga', nye'...* The marking is also used in the middle as in *ti'tu, ti'ta...* in writing of Kuku. The marking is to differentiate pronunciations, spellings and meanings of words, names and expressions in written Kuku.

Short marked sounds of vowels (a', e', i') at the end of words, with the mouth opened towards the front.			Short marked sounds of vowels (o', u', ö') at the end of words, with round-mouth opened towards the back.		
Vowels	Kuku	English	Vowels	Kuku	English
a'	Mogga' 'iyya'	male name my mother	o'	gboro' ŋo'	throat things/matters
e'	ke', nye' lele'	fry; cannot another	u'	Losu' puru'	male name appears
i'	kulyesi' wuresi'	words alphabet	ö'	Gböngö' rö', ryö'-'yu	male name rebuke

2.8: Marked sounds of vowel phonemes in the beginning of words: 'a, 'i, 'o

Kuku shall mark, with apostrophe (') in its writing, the sounds of voiced/constricted and vibrating marked vowel phonemes ('a, 'i, 'o) in the beginning of words, to differentiate pronunciations, spellings and meanings of words, names and expressions.

Marked ('a) and unmarked (a) shall contrast meanings of words. When ('a) is attached to verbs (perfect tenses) as stems, to modify verbs; and unmarked (a) attached to verbs as stems to modify verbs are used in tense forms in the negative in Kuku Grammar.

Short and voiced/constricted sounds of vowel phonemes ('a, 'i, 'o) are marked with apostrophe in the beginning of words with some vibration sounds when the mouth is opened towards the front.

Vowels	Kuku	English	Vowel	Kuku	English
'a	'awoonon 'awule' 'ayubbö 'a'duddö 'anyesuu	has been chosen has believed has ended have eaten	(a)	awule' ayubbö a'duddö anyesuu	has not sounded cannot be chosen does not believe does not ended do not eat
'i	'ilonj 'iyya'	posho/ugali mummy/mother	(a) stands alone, but not as contrast	a wule'	is/was chosen are/were chosen
'o	'o-oo	back of a person			

2.9: Unmarked (a) standing alone, used in singular and plural nouns with is/are

Kuku shall use unmarked (a), standing alone before singular and plural nouns.

(a)	Kuku	English
Singular	Juwan a saser Pita.	Juwan is the sister of Pita.
Plural	Wanii ko Mogga' a lunasirik.	Wanii and Mogga' are brothers.
Plural	Kokoo liinj a ti pele' gelen.	They are all from the same parents.
Singular	Lepen a saser Jibi.	She is a sister of Jibi.

2.10: Unmarked (a) standing alone, used in present and past continues tense

Kuku shall used unmarked (a) standing alone in present and past continues tense.

(a)	Kuku	English
is	Lopen a ntutu' loron.	He is a bad person.
was elected	Juwan a wule' MP na Kayunga	Juwan was elected MP of Kayunga.
were seen	Kokoo a meta yi koko'ya na manga.	They were seen stealing mangoes.
were chosen	Kokoo a wule' kameta ti gbokiiyot.	They were chosen village supervisors.

2.11: Marked ('a) is used in contrast with unmarked (a)

Kuku shall use marked ('a) attached to verbs as stem positively in present perfect tenses.

('a)	Kuku	English
has sounded	Löri naa 'awoonon.	The drum has sounded.
has been elected	Suda 'awule' MP dañin murek.	Suda has been elected MP twice.
has believed	Lopen 'ayubbö dii Yesu a kalwökönit.	He has believed that Jesus is a saviour.
has ended	Gor lo 'a'duddö.	The war has ended.
have eaten	Kokoo 'ayesuu.	They have eaten.
have gone	Juru ko Kade' 'adö'öddu.	Juru and Kade' have gone for barter trade.

2.12: Unmarked (a) attached to verb as a stem is used negatively in contrast with marked ('a)

Kuku shall write unmarked (a) attached to verbs as stems used in the negative.

(a)	Kuku	English
does not	Löri naa awoonon.	The drum does not sound.
cannot	Lepen awule' MP na Kayunga.	She cannot be elected MP of Kayunga.
does not	Lopen ayubbö kokoo.	He does not believe them.
does not	Gor lo tigga yukan a'duddö.	The war on Covid -19 does not/will not end.
do not	Kokoo ayesuu lokore.	They do not eat meat.
are not	Juru ko Kade' adöju.	Juru and Kade' are not involved in barter trade.

Rule 3: Kuku Consonant Phonemes

3.1 : Consonant phonemes

Kuku shall use twenty-three (23) consonant phonemes written in capitals, small, unmarked, marked and with doubled consonants as shown in the tables below:

Capital consonants	Small consonants	Double consonants
B D G J KL	b d g j k l	-bb-, -dd-, -gg-, -jj-
M N P RST	m n p r s t	-tt-
W Yy 'B 'D 'Yŋ	w y 'b 'd 'y ŋ	-yy-, -ŋg-
GB KP NY 'M 'N	gb kp ny 'm 'n	

3.2 : Unmarked consonants: B/d, D/d, Y/y

Kuku shall write unmarked sounds of bilabial B/b, alveolar D/d and glide Y/y in the beginning or middle of words, names and expressions as articulated in Kuku speech. The unmarked B/b, D/d, Y/y shall differentiate their pronunciations, spellings and meanings in words from marked bilabial implosives 'B/'b, palatal implosive 'D/'d, and velar implosive 'Y/'y as explain in the examples below:

3.2.1: B- *Bojo'* (male name) *barandu* (overflowing), *bongo* (cloth/shirt/dress/skirt), *böndu* (steering), *böŋö* (forgot), *bööŋö* (please), *bonga* (being looked at/after), *Bön-suk* (female name), *böböndu* (shaking), *baju* (wasting one's time or self), *banja* (debt), *bendere* (flag), *burjö* (demanding debt)....

3.2.2: D- *Dööri* (female name), *döru* (green grass), *dujö* (milking), *Dwanya* (male name), *derja* (cooking), *doongu* (chasing), *dara* (suffering), *denda* (knowing), *denu* (find out)...

3.2.3: *Yesu* (Jesus), *yeesu* (eating), *Yama* (male name) *Yuwani* (male name), *yenet* (hope), *yupet* (belief), *yeyeeju* (thinking), *yeyeesu* (is eating), *yandu* (divorce), *yamtu* (loitering), *yeema* (marriage), *yendu* (hoping), *yubbö* (believing), *yama'* (yawning)...

3.3 : Marked implosive consonants: 'B/'b, 'D/'d, 'Y/'y

Kuku shall marked sounds of bilabial implosive 'B/'b, palatal implosive 'D/'d and velar implosive 'Y/'y in the beginning or middle of words, names and expressions as articulated in Kuku speech. The marking shall differentiate pronunciations, spellings and meanings of words, names and expressions from unmarked consonants bilabial B/b, alveolar D/d and glide Y/y as explained below:

3.3.1: 'Buggö (male name), 'barindu (shaving), 'balan (salt), 'boja (weeding); 'buggu' (ripe bananas), 'bogga (digging), 'bolok (flour), 'bayin (nothing), 'belenjo (broken), 'n'buwön (I don't want), 'buröt (lie), 'biija (dry pond/river), 'beron (early/long time ago), 'bulit (benefit)...

3.3.2: 'Demayii (male name), 'dutet (the end), 'daddu (undermining), 'da'addu (jumping towards), 'datet (undermine), 'diyon (dog), Lo'diiyon (male name), 'deja (plucking)...

