Kupsabiiny
Orthography

2025

**Kupsabiiny
Language Board**

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Language Board

NCDC
NATIONAL CURRICULUM
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

SECOND EDITION

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Preface

This 2nd Edition of Kupsabiiny Language Board (KLB) Orthography was revised on the 9th May 2025 after a review by the National Curriculum Development Center (NCDC) as an endeavour to produce a standardized Kupsabiiny Orthography. It provides a revised guide on the rules for writing and reading in Kupsabiiny language in an effort to develop, protect and preserve our mother tongue as part of cultural heritage which is under threat of extinction.

Public participation of the Kupsabiiny speaking community in the 1st Edition was limited to a few community members and lacked input from local linguists. This approach alienated a majority of the Kupsabiiny speakers and led to a disconnect between the writing systems adopted using diacritics and the local speakers of the language who considered it a barrier or burden. This book addresses these challenges in two ways. Firstly, it is a product of sustained consultations of members of KLB with the key community stakeholders including cultural and religious leaders, language experts and educationalists across Kupsabiiny speaking regions in Uganda, Kenya and the diaspora. Secondly, it strikes a balance by advocating for a simplified, economic and widely acceptable form of writing, cognizant of the dominant writing system used in schools.

The book covers standardization of the writing system of Kupsabiiny language, focusing on orthography and the alphabet system, aspects of grammar rules, word formation and numerals. Kupsabiiny shall use ten vowels in writing made up of: five short vowels: a, e, i, o, u and five long vowels: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu; and 18 consonant phonemes in writing: b, ch, d, f, g, k, l, m, n, nj, ng', ny, p, r, s, t, w, y. In word formation particularly with respect to pronouns and personal markers, the most widely used and popular language form in the central part of the three Districts of Sabiiny region; Kween dialect, shall be adopted for the standardized Kupsabiiny orthography. It is recognized that language as a central and dynamic part of cultural heritage will be reviewed and continue to be tested in future editions taking into account various factors including and not limited to: feedback from schools, the community, government and other stakeholders; comprehensive linguistic and grammar aspects; artificial intelligence (AI) and culture.

It is envisaged that this orthography will greatly impact the traditional and cultural practices, social-economic, educational and unity of Kupsabiiny speaking people leading to an inspired interest in learning and writing in the Kupsabiiny language. Furthermore, it will strengthen the teaching profession and the Kupsabiiny learning outcomes; enhance the knowledge, skills and values in the mother tongue; lay the foundation for concept development, social and life skills; promote oral and written literature in Kupsabiiny; and enhance the production of relevant educational resources including and not limited to books, local newspapers, local materials for translation, local music production and electronic journalism. Together, all these will tremendously improve Kupsabiiny cultural heritage and identity of the present Sabiiny community and future generations.

Prof. Alex Kapsalimban Chemtai

For and on Behalf of
Moses Mwanga Kapchekwengu
CHAIRPERSON, KUPSABIINY LANGUAGE BOARD

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 Kupsabiiny 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 Sabiiny community 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 Kupsabiiny orthography should therefore be regarded as a springboard for further research and should give birth to better and improved versions of the Kupsabiiny 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 multi-ethnic nation with many dialectal variations in most languages and Kupsabiiny is no exception. This orthography has been consciously developed to cater for speech variations within the language. Enormous effort has been made in this orthography to ensure that, most, if not all, dialectal variations within Kupsabiiny are catered for. It is hoped therefore that all variants of Kupsabiiny will be able to find this orthography useful for their consumption.

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

Dr. Grace. K. Baguma

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NCDC

Acknowledgements

Secondly, we recognize and greatly appreciate the Technical Teams that attended a one-week Workshop held at NCDC organized and led by the National Curriculum Development Center (NCDC) authorities. The NCDC team included Phillip Oketcho, Senior Quality officer; Jennifer Oyaro, Quality officer and Moureen Nampeera, Senior Curriculum Specialists, Primary department. The participants from the KLB team included Kenneth T. Chemonges, Prof. Alex K. Chemtai, Joyce Chemitai, Jesca Loy Koreyeny, Kisang Naibei, Can. John Siya Mella, Kissa E Cheptuutu and Francis C. Kwemoi. The KLB Steering Technical Team continued thereafter preparing the Kupsabiiny Orthography document following NCDC template and guidelines. Everyone's expertise and commitment were invaluable in the development of this standardized Kupsabiiny Orthography. We also appreciate the input from the distinguished members of our families and the Kupsabiiny speech community in Sabiiny (Sebei) region, the diaspora in Trans-Nzoia Couny, Kenya and Australia. Their insights and feedback were essential in ensuring that this Orthography accurately reflected the linguistic characteristics of Kupsabiiny language. The Draft Orthography was deliberated upon at a two-day Stakeholders Conference held in Binyiny, Kween District, an occasion that was graced by His Highness Peter Swilkey Kissa, the Cultural Leader designate of the Kupsabiiny speaking community. The participants in the conference included Mr. Philip Oketcho and Ms Ajolot Carolyn (NCDC), Rev.Michael Chemutai (Religious Leader), Ngirio Samuel (Cultural Leader), Chemutai Sophie (Head teacher), Chekwel Lydia (Elder), Bangaja Patrik, (Head teacher), Chebet Sandra (Head Teacher), Mwanga Edison K.(Head Teacher), Musiwa Edison (Inspector), Chesang John (Inspector),Chepinde Wilfred (Head Teacher), Kaburet Daid (Head Teacher), Can.Siya John Mella (KLB), Chebet Alfred aka Cheptuket (Linguist), Kitiyo Paddy K.(Elder/Rtd. Principal), Rev. Wilson Ndara (Religious Leader), Chelangat Juliet (DEO Kween), Chebet Shamim (DIS Kween), Sokuton Juma (DIS Kapchorwa), Twoyen Kenneth (DRDC Kween), Prof. Alex Chemtai (Chair/Elder), Rev. Wilfred Satya (Education office, Kween), ASP Atuhaire Hope (RDC Kween), Koreyeny Loy Jesca (KLB), Soyet Ben Araptany (Kapchorwa District Speaker).

We are optimistic that this standardized Orthography will receive the support of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) in implementing and mainstreaming it to enhance literacy and communication within and outside the Kupsabiiny speaking community, making writing and reading in Kupsabiiny widely accessible, consistent and comprehensible. Thank you all for your contributions and support.

Kenneth Twoyem Chemonges
SECRETARY,
KUPSABIINY LANGUAGE BOARD

Summary Spelling Rules in Kupsabiiny

RULE 1:	Kupsabiiny shall use 18 sound consonants
RULE 2:	Kupsabiiny shall use three categories of consonant sounds; plain consonants, Geminates, and Consonant clusters.
RULE 3:	Kupsabiiny shall use the Geminates rr, and yy at word initial, medial and word final positions.
RULE 4:	Kupsabiiny shall use both prenasalised and non-prenasalized consonant clusters which are with two or three consonants.
RULE 5:	The consonant sounds /b/ and /d/ occur under specific conditions known as hormorganic nasal assimilation.
RULE 6:	Kupsabiiny shall use 5 short vowels and 5 long vowels in writing.
RULE 7:	Kupsabiiny shall use the semi vowel w and y in case of dissimilar vowels following each other or doubling of the original vowel.
RULE 8:	Kupsabiiny shall not represent heavy and light vowels in writing but shall use contextual meaning to determine heavy or light vowels.
Rule 9:	Kupsabiiny shall write tay, not tai; taay, not taai; mooy, not moi or mooi; syeech, not sheech; syeem, not sheem.
RULE 10:	Kupsabiiny words and syllables, like any Kalenjin languages end in both consonant and vowel sounds. Therefore, syllables in Kupsabiiny are both closed and open syllables. Besides, Kupsabiiny has both simple and complex syllables.
RULE11:	Kupsabiiny shall not stress their syllables since the above features show that Kupsabiiny does not fall under stress languages. It is instead a tone language.
RULE 12:	Although Kupsabiiny is a tonal language, the tone markers shall only be used in writing specialised texts such as dictionaries, grammar books and phonetic texts.

RULE 13:	In Kupsabiiny concrete nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.
RULE 14:	In Kupsabiiny abstract nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.
RULE 15:	In Kupsabiiny collective nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.
RULE 16:	In Kupsabiiny, proper nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.
RULE 17:	Compound proper nouns shall have the first letters of each part capitalized.
RULE 18:	Possessive pronouns in Kupsabiiny are written conjuctively.
RULE 19:	Indigeneous titles shall have the first letters of each part capitalized and shall be written disjunctively.
RULE 20:	Names of people and titles that do not originate from Kupsabiiny shall either be transliterated, localised or written using the official foreign name.
RULE 21:	Personal pronouns (anii, acheek, inyii, akweek, inee and icheek) should always be written disjunctively.
RULE 22:	All personal pronouns affixes shall be written conjunctively attached to either a verb or respective adjective except for certain instances where they shall be written as independent words.
RULE 23:	Kupsabiiny shall write objective personal pronouns disjunctively of the verb or adjective when it is in the medial position of a sentence.
RULE 24:	Possessive pronouns should be written conjunctively attached to the noun. The secondary suffix (-t, -ta, to, -ka or —ko) is omitted.

RULE 25:	The relative pronoun nyee pl. chee should be written disjunctively except when they are joined with the possessive and negative markers
RULE 26:	Demonstrative pronouns should be written disjunctively.
RULE 27: RULE 28:	In Kupsabiiny, interrogative pronouns shall be written disjunctively. The reflexive pronoun (-keey) shall be written disjunctively attached to the respective verb/noun.
RULE 29:	The emphatic pronoun (nkit) shall be written disjunctively of the personal pronoun it qualifies.
RULE 30:	The reciprocal pronoun form shall be written conjunctively attached to the verb root.
RULE 31:	The indefinite pronouns shall be written disjunctively from the noun.
RULE 32:	Adjectives should be written disjunctively in a sentence preceded by respective tense markers.
RULE 33:	All verbs should be written independently from all the other word categories in the sentence.
RULE 34:	Tenses shall be written conjunctively with the verbs.
RULE 35:	Adverbs shall be written disjunctively as independent word forms.
RULE 36:	Conjunctions shall be written as independent word forms.
RULE 37:	Prepositions shall be written disjunctively as independent word forms.
RULE 39:	In Kupsabiiny, all interjections shall be written disjunctively
RULE 40:	Ideophones and onomatopoeia shall be written, being spelled using the nearest possible sounds of Kupsabiiny as heard during uttering of the ideophone and be written disjunctively as separate word forms.

RULE 41:	Compound words should be written both conjunctively and disjunctively. When written disjunctively, the first word should be suffixed with the possessive particle '-aap'.
RULE 42:	Reduplicated words shall be written as one word independent of other word categories
RULE 43: RULE 44:	Adopted words shall be spelled as pronounced normally in Kupsabiiny. The negative mee- (meewo), ma- (mamiite) and muna- (munaanyooru) will be written together with the subject marker.
RULE 45:	The negative markers puryo, mende etc shall be written as separate words in sentences, phrases or statements.
RULE 46:	Negative (Prefix) affixes ma- and mna- shall be attached to the respective word category in writing.
RULE 47:	Associative markers shall be written conjunctively except in — nyee/po.
RULE 48:	Days of the week and months of the yeear shall be written by combining a class prefix and the respective numeral to form one word (unhyphenated or unapostrophised).
RULE 49:	Numeral numbers shall be written by combining a class prefix and the respective numeral to form one word (unhyphenated or unapostrophised)
RULE 50:	Proper names (names of specific people and places) shall be written with the initial letter of the name capitalised.
RULE 51:	In Kupsabiiny all numbers above the values of ten shall be joined by ak, wookiik and mweek.

