

Changes to C'Lela Orthography Proposal, Draft 5

Examples are taken from the Book of Ruth (checked to 3rd draft, 2007).

1. Write a long vowel wherever it can be shown to contrast with short vowels in the same environment. Most monosyllabic C'Lela noun roots and verb roots have a long vowel. A few very common monosyllabic noun and verb roots have a short vowel, as well as most monosyllabic grammatical words.
 - a. examples – disyllabic roots with long vowel in first syllable of root
 - 1:4 oopa 'ten', *not* opa 'tick'
 - 1:6 c'ryaako 'food', *not* c'ryako
 - 1:7 d'sooco 'staying', *not* d'soco *or* ḍasooco
 - 1:16 ṭam soota 'I will stay', *not* ṭam sota
 - b. examples – monosyllabic roots with long vowel
 - 1:4 Daav, *not* Dav – from v'daa 'time'
 - 1:4 s'wēē 'years', *not* s'wē
 - 1:6 nēēk , *not* nek – from nēē 'give' + -k PAST/PFV
 - 1:8 buu inu, *not* bu inu *or* bu-inu – from u'buu 'house' + inu 'mother' (note: flipping the CM *u* does not give triple length to vowel)
 - 1:9 an ta gaa no, *not* an ta ga no – from gaa 'marry'
 - c. examples – monosyllabic roots with short vowel
 - 1:8 zet, *not* zeet – from ze 'say' + -t PAST
 - 1:12 na ze 'we say', *not* na zee
 - 1:12 ̣am ci *not* ̣am cii – from ̣am 'I' + ci 'have'
 - 2:1 ciki, *not* ciiki – from ci 'have' + -ki PAST (note: these are two very common verbs, with rare short vowel)
 - d. examples – words and names adopted from Hausa or English
 - Book Title Laabaaḍav Ruth – first noun adopted from Hausa *labari* 'story'. In general, we have not used long vowels in names like Yēso 'Jesus' or Mēri 'Mary', even though the first syllable is pronounced long. This is only a convention (to make names appear similar to those in Hausa / English), and can certainly be changed. But changes should be made with widespread community approval.

2. Attach demonstrative articles (-na/-hna, -nlo, -nzo), and the definite article (-ne) as suffixes on the class marker or the root with which it belongs. As a rule, these articles should not be attached to any other parts of the noun phrase.
 - a. 1:1 copune, *not* copu ne - from u'copo 'land' + -ne 'the'
 - b. 2:4 daavanl, *not* daa vanl *or* da vanl – from v'daa 'time' + -nlo 'that (close)'
 - c. 2:5 Waa wantaunzo, *not* Waa wanta unzo – from Waa wanta 'girl' + -u CM + -nzo 'that (far)'
(Note: you could also hyphenate, with Waa-wanta as a compound noun, like conc-omo 'ears-of-dog' (a plant))
 - d. 1:8 akan ru nanl, *not* akanrunanl *or* akan runanl
– from akna 'children' + ru 'her' + na- CM + -nlo 'that (close)'
(Note that the possessive pronoun splits up *aknanlo* 'those children', so the rule does not apply)
3. Include a at the end of a suffixed class marker whenever it is present as a full (short) vowel, not merely transitional in length. (I did not find many examples of this in the draft of Ruth, but I have seen quite a few in natural text.)
 - a. 2:1 dinda ru *or* dind ru - both are acceptable, representing free variation of pronunciations (i.e. a vowel can be full or transitional in this context)