3.3.3: 'Yure, (East), 'ya'yu (adding/increasing), 'yale (to add/increase), 'duddö (ending), 'yu'yö (diluting), 'yurja (burning), 'yuree (to burn), 'yö'yu (visiting), 'yalet (increment)...

3.4 : N/ŋ consonant

Kuku shall use articulated sound of nasals consonant (N) or small (ŋ) in its writing in the beginning, middle or end of words, names and expressions as explained below:

The articulation of velar nasals (N)/(ŋ) sound is written in words like: *Ŋun* (God), *ŋutu'* (person), *ŋutuu* (people), *ŋiïro* (child), *ŋojik* (children), *ŋaju* (opening), *ŋa* (opened), *ŋaa* (who) *kunaa* (whom), *kogbon* (because), *liiŋ* (all). *NG/ng* is not used in Kuku and it is not the same as N/ŋ.

3.5: Bi-labial implosives Gb, kp and palatal nasals Ny consonants

Short sounds of bi-labial implosive consonants *gb* and *kp* and nasals palatal *ny* shall be written singly in the beginning or middle of words, names and expressions as articulated in the sounds of Kuku speech as explained below:

3.5.1 : Gb/gb as in *Gba-gbee* (male name), *gba-gbe* (wild cat), *gboja* (dancing), *gbongbe* (is like), *gbörö/görju* (craning to see/look), *gböörö* (buying), *gbongbeti* (as if), *gbuju* (barking) ...

3.5.2 : Kp/kp as in *kpaju* (threshing), *kpekpeeja* (becoming whitish), *Kpiiyatti* (the book of Revelation), *kokpee* (do not show), *piyeesi'* (questions), *pipiyeesi'* (questionnaires).....

3.5.3 : Ny/ny as in *Nyara* (male name), *nyar* (love), *nyarju* (loving), *nyanyar* (loves), *nyesuu* (eating), *nye* (him/her/he/she, it), *nye'* (cannot), *anyen* (so that), *nyweja* (glowing)...

3.6 : Pre-nasalized consonant marked 'M/'m as in 'mb

Kuku shall mark and write voiced/constricted sound of bi-labial, pre-nasalized 'M/'m in the beginning or middle of words and names. This is according to the sounds of articulated Kuku speech to avoid confusing it with unmarked *M* consonant. When 'M/'m is not marked, it distorts Kuku articulated words, alters meanings of words and names and confuses them with unmarked *M/m* words as: *Möjuu* (male name), *möju* (drinking), *möji'* (to drink), *yeema* (marriage)... as compared with marked 'M/'m in 'Mbölötu (Chimpanzee), *Yee'mba* (male name), *ye'mba* (to marry), 'yee'mba (evil-eyed), *suu'mba* (poisoning)... Yeema is marriage in Kuku.

3.7: Pre-nasalized bi-labial marked 'N or small 'n consonant

Kuku shall marked the sound of light constricted pre-nasalized bi-labial 'N/'n. 'N/'n can be written separately in the beginning as *Nan* or in the middle of a sentence as *nan* to represent the English pronoun I. But marked 'N/'n shall be disjunctively written, when attached or affixed to vowels (*a*) or

(e) in the beginning of verbs, consonants or adjectives. The marked 'N/'n shall indicate its light sound to avoid distorting it in Kuku speech. 'N/'n should not be confused with unmarked N/n in words as in, *Nan* (I), *nakwan* (wife), *niiyo'* (mine), *niiyaŋ* (ours), *nanu'* (when), *nase/nasu* (theirs), *na* (this), *nu* (that), *kunu* (those), *liya/niya* (where), *liŋa/niŋa* (whose)...

3.7.1 : Kuku shall write 'N/'n, separately to represent *Nan* as a complete pronoun which is the equivalent of the English first person I or me and 'N/'n as described above in written Kuku.

3.7.2 : Kuku shall write and attach or affix 'N/'n consonant to vowels, as '*Natu* (I cannot go), '*Nee- re' kon* (I have done) and affixed to consonants as '*Ntuu* (I went), '*N'buwön* (I don't want)...These are complete sentences in Kuku. 'N/'n cannot stand alone in writing of Kuku.

3.7.3 : Kuku shall attach or affix marked 'N/'n to adjectives as in '*Nkwekwelen* (I am beautiful); '*Nlut* (I am dirty), '*Nkameranit* (I am a drunkard)...These are complete sentences.

3.8: Double consonants: -bb-, -dd-, -gg-, -jj-, -tt-, -yy- and pre-nasalized velar -ŋg- (gbenge)

3.8.1: Doubled consonants -bb-, -dd-, -gg-, -tt-, -yy- and pre-nasalized velar -ŋg- shall be written in the middle and (..tt) in the end of words, names and expressions as articulated in Kuku speech.

The articulation of doubled -bb-, -dd-, -gg-, -jj- -tt-, -yy- in Kuku speech is the stoppage and hanging of the tongue in the middle of words, in the mouth, with double consonants in the middle to complete the pronunciation process. The stoppage is in-between the middle of the two double consonants as in *yub+bö* (*yubbö*/believe), '*da'ad+du* ('*da'addu*/jumping towards), *lag+gu* (*laggu*/untie) and *Lag+guu* (*Lagguu*/male name), *Pog+goo* (*Poggoo*/male name), *Poroog+go* (*Porooggo*/female name) and *ta'batat+t* (a piece of broken earth ware)

3.82: The -bb- as in *nebba* (turn slightly), *yubbö* (believe), *lubbö* (to enter)....

3.83: The -dd- as in *'duddö* (ends), *'da'addu* (jumping towards) *'daddu* (undermining)....

3.84: The -gg- as in *laggu* (untie), *Lagguu* (male name) *poggo* (behind the house) *Poggoo* (male name), *poroggo* (compound), *Porooggo* (female name), *Römöggi* (place name)....

3.85: The -tt- as in *Kpiiyatti* (the book of Revelation), *solonotti* (a type of koree song), *logotte* (a pole in the middle of a kraal) and -tt as in *ta'batat+t* (a piece of broken earth ware)...

3.86: The -yy- as in *'iyya'* (mother/mummy), *i'iyyaa'* (grandmother), *i'iyyo-we'* (in agreement)...

3.87: The articulated sounds of pre-nasalized velar -ŋg- shall be conjugated in words, names and expressions as articulated in Kuku speech, as in: *ŋonga* (suffering), *gbongbeti* (as if), *gbonge* (like), *tulyangu* (misleading), *tulyöngu* (make one happy), *jonggi* (take), *langi* (to jump over), *towoongu* (making noise), *tonoonga* (make someone or people suffer), *totoongu* (very heavy), *lenga* (to kill), *langu* (to cross over)...

3.9: The International Phonetic Alphabet and Kuku Phonetic Alphabet

The IPA chart shows the locations of Kuku consonants, the absence of labio-dental alphabet, other locatives would be in positions of marked sounds of Kuku diacritic vowel phonemes. The missing labio-dental and consonants (h) and (q) shall be replaced by Kuku articulated consonants. But the usage shall depend on the preference of the user, owner or as documented.

Plosives	Bi-labial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosives (stops) Voiceless IPA	p p		t t		k w k w	
Voiced IPA	b b		d d		g g	Marked Kuku diacritics: [a'a...][a', e'...] [a', i', o']
Implosive IPA	'b, gb, kp ɓ			'd	'y	
Pre-nasalized IPA	'mb, 'n mb				ŋg	
Nasals IPA	m m		n n	ny ɲ	ŋ ng	
Fricatives						
Voiceless IPA			s s			

Affricates						
Voiced IPA			j dʒ			
Laterals IPA			l l			
Trill IPA			r r			
Glides IPA				y j		.