1.0 KUPSABIINY ALPHABET/SOUNDS

An alphabet is a set of basic written symbols or graphemes that represent phonemes of certain spoken languages. The alphabet of Kupsabiiny consists of 28 letters that is; 10 vowels (including semi-vowels) and 18 consonants as listed below.

Aa, aa, Bb, CHch, Dd, Ee, ee, Gg, Ii, ii, NJnj, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, NG'ng', NYny, Oo, oo, Pp, Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu, uu Ww, Yy and borrowed Ff.

Note:

i) **Symbols;**

(Ch) is classified as a voiceless postalveolar affricate, which is a single sound unit and not a cluster, its phonetic symbol is /**tʃ**/, as in **ch**am (love) and **ch**aam (whisper).

(**Nj**) is an independent voiced postalveolar affricate represented by /**dʒ**/ which is only used in Kupsabiiny when **ch** is preceded by a nasal sound as in **nj**ooy instead of **nch**ooy (alarm).

(**Ny)** represents the palatal nasal, otherwise phonetically symbolised by /**ɲ**/ as in a**ny**ii**ny** (sweet).

(**Ng')** is represented by /**ŋ**/ as in ka**ng'**oony (crested crane).

(**B**) is a voiced bilabial plosive /**b**/ which occurs on a specific condition of harmonius nasal assimilation and its always prenasalized   for example **mb**areet (garden) instead of **mp**areet which has the voiceless **p** which does not precede the nasal sound in normal circumstances of kupsabiny orthography writing.

ii) **Doubled vowel letters: aa**, **ee**, **ii**, **oo**, and **uu** each respectively represents the prolonged counterpart of the five basic short vowels. It helps to differentiate tone as Kupsabiiny is a highly tonal language just like other kalenjin dialects.

iii) Sound, f often occurs in borrowed words such as (fuunguweet, fuundiit, koofuliit, ofiisiit).

1.1 Consonants

Consonant sounds are speech sounds produced by partially or completely blocking the airflow with your lips, tongue, or teeth. Unlike vowels, which allow air to flow freely, consonants create a distinct sound by obstructing the airflow.

RULE 1: Kupsabiiny shall use 18 basic consonants.

The basic consonants include:

b, ch, d, g, k, l, m, n, nj, ng', ny,
p, r, s, t, w, y and borrowed f.

These consonants can either be in capital or lower-case forms, hence:
Bb CHch Dd Gg Kk Ll Mm Nn NJnj NG'ng' NYny Pp
Rr Ss Tt Ww Yy and borrowed Ff

1.2.1. Primary Consonant Sounds

Kupsabiiny shall use 18 phonemes for its consonant representation. These include: **b, ch, d, f, g, k, l, m, n, nj, ng', ny, p, r, s, t, w, y**

RULE 2: Kupsabiiny shall use three categories of consonant sounds; plain consonants, Geminates, and Consonant clusters.

Note that: b, d, g and nj manifest under special environments known as homorganic nasal assimilation. Under normal circumstances they cannot be found in word initial positions except for foreign pronounced nouns already in place.

Table 1: Examples of words where these sounds occur:

Phonetic symbol.	Grapheme/sounds	Example	Meaning
[b]	Bb	M**b**areet M**b**iireet Kupsa**b**iiny	Garden Ball Sabiiny Language
[tʃ]	Ch	**Ch**am **Ch**oor	Love Steal
[d]	Dd	N**d**ooy N**d**orooryeet N**d**ooteek	Lead Spider Bananas
[f]	Ff	**F**undiit **F**unguweet	Carpenter Key
[nj]	Nj	N**j**ooy Kon**j**oryoondeet Ran**j**aach	Alarm Small pox Disintegrate
[k]	Kk	**K**ooko **K**orokto	Grandmother Walking stick
[l]	Ll	**L**aang'te **L**eel	Go up Make a mistake/white
[m]	Mm	**M**ooyeet **M**aata	Stomach Fire
[n]	Nn	**N**am **N**ay	Catch Learn/search
[ɲ]	NYny	**Ny**aliil A**ny**iiny	Make to suffer Sweet
[ŋ]	NGng	**K**a**ng'**oony Ta**ng'**aany	Crested crane Disturb
[p]	Pp	**P**iiko **Peeko**	Pawpaw Water

Phonetic symbol.	Grapheme/sounds	Example	Meaning
[r]	Rr	**R**oori **R**wooch A**r**aaweet	Laugh Discuss Moon
[s]	Ss	Sireet Sang'ta	Cloth/dress Village
[t]	Tt	Toowu Tuum Tyeen	Begin/introduce something Dance Sing
	Ww	Waany **W**eech	Complete Return/drive
	Yy	**Y**aat Taa**y**	Open In front

1.2.2. Geminates

This is the doubling of a consonant sound in the same environment/position. Kupsabiiny has two geminates which are: rr and yy. These geminates can occur both at word initial, word medial, and word final positions.

RULE 3: Kupsabiiny shall use the Geminates rr, and yy at word initial, medial and word final positions.

Examples of words with this germinate in Kupsabiiny include the following:

Table 2: Examples of words with geminates rr and yy:

Sound	Words in Kupsabiiny	Words in English
RRrr	Ko**rr**on	Early morning
	Kee**rr**ir	Sunrise
	A**rr**aa	Red
	A**rr**ir	Pungent smell
YYyy	**Yy**ee!	Emotional surprise
	Le**yy**e	My people/public
	Yyaach	Patch it up

1.2.3. Consonant clusters

Consonant clusters or consonant sequence are a group of consonants which have no intervening vowel. This is a phonological situation; it is automatic and so does not need a rule to guide the writer.

Rule 4. Kupsabiiny has both prenasalised and non-prenasalized consonant clusters which are with two or three consonants.

Table 3: Examples of Consonant Clusters:

Consonant Clusters	Words and their English Meanings
Mb	Mbareet (land/farm), suruumbeet (navel)
Chw	Chwiit (to wip with small stick), chwiy (divide)
Mw	Mwaayta (oil, grease), mwaat (to raise both hands)
Nd	Ndooteek (banana), ndumeer (to be proud)
Ty	Tyaa (how many/much), tyaach (untie), tyeen (to sing)

Consonant Clusters	Words and their English Meanings
Nw	Nwaach (short), nwaakta (spleen), nwaakiit (shorten)
Kt	Naakte (move away), rarakte (go down with)
Ky	Yiikyee (a long time ago), Kyaam (they ate), kyaal (they bought) Distant past
Yt	Kayta (homestead), mooyta (calf), kooyte (give away)
Ly	Peelyoondeet (elephant), wuulye (to cause people to quarrel or fight)
Sw	Sweet (to plane wood), swaam (to look for beer parties-in the olden times)
Sy	Syeech (to slap), syeem (to try), syaar (to expose),
Rw	Rwaach (to shave), rwaandeet (stone)
Ks	Teekseet (the act of building), riikseet (ceremony after circumcision)
Rt	Roorta (heifer) poorto (body/desease), peerteet (bark of a tree)
Rk	Kurkeet (door), surkween (wilderness)
Ng't	Saang'ta (village), koong'ta (the eye)
Ry	Ryaach (knock/clash), ryoon (sneeze)
Ngw	Kiyaangwek (bows), kuutungook (knees)
Ngw	Ngwooneet (poison)

1.2.4. Prenasalized Consonant Clusters

Most consonants in Kupsabiiny can be preceded by a nasal sound without an intervening vowel.

Rule 5: **The consonant sounds /b/ and /d/ occur under specific conditions known as hormorganic nasal assimilation, as explained below:**

i) /b/ is articulated as /p/ when preceded with a nasal sound /m/but the correct spelling takes the voiced plosive /b/ in Kupsabiiny as in the following examples:

Word in Kupsabiiny	Correct Kupsabiiny Word	Meaning in English
M**p**areet	M**b**areet	Land

ii) When /t/ proceeds a nasal sound such as /m/ and /n/ in its articulation, it takes a voiced alveolar sound /d/ as in the following examples:

Table 4: Examples of words with consonant /d/

Word in Kupsabiiny	Correct Kupsabiiny Word	Meaning in English
N**t**ooteek	N**d**ooteek	Bananas
N**t**arastiit	N**d**arastiit	Law of the land
N**t**aramnyaandeet	N**d**aramnyaandeet	Malabar spinach

Table 5: Examples of words with consonant clusters which are not prenasalised

Sounds	Clusters	Examples	Meaning in English
Ch	Chw	Chwiy Chwiit Kaapchaay Chwees	Divide Cane Clan name/place of initiation Undermine

Sounds	Clusters	Examples	Meaning in English
K	Kw	Kween Kway Kwaany	Middle Select Mingle
L	Lw	Tulweet Komoolweet Solweet	Mountain A fruit Mentally retarted
L	Ly	Ngalyapta Poolyeet Kaalyeet	Tongue Cloud Peace
P(B)	Py	Cheepyoosyeet Cheepyoonkeet Cheepyeeng	Elderly woman Baboon Insect
P(B)	Ps	Psiiwa Psiiya Kaapsopuuko Kaapsuruur Cheepsoon	Name Name Clan/place name Water falls Personal name
P(B)	Pty pt	Cheeptyangoocheeet Cheeptyoony Rooptuuy	A story A name Month of March
S	Sw	Sweet Swaaraaryeet Swaayeet Swach	Plane wood Dove A tree To pluck off feathers of a bird especially chicken
R	Rw	Rwaandeet Rweet Rwoondo	Stone Tick Sleep

Sounds	Clusters	Examples	Meaning in English
R	Ry	Ryaach Ryoon Muryaandeet	To knock/crush To sneeze A rat
S	Sy	Pesyeet Syooru Syeech	A day To disclose To slap
S	St	Stateet Kaste Paste	A tree To see/look To accumulate/save
T	Ty	Tyoonyta Tyaach Tyool	An animal To untie/let loose To whip
Y	Yw	Ywaay Ayweet Ywat	To bead An axe Smear cow-dung on the tits of a lactating cow

iii) The nasal-nasal clusters mn, mny:

The **mn** cluster is used in derived parts of speech for example; Ng'oomnateet is derived from the adjective **ng'oom** and the suffix -**eet** to give a noun Ng'oomnaneet (knowledge).

Where two nasal sounds appear in the same environment, it's always proceeded by a semi-vowel.

Table 6: Examples of words with double nasal consonant clusters

Clusters	Examples	Meaning in English
Mn	Ng'oo**mn**aneet	Knowledge
Mny	**Mny**okoos	Noun
	Choo**mny**eet	Mutual Love
	Mnyaat	Mourning
	Mnyaan	Be/fall sick

1.4. Vowels in Kupsabiiny

Vowels are the sounds produced when air flows freely out of the mouth without any obstruction by any speech organ. Kupsabiiny has short and long vowels, and heavy and light vowels.

RULE 6: Kupsabiiny shall use 5 short vowels and 5 long vowels in writing.

1.4.1. Short vowels

In Kupsabiiny, the short vowels are the five primary vowels whose letter names and sounds are the same.