3.10: Kuku consonants and use in words

Kuku shall write capital and small consonants in the beginning, middle and at the end of words together with vowel phonemes in correct pronunciations, spellings and meanings.

Consonants	Words	English	Consonants	Words	English
B b	Bonga böndu	to see steering	W w	Wuresi' wuröt	alphabet writings
D d	Dara denda	suffering knowing	Y y	Yeyeesi' yupet/yenet	thoughts belief/faith / hope
G g	Gaju ga'yu	defend search	'B 'b	'Bakan 'bayin	has nothing nothing
J J	Joore joore'	many/much full	'D 'd	'De'de' 'deja	quickly plucking
K k	Kak kenda	earth read	'Y 'y	'Yee'mba 'ya'yu	evil eyed look increasing
L l	Lelee lele'	flat rock another	Ŋ ŋ	Ŋa ŋaa	opened who
M m	Maju möju	feel drinking	Gb gb	Gböörö gbogbo	buying straight
N	Nan	I/me	Kp	Kpaju	threshing

Consonants	Words	English	Consonants	Words	English
n	nanu'	when	kp	kpiiyet	demonstration
P p	Poggoo poroggo	male name compound	Ny ny	Nyar nyena	love therefore
R r	Ruruwan rukesi'	taboo answers	'M 'm	'Mbölötu Yee'mba	chimpanzee male name
S s	Suluwet sasanyes i'	beginning problems	'N 'n	'Natu 'ntuu	I cannot go. I wenUJt.
T t	Temesi' taliŋ	Trials /examinations peace			

3.11: Consonant sequences/consonant clusters and usage in words

Kuku consonant sequences are *dw...*, *kw...*, *ly...*, *ry...*, *tw...*, *ty...*, *ŋw...*....These are the equivalent of the English diagraphs, tri-graphs or consonant sequences with the full English words of: drawing, grammar, they, three, twelve, psychology... These are represented with consonant sequences as *dr...* *gr...* *th...* *thr...**tw...**psy...*....

Kuku shall use consonant sequences or consonant clusters in writing words, names and expressions as demonstrated in the examples in the table below. The consonant sequences shall not however be confused with proper consonants as shown in the examples in table above.

Kuku has many forms of consonant sequences but the main ones are as stated below:

Some Kuku consonant sequences as written and used in words

dw...	Kuku	dwar	dwaju	dwadwaju	dwadwayeesi'	Dwanya
	English	hunting expedition	confusing	deliberately confusing	confusions	male name
kw...	Kuku	Kwaaje	Kwajee	kwaje	kwaru	kwakwa ddu
	English	male name	female name	night time	civet cat	praying
ly...	Kuku	lyöñön	lyañan	tulyöngu	tulyangu	kulyesi'
	English	happy/excited	lost	making one happy	misleading	words
ry...	Kuku	ryö	ryaggu	ryok	ryoka	ryak
	English	found	robbing	step	stepped on	robbed
tw...	Kuku	twö	twöju	twöyit	twöyeesi'	twöyi
	English	obey	obeying	obedience	obediences	to be obeyed
ty...	Kuku	kotyañ	tokotyañ	Tokotyaan	Kutyañ	tukwaje
	English	evening	becoming evening	West	female name	at night
ñw...	Kuku	ñwöndö	ñwenda	Ñwenya	ñwenye-ñwen	Ñwenye
	English	hyena	holding by the edge	place name	Tear it into pieces	to tear

Rule 4: Syllable structures

Kuku syllable structure shall be based in the articulation of its words.

Kuku syllables fall under six distinct structures, marked by consonant (C) vowel (V) and semi-vowel (S). Kuku does not have many syllable structures but presently it has only six distinct cases.

The six structures are:

Syllable	Explanation in English	Examples in Kuku			
V	(V) stands for vowel (a), with only one syllable; u s e d i n is/are/was/were, and in plain (a) in Kuku Grammar.	(a), <i>a wuret gelen, 'boŋ wooŋon ko silabol gelen tuŋ, gbenge (a).</i>			
CV-CV	As in the word (<i>ka-ta</i>).	<i>ka-ta</i> (<i>kata</i> is present); <i>silabol murek tuŋ.</i>	<i>wooŋon</i>	<i>ko</i>	
CW-CV	As in the word (<i>kaa-ta</i>).	<i>kaa-ta</i> (<i>kata</i> /in / inside), <i>silabol murek tuŋ.</i>	<i>wooŋon</i>	<i>ko</i>	
CCVCV	As in the word (<i>ŋwö-ndö</i>).	<i>ŋwö-ndö</i> (<i>ŋwöndö</i> /hyena), <i>wooŋon ko silabol murek tuŋ.</i>			
CVC	As in the word (<i>kak</i>).	<i>kak- wooŋon ko silabol gelen tuŋ.</i>			
CSVC	As in the word (<i>ryok</i>). consonant+semi+vowel+consonant.	<i>ryok-wooŋon ko silabol gelen, ama nene' wooŋet kata nanjutut: CSVC.</i>			

Rule 5: Kuku parts of speech/word class

Kuku parts of speech shall be written and categorized into verbs and phrasal verbs, nouns, pronouns, relative pronouns, interrogatives, prepositions, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections, punctuations etc. Many aspects of Kuku grammar are left out in the orthography.

5.1 : Verbs

5.1.1 : Kuku verbs shall be written separately except, phrasal verbs where hyphen (-) is used to join duplicated, compound or more than two words as shown in the examples below:

Verbs	Sentences in Kuku	Sentences in English
jambu	Lopej lu jambu kulya ti yeema.	He is discussing marriage issues.
jambi	Kokoo dii tii lepej jambi.	They allowed her to speak.
tuwan	Njiro na lepej tuwan ko malariya.	Her child died of malaria.

5.1.2 : Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs of Kuku shall be written separately but must be linked with hyphen (-).

Phrasal verb	Sentences in Kuku	Sentences in English
Jame-jam	Tii lepej <i>jame-jam</i> kine kulya.	Let her <i>talked about</i> these matters.
jamani-jama	Tii kine kulya <i>jamani'-jama</i> .	These matters should be <i>talked about</i> .
mokakini-mokaki'	Tii lepej <i>mokakini-mokaki'</i> .	Let someone <i>hold for</i> her.

5.2 : Nouns

Kuku nouns shall be written separately except in possessive forms, praise names and in hyphenated, reduplicated and compound nouns as: Murye, Juwan, kiine', Monye-Murye (Murye's father) Minda- suk, wu-waa, wa-wook, Yama-lo-kajo-möji', Dawudi-lo-Köjii...

Kuku Nouns	Sentences in Kuku	Sentences in English
Kiteŋ	Kiteŋ na Möjuu dowo'oro' kidi.	The cow of Möjuu fell in the well.
Kisuk	Kokoo ko kisuk napir.	They have fat cattle.
Naka'ata'	Naka'ata' kwekwelen parik.	Naka'ata' is very beautiful.
Njote Murye	Njote Murye tuu kare.	Murye's mother went to the river.
wu-waa	Lagguu rembu wu-waa.	Lagguu speared a fox.

5.3 : Pronouns

Pronouns shall be written separately, except in the first person 'N or small 'n when affixed to a vowel, consonant or an adjective. 'N/'n is the English pronoun (I/me).

The Kuku prefer to use marked 'N/n', in their every day conversations instead of *Nan*, which is rarely used.