The vowels are A**a, Ee, Ii, Oo, Uu.**

Table 7: Examples of words with short vowels:

Sounds	Words in Kupsabiiny	Words in English
A	Nam	Catch/hold
E	Met	Head
I	Pir	Beat
O	Pot	Get lost
U	Rut	Pierce

1.4.2. Long Vowels

Long vowels are doubled and appear in sequence in words. Once used in words, they change meaning. They include: aa, ee, ii, oo, uu.

Table 8: Examples of words with long vowels:

Sounds	Words in Kupsabiiny	Words in English
Aa	Naam	Follow
Ee	Peel	Burn
Ii	Siit	Wash
oo	Soot	Think/Remember
uu	Muut	Five

1.4.3. Semi-vowels

A semivowel is a speech sound intermediate between a vowel and a consonant. Phonetically, they are similar to a vowel sound but functions as the syllable boundary, rather than as the nucleus of a syllable. These are the letters **y** and **w** and they belong to the set of consonants, because they occur in the same places as consonants occur. They can occur both in the beginning and at the end of a word or a syllable.

RULE 7: Kupsabiiny shall use the semi vowel '*w*' and '*y*' in case of dissimilar vowels following each other or doubling of the original vowel.

Note: Unlike other languages which use diphthongs where the tongue glides from one vowel to the next before completing the articulation of the first vowels, Kupsabiiny always uses the above semi-vowels instead of glides.

Table 9: Examples of words with semi vowels instead of diphthongs

Sounds	Words	Meaning in English
Ia	Kii**yaa**	That thing
Ie	Kiy**ee**	It got Broken/ He/she felt drank
Oi	Loko**oy**week	Information
Iu	Yi**iw**u, kiti**iw**	To bear fruit, came along with

1.4.4. Vowel Assimilations

Kupsabiiny has a phonological rule of vowel harmony. Vowel harmony is a phonological phenomenon in which adjacent vowels cause each other to change and sometimes lengthen or shorten. Shortening normally occurs in the conjugation of the negative. The **a** of the negative prefix ma- and vowels of the subject marker (a, i, o) are shortened after vowel harmony.

When two vowels from separate formatives are juxtaposed, there is frequently a vowel harmony into a single syllable, and a resultant monophthongization if the two vowels are different. (Monophthongization is a sound change by which a diphthong becomes a monophthong, a type of vowel shift. It is also known as ungliding, as diphthongs are also known as gliding vowels). The rule does not apply, however, if /i/ is part of the verbal stem.

The following type of fusion occurs:

Table 10: Example of words with Vowel Assimilation

Prefix Vowels	Root Vowel	Resultant Vowels	Examples in Kupsabiiny	Meaning in English
i+i (ii)	Keet	Keet + iik	Keetiik	Trees
e+i (ee)	Peel	peel+e+it	Peeleek	Elephants
u+i (uu)	Ser	ser+u+it	Seruut	Nose
o+i (ee)	Puulyo	puulyo+ee	Puulyeet	Finger/Toe nail
a+i (ee)	Kata	kata+it	Kateet	Thorn tree
a+a (aa)	Yaam	ka+am	Kaam	He/She ate

The above vowels that are involved in vowel harmony are derived from the thematic suffix and the secondary suffix.

1.4.5. Vowel lengthening is always represented in writing

In Kupsabiiny, there are instances where lengthened vowels can be heard in speech, the length of these vowels is considered contrastive and it affects meaning of the word. Kupsabiiny users should pay attention to vowel length in written texts.

Table 11: Example of words with long vowels

Mbiireet	'Ball'
Kooto	'House'
Naam	'Follow'
Tyaach	'Untie'
Syaar	'Turn Upside Down'
Paraay	'Broaden'
Yiisyeet	'Work'
Pororyeet	'Administrative Unit'
Kaaneetiindeet	'Teacher'
Tuupcheenyuu	'Relative'
Kirwookeet	'Deliberation's
Paraareet	'Conflict'
Koroomnyeet	'Goodness'

1.4.6. Heavy and light vowels

Kupsabiiny has heavy and light vowels. Heavy vowels will not be marked in writing but meaning will be derived from the context as opposed to the previous orthography where heavy vowels were marked with a dash (-) placed above the vowel and the light vowels were left open/plain.

RULE 8: Kupsabiiny shall not represent heavy and light vowels in writing but shall use contextual meaning to determine heavy or light vowels.

Table 12: Examples of Heavy and Light Vowels

Heavy Vowel	Meaning in English	Light Vowel	Meaning in English
Teep	Lay in the right place	Teep	To ask
Choor	Thieves	Choor	To steal
Ng'oom	To backbite	Ng'oom	Intelligent

1.4.7. Minimal Pairs

Minimal pairs are pairs of words or phrases in a particular language, spoken or signed, that differ in only one phonological element, such as a phoneme, toneme, or chroneme and have distinct meanings. They are used to demonstrate that two phones represent two separate phonemes in the language.

Just as it is the case with heavy and light vowels, meaning will be derived from the intonation as well as the context in which a word has been used. The words in a minimal pair have completely different, often unrelated definitions as shown in the table below:

Table 13: Examples of Words in Minimal Pairs

Phonemes in Kupsabiiny	Kupsabiiny Word	Meaning in English	Kupsabiiny Word	Meaning in English
/p : ch/	Teep	Ask	Teech	Build
/p : s/	Piit	Grow	Siit	Wash
/p : l/	Paach	tear off	Laach	Put on clothes
/p : n/	Puuch	Sweep	Nuuch	Dose off
/p : m/	Peel	Burn	Meel	Lick

Phonemes in Kupsabiiny	Kupsabiiny Word	Meaning in English	Kupsabiiny Word	Meaning in English
/p : ny/	Piit	Grow	Nyiit	Fill
/k : l/	Keel	Lower part/side	Leel	Make an unintentional mistake
/p : k/	Puur	Stay	Kuur	Call
/p : n/	Puur	Stay	Nuur	Soak
/p : r/	Rip	Guard	Riir	Cry
/t : w/	Taay	Coil	Waay	Roast slowly
/t : ny/	Taay	Front	Nyaay	Treat
/t : r/	Tuum	Dance	Ruum	Roar like an engine
/t : l/	Taany	Forge, make	Laany	Climb
/n : l/	Nap	Sew	Lap	Wash
/m : s/	May	Dry something	Say	Pray
/ng' : n/	ng'eet	Awaken	Neet	Teach

1.4.8. Thematic Suffix

A thematic vowel is simply the vowel at the end of the stem of a noun, verb or adjective. The thematic suffixes are the same for both the singular and plural nouns. They occur only in singular or in plural for a given noun. Thematic suffixes usually consist of a vowel or glide + vowel combination. These are:

-a, -o, -i, -u, -e

-wa

-ta

Table 14: Examples of words with thematic suffix

Suffix	Noun	Noun with suffix	Meaning in English
wa	Waarweet	Waarwa	Goat
ta	Mooy	Mooyta	Calf
	Kaa	Kayta	Homestead

1.4.9. Secondary suffix

A secondary suffix is a word ending that can be added to a base word to form a new word often changing its part of speech or meaning.

Some Kupsabiiny nouns, like in most Kalenjin dialects normally occur with a suffix attached to the stem or the stem plus other affixes.

RULE 9: Kupsabiiny shall write tay, not tai; taay, not taai; mooy, not moi or mooi; syeech, not sheech; syeem, not sheem.

Note: Kupsabiiny nouns are descriptive in nature and can form or be formed from other parts of speech.

Table 15: Examples of words with Secondary Suffixes

Root word	Meaning in English	Secondary Suffix	Meaning in English
Lalang (adjective)	Warm	Lalaangyeet (noun)	Warmth
Raat (verb)	Tie	Raatiisyeet (noun)	To tie
Kar (verb)	Close/fence	Kariisyeet (noun)	To cover/fence
Tam (verb)	Slash/clear a bush	Tamiisyeet (noun)	To slash/clear
Cham (adjective)	Love	Chamiisyeet (noun)	To love

2.0 THE SYLLABLES IN KUPSABIINY

A syllable is a unit of sound within a word that typically consists of a vowel sound and may include surrounding consonants. It acts as a building block of words and is often characterised by a clear, single vocalization. It can be at the on onset, nucleus or at the end of a word.

RULE 10: Kupsabiiny words and syllables, like any Kalenjin languages end in both consonant and vowel sounds. Therefore, syllables in Kupsabiiny are both closed and open syllables. Besides, Kupsabiiny has both simple and complex syllables.

Table 16: Examples of words with the syllable structure found in Kupsabiiny

S/N	Syllable Structure	Words in Kupsabiiny	Meaning In English
1)	Cvc	Nuur	Soak
2)	Ccvc	Rwaach	Shave
3)	Ccv	Tyaa	How much
4)	Vcv	Ataa	Raw/unripe
5)	Cvcv	Teeta	Cow
6)	Cvcvc	Kooriik	Houses

Key: C= Consonant; V= Vowel

3.0   STRESS VERSUS TONE IN KUPSABIINY

A stress language is one where the rhythm is determined by the placement of stressed syllables. These syllables are pronounced with greater emphasis, length, and pitch than unstressed syllables.

RULE 11: Kupsabiiny shall not stress their syllables since the above features show that Kupsabiiny does not fall under stress languages. It is instead a tone language.

3.1.0. Stress in Kupsabiiny

Kupsabiiny is not a stress language because a stressed syllable is characterised by the following features most of which do not manifest in the language.

i)   The pitch of a stressed syllable is higher than the surrounding syllables.

ii)   Stressed syllables are longer.

iii)   In most cases, stressed syllables have heavy vowels (long vowels, diphthongs or triphthongs).

iv)   They are produced with some amount of energy compared to the surrounding syllables.

3.2.0. Tone in Kupsabiiny

Tone in phonology refers to the use of pitch to distinguish words or grammatical meanings. In essence, it is the musicality of language. Kupsabiiny is a tonal language, and marks three levels of tone i.e., high ('), low (`) and unmarked (mid tone). The tone marks are placed above the vowels. High tone is marked with a line slanting up, low tone is marked with a line slanting down, and mid tone is unmarked.

RULE 12: Although Kupsabiiny is a tonal language, the tone markers shall only be used in writing specialised texts such as dictionaries, grammar books and phonetic texts.

High	áéíóú
Mid	ɑ e i o u
Low	àèìòù

Table 17: Examples of words with tone markers

High Tone		Low Tone		Unmarked (Mid Tone)	
Chòòr	Thieves	Chóór	Steal	Chooru	Sneak in
Róór	Heifer	Ròòr	Smear the house	Rooru	Explain
Tììl	Declare	Tííl	Listen attentively	Tiilye	Confirm for

NOTE:

i) It is important to note that tone in Kupsabiiny performs both lexical and grammatical functions. In Kupsabiiny, a word can have more than one meaning by change of tone. This is referred to as the lexical function of tone. Similarly, a word can perform different grammatical functions by change of tone, for example:

Ng'óóm	Clever
Ng'òòm	Backbite
Kwèèn	Middle
Kwéén	Firewood
Mééy	Die
Mèèy	Yawn

ii) There is need for further linguistic studies to establish all the tones which exist in nKupsabiiny.

4.0 WORD BOUNDARIES AND PARTS OF SPEECH

A word boundary refers to the lexical border between one word and another. It is used to describe a condition or rule that determines whether a word that environmentally precedes or succeeds another are written together (collectively as one word) or distinctively as two separate words. The English orthography dictates, for instance, that in the sentence: **The girl ran to school** all the words are written disjunctively as opposed to **the girl ran to school**.

Parts of speech are categories of words based on their grammatical function in a sentence. They describe the role that a word plays in a sentence. All words in Kupsabiiny like in any other Kalenjin language, may be categorised as either noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction and/or, interjection. In writing these words in Kupsabiiny, there is a clear guidance/rule on each of them.

4.1. Nouns

A noun is a word used to denote a thing, a person, a concept or place. Nouns can also be categorized as concrete, abstract, collective, proper and possessive as described below:

4.1.1. Concrete Nouns

A concrete noun is a word denoting a physical object or things that can be perceived through our senses.

RULE 13: In Kupsabiiny, concrete nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.

Table 18: examples of concrete nouns in Kupsabiiny

Word in Kupsabiiny	English Meaning
Tulweet	Mountain
Kooto	House
Lakameet	Hill
Keriing'keet/Rorong'tiit	Valley
Mokotuut	Gate

Sentencial examples:

a) Mungunee piiko tulweet nguny. (People live at the foot of the mountain).

b) Kateech Toboswo kooto. (Toboswo has built a house).

c) Miite leekook kukwoorenee keew. (Children are playing in the field).

4.1.2. Abstract nouns

Abstract nouns represent intangible ideas, things you perceive with the five senses, e.g. love, time, beauty, etc.

RULE 14: In Kupsabiiny, abstract nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.

Table 19: examples of abstract nouns in Kupsabiiny

Choomnyeet	Love
Aynoteet/Yeyiindeet	God
Asiista	Time
Parooyiindo	A period/duration
Mwoonindo	Pain
Tang'aanyta	Suffering

Sentencial examples:

a) Achame ani tilyoonuutek. (I love relatives).

b) Ruytoos cheek parooyiindo nyee kooy. (They sleep most of the time).

c) Mwoontyinii Chebet yoo kayim. (Chebet feels pain when he bends).

4.1.3. Collective nouns

These refers to a group or collection of people, animals, things etc. They help to describe groups as a single unit.

RULE 15: In Kupsabiiny collective nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.

Table 20: Examples of collective nouns in Kupsabiiny

Word in Kupsabiiny	English Meaning
Tuumwoonik	Dances
Tyeenwek	Songs
Muutiik/Kebiik	Surgeons
Kaanyooyiik	Medical personel
Cheemutung'iisyekaap yemeet	Civil servants/ workers
Yeeng'iik	Butchers/slaughterers

Sentencial examples:

a) Kapir riipiikaap tapanda chooriik. (The security beat the thieves).

b) Cheeboonde amiik chee chaang. (We have plenty of food).

c) Kiikwanykwaanyakiis tumwooniikaap pesyoosyoochu. (Dances of these days are confusing).

4.1.4. Proper nouns

Proper nouns are specific names for a particular person, place, or thing. The first letter of a proper noun is always capitalized no matter where it falls in a sentence.

RULE 16: In Kupsabiiny, proper nouns are written disjunctively in sentences.

The following are examples of proper nouns in Kupsabiiny:

Names of people:

i) Cheptekey

ii) Mang'usyo

Names of places:

i) Kween

ii) Ng'eng'e

Sentencial examples:

a) Kinyoor **Cheptekey** mindiiliit. (Cheptekey won a medal).

b) Kwoone tukuuk chee taboonech **Siiroon**. (Good things come from Siiroon).

4.1.5 Compound Nouns

Compound nouns are nouns that have more than one word.

Some words in Kupsabiiny are comprised of different nouns compounded together in meaning but unhypeneated.

RULE 17: Compound nouns shall have the first letters of each part capitalized.

Examples:

Koorkeetaap Weeriit	Daughter-in-law
Cheepyoosyeetaap Piikooy	Mother-in-law
Weeriitaap Cheepto	Nephew
Leekweetaap Leekweet	Niece

Sentencial Examples:

i) Toombo kuucho **koorkeetaap weerit**.   (The daughter-in-law has not come.)

ii) Ndareepiin leekweetaap leekweemwaanii. (My niece is a driver.)

4.1.6. Possessive Nouns

Possessive nouns are nouns that show ownership or relationship.

In Kupsabiiny, they are not written with an apostrophe as opposed to English and other languages.

RULE 18: Possessive nouns in Kupsabiiny are written conjunctively.

Examples of possessive nouns:

i) Teemwaani   (My cow)

ii) Sirookwaani   (My clothes)

iii) Leekweemwaanii   (My child)

4.1.7. Indigenous Titles

RULE 19. Indigenous titles shall have the first letters of each part capitalized and shall be written disjunctively.

Kupsabiiny culture recognizes people by title for example:

Mokoryoondeet	Mister
Cheepyoosyeet	Woman
Kuuko	Grand father
Cheepsakityaandeet	Herbalist /Pharmacist
Workooryoondeet	Prophet

Sentencial Example:

Miite kuchooni Mokoryoondeet Cheemang'eey. (Mr. Cheemang'eey is coming.)

4.1.8 Non-Indigenous Proper Titles

RULE 20: Names of people and titles that do not originate from Kupsabiiny shall either be transliterated, localized or written using the official foreign name.

There are three ways to write proper names that are not originally from the Kupsabiiny language.

i) Transliterating it i.e. writing it in the way it sounds when pronounced in the Kupsabiiny way; or

Using the commonly known word, be it local or foreign or

i)   Maintaining its official spelling as is in the original language.

ii) Using the descriptive phrase to name them.

The following examples shall apply:

Sheekeet	Sheikh
Kasiindeet	Bishop
Tisiindeet	Priest
Uganda or Yukaanda	*for* Ugandan
Chumbeek	*for* British

4.2.0 Pronouns

Pronouns are words that are used to substitute a noun in a sentence. Pronouns in Kupsabiiny are categorised into personal, possessive, demonstrative, interrogative, reflexive, emphatic, indefinite. They help to avoid repetition and making sentences more fluid. They can refer to people, things and concepts. Kupsabiiny shall use the above kinds of pronouns in writing.

Similarly, pronouns are distinct categories which should be graphically represented as separate words. However, pronominal affixes should be attached to the respective word forms.

These pronouns include a,i,o, anii, acheek, nyii,nyoo, akweek, nee and cheek.

4.2.1. Personal pronouns

These are pronouns that are associated primarily with a particular grammatical person such as; first, second, and third persons. They may also appear depending on the number as singular or plural.

RULE 21: Personal pronouns (anii, acheek, nyii, akweek, nee and cheek) should always be written disjunctively.

Table 21: Examples of personal pronouns

	Singular	English	Plural	English
First person	Anii	I	Acheek	We
Second person	Nyii	You	Akweek	You
Third person	Nee	She/he	Cheek	They

Note: Some speakers who have interfaced with other Kalenjin dialects will sometimes use *inyii* and *icheek* in reference to the second person *nyii* and plural form *cheek* respectively.

4.2.2 Personal pronoun prefixes

These are short words used to substitute proper names of people. Personal pronoun prefixes should always be attached to verbs and adjectives while writing.

RULE 22: All personal pronouns affixes shall be written conjunctively attached to either a verb or respective adjective except for certain instances where they shall be.

For example:

Achame (a- refers to I (me), chame refers to Like or Love),

Table 22: Sentencial example using personal pronoun prefixes

Achame sumaneet: *Singular:*	I like learning.
Cheechame sumaneet: *Plural:*	We like learning.
Achame akweek sumaneet: *Plural:*	You like learning (plural).
Chame nee sumaneet: *Singular:*	She/he likes learning.
Chame cheek sumaneet: *Singular:*	They like learning.

Table 23: Personal pronouns presented as independent words:

KupSabiiny	English translation	Personal Pronouns
Akoonuu/akoonu	I give	Singular, subjective 1st person
Akoonuu	I give	Singular, Objective 1st Person
Koonoo anii	He gives me	Singular, objective 1st person
Chiikoochinii Siiya	We give Siiya	Plural, subjective 1st person
Kooneech	He gives us	Plural, objective 1st person
Koonu	You give Singular,	subjective 2nd person
Kooniing'	He gives you	Singular, objective 2nd person
Kooneech	You give us	Plural, subjective 2nd person
Koonuu nee	He/she gives	Plural, objective 2nd person
Koochinii	They give her/him	Plural, subjective 3rd person
Koonook	They give you	Plural, objective 3rd person
Koochini cheek	They give them	Plural, subjective 3rd person
Chiikooytooy	We give	Plural objective Ist Person

i) **Independent /self-standing personal pronouns**

Independent personal pronouns are pronouns that are not attached to other words as prefixes or suffixes.

RULE 23: Kupsabiiny shall write objective personal pronouns disjunctively of the verb or adjective when it is in the medial position of a sentence.

Examples are shown below:

Table 24: Independent/self-standing personal pronouns

	Singular		Plural	
	Subjective	Objective	Subjective	Objective
1st Person		Anii (me)		Acheek (us)
2nd Person		Nyii (you)		Akweek (you)
3rd Person		Nee (him/her)		Cheek (them)

For example:

i)   Maamache ***anii*** tangaanya   (I dont want you to disturb me.)

ii)   Maacheemache ***acheek*** tang'aanyeech   (We dont want you to disturb us.)

iii)   Yiiku   ***nyii*** karaaran koroomin   (You (singular) are so beautiful.)

iv)   Ayiiku ***akweek*** koraaranech koroomin.   (You (plural) are so beautiful.)

v)   Minye **nee** kaa.   (He/ she stays in the village.)

vi)   Minye **cheek** kaa.   (They stay in the village.)

4.2.3. Possessive Pronouns

These are pronouns which are used to indicate or denote ownership/possession.

RULE 24: Possessive pronouns should be written conjunctively attached to the noun. The secondary suffix (-da, -ta, to, -ka or —ko) is omitted.

Example:

     Kitaabuut + nyuu = kitaabuunyuu (My book)

     kooto + nyuu = koonyuu (My house)

Table 25: Examples of possessive pronouns

	Singular	**Plural**
First person	-nyuu	-choo
Second person	-nguung	-mwoong
Third person	-nyii	-mwaa

Sentencial examples:

i) Miite kanyuu Kaaptuum. (My home is in Kaptum.)

ii) Miite kanyoo Kaapchoorwa. (Our home is in Kapchorwa.)

iii) Kaakasyii teeta mbareeng'uung (I saw a cow in your farm.)

iv) Lokooy nee saang'ta nyeemwoong? (How is your area/place.)

v) Kacho leekweenyii korroon (His/ her child came in the morning.)

4.2.4. Relative pronouns

Relative pronouns are those that introduce relative clauses and relate them to the nouns they modify.

RULE 25: The relative pronoun nyee pl. chee should be written disjunctively except when they are joined with the possessive and negative markers.

Examples of Relative Pronouns:

i) Nyeepo   that belongs to

ii) Cheepo   that belong to (plural)

iii) Nyeenyuu   that belongs to me / mine

iv) Cheechuu   that belong to me / mine (plural)

v) Macheechu/manyoo   are not mine/not that

vi) Machoo   not those (plural)

Sentencial Examples:

I) Kaanam mulootiit nyeepo Chemutaay. (I carried Chemutai's bag.)

II) Kicheechoor ng'orooryeet nyeenyuu. (They stole my goat.)

III) Cheechuu kitapuunak choo. (Those books are mine.)

IV) Macheechuu kweeyook choo. (Those shoes are not mine).

Note: 'nyee' and 'chee' (plural) is joined with the possessive and negative markers.

4.2.5. Demonstrative pronouns

These are pronouns that are used to point to specific things or people. They indicate proximity in terms of distance and quantity.