Kuku	'N or Nan	yi'	do	lopeŋ	lepeŋ	ta	Kokoo
English	I	we	you	he	she	you	they

Pronouns as	Kuku	English	Kuku	English
First person	'N or Nan	I	yi'	we
Second person	do	you	ta	you
Third person	lopeŋ/lepeŋ	he/she	kokoo	they

5.3.1 : Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns shall be written separately except 'N/'n which shall be affixed or attached to words beginning with either vowels, like 'Natu (I cannot go) or 'Nee-re' *mat...*; before consonants, 'Ntuu (I went), 'Nmet (I saw) or affixed to adjectives like *kwekwelen* (beautiful), becomes 'Nkwekwelen; *lut* (dirty) becomes 'Nlut... These are complete sentences in Kuku.

Personal pronouns	Kuku	English
'N	'Natu. 'Nabonga.	I cannot go. I cannot see.
'N	'Nnyanyar kenda.	I like reading.
Yi'	Yi' 'buwön momoluka.	We do not want to be deceived.
Do	Do momon.	You are smelly.
Lopenj/Lepenj	Lopenj lut. Lepenj kwekweelen.	He is dirty. She is beautiful.
Ta	Ta liinj lut.	You are all dirty.
Kokoo	Kokoo 'ba po nyu'.	They have not yet come.

5.3.2 : Demonstrative pronouns

Kuku shall write demonstrative pronouns separately in masculine and feminine forms as:

Kuku masculine	Lo	lu	yilo	kilo	kulo	kulu
English	this	that	this	those	these	those
Kuku feminine	Na	nu	yina	kine	kune	kunu
English	this	that	this	those	these	those

5.3.3 : Use of *lo/lu* and *na/nu* as in 'am', 'is/was' or 'are/were' in tenses for male and female

The use of *lo/lu/kulu...* (masculine) and *na/nu/kunu...* (feminine) 'am', 'is' or 'are' shall represent their use in present and past continues tenses (actions and event happening) and to indicate gender in some aspects of Kuku Grammar.

Tense form	Kuku	English
am/ <i>lo</i>	Nan lo tu Nairobi/'Nlo tu Nairobi.	I am going to Nairobi.
is/ <i>nu</i>	Lepen nu nyenyeesuu.	She is eating.
is/ <i>lu</i>	Lopen lu 'yö'yölöddu piritön ti kikijikö.	He is visiting orphanages.
are/ <i>kunu</i>	Kokoo kunu nyu' nyenyeesuu.	They are still eating.
are/ <i>kulu</i>	Kokoo kulu 'biddö saser.	They are beating their sister.
is/ <i>na</i>	Lepen na yi po.	She is coming.

5.3.4 : Use of *loo/luu* and *naa/nuu* as definite article 'the' in sentences

Loo/luu (masculine) and *naa/nuu* (feminine) shall represent definite article 'the' and to differentiate gender in the Grammar of Kuku. The *loo/luu* and *naa/nuu* in the table are tied to Kuku Grammar in their application and usage. These represent the definite article 'the' in the sentences as shown below:

Article <i>the</i>	Kuku	English
<i>loo</i>	Lopen dwadwaa lukikiri' loo ko lele'.	He confused the story with another.
<i>naa</i>	Do na kokoladdu buk naa.	You are the one who stole the book.
<i>luu</i>	Ta lo kököröju jamet nuu.	You are the one who spoilt the meeting.
<i>luu</i>	Lopen 'du'dunuu duwöt luu abulöndi.	He cut the bull into pieces anyhow.
<i>nuu</i>	Kokoo toree momoret nuu ko rijit.	They scattered the meeting by force.

5.3.5 Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns shall be written separately in singular and plural forms; used in their context in masculine and feminine forms but can be interchanged as presented in the table below:

Kuku	kuwe'	liyo'	kasu	losu	loyit/kayit/lija	lelut/leeyet	lose/nase	kulök
English	mine	mine	yours	yours	his/hers/whose	yours/yours	theirs	yours
Kuku	kunek	niiyo'	kase	nasu	nayit/kayit/nija	nenut/neeyet	niiyan/kaan	kunök
English	yours	mine	theirs	yours	hers/hers/whose	yours/yours	ours/ours	yours

5.3.6 : Possessive names

The masculine *lo...* and feminine *na...* shall be used in writing possessive names as reference to parents with hyphen as used in praise names, associated with parents, grandparents, kraals, cattle, claws, certain plants, grass etc as shown below:

Kuku	Lo Yuwani	Na Kiden	Lo-Kiden	Na-Wani	Dawudi-lo-Köjii	Juwan-na-Kiden
English	Son of Yuwani; spoken.	Daughter of Kiden; spoken	Lo-Kiden in written form.	Na-Wani In written form.	Dawudi is the son of Köjii, is a full written name.	Juwan is the daughter of Kiden, is a full written name.

5.4: Relative Pronouns

Kuku relative pronouns shall be written separately and conjugated in words, sentences, statements, questions or implied and shall be understood in their contextual usage.

Kuku	English
Naa lonaju kakat nuu?	Who opened the door?
Do möndu kunaa?	Whom are you waiting for?
Yilo glam a liija?	Whose pen/pencil is that?
Nutuu lo poo ni kulo a kolak.	The people who came here are thieves.
Kisuk na yamtu geeler kunu a ti Matatt.	The cattle which roam around are for the Chief.
Kiine' na tuwan nuu, 'bak monye.	The goat that died had no owner.

5.5: Interrogative pronouns

Kuku interrogative pronouns shall be written separately as conjugated in words, sentences, questions or implied and shall be understood in their contextual usage.

Kuku	English
Do lo konda nyo? Do 'akonda nyo?	What are you doing? What have you done?
Alolon/ananan ŋo' nagon 'akona?	Which thing has been done?
Konyo do gbigbiien?	Why are you crying?
Lopenj poo ni nanu'?	When did she come here?
Lopenj poo ni diinyo?	How did he come here?
Kokoo si'da ya?	Where do they stay/live?
Yi' tuu medda na pirit nase si'dayiit.	We went to see where they stay.

5.6: Prepositions

Kuku prepositions shall be written separately, according to their occurrence in contextual usage; provides that each use shall not bring grammatical incorrectness, confusion and ambiguity.

Kuku	English
Yi, yii, nu, ti, tii, ki, kak, ko, na, a....	in, to, of, let, on, at., of, for, up, down... with, by....
Ŋojik ti sukulu todinö yi kilasi.	School children are taught in a classroom.
'lyya' nu kadi. 'lyya' nu kadii.	My mother is in the house. My mother is inside.
Wuuret na Pawolo. Wuröt ti Pawolo.	The writing of Paulo. The writings of Paulo.
Lopenj liwa yi kiiden na kare.	He stood in the middle of the river.

5.7 Adjectives

Kuku adjectives shall be written separately as *to'bi'bin*, *patata'*, *pirön...* or disjunctively. However, where the qualifier or gender marker is used, such qualifiers or gender descriptors shall be prefixed/attached to the adjective as *lo* + *tor* = *lotor*, or *na* + *tor* = *nator...* as in:

Kuku	English
Lopenj lopir.	He is fat.
Kunu kisuk liinj namurye'.	Those cattle are all grey.
Marako lonjutut.	Marako is short.
Lepenj nait/na'dit. Kokoo nyu' natitik/na'di'dik.	She is small. They are/were still tiny.
Lo manga to'bi'bin.	This mango is sweet.