RULE 26: Demonstrative pronouns should be written disjunctively.

Table 26: Examples of demonstrative pronouns

Singular		Plural	
Nyi	This	Chu	These
Nyoo	That	Choo	Those
Nyiin	That	Chuut	Those

Sentencial examples:

i)   Nyeenyuu kalaamuut nyi. (This pen is mine.)

ii) Cheechuu kalaamuunek chu. (These pens are mine.)

iii) Ng'oom leekweet nyoo (That child is clever.)

iv) Ng'oomech leekook choo. (Those children are clever.)

v)   Karaaran kitaapuut nyoo. (That book is beautiful.)

vi) Karaaranech kitaabuunek choo. (Those books are beautiful.)

a) **Demonstratives of Place**

Demonstrative pronouns of place are words that indicate specific locations or directions. They help specify locations in relation to the speaker or context and facilitate clear communication about special relationships.

Table 27: Examples of Demonstratives of Place

	Close	Distant	Far distant	Meaning
Singular	Yu	Yoo	Yuun	here, there, there
Plural	Wuli	Wuloo	Wuliin	here, there, there

4.2.8. Interrogative pronouns

An interogative pronoun is a pronouns that is used as a subject in a question. Interogative pronouns in Kupsabiiny are used to introduce a question.

RULE 27: In Kupsabiiny, the interrogative pronouns shall be written disjunctively.

Examples include:

Anu (where?), ayu (when?), amu nee (why?), nee (what?), ata (how many?), yuu nee (what sort of?), tyaa (how much?, what size?), ando (where is?), ankono, pl.ankocho (who?, which?, what?), le nee (how?), and ng'oo (who? strictly for persons).

Sentencial Examples:

i)	Minyee nyii anu?	(Where do you live?)
ii)	Roopene ayu?	(When will it rain?)
iii)	Amu nee manyumnyumane cheepiiya?	(Why doesn't she smile?)
iv)	Kakwiiy nee?	(What has he done?)
v)	Kachooreena ng'oo karaamuut?	(Who stole my pen?)
vi)	Poonde nyii tuuka ata?	(How many cows do you have?)
vii)	Teeta ankonu nyeeng'uung'?	(Which cow is yours?)

4.2.9. Reflexive pronouns

These are words used in the object position when the subject and object of the sentence are the same.

RULE 28: The reflexive pronoun (-keey) shall be written disjunctively attached to the respective verb/noun.

Kupsabiiny uses keey as the reflexive pronoun as reflected in the following examples:

Table 28: Examples of Reflexive pronouns

	Singular	**Plural**
1st	Aneetii keey I teach myself	Chiineetii keey We teach ourselves
2nd	Neetii keey You teach yourself	Aneetii keey You teach yourselves.
3rd	Neete keey He/she teaches himself/herself	Neete keey They teach themselves

Examples:

i) Asiite keey.   (I wash myself.)

ii) Siit keey   (you wash yourself.)

iii) Siite keey   (s/he washes herself/himself.)

iv) Cheesiite keey   (we wash ourselves.)

v) Asiit keey   (you wash yourselves.)

vi) Siite keey   (they wash themselves.)

vii) Kisiit keey   (they washed themselves)

4.2.10. Emphatic Pronouns

These are pronouns which are used immediately after the nouns to which it refers in order to show emphasis.

RULE 29: The emphatic pronoun (nkit) shall be written disjunctively of the personal pronoun it qualifies.

Table 29: Examples of Emphatic Personal Pronouns

	Singular	Plural
1st person	Aniito nkityooniin Anii nkit (short) I myself	Acheekto nkityooniin Acheek nkit (short) We ourselves
2nd person	Nyiito nkityooniin Nyii nkit (short) You yourself	Akweekto nkityooniin Akweek nkit (short) You yourselves
3rd person	Neeto nkityooniin Nee nkit (short) Him himself/herself	Cheekto nkityooniin Cheek nkit (short) Them themselves

Note: While writing and speaking, there is a temptation to use the short form 'nkit' instead of nkityooniin but the long form is grammatically correct.

Sentencial examples:

I)   Kyaateeche anii nkityooniin kooto.   (I built the house myself.)

II) Kibaakache cheek nkityooniin ng'otunyto (They killed the lion themselves.)

III) Kiisute nyii nkityooniin mulootiit.   (You took the bag yourself.)

4.2.11. Reciprocal pronouns

These are words used to indicate mutual relationships between subjects or objects.

The reciprocal forms —doos, -toos, -toosii, -ye, -yo**,** chiin**,** **-**iinee, -keey are used when both the subject and object perform the same action or become agents in the process.

RULE 30: The reciprocal pronoun form shall be written conjunctively attached to the verb root except 'keey'.

Examples of Reciprocal pronouns:

a) Kany choowendyi keey   (Let us help each other.)

b) Cheewookuutoosi   (We quarrel/ abuse each other.)

c) Poortoos   (They fight.)

d) Chiirwooch   (Let us discuss)

4.2.12. Indefinite Pronouns

This is a word that does not refer to any person, amount or thing in particular. Kupsabiiny has two variants of the indefinite pronoun: ake, pl. alak/alake and tokol.

RULE 31: The indefinite pronouns shall be written disjunctively from the noun.

Sentencial Examples:

i) Mapoondo/matinyo kiy ake tokol. (They/she/he   (indefinate)   owns nothing at all.)

ii) Mapoondo/matinyo mbar ake tokol. (They/she/he (indefinate) do not have any land at all.)

iii) Chiikoostee Yeyiindeet wulyo ake tokol. (God is praised from anywhere.)

4.3. Adjectives

These are words that modify or describe nouns or pronouns providing additional details about the quality and quantity or characteristics.

RULE 32: Adjectives should be written disjunctively in a sentence preceded by respective tense markers.

Such words as: Arra, ngoom, karaam, wuuy, tuuy, piriir, anyiny e.t.c are adjectives in Kupsabiiny.
Adjectives in Kupsabiiny are formed by putting the relative pronoun (nyee, pl. chee) before the attribute.

Examples of adjectives without the qualifier

i)   Anyiiny suuteek.   (The soup is tasty.)

ii)   Yakwaay peenyto.   (The meat is fatty.)

iii)   Kooy keetit.   (The tree is tall.)

iv)   Taytey suuteek.   (The soup is tasteless.)

Examples of adjectives with the qualifier

i)   Suuteek chee anyiinyech.   (A tasty soup.)

ii)   Panyeek chee yakwooyeech. (Fatty meat.)

iii)   Keetit nyee kooy.   (A tall tree.)

iv)   Suuteek chee taytayech.   (A tasteless soup.)

4.4. Verbs

Verbs are words that denote action. They can be main and auxiliaries. They include some of the following: sil (write), riir (cry), lapat (run fast), mut (cut) e.t.c.

RULE 33: All verbs should be written independently from all the other word categories in the sentence.

Sentencial Examples of verbs:

i)   **Sutwoo** peeko   (Bring for me water.)

ii)   **Kalap** rwaanteet nyiin.   (Lift up that stone.)

iii)   **Yaam** amiik   (Eat food.)

iv)   **Sil** tapoon   (Write well.)

v)   **Suman** tapoon   (Read well.)

4.4.1. The auxiliaries or Helping verbs

Kupsabiiny has the following auxiliary verbs — miite (is/are), kimiite (was/were), masaa-/masee- (will).

i)   Miite cheek anu?   (Where are they?)

ii)   Miite kukalabe ng'achereet.   (He/she is carrying a chair.)

iii) Kimiite nee kukalabe kuniyeetaap teesyoonik.   (He/she was carrying a bag of maize.)

iv)   Maakalap akweek parayooniik.   (You (plural) will carry the beans.)

v)   Maseeyam amiik.   (You will eat food.)

Note: *Can*, *may*, and *might* are represented by the appropriate tenses of *muuche* to be able. Must is expressed by *akoy* followed by the subjunctive (relating to or denoting a mood of verbs expressing what is imagined or wished or possible):

Muuche kuroopen kasoleny   (It might rain in the evening

Akoy kuroopen araawaani   (It must rain this month

Ought and *should*, are translated by the third persons singular of the present or past tenses of *mach*, want, followed by *si*, so that and the subjunctive, or by *musyinii*, ought(go early in the morning).

i) Mache saawo.   (I ought to go.)

ii) Musyinii akaalyee neeto yiisyeetaap mbareen.   (I ought to help him/her in farmwork.)

4.4.2. Tense Marking

This is a category that expresses time reference. They are usually manifested by use of specific forms of verbs particularly in their conjugation patterns. The main tenses found in many languages include past, present and future. Examples include: ka- present, ku- recent past, ki-distant past, kii-very distant past and ma- (Future).

RULE 34: Tenses shall be written conjunctively with the verbs.

Examples of tenses in Kupsabiiny include:

I) **Present Simple Tense**
    a) Tyeene   He / she sings.
    b) Riire   He / she cries.
    c) Lapate   He / she runs.

Sentencial Example:

1)   Tyeene akookay.   (She sings every day.)
2)   Riire leekweet akookay.   (The child cries everyday)

Examples in present continous tense:

1)   Miite kuweesyetootii.   (She is walking now)
2)   Miite kusiitekeey.   (He is bathing now)

II) **Recent Past Tense**
    a) Kaweesyet   He walked
    b) Kasiit keey   He bathed
    c) Katyeen   He sang

Examples in sentences:

1)   Kaweesyet korroon.   (She walked in the morning)
2)   Kasiite keey yakeey.   (He bathed a while ago)
3)   Katyeen ako choorweenyii.   (She sung with her friend)

III) **Middle Past Tense**

a) Kuweesyeet — He walked
b) Kusiit keey — He bathed
c) Kutyeen — He sang

Examples in sentences:

1) Kuweesyet amutuun korron. — (She walked yesterday morning)
2) Kusiite keey lang'at kasoleny. — (He bathed yesterday evening)
3) Kutyeen amutuun kwiimen. — (She sung yesterday the whole day)

IV) **Distant Past Tense**

a) Kiweesyeet — He walked
b) Kichoo ayiin — He came two days ago
c) Kityeen — He sang

Examples in sentences:

1) Kiweesyet ayiin. — She walked the day before yesterday
2) Kikwoole teeta ayiin. — He bought the cow two days ago
3) Kityeen araaweetweey. — She sung last month.

V) **Very Distant Past Tense**

a) Kiiweesyeet — He walked
b) Kiilapat — He ran
c) Kiityeen — He sang

Examples in sentences:

1) Kiiweesyet ayiin. — She walked the day before yesterday.
2) Kiilapate yiikyeey. — He used to run a long time ago.
3) Kiityeene kenyiitweey. — She sung last year.

VI) **Future Tense**

Future tense marker will/shall (maa-) combines with the subject marker plus the verb in a sentence.

Examples in sentences:

1) Maawo mbareen tuun.   (I will go to the farm tomorrow)
2) Meetyeen tuun.   (You will sing tomorrow. *2nd person singular*)
3) Makuwo koyiin.   (He will go. *Third person*)

4.5. Adverbs

These are words used to describe a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Adverbs are divided into categories of adverb of time, place, manner, frequency and degree.

RULE 35: Adverbs shall be written disjunctively as independent word forms.

Examples of adverbs in KupSabiiny are:

4.5.1. Adverbs of Manner

i)   Kutiing'.   'in vain'
ii)   Lakwar   'fast'
ii)   Poch   'merely, nothing'

4.5.2. Adverbs of Time

i)   Keny.   'long time ago'
ii)   Paandanyi.   'instantly, now'
iii)   Yakyee/yiikyee   'some time ago, long time ago'
iv)   Kwiimen   'whole day'

4.5.3. Adverbs of degree

i) Nkit   'only, just, alone'
ii) Kot/miisin   'very'
iii) Tokol/kumukuui   'all together'

4.5.4. Adverbs of place

I)   Kween.   'middle/center'
II) Torot/parak.   'up/above'
III) Saang'.   'outside'

Examples of adverbs

i) Kasut Yeeko chikoombeet nyee nyiyaat peeko.   (Yeko brought a cup full of water.)

ii) Kalabchiini Cheebeet meeseet tarat.   (Chebet lifts the table up.)

iii) Kakwam Andyeema amiik tokol.   (Andiema ate all the food.)

4.6. Conjunctions

Conjunctions play many functions in language. They may be used to join words and phrases in sentences or to show continuity of thought.

Examples of conjunctions in KupSabiiny include, akoo (and), ak (and/with), saku-(then /in order that), am nyee (because), yee (if, when, where), ndeenee (but/however kuuyu (as, for instance/example), anku (and), and kunyoo (so/therefore).

RULE 36: Conjunctions shall be written as independent word forms.

Examples in sentences:

i) Kuwo Chebeet akoo Yeeko.   Chebet went with Yeko

ii) Maaweetii am nyee kaakwiimen.   I am not going because it is late.

iii) Kaang'alaal nee akoo kwaan.   He/she has talked with his father.

4.7. Prepositions

A Preposition: is a word preceding a noun or pronoun and expressing a relation to another word or element in the clause.

RULE 37: Prepositions shall be written disjunctively as independent word forms.

Kupsabiiny has three prepositions, namely, am, 'in, at, on', taap 'of', and yoo po, kamas, ariit, tapan, let, patay, taay e.t.c.

Sentencial Examples:

i)   Kachebonde keey neeto **am** ko.   (We were together with him in the house)

ii) Miite peeko chuubeet **ariit**.   (There is water in the bottle.)

iii) Keepuuree cheepto ng'achereet **tarat**.   (The girl is sitting on the chair.)

iv) Miite meeseet **letuutaap** ng'achereet.   (The table is behind the chair.)

v) Kaayoonyee kayta **saang**.   (I am standing outside the home.)

4.8. Interjections

Interjections/exclamation: these are abrupt remarks or interruptions.

RULE 38: In Kupsabiiny, all interjections shall be written disjunctively.

Examples of sentences with interjection ending with exclamation marks (!)

(Yee leekooy!, ndooye tany! Wootoy! Yee mere! Ooboo! Wusyo!, a! (surprise), ee (yes), and titititi (pain) e.t.c.

Examples:

i)   Yee! Kooy moroneet kulenee!   (Gosh! What a tall man!)

ii)   Nee! Kule, mekoonyiite kaandooyik!   (What! He doesn't respect the leaders!).

5.0   WORD FORMATION PROCESSES IN KUPSABIINY

These are processes through which new words are formed in a language. The following are some of the word formation processes found in Kupsabiiny.

5.1. Ideophones and Onomatopoeia

An ideophone is a word that is written in a way that mimics the natural sounds that humans make to describe adverbial or adjectival attributes of a word. Onomatopoeia on the other hand is a word that tries to imitate the physical sound of objects made in expressing an idea. Examples of ideophones and onomatopoeia include a cry of an animal, the sounds of moving machines etc.

Usually, such speech sounds or words do not follow the same sound rules of the language as the other normal words. In some cases, they contain sounds or sound combinations that are not otherwise normal in the language. Where it is desired that ideophones are written alongside other words in the language, a spelling rule needs to be specified.

RULE 39: Ideophones and onomatopoeia shall be written, being spelled using the nearest possible sounds of Kupsabiiny as heard during uttering of the ideophone and be written disjunctively as separate word forms.

Table 30: Examples of ideophones:

Ideophone	Meaning in English
Lakwar lakwar	Very fast
Kule tong	Completely finished
Tutung	Very dark
Cheng	Be completely quiet

Table 31: Examples of Onomatopoeia:

Onomatopoeia	Meaning in English
Kitkit	Sound of a hen that is about to lay eggs
Kuuk kuuk	Sound of a dove
Tumbul	Sound of a big object falling into a large mass of water
Mboo	Mowing of a cow
Arr pup	Sudden landing of a heavy object or person

5.2. Compound Words

Compound words are formed when two or more words are combined to create a new word with a distinct meaning.

RULE 40: Compound words should be written both conjunctively and disjunctively. When written disjunctively, the first word should be suffixed with the possessive particle '-aap'.

i) Leel + kuut = Leelkuut (White mouth)
ii) Tuuy + met = Tuuymet (Black head)
iii) Maluu + chee = Maluuchee (Doesn't take milk)

Example of compound words written disjunctively

i) Koorkeet + koot = Koorkeetaap koot (House wife)
ii) Piiko + areet = Piikaap areet (Clans' men/people)

5.3. Reduplication

Reduplication is when we reproduce a word in its entirety or parts. Reduplication is a natural form of word that occurs for different purposes. Reduplication can be partial or total. In KupSabiiny, reduplication may occur in verbs, adjectives, adverbs and nouns.

If the verb root is monosyllabic, an -aa- (or -oo- if the root is heavy) is inserted between the two reduplicated parts.

RULE 41: Reduplicated words shall be written as one word independent of other word categories or can be hyphenated as shown below:

5.3.1. Nouns

Table 32: Examples of Reduplicated words

Reduplicated Noun	Meaning in English
Chiikorkor	Search/look for something
	Where scarce items are searched from
Lakamlakam	Hilly area

5.3.2. Verbs

i)	saaysaay.	beseech repeatedly
ii)	tuytuuy.	move backwards
iii)	saysaach.	shake repeatedly
iv)	kopkop .	peck repeatedly
v)	ng'unyng'uny.	complain incessantly
vi)	twaaytwaay.	touch repeatedly
vii)	rutoorut.	pierce repeatedly
viii)	namaanam.	hold/grasp repeatedly
ix)	tilaatil.	cut/chop repeatedly

5.3.3. Adverbs

i)	moot moot.	slowly slowly
ii)	lakwar lakwar.	quickly quickly
iii)	kisiich kisiich.	small small'
iv)	korroon korroon.	morning morning'
v)	akeny akeny.	again and again

5.3.4. Adjectives:

i)	ng'ing'in.	loose, worn out
ii)	taytay.	tasteless
iii)	tartar.	light, thin
iv)	solsol.	loose, not fitting
v)	nyelnyeel.	flexible
vi)	kuskus.	light, not heavy
vii)	sumsum.	savory taste
viii)	ng'arng'ar.	immature
ix)	lumlum.	succulent
x)	korkor.	wild
xi)	watwat.	ticklish, sensitive

Sentencial Examples of Reduplication:

i) Weesyete moot moot.   (She/he walks slowly)

ii) Kany kuleplepiitu peeko.   (Let the water be lukewarm.)

iii) Saaysaay leekweet.   (Pacify the baby.)

iv) Kaayaam mayeemchondeet nyee taytay. (I have eaten a tasteless mango.)

5.4. Borrowed Words (Non-Indigenous Words)

World over, it is common to find a given language having words considered not indigenous to that language, but which the speakers use. Over time, these nonindigenous words come to be as much a part of that language just like the other words known to be indigenous. In some cases, the word considered non-indigenous retains its pronunciation as from the source language. At times, the newly introduced words come with new sounds or pronunciations. In other instances, the pronunciation of the newly introduced word is adapted to the sound system of the target language so that it is pronounced with the sounds, and in the style of the target language. Kupsabiiny has words likely adopted from Luganda, Kiswahili, and English.

RULE 42: Adopted words shall be spelled as pronounced normally in Kupsabiiny.

Examples:

Table 33: Examples of Adopted words

Word	Origin	Meaning
Poskiliit	English (bicycle)	Bicycle
Saaweet	Swahili (saa)	Time
Matakeet	English (motor car)	Motor car/vehicle
Siimuut	Swahili (simu)	Telephone
Ndekeet	Swahili (ndege)	Aeroplane
Feestiit	English (vest)	Vest
Tawuleet	English (towel)	Towel

5.4.1. Negation

It is the grammatical process that makes a sentence negative indicating the absence or opposite of something.

5.5 Negative Markers

These are the forms used to negate, object to, reject or deny statement, sentence, phrase, idea or claim. In Kupsabiiny, negative markers may work either as independent words or as affixes.

RULE 43: The negative mee- (meewo), ma- (mamiite) and muna- (munaanyooru) will be written together with the subject marker.

For example, mamiite (it is not there).

Sentencial Examples:

i)   Meeleekite maat.   (Don't go near fire)
ii) Meesyeem.   (Don't try)
iii) Meewal yeeteetaap tukuuchaa.   (Don't alter the position of those items.)
iv) Munaakucho leekweet.   (The child has not come.)
v)   Mamiite kubeerpeeriisyii.   (He/ she is not lying)
vi) Munaakucham leekweet.   (The child has accepted.)

RULE 44: The negative markers puryo, mende, etc shall be written as separate words in sentences, phrases or statements.
Examples:

i)   Meende achoo yu leekitee maat.   (Don't come here near fire)
ii)   Meebare kubatiis.   (He/ she will not dig)
iii)   Meende sil kartasit   (Don't write on the paper)
iv)   Puryo leekwaa kaa   (there is no child at home)

Note:
During speech, the short form of mende is mee and most speakers are tempted to use the short form of the negative hence joining the negative to the verb. This is grammatically accepted in Kupsabiiny.

For Example:

i)   Meesyeem   (Don't try)
ii) Meewal yeeteetaap tukuuchoo. (Don't alter the positions of those items.)

5.5.1 Negative Prefix

RULE 45: Negative (Prefix) affixes ma- and muna- shall be attached to the respective word category in writing.
Examples:

Maleekweeng'uung nyoo.   That is not your child.
Meeyiiy ng'ookis.   Never commit sin.
Machoonii wuloo.   I will not come there.
Mamiite neeto kootaap sumaneet.   He/ she is not in school.
Maweeti neeto.   He/ she will not go.
Munaaru.   I have not slept yeet.

5.6 Associative Markers

These are clitics that indicate a relationship or association or connectedness between two things, for instance by relating the characteristic or trait they share, or a place they are at or from, or simply the ownership. In KupSabiiny, this idea of association may be represented by associative markers: -aap/ -nyii, -mwaa, -kwaa, -kyii etc.