5.7.1: Adjectives in the description of colours

Kuku shall use the word *rangi* for colour and *Kabila* for tribe. Kuku shall write with *lo* for masculine and *na* for feminine prefixed/attached to describe the colour word as *lo+tor...* or *na+tor...* to differentiate colours. Most Kuku colours are derived from appearance of animals, plants and reflections as demonstrated in the example below:

Language	Plain colours	Plain colours	Plain colours	Plain colours
Kuku	Lobugge / nabugge	lo'bulye' / na'bulye'	lokpee / nakpee	lokpele / nakpele
English	slate-grey	blue	white	whitish ivory
Kuku	lokuyee' / nakuyee'	lomaraŋ / namaraŋ	lomurye' / namurye'	Loparaŋ / naparaŋ
English	brown	orange	grey	pink
Kuku	lopoora' / napoora'	Lopoore / napoore	lonjem / nanjem	Loruwö / naruwö
English	purple	silver	green	black
Kuku	lotor / nator	lowaŋe / nawaŋe	lodirip / nadirip	Lonyirot / nanyirot
English	red	yellow	thick	thickly smooth

Types of colours	Kuku	English
Clustered colours	lobeke/nabeke	Dotted black and white with no regular pattern.
	lokiiri and nakiiri	Black and white with dotted regular pattern.
	lo'yake/na'yake	Spotted multiple colours with no regular pattern.
Intensity colours	lokulur/nakulur.	Elevated intensity of bright colours.
	lokuuni'/nakuuni'	Elevated intensity of dark deep colours.
Glittery colours	lowiilye'/nawiilye'	Glittering, sparkling and shining colours.

5.8 : Adverbs

Adverbs shall be written separately or disjunctively to add more information or to describe manner of action, noun, pronoun...

Kuku	English
Kiden liwaki' yi kiiden na kare.	Kiden stood in the middle of the river.
Kokoo ruguñöki kak yi kwakwaddu.	They knelt down to pray.
Juwan durökin yi kokuwe na jamet.	Juwan arrived before the meeting.
Kokoo si'da yi mukök na kumuri.	They sat under a shea tree.
Lepen kukuju dii ti kokoo wöröni' maadañ.	He advised them to walk slowly.

5.9 : Conjunctions

Conjunctions shall be written separately. Great care must be exercised in the use of *ko* (and) and *koo* (when...). *Ko* and *koo* carry various forms of contextual usage in Kuku Grammar.

Kuku	English
Jökudu ko Juwan a sasiirik.	Jökudu and Juwan are sisters.
Kokoo den kitajin, ama kune' tigga.	They know their work but others defeated them.
Kiden koo 'du'durökin, a saser na 'duröki.	Hardly had Kiden arrived, when her sister arrived.

5.10 Interjections

Interjections shall be written separately but shall end with exclamation marks.

Kuku	English
Ti' yu! Do 'burönit aa!	Go there! You are a liar!
Do! Yiñani' talin!'Nlo 'bi'bit do tiyaana!	You! Keep quiet! I am going to beat you now!
Reki ta 'de'de' yi na jamet!	Disperse quickly from this meeting!

Rule 6: The calendar, counting and writing day and night hours

The counting of figures and writing of numbers in Kuku shall be in base ten (10), as puwök ko gelen (11), where *ko* is an addition (and); meriyya murek ko gelen (21), meriyya mukanat ko gelen (51), miiya gelen ko gelen (101), miiya gelen ko meriyya mukanat ko gelen, (151). The conjunction *ko* (and) is in written form of numbers. But writing figures uses comma (,).

6.1: Counting days of the week

Days of the week shall be written beginning with '*Lor*', which means, the day of, as *Lor togelen*

.....to *Lor toburyo'* or *Yinga* (Sunday). Counting days of the week in Kuku in the past is not complete yet. There is need to complete the process of counting days of the week in the past.

Kena na perok ti jima koju	Kena na perok ti jima tiyaana	Days of the week in English
Wonti gelen	Lor togelen	Monday
Wonti murek	Lor tomurek	Tuesday
Sala	Lor tomusala	Wednesday
'Ngban	Lor to'ngban	Thursday
Kanat	Lor tomukanat	Friday
Bukiiyen	Lor tobukiiyen	Saturday
Yinga	Lor toburyo'/Yinga	Sunday

6.2: Counting months of the year

Months of the year shall be counted and written, beginning with the first month of the year as *Yapa togelen* (January) to *Yapa topuwök ko murek* (December) as follows:

Kena na yapalan koju 'beron	Kena na yapalan tiyaana	Mouths of the year in English
Yapa togelen	Yapa togelen	January
'Doke kilinjit	Yapa tomurek	February
Ja'bee/Kiser	Yapa tomusala	March
'Ngban	Yapa to'ngban	April
Kanat	Yapa tomukanat	May
Bukiiyen	Yapa tobukiiyen	June
Buryo'	Yapa toburyo'	July
Wiiyet	Yapa tobudök	August
Loputu' ti melin	Yapa tobuñan	September
Puwök	Yapa topuwök	October
Piru	Yapa topuwök ko gelen	November
Lalaayit lo rima	Yapa topuwök ko murek	December

6.3: Counting day and night hours

Kuku shall count and write time in the African way. It shall start from 7:00 AM in the morning as *Sa gelen* to 6:00 PM in the evening as *Sa puwök ko murek*. This shall be similar to the counting and writing of the night hours as well.

6.3.1: Counting day time hours

Counting day time hours shall start at 7:00 AM in the morning (*na waaran*) as *Sa geleŋ* and ends at 6:00 PM in the evening (*na tokotyā*) as *Sa puwök ko murek*.

Kena na salan ti tuparan yi Kuku		Counting day time hours in English	
Sa/Dijit na tuparan	Kulyesi'	Time	In words
1	Geleŋ	7: 00 o'clock	Seven AM
2	Murek	8: 00 o'clock	Eight AM
3	Musala	9: 00 o'clock	Nine A,M
4	'Ngban	10:00 o'clock	Ten AM
5	Mukanat	11:00 o'clock	Eleven AM
6	Bukiiyen	12: 00 o'clock	Twelve, mid-day
7	Buryo'	1: 00 o'clock	One PM
8	Budök	2: 00 o'clock	Two PM
9	Buŋan	3: 00 o'clock	Three PM
10	Puwök	4: 00 o'clock	Four PM
11	Puwök ko geleŋ	5: 00 o'clock lock	Five PM
12	Puwök ko murek	6: 00 o'clock	Six PM

6.3.2: Counting night time hours

Counting night time hours shall begin at 7:00 PM as *Sa geleŋ* to 6:00 AM, in the following morning as *Sa puwök ko murek*.

Kena na salan ti tukwaje yi Kuku		Counting night time hours in English	
Sa/Dijit na tukwaje	Kulyesi'	Time	In words
1	Geleŋ	7: 00 o'clock	Seven PM
2	Murek	8: 00 o'clock	Eight PM
3	Musala	9: 00 o'clock	Nine PM
4	'Ngban	10:00 o'clock	Ten PM
5	Mukanat	11:00 o'clock	Eleven PM

Kena na salan ti tukwaje yi Kuku		Counting night time hours in English	
Sa/Dijit na tukwaje	Kulyesi'	Time	In words
6	Bukiiyen	12: 00 o'clock	Twelve, Mid-night
7	Buryo'	1: 00 o'clock	One AM
8	Budök	2: 00 o'clock	Two AM
9	Buñan	3: 00 o'clock	Three AM
10	Puwök	4: 00 o'clock	Four AM
11	Puwök ko gelen	5: 00 o'clock	Five AM
12	Puwök ko murek	6: 00 o'clock	Six AM

6.4: Directions of the world/earth

The writing, reading and counting directions of the world in Kuku shall be aligned to the marked geographical directions of their reading in English.