RULE 46: Associative markers shall be written conjunctively except in — nyee/po the examples below:

Examples with assimilation:

Waarweetaap Yoona	Yonas' goat
Kaabuurtaap piikaap Sabiiny	The Sabiiny culture
Mbaroosyekyii	His gardens
Amiikwaa	Their food

Examples without assimilation:

a)   Po Cheesaang siraanaa.   That is Cheesaangs' dress.
b)   Miyaat cheepyoosyaanaa moo.   A dark hearted woman

6.0 NAME OF DAYS OF THE WEEK AND MONTHS OF THE YEAR (PESYOOSYEKAAP WIIKIIT AKOO AROOKAAP KENYIIT)

RULE 47: Days of the week and months of the year shall be written by combining a class prefix and the respective numeral to form one word (unhyphenated or unapostrophised) as shown below:

Days of the week (Meaning Peshoosyeekaap wiikit)

i)	Pesyeetaap akeenke	Monday
ii)	Pesyeetaap ayeeny	Tuesday
iii)	Pesyeetaap somok	Wednesday
iv)	Pesyeetaap angwan	Thursday
v)	Pesyeetaap muut	Friday
vi)	Pesyeetaap lo	Saturday
vii)	Pesyeetaap tisap	Sunday

Months of the yeear in Kupsabiiny are stated in the ordinal order (Arookaap Keenyiit)

i)	Waakiitaap taay	January
ii)	Waakiitaap let	February
iii)	Rooptuuy	March
iv)	Lelach pey	April
v)	Suundeetaap taay	May
vi)	Suundeetaap let	June
vii)	Mukeeyoondeet	July
viii)	Siirwoono	August
ix)	Kupsiit	September
x)	Twaamoo	October
xi)	Yiiwootkuut	November
xii)	Teerit/momuut	December

Seasons of the year in Kupsabiiny are stated in the original order

Kemey	Dry season
Peeng'at	Wet season

Time of the Day

Kerrir	Dawn
Korroon	Morning
Peet	Noon time
Koseleny	Evening
Koomooy/kweemooy	Night

7.0   ORDINAL NUMERALS

RULE 48: Numeral shall be written by combining a class prefix and the respective numeral to form one word (unhyphenated or unapostrophised),

Ordinal numbers designate a position, order or sequence of occurrence of people and things.

as shown below:

i)	Nyepo Taayta	First
ii)	Nyepo Ayeeny	Second
iii)	Nyepo Somok	Third
iv)	Akeenke amu muut	One fifth
v)	Akeenke amu somok nyeepo mbareenyoo	One third of our land
vi)	Waakiitaap taay	January (the first month of the year)

8.0 NAMES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES (KANYOOKAAP PIIKO AKO POOROORYOOSYEK)

RULE 49: Proper names (names of specific people and places) shall be written with the initial letter of the name capitalised.

For example:

i)	Weeriitaap Solimo.	Solimos son.
ii)	Kwaayoolyi Ndiwa syaatiit.	I bought Ndiwa a shirt
iii)	Kicheetuuye Seep.	We met at Seep
iv)	Kiitaang'taap Iiro Poskiliinyii.	His bicycles is of Hero model.
v)	Kisilyi Yeeko nyeewoo palakyeet.	Yeko wrote a letter to the Honorable

9.0 NAMES OF COLOURS (KANYOOKAAP TOONWEK)

1. White   Leel/Siirwoo
2. Black   Tuuy
3. Red   Arraa
4. Green   Nyaliil
5. Grey   Puusyee
6. Blue   Aruus
7. Brown   Piriir/Murwo/Siityee(for humans)
8. Yellow   Tooleelyoo
9. Dark brown   Seeroo
10. Multi-colour   Soomuu

10. NUMBERS/ NUMERALS/KAYIITIISYEET

RULE 50: In Kupsabiiny all numbers above the values of ten shall be joined by ak, wookiik and mweek as illustrated below:

DIGIT	KUPSABIINY	ENGLISH
1	Akeenke	One
2	Ayeeny	Two
3	Somok	Three
4	Ang'mwan	Four
5	Muut	Five
6	Lo	Six
7	Tisap	Seven
8	Sisiit	Sight
9	Sokol	Nine
10	Taman	Ten
11	Taman ak akeenke	Eleven
12	Taman ak ayeeny Twelve	

Digits 20-90

20	Tiptem	Twenty
30	Sosom	Thirty
40	Artam	Fourty
50	Konom	Fifty
60	Tamanwookiik Lo	Sixty
70	Tomonwookiik Tisap	Seventy
80	Tomonwookiik Sisiit	Eighty
90	Tomonwookiik Sokol	Ninety

Digits in Hundreds

100	Pokol	One hundred
200	Pokolwookiik ayeeny	Two hundred
300	Pokolwookiik Somok	Three hundred
400	Pokolwookiik Angwan	Four hundred
450	Pokolwookiik Angwan ak Konom	Four hundred and fifty

Digits in Thousands

1000	Kisyeer	One thousand
2000	Kisyeerook ayeeeny	Two thousand
3000	Kisyeerook somok	Three thousand
4000	Kisyeerook ang'mwan	Four thousand
4500	Kisyeerook angwan ak Pokolwookiik muut	Four thousand, five hundred
10,000	Kisyeerook taman	Ten thousand
11,000	Kisyeerook taman ak akeenke	Eleven thousand
12,000	Kisyeerook taman ak ayeeny	Twelve thousand

Digits in Hundreds of Thousands

100,000	Kisyeerook pokol	One hundred thousand
200,000	Kisyeerook pokolwookiik ayeeny	Two hundred thousand
300,000	Kisyeerook pokolwookiik somok	Three hundred thousand
400,000	Kisyeerook pokolwookiik ang'mwan	Four hundred thousand
450,000	Kisyeerook pokolwookiik muut ak arta	Four hundred and fifty thousand.

Digits in Millions

1,000,000	Rwaandeet akeenke	One million
2,000,000	Rwaandook ayeeny	Two million
3,000,000	Rwaandook somok	Three million
4,000,000	Rwaandook angwan	Four million

Digits in Billions

1,000,000,000	Araram	One billion
2,000,000,000	Aroromweek ayeeny	Two billions
3,000,000,000	Aroromweek somok	Three billions
4,000,000,000	Aroromweek ang'mwan	Fourty billions
4,500,000,000	Aroromweek ang'mwan ak rwaandook pokolwookiik muut	Four billions five hundred millions.

Digits in Trillions

1,000,000,000,000	kononom akeenke	One trillion
2,000,000,000,000	kononomweek ayeeny	Two trillions
3,000,000,000,000	kononomweek somok	Three trillions
4,000,000,000,000	kononomweek ang'mwan	Four trillions
4,500,000,000,000	kononomweek angwan ak aroromweek pokolwookiik muut	Four trillions, five hundred billions.

Table 34: Numerals in Kupsabiiny:

Numbers	Kupsabiiny	English
11	taman ak akeenke	Eleven
95	Tamanwookiik sokol ak muut	Ninety five
117	Pokol akeenke, taman ak tisap	one hundred and seventeen
1,123	kisyeer akeenke, pokol akeenke ak tiptem ak somok	One thousand one hundred and twenty three
18,431	Kisyeerook taman ak sisiit, pokolwookiik ang'mwan ak sosom ak akeenke	Eighteen thousand, four hundred and thirty one
337,000	kisyeerook pokolwookiik somok ak sosom ak tisap	Three hundred and thirty seven thousand
450,000	Kisyeerook pokolwookiik ang'mwan ak konom	Four hundred nd fifty thousand.
1,122,149	rwaandeet akeenke, kisyeerook pokol akeenke tiptim ak ayeeny, ak pokol artam ak sokol	One million, one hundred and twenty two thousand, one hundred and forty nine.
11,856,149,276	araromweek taman ak akeenke, rwaandook pokolwookiik sisiit konom ak lo, kisyeer akeenke artam ak sokol pokolwookiik ayeeny tamanwookiik tisap ak lo	Eleven billion, eight hundred and fifty six million, one hundred and forty nine thousand, two hundred and seventy six.

Numbers	Kupsabiiny	English
121,987,365,143, 120	kononomweek pokol akeenke tiptem akeenke, aroromweek pokolwookiik sokol ak tamanwookiik sisiit ak tisap, rwaandook pokolwookiik somok ak tamanwookiik lo ak muut, kisyeer akeenke, artam ak somok pokol akeenke ak tiptem.	one hundred and twenty one trillion, nine hundred and eighty seven billion, three hundred and sixty five million, one hundred and forty three thousand, one hundred and twenty.

11. SAMPLE STORY

This sample story is translated to Kupsabiiny. The purpose of the translation is to guide the reader on how the spelling rules for writing Kupsabiiny can be applied in practice Nkookyeet ku akeenke amu tortook choo cheeriipee kaa. Looku mokooyiik angu kupuchi pesyoosyek tiptem ak akeenke. Yee kachach nkookyeet ku kubuchi mokooyiikyii, puure mbo pesyoosyek ayeeny kumiite kurwooyee mokooyiik nyee makwoomiisyii angkuu mayyee peeko. Nde pesyeet nyee kamach kule kwoomiis, yiisyee porooyiindo nyee nwaach koroomin kukwayee amiik, kuyyee peeko angkuu siite keey tangeek nde kamiit kukatitakeey pakeenke wulee miite mokooyiik angkuu puur pesyoosyek alak ayeeny. Yiiyee kuyu nyooto akoy kupundo pesyoosyek tiptem ak akeenke kuyam mokooyiik kuukenykeeny kemey.

Syeeme nkookyeet koroomin kukas kule kaanyoor mokooyiik tokol loloong'nyeet amu nyee poku mokooyiik yee katepe kot kyoosyi yoomeet powuloo riibe nkookyeet mokooyiik kukeeytee rubeet. Kiito ake nyee yiiyee nkookyeet yoo kubuchinii, weekyinii mokooyiik kukwiiyiisyee takeenyii akoo kuutiit kukotuu mogooyiik kukwa kopopook ariit. Nde yit pesyeet nyeebo tiptem ak akeenke kuchach keekenykeeny mokooyiik angkuu chach kukuursyo kubere, "kut, kut, kut". Yooto, kulim kinyiinyiiyeenik kuutiitaap kaameet. Mangeetee nkookyeet kot akoy kukas kule kaakuukeeny mokooyiik tokol.

Yoo kachach kinyinyiyeenik kuuwayiis kumache kule kwoomiis, kucham nkookyeet kungeetee kiyoonja angkuu puur yeeteet akeenke kuuneete leekookyii wulee cheekweeytooy amiik. Kukuure yee kasyeem kinyiinyiiyeenik kule chiinaaktee wulee mii kameet. Yoo kaakuunket kinyiinyiiyeenik kukway amiik, kungeete yooto angu mutyeetaat amu saang kuriibe nyee matiinyee kiy ake tokol. Kiy nyee chiikitee amu wulee miite kinyiinyiiyeenik ku kule ngal kakuursyo/kaguursyo nkookyeet ake, meemuche kot kulapatyi amunyee nket kuutiitaap kameet kuchakeey yoo kuchiikeenyee. Yoo kakuursyo nkookyeet kule, " kut, kut, kut, kut " kurwoowu kinyinyiyeenik kuunkete kule kanyoor yeeyoo amiik.

Nde yoo kakwiiy kule, "korr, korr, korr", kworkitiis kuribisyi nguny pakeenke kuungete kule kaacho tapanda. Nde yee kakwiiy kameet kule, " Kurut, kurut, kurut ", kuunkete kinyiinyiiyeenik kule kaakwiimen kayam kupa ko.

Puure kinyinyiyeenikaap nkok kuleekitee kaameet, sukunkeet yoo kuute kaameet nguny kukwaye leekook kuutyak ankuneete keey mbo cheek wulee cheekutkutooy ngunyiit. Ndo yee karoopen, syeeme nkookyeet kuuyeenee leekookyi kobobook nyee matiinye peeko mbo yoosich, nkal kanuun kaameet nyee tyaa. Riipe nkok leekookyii kucheke yoo kupuchinii akoy kuukeeny, kumutyeetaat anku neet ngaleek tokol kuyuu; Nayiisyeetaap amiik.