Kuku	<i>Lobot</i>	<i>Loki</i>	<i>Kiiden na Kak</i>
English	North	South	Centre of the earth
Kuku	<i>'Yure</i>	<i>Tokotyaan</i>	Kaata na jur
English	East	West	

Rule 7: Counting and writing of Numbers

7.1: Counting figures and writing of numbers in Kuku and English

Figures and numbers shall be written separately in base ten but the use of comma (,) in figures and conjunction *ko* (and) in written numbers shall be allowed for purpose of clarity.

Figures	Words in Kuku	English	Figures	Words in Kuku	English
1	Gelen	one	11	puwök ko gelen	Eleven
2	Murek	two	12	puwök ko murek	Twelve
3	Musala	three	13	puwök ko musala	Thirteen
4	'Ngban	four	14	puwök ko 'ngban	Fourteen
5	Mukanat	five	15	Puwök komukanat	Fifteen
6	Bukiiyen	six	16	puwök kobukiiyen	Sixteen
7	Buryo'	seven	17	puwök ko buryo'	Seventeen
8	Budök	budök	18	puwök ko budök	Eighteen
9	Buñan	nine	19	puwök ko buñan	Nineteen
10	Puwök	ten	20	meriia murek	Twenty
21	Meriia murek	twenty-one	31	Meriia musala ko	Twenty-three

Figures	Words in Kuku	English	Figures	Words in Kuku	English
	ko gelen			musala	
40	Meriiya 'ngban	forty	100	Miiya gelen	One hundred
1,000	Alipu gelen	One thousand	1,000, 000	milyon gelen	One million

7.2: Counting from 10 to 19 in Kuku

The word *wot* or *wod* is from *woton* which is to subtract in Kuku. In written form it is, $10-2=8$. The word *wot* does not make sense in Kuku. It is replaced with *ko* is addition as $10+2=12$. *Gelen* is one in Kuku. But, *geelen* is either alone or only and can be used in other forms in Kuku Grammar.

7.3: Figures in millions, billions and trillions in words

Kuku shall count figures in base ten (10) but shall write figures and numbers separately using comma (,) for figures and conjunction *ko* (and) in writing of numbers.

Figures	Kuku writing and reading of figures in words
1,450,209	Miliyon gelen, alipuwān miiyajin 'ngban, meriiya mukanat ko miiyajin murek ko buṇan.
1,000,000,000	Biliyon gelen.
1,450,450,450,209	Biliyon gelen, miliyonyon miiya 'ngban komeriiya mukanat, alipan miiya 'ngban ko meriiya mukanat, miiya murek ko buṇan.
1,000,000,000,000	Tiriliyon gelen

7.4: Advice/*kukuuwesi*’ on writing Billions and Trillions

Billions and trillions are at the moment used by governments and rich organizations. The ordinary *Kukutiyo*’ in the country side is limited to millions. But they may hear about the huge figures from time to time on the radio or television. It is necessary for the children in primary schools to be introduced to these figures. When they reach secondary school level of education, the two long numbers of billions and trillions may become common to them; especially, where they use computers as their pens and files.

Rule 8: Countries and Nationalities

Names of countries and respective nationalities shall be written separately, but using Kuku derived articulated spoken and written form; suffixed to root nouns with *-tat*, *-nit*, *-tot*- and *töt*.

8.1 : Countries and nationalities in Kuku and English pronunciations and in written form

A country is called *jur* in Kuku. *Jurön* are countries. *Jurön liiṅ ti Kak* combines the countries of the world. *Jurönit*, is a foreigner and *jurön* are foreigners. The pronunciations and spellings of countries and nationalities in Kuku are varied as demonstrated in the table below:

Country: Kuku pronunciation	Country: Gazetted form	Nationality: Kuku pronunciation	Nationality: Gazetted form	Nationality: Kuku descriptive plural form	Gazetted Form
Yuganda	Uganda	Yugandantat	Ugandan	Nutuu ti Yuganda	Ugandans
Kenya	Kenya	Kenyatat	Kenyan	Nutuu ti Kenya	Kenyans
Amirika	America	Amirikantat	American	Nutuu ti Amirika	Americans
Apirika	Africa	Apirikantat	African	Nutuu ti Apirika	Africans
Indiya	India	Indiyantat	Indian	Nutuu ti Indiya	Indians
Puransi	France	Puransat	French	Nutuu ti Puransi	French

8.2 Suffixes -tat into root nouns

The suffix *-tat* shall be attached to root nouns, to express nationality or tribal identity in their singular forms as articulated and expressed in Kuku.

In general, *-tat* shall be suffixed to nouns ending with vowel (a).

Suffix <i>-tat</i> in Kuku	English	Suffix <i>-tat</i> in Kuku	English
Mugandatat	Muganda	Namibiyantat	Namibian
Amirikantat	American	Indiyantat	Indian
Yugandantat	Ugandan	Tanjaniyantat	Tanzanian

8.3 : In general, -nit shall be suffixed to noun, either ending with or the dominant voice sound is (i, u and ö).

Suffix <i>-nit</i> in Kuku	English	Suffix <i>-nit</i> in Kuku	English
Jurönit	foreigner	Barinit	Bari
Asolinit	Acholi	Pöjunit	Pojulu

8.4: The suffix -tot shall be suffixed to nouns ending with vowel (o) as in:

Suffix <i>-tot</i> in Kuku	English	Suffix <i>-tot</i> in Kuku	English
Tesotot	Teso	Mukonjotot	Mukonjo
Muhororotot	Muhororo	Munyorotot	Munyororo

8.5: The suffix -töt shall be suffixed to nouns ending with vowel (u) although it includes some exceptions with *-nit*, nouns ending with (i):

Suffix <i>-töt</i> in Kuku	English	Suffix <i>-nit</i> in Kuku	English
Kukutöt/Kukutiyo'	Kuku	Burundiyantat	Burundian
Indiyantat	an Indian	Alurtöt	Alur
Mugisutöt	a Mugisu	Barinit	Bari

Rule 9: Names of languages

Names of languages shall be written separately, using Kuku articulated pronunciations of ethnic identities and languages.

9.1: Identities and languages

Kuku	English	Kuku	English
Kuku	Kuku	Ma'di	Madi
Asoli	Acholi	Kutuk lo Teso	Teso
Ingilisi	English	Kutuk lo Indiya	Indian
Luganda	Luganda	Kutuk lo Alur	Alur

9.2: The labio-dental consonants c, f, v, x, z and h and q effect on Kuku articulations

The Roman consonants c, f, h, q, v, x and z, shall be pronounced in the equivalent of the sounds of articulated Kuku consonants in written form. But not in place and people's names, which are officially documented and gazetted or as preferred by the owners of the names as in:

Consonants	C	C	F	H	Q	V	X	Z
English	Catholic	Chaplain	Francis	Henry	Queen	Victor	X-ray	Zachariah
Kuku	Katolik	Sapulen	Pransisi	Kenari	Kuwin	Bigta	Ekesirye	Jakariiya

9.3: Kukunized pronunciations and spellings of non-Kuku words

Kuku shall use its alphabet for English written words as articulated in Kuku pronunciations and spellings in order to retain the meanings of the original words.

Words in Kuku	Words in English	Words in Kuku	Words in English
Kompuyuta	Computer	Mutuka'	Motor car
Telebison	Television	Galam	Pencil/pen
Kurusumasi	Christmas	Sukulu	School
Sati	Shirt	Sukulube	School bag
Kukutiyo'	Kuku	Asoli	Acholi
Ma'ditat	Ma'di	Tesotot	Teso
Ingilisi	English	Mugandatat	Muganda

Rule 10: Personal and place names

a) Personal names

Personal names or people's names shall be written according to the preference of the owners or as documented and gazetted in legal statutes.

b) Names of places, mountains, hills, rivers....

Place names shall be written as they are officially documented and gazetted in legal statutes.

Rule 11: Borrowed and assimilated non Kuku words

Borrowed words from other languages that have been assimilated into Kuku shall be written according to articulated Kuku pronunciations and accepted as sounds of words from those languages.

Languages	Borrowed and assimilated words into Kuku
Acholi	Rubanga, malakwaŋ, pasiko, lakabi, kooŋo...
English	Sore, Palimen, Prisiden, Minista, sukulube, Gabumente, Bungereja, Wulaya, Bajungu, mujungu, Ingilisitöt, Ingilisi, sipiriti, supiliŋa, supeliŋ, supiliŋe...
Indian	Rubiiya, baayi', Babu/babu...
Kiswahili	Sirikali, Sitani, pesa, sa, asikari, rangi, kabila, jima, meli, maali, toto, watoto, safari, shamba, söbun, boyii...
Luganda	Matooke, mateggo, banja, kibanja, katali, rubuggu, bunye'ba', kanjo, mutuka', könisa, nayikoto, duwaliro/Mulago, gomasi, Rokiko for Lukiko...
Ma'di	Wiiri, ka'ata', pasiko, wosobi...
Money	Sente, pesa, silingi, rubiiya, gurusu, dolla...Are used by the Kuku
Others	Miiri, bonggo, kamuka, Mundu, Mundutat, Berejiki, Gela, Möyindi...
English	Computer, television, charismas, motorcar, school, trousers, school bag...
Kuku	Kompuyuta, telebison, kurusumasi, mutuka', sukulu, toroji, sukulube...

Rule 12: Punctuations

12.1: Full stop (.): Nyatet/Nya'datet

Full stop shall be used at the end of complete sentences and in abbreviated words, names or expressions as commonly used in English.

Kuku	English
'Nna tu sukulu. 'Nlo tu sukulu.	I am going to school.
Könyi tuu yöbu kurju.	Könyi went to the garden to cultivate.

12.2: Comma (,): kpake yuket na'dit/nait/natit

Comma (,) shall be used as a pause or brief resting space, separating words, clauses, ideas, sentences and listing items in written Kuku.

Kuku	English
Naka'ata' dii tore' gilö, 'boŋ nye nu tu kadi na wini.	Naka'ata' said her child was sick, she was going to the health centre.
Kuluk, lisörit, 'buggu', ka'ata', burukusut ko gbanda, liiŋ tutugböörö yi soko/katali.	Groundnuts, maize, bananas, potatoes, pigeon peas and cassava are being sold in the market.

12.3: Question mark (?): Piiyet

Question mark shall be placed at the end of a direct question as in?

Kuku	English
Do po yaa?	Where do you come from?
Karen könuŋ ŋaa? Lepenŋ luŋu ŋaa?	What is your name? What is her name?

12.4: Quotation marks (“....”): *Gömisi’*

Quotation marks (“....”) shall be used when the original speaker’s or writer’s message or situation of reference from other writers or speakers is reported or quoted.

Kuku	English
Gbööröki nan “ <i>rangi-mbili</i> ”.	Buy for me “ <i>rangi-mbili</i> ” (capsules).
Yi jamesi’ ti lopen, Duma lo jur kulya dii, “Tigga-yukan lelenga”.	In his speech, the Head of State said, “COVID-19 kills”.

12.5: Quotation marks (“....”): *Gömisi’*

Quotation marks (“....”) shall also be used when emphasizing or marking words from other languages.

Kuku	English
Koo kuwe lelut mimiiyen, möji’ “diköri- ti-melo.”	When you have headache take “ <i>diköri-ti-melo</i> .” (Some native medicine)

12.6: The single quotation mark (‘....’): *Gömit*

Single quotation mark (‘....’) shall be used in a quotation within a quotation.

Kuku	English
Madhavani adi, “Duma lo jur jambu dii, ‘Tii ntuuu ti Indiya kepe kep saresi’ ti Tigga- yukan”.	Madhavani said, “The President said, ‘The Indians should adhere to COVID-19 rules’”.

12.7: Exclamation mark (!): *Sörit*

Exclamation mark (!) shall be used to express emotions or strong feelings of shock, surprise, humbling situation or sympathy.

Kuku Exclamation!	Explanation in English
'Ayi-pon!	An appeal! Seek forgiveness or response to something sad.
Lökön pon!	Expression of sympathy.
Wööyi-diiyo!	An alarm! Shouting for help. A call of distress.
I'iyyee!	O.K is affirmative but with doubting mind.
'Iyya' naa! 'Iyya' niiyo'!	'Spiritually' calling for mother's intervention.
'i'iyyee-piyok!	A sarcastic expression, that one finally knows something.
Wululuu! Wululu diiyo!	The sound of sad happening. It is used to summon people.
Tinate' lelut! Tinate' losu!	Thank you! (you single) and (losu' plural).

12.8: Semi colon (;): *kpake tomoret na yuket na jamesi' yi wuuret/wuröt*

Semi colon (;) shall be used to link separate statements and ideas in a sentence or sentences.

Kuku				English	
Mariya tuu kare yi piyon; 'boŋ Kiden tuu gbonga.				Mary went to the river to fetch water; went to swim.	Kiden
Yi' miindi nyesuu sukuri.	somot;	kokoo	miindi	We would like to eat fish; they would like to eat chicken.	

12.9: Colon (:) *Tokooret*

Colon (:) shall be used to introduce a list of items, quotations, examples, explanations or linking two sentences.

Kuku	English
Gböörü ta: manga, 'buggu', sukari, rusu...	Please buy: mangoes, bananas, sugar, rice...
'Ntakin kokoo: "Gbe ta ko gbiliijet lo'but."	I told them: "Live a good life!"
Kijit na 'biija: kijwaka ko kuree.	The pool dried up: the animals are thirsty.
Soko a kinu: kinyo 'bayin lo nyönyööyi.	The market is closed: there is no food to eat.

12.10: Apostrophe ('): *Getet/'Yetet*

Apostrophe (') shall be used to mark sounds of articulated Kuku diacritic vowel and consonant phonemes; 'M/'m and 'N/'n and implosives 'B/ 'b, 'D/'d, 'Y/'y; to bring out the differences in pronunciations, spellings and meanings of words, names and expressions.

Kuku	English
'Ngban	This is number four (4) in Kuku.
'Mbölötu, Yee'mba, 'yee'mba, yeema	Chimpanzee. Male name, evil-eyed, marriage
Naka'ata', ku'uti, so'oro	Naka'ata'. Female name, bird, insert
'Natu, 'n'buwön, 'nkwekwelen...	I cannot go, I don't want I am beautiful...

12.11: Hyphen (-): *Tomoret*,

Kuku shall use hyphen (-) symbol in its writing to join phrasal verbs, reduplicated, compound and more than one words, names and expressions for clarity.