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Nyeepo ayeeny, riipsyeetaap keey akoy yoo kaapiityo koroorik nyee kamakuserene yoomeet.
Yoo kamach nkookyeet kule alukuu kinyiinyiiyeenikyii, makwoostooy areet akeenke. Chache kiny korroon yoo kacheeyoot kulapat kusoroorchi leekook anku kany. Am porooyindo ake, kucher leekook kuburtooy kobobook kulupulu cheek, nde ngeete yoo kulapataat, nde yeech yeepere leekook chiinaam kuukop. Yiiyee kuyu nyooto akoy kumuuch leekook kuruy nkityooniin. Yitiyu yee wuyiityinii kinyinyiyeenik sapoondo,teeytoos cheepo kiisayta/nyaliilta, **"Kiiyook!, Kiiyook!, Kiiyook!"** amunyee yitiyu yee kamacheekuurchinii kuutya ndo chiikubuuy mbo yee karoopen.
Yooto yee kwaye keey akeenke amu kinyinyiiyeenik nyee keendoochi chut, yoo akeetootii kundooyee taay, ndooye kukuure chut kule, **Chichichich**.. **Chichichich**.. **Chichichich**..," kururukyi keey tupcheet tokol yooto angu kunykuny keey.

Kunyo kiikuukoochi Yiyiindeet tortok ngoomneneet nyeepo riipsyeet ak muytoochineteet nyee meebere chiineete kuyu wuloo cheekastooy kuchakee yoo loku akoy mbo yoo kaakwaasta leekook, kutoowuukeey yeech akeenke am leekookyii nyee keendoochi ang riip chuut ngal kot meemuuche kuyeen, syeeme kururuuch.

Below is the English Version of the Story Entitled "Nketee Nkok"

Learn from the Hen

A hen is one of the birds we keep at home. It lays eggs and incubates them for 21 days. When a hen begins incubating, it stays on the eggs continuously for two days without food or water. When it finally decides to eat, it takes a brief moment to pick at its food, drink water, and clean itself with soil before returning to its eggs for another two days. This cycle continues until the 21 days are complete, allowing the eggs to hatch.

During incubation, the hen strives to provide sufficient warmth for its eggs; without this warmth, the eggs may spoil. This is why hens prioritize their eggs over their hunger. The hen carefully turns the eggs using its beak and chest to ensure that each egg receives uniform warmth beneath its wings.

On the 21st day, as the eggs begin to hatch, the hen calls to its chicks with a familiar "Kut, kut, kut." In response, the chicks chirp back to their mother. The hen remains in the nest until all the eggs have hatched.

Once the chicks become restless, the hen senses that it's time for them to feed. It emerges from the nest and stays close, teaching its chicks how to peck for food or search for worms. If the chicks wander too far, the hen calls them back. Once the chicks have mastered the art of foraging, the hen takes them out to the field to find more food, all the while protecting them from predators.

Whats remarkable about the chicks is their ability to recognize their mothers' voice right from the moment they hatch. Whenever the hen calls out, "Kut, kut, kut," the chicks instinctively know that she has found food and rush toward her. Conversely, when the hen warns with "Korr, korr, korr!" the chicks understand that danger is near. At dusk, when the hen makes the sound "Kurut, kurut, kurut," the chicks know it is time to settle in for the night. Chicks tend to stay close to their mother, enabling them to pick up worms from the ground as she scratches. Even during rain, the hen prioritizes the safety and warmth of her chicks, covering them with her wings, ensuring they remain dry, even if she gets wet herself.

Throughout the entire process from incubation to hatching to feeding — the hen fiercely protects her young, teaching them how to find food and evade predators until they grow their own feathers for warmth.

When the hen prepares to wean her chicks, she does so gradually. Each morning, she may run away, leaving the chicks at a reasonable distance before pausing to wait for them. Sometimes, she even pretends there is danger, fleeing at great speed, and when the chicks attempt to follow, she gently pecks at them, reinforcing their need to stay close. This continues until the chicks choose to sleep independently. This is the most challenging time for them, as they often cry out in discomfort during the cold nights, "Kiiyook! Kiiyook! Kiiyook!" It is during this stage that the chicks must learn to fend for themselves, even seeking their own food.

At this point, one of the chicks usually takes on the role of leader during feeding and at bedtime, calling out to the others with "Chichichich… Chichichich… Chichichich…" The other chicks gather around it, huddling together to create warmth during the night.

Through this process, God has endowed birds with the wisdom, knowledge, and persistence necessary to care for their young —from laying eggs and incubating them, to hatching and nurturing them until they can care for themselves. Eventually, one chick emerges as a leader, guiding the others, even if it cannot cover them with its wings, as they learn to gather together for warmth and safety.
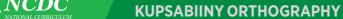
12.APPENDICES

12.1. Dialectal Variations

As earlier hinted, during speech, variations can be heard in pronunciations or vocabulary depending on the area one originates from. Consequently, three major dialect zones are identifiable. The recognizable differences between these categories relate to the pronunciation of some words, alternation of sounds in certain environments, and in employing dissimilar-looking prefixes for the same grammatical units/elements. These differences affect the readability of written materials. Once spellings of certain words differ from what speakers expect, that is, if the spelling used doesn't match the speaker's visual impression, the speaker will think of such spelling as a mistake. From the perspective of writing, where there is no reference or standard form for written materials, each time language users may wish to write, one is constrained as to which dialect they should use, and it will likely be that choices will differ between the different users at a time.

Below are some of the differences among the major Kupsabiiny sub dialects.

Table 35: Dialectical differences

English	Various dialect words	Decision
Ankle	Mwoonyeet	Kooweetaap mwonnyo
Arrow	Kooteet, kootyeet	Kooteet
Ash water	Muunyeek, muuny, sikutyeek, muunyaandeet	Muunyaandeet
Axe	Opyeet, ayweet, ayyweet	Ayweet
Baboon	Cheepyoongeet, cheywengeet, kipyongeet sabugeet	Cheepyoonkeet Sobukeet
Bag	Looleet, mulootiit	Mulootiit
Beans	Makaandeek, poroyoonik	Poroyoonik
Beard	Toomootik, taamootik	Toomootik

English	Various dialect words	Decision
Bed	Kiitookit, kwirriit, kitaandeet	Kwiriit
Birds	Tortok, toriitok, tartek	Tortok
Blood	Korootiik, kiseenik	Korootiik
Branch	Sokoonnyeet, sariisyak	Sariisyak
Brother	Yeeya, ngetaapkaam, mutaapiya	Ng'etaapkaam, mutaapkaam
Bull	Kiirkit, wunweet	Wunweet
Calves	Mooka, mooyeek, mooko	Mooyeek
Canoe	Rabeet, mwengeet	Rapeet
Church	Kootaap saayeet, kootaap koroseek kaniseet, kaapsaayeet	Kootaap sayeet
Clay	Meneet, mundeet	Mundeet
Clothing	Sirook, kaligeet, sireet, siraa	Sireet
Cold	Katit, kaytit	Kaytit
Cooking pot	Tereet, kreet, kireet	Kireet
Cows	Tooka, taaka, tuuka, tuch	Tuuka
Drink milk	Cheeyee, cheelu	Cheelu
Earthworm	Kaanyiityaandeet, nyiriityeet	Nyiriityeet
Farmer	Kaapatindeet, koopatiindeet	Kaapatiindeet
Feathers	Korooruk, ngororuk	Korooruk
Fur	Sapureek, korooruk,	Sapureek
Give	Pyee, pyeendyi, koochi, ywee, yweendyi	Koochi
Go	Wo, we	Wo
God	Asiis,iyiin, iyiindeet, muunguut,	Yiindeet

English	Various dialect words	Decision
Greeting	Kaakatisyeet, kaasupooyiisyeet	Kaasupooyiisyeet/kaakatiisyeet/ taakweesiisyeet
Hair	Puuteek, koroorik, sumeek	Puuteek
Hat	Sapeeweet, kuutweet, supeeweet	Kuutweet
Head	Metit, met	Metit
Hear	Lum, lim, kas	Lim/kas
Hill	Lakameet, torooryeet, tulweet	Lakameet/tulweet
Key	Sunguweet, funguweet, yooteywoondeet	Funguweet, yooteywoondeet
Land	Mbareet, tangeek	Tangeek
Liver	Kootyo, kooyto	Kooyto
Madness	Iiyweet, punmetyoondiit	Punmetyoondiit
Maize	Nasumnyaanik, pandeek	Teesyoonik
Man	Moroneet, moron, muren, mureneet	Mureneet
Meat	Peeny, peenydo	Peenyto
Mosquito	Ngunuyoondeet, ngunguyoondeet	Ngunguyoondeet
Mother	Eyoo, yeeyoo, maama, moomo	Yeeyoo
Mountain	Torooryeet, lakameet, tulweet	Tulweet
Mouth	Kooteet, kuutiit, kuut	Kuutiit
Mud	Sakaatyeet, ndutuk, maneet	Sakaatyeet
Mushroom	Arooweet, poopchaandeet	Arooweet
Night before	Cheeptulangat, ayiin langat	Ayiin langat
Nine	Mut ak angwan, sokool	Sokool

English	Various dialect words	Decision
Pestle	Mosiit, ketiitaap kuchoro, ketiitaap kuchooreet	Ketiitaap kuchooreet
Pig	Nguruweet, tooreet	Tooreet
Plant	Minuutyeet, piiteywoondeet	Piiteywondeet
Posho	Ngumnyeet, kimnyeet, mnyeet	Kimnyeet
Python	Ndareet, ndara, ereeneet	Ndareet
Saliva	Nguleek, ngul, ngulyandeet, muniinek	Ng'uleek
Salt	Paaryaandeet, lokopto, ngengda, musyoondeet	Lokopto, musyoondeet
Sand	Ngaayneet, changarawuut, nganyeet	Ngaayneet
School	Sukuulu, kaapsumaneet, kiryoongi,	Sukuulu/meenjo/ kaapsumaneet
Shadow	meenjoKitoondooyeet, ruurweet	Ruurweet
Shop	Tukeet, tukaniit	Tukaaniit
Sister	Yeeya, cheepkaam, cheepiya	Cheepiya, cheepkaam
Skin	Muuyto, mweenik	Mweenik, muuyto
Smoke	Yiitiit, yetiit	Yetiit
Snake	Reereeneet, yeereeneet, ereeneet	Yeereeneet
Sugarcane	Moopchoondeet, moopcho	Mopcheet
These	Chi, chu, cheepuchu, chipuchu	Chu
Thirst	Malalda, malalya, malal	Malalya
This way	Wuli, wuleeli, lipili, woli(wulto nyi)	Wuli
Those	Chiit, chuut, choo	Chuut

English	Various dialect words	Decision
To accuse	Taam /wosan/ngoor	Wosan
To deceive	Kiiberbeer, kiiken, letu, kuumu	Chiiberber
To exchange	Keewal, weechweech, cheewal	Cheewal
To shine	Kiikweny, ketaal, chiikweny	Ketaal
To tell	Keemwa / keele, mwoowu	Mwoowu
Today	Raandaani, raat, raawuut, raayini,	Raawuut/yaawuut
Tomato	Nyaanyeet, munyaanyandeet	Munyaanyandeet
Valley	Rooroongtiit, keriingeet, ngamusiit	Keriinkeet
Vegetable	Ngweek, nguyeek, nkwek	Nkuyeek
Violence	Pooryeet, paraareet, rokotyeet	Rokotyeet
Vulture	Motoonyta, chesambuut	Chesambuut
Water	Peego, peey,peek	Peeko
Water well	Tokomda, kachongeet	Kachonkeet