Kuku	English
i'yyo-we'	OK, is a response agreement in affirmative.
Tigga-yukan.	COVID-19.
Kajo-yiingi	Praise male name: Let the claves hear.
Kajo-miinyo	Praise male name: Let the claves be glorified.
Kaja-tuya	Praise male name: Strong and beautiful grass.
Yama-lo-kajo-möji'	Praise male name: Yama with claves and plenty of milk to drink.
'o-oo	The back.

12.12: Parenthesis ((...); Braces {...} and Bracket [...]):

Gömesi' ti kulyesi' kaaka'de'

Parenthesis ((...); braces {...} and brackets [...]. *Gömesi'* shall be used to include words, names or expressions that are not in the main body of a sentence or works.

Kuku	English
Lopenj ruk (a joonga dijit najo') yi 'dogga na kabiryök kulo.	He finally agreed (after a long time) to reward the players.

12.13: Slash (./.): Tokooret na kulyesi'

Slash (./.) shall be used to separate words, names or expressions that may be of the same meaning, to offer different or alternative words of the same meaning or to avoid repeating the same word. Backward (\) and forward (/) slashes are commonly used in computers.

Kuku	English
Yinga/Sabata/Lor to Buryo'	Sunday
Lopenj/Lepen	He/She

12.14: The Tick (√): Getet yi wuröt kode' tetena na numbajin

The tick (√), *getet* symbol shall be used for ticking/indicating something correct in written form of work, sentences and in arithmetic, mathematics or correct work as in:

$$2 + 3 = 5 \quad \checkmark$$

$$1 + 7 = 8 \quad \checkmark$$

12.15: Capital vowels and consonants (*Wuresi' loboot*) A, E, I, O, U, ö: B, D, G, J, K. L:

Capital vowel and consonant phonemes: A, E, I, O, U, ö: B, D, G, J, K, L: M, N, P, R, S, T: W, Y, 'B, 'D, 'Y, N: Gb, Kp, Ny, 'M, 'N; shall be written in the beginning of a sentence, names of people, countries, places, days of the week, months of the year, titles, directions etc.

Kuku	English
Aburama a monye Yisaka.	Abraham was the father of Isaac.
Kare lo wökön suwöt lo 'Yuree.	The river/stream flows to the East.

12.16: Tokoret na tuka'de na kulyesi' yi wuuret/wuuröti (singular) and wuröt (plural) in Kuku as quotable writing (singular) and writings, ideas, opinions or statements (plural) in English

The *Italic* font shall be used when a sentence, word or words are written in Kuku but the main written work is in English as demonstrated in the following sentences below:

Sentences	<i>Italic</i> words
Wululuu! Wani puwö ko tuwanti lo <i>Cholera</i> .	<i>Cholera</i> .
<i>Ooh Gosh!</i> Sukuri niyo' 'doko ko kuri'!	<i>Ooh Gosh!</i>
He appears <i>likin</i> in this town.	<i>likin</i> (lost)

Rule 13: Sample story - Gilö na Göri



Göri ko kiñajin bukiiyen. Lopenj todinö Busaana Primary School, yi kilasi tomurek. Nöte na lopenj lunu Naka'ata'.

Yi lele' lor, Göri ko pupuure' yi waaran, a gbe ko miiyen na moyit. A lopenj ti' kadi 'donjuwet. Ako yiyiite' yi 'donoo, a tukökiindi' nôte dii, moyit kayet mimiien; 'boñ nye 'bu'bulötö. A nôte tokuji' lopenj ko piyonj nake' ko söbun kuwet. A nôte torokoji lopenj ko bonguwat nake'.

A Naka'ata' lungi boda-boda, anye jonga kokoo yi kadi na wini 'de'de'.

A kokoo koo 'du'durökin, a kakitak ti kadi na wini, wuyundi Göri ko nôte ko lyönön ko tokoyok.

A kokoo koo wuwuuye', a Göri lu kolum buraddi 'donjo. A Göri bulötöni 'buulötö parik. 'Bulötö na Göri, a tusörju ko 'atokujöndu nütuu parik. A Naka'ata' ko nösijin, koo tutuungö toke'ya na Göri, a lopenj jonani yi teteemayi ko Dogta.

A Göri tikini' wini lo goggu 'bulötö. A Dogta wurökiindi winikö kule' lo mamata, temba salan yi diñitan ti lor.

Ama, akokuwe nagon Naka'ata' ko Göri yiitö mede; a nösi gelenj, tosi'dakindi nôte Göri kak.

A lepeŋ kukuuji, a jamakiin di' Naka'ata' kulya joore ti tokelan na mugun ko 'depa na kelan ko tokelan na mede dii:

- 1) Tii ɲutuu liiŋ yi midijik kaaka'de', lalane lalaa kōnisi kase 'bura' ko piyoŋ nake' ko sōbun temba yi diŋitan koo ɲutu' yiite' mede.
- 2) Tii ɲutuu nye' nyesuu 'bu'bukō ko 'ba miiyō.
- 3) Tii ɲutuu nye' nyesuu kinyo nalilik. Tii kinyo nyōyiini ti nyu' papee.
- 4) Tii ɲutuu liiŋ takini' dii, tii kokoo nyesi' ludwōyeeki' gboso maŋSga, lemun, kumurō, 'buggu', guwapa, payi payi, obakedo, pene, mamaalu ko kinyojin ti koropo naŋem. Ama, akokuwe nagon kilo ludwōyeeki nyōnyii, tii lalaayini lalayi 'bura' ko piyoŋ nake'.
- 5) Tii ɲutuu liiŋ nyōsi' ludwōyeeki', ama tii kokoo a lalaaji kōnisi kase ko piyoŋ nake' ko sōbun akokuwe.
- 6) Tii ɲutuu liiŋ lalane-lalaa kōnisi kase 'bura ko piyoŋ nake' ko sōbun, koo yiite' yi kadi 'doŋuwet kode' yiite' kase midijik. Tii ɲutuu nye' roromi ko kōnisi, kido ko 'bi'bija na kutujin.
- 7) Tii kaderak ti kinyo lalane-lalaa kōnisi' kase 'bura ko piyoŋ nake', ko sōbun akokuwe, 'abulō' suluja tetenda derja na kinyo. Tii kokoo gbe nake' yi diŋitan liiŋ.
- 8) Tii ɲutuu liiŋ moji' piyoŋ nake' ti payiip, mupureggi, nayikoto kode' ti kidi lo mukō. 'Boŋ tii piyoŋ kune a miyōni miiyō akokuwe tojo 'awalala, 'atolikani tolika, 'abulō' mata.

Yi 'dutet, a Naka'ata' takini dii, tii ɲojik liiŋ ti gbokiyoot, joŋani yi kadi na wini anyen tu gegeera kode' susuwe ko winikō ti reto kode' tuwana kaaka'de'. Ko ɲojik gera, kode' suwee ko winikō, kokoo amoka lugbōŋi kode' ku'duk-ku'duk, ko kule' reto ko tuwana lo mogga ɲojik ti nyu' lo'di'dik. A nōsi na kukukiindi Naka'ata' dii, tii lepeŋ tokuruki ɲutuu liiŋ ti gboke lose kine kulya.

Miiyen na moyit ko 'bulötō na Göri, a togbola, kogboŋ lopeŋ a joŋa yi kadi na wini 'de'de' ko 'atiki'winökō lo lwōggu lopeŋ. Tii ɲutuu liiŋ kōdō kondi' tiina, anyen tuwana joore gagayi ko titika.

© Joseph Tadayo

Nyena, dene ta den dii, tokelan, kelan, gaju ko yuggu na mugun yi reto ko tuwana kaaka'de', lwōlwōŋ suwee, wi'yō ko möju na winikō.

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