

## NII PHONOLOGY

Al and Dellene Stucky

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

There are approximately 8,500 speakers of the Nii language known as Ek Nii. This language occupies an area of about 10 miles of the Wahgi Valley starting at Kudjip on the east, and going west to the Tuman river. It also covers the whole of the valley running north and south and perhaps over the ridges. This language is a small pocket between two large language groups - the Wahgi on the east and the Medelpa on the west. The Nii language is a member of the Hagen Language Family.

Our location is centrally located in the language area on the south side of the valley in the largest dialect of the language. Most of the Nii people live in small hamlets scattered through out the area wherever their land and gardens may be. We chose the village Kiam which was called together by the Lutheran Mission, for our place to work under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Kusa, our informant, is about 25 years old and is from the Monga dialect. This dialect is centrally located in this language area on the south side of the Wahgi River. He is from the village of Kiam and speaks Pidgin English.

### 1.1. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Working under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, we have been in Kiam village approximately 29 months working on different aspects of the Nii language from 1967 to 1973.

Recognition is given to Ann Cochrane for her help on writing up this paper which is a revision of our 1969 paper.

### 1.2. SYMBOLIZATION

Parentheses ( ) represents the phonetic writing.  
Brackets / / represents the phonemic writing.  
Underline ( \_ ) is used to symbolize dental position.

The dot ( . ) is used to symbolize velar position

The plus ( + ) symbolizes fricativeness.

The line through ( - ) is used to symbolize voicelessness.

## 2. INTERPRETATION

## 2.1. THE STATUS OF ITEMS WHICH MAY BE EITHER CONSONANT OR VOWEL:

Syllabic high front and back vocoids (i) and (u) are interpreted as vowels, as they occur as the nucleus of the syllable. The non-syllabic high front and back semi-vocoids (y) and (w) are interpreted as consonants as they occur in syllable onset slots.

/owi/	(owi)	'big'
/wu/	(wu)	'man'
/ya/	(ya)	'here'
/púiyo/	(púiyo)	'you go!!'
/giyéŋ /	(giyéŋ )	'walk carefully'

## 2.2. THE STATUS OF ITEMS WHICH MAY BE EITHER SEQUENCE OR UNITS:

Non-suspect clusters of two consonants may occur word final, and medial across syllable boundaries. The prenasalized obstruents have been interpreted as single units as they occur initially but there are no non-suspect initial or triple clusters.

/kalt/	(kalt <sup>Ŕ</sup> )	'I cooked it'
/wɛ <sub>+</sub> l <sub>+</sub> pí/	(wɛ <sub>+</sub> l <sub>+</sub> pí)	'line of people'

/kɪspɪ/	(kɪspɪ)	'kind of bird'
/kandzɪp/	(kandzɪp <sup>h</sup> )	'star'
/móngɛ/	(móngɛ)	'line of people'
/ɲɛndz/	(ɲɛnts)	'skin'
/ndzu/	(ndzü)	'man's name'
/ond/	(ont <sup>ʔ</sup> <sub>R</sub> )	'wood'
/kon/	(k <sup>w</sup> on)	'net bag'

Vocoid clusters (ei), (eɪ), (ai), (oi), (oɪ) (ou) have been interpreted as complex syllable nuclei for the following reasons:

Each of the clusters forms the nucleus of a syllable of 1 mora timing, carrying one contrastive (either high or rising) pitch and stress occurs over the whole cluster. Wherever sequences of vocoids occur as the nuclei of two syllables there are two contrastive pitches, stress falls on only one nucleus and a semi-vowel is articulated between the vowel nuclei. Because neither vowels of the cluster is generally more dominant than the other, as either level or gliding tone may occur, and as new phonemes do not need to be set up, this interpretation has been followed rather than that of setting up glided phonemes.

/oi/	(oi)	'moon'
/oɪ/	(oɪ)	'mud'

/ɛi/	(ei)	'up'
/ɛɪ/	(ɛɪ)	'he/she/it'
/póunɛŋ/	(póunɛŋ)	'afternoon'
/kaimb/	(kaimp <sup>h</sup> )	'sorry'
/a <sub>↓</sub> lóu/	(a <sub>↓</sub> lóu)	'incorrect'
/píyo/	(píyo)	'you listen!'
/miyéɱ/	(miyéɱ)	'blood'
/owú/	(owú)	'dog'
/óiyó/	(óiyó)	'you come!'
/péiyó/	(péiyó)	'you all go!'

### 2.3. INTERPRETATION OF LABIALIZED CONSONANTS AS SEQUENCES OF CONSONANT PLUS VOWEL.

Labialized consonants ( $b^w$ ,  $\eta g^w$ ,  $t^w$ ,  $k^w$ ,  $m^w$ ) preceding /i/ have been interpreted as sequences of consonant and vowel (bu,  $\eta gu$ , tu, ku, mu,) for the following reasons:

- (1) As there are no non-suspect consonant clusters initially, where labialized consonants occur most frequently they could be interpreted as complex units. If so, five complex phonemes would then be added to the list of consonant phonemes, however they occur rarely in comparison with other consonant phonemes and then only preceding /i/.

- (2) The consequent (ui) parallels the vowel sequences (ei), (ai), and (oi), which occur as syllable nuclei.

/muíni/	(mwíni/muíni) 'lizzard'
/nguimbí/	(ngwimbí/nguimbí) 'Grasshopper'
/řui/	(twi/tui) 'ax, knife'
/kui/	(kwi/kui) 'rat'
/numbúi/	(numbwi/numbúi) 'I will eat'

## 3. OUTLINE OF PHONEMES

## 3.1. CHART OF PHONEMES

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Velar
O B S T R U E N T	Non- prenasalized /p/	/s/	/ř/	/k/
	Prenasalized /mb/	/ <u>ndz</u> /	/nd/	/ŋg/
N A S A L.	/m/	/ <u>n</u> /	/n/	/ŋ/
L A T E R A L		/ <u>l</u> <sub>+</sub> /	/ř/	/ <u>l</u> <sub>+</sub> /
S E M I V O W E L S	/w/		/y/	

		Front	Central	Back
V O W E L S	H I G H	/i/		/u/
		/ɛ/		
	M I D	/ɛ/		/o/
	L O W		/a/	

## 3.2. DESCRIPTION OF CONTRASTIVE FEATURES

The main contrastive feature of the consonants of the Nii language is pre-nasalization versus non pre-nasalization. There is contrast between obstruents nasals, laterals, and semi vowels.

/pɪn/	(pɪn)	'you sleep'
/mbɪn/	(mbɪn)	'we will go'
/ɛ̃r/	(ɛ̃R)	'you work!'
/ɛnd/	(ɛnt <sup>h</sup> )	'I work'
/kaɫ <sub>+</sub> /	(kaɫ <sub>+</sub> )	'you cook!'
/ngaɫ <sub>+</sub> /	(ngaɫ <sub>+</sub> )	'needle'
/ɛn/	(ɛn)	'you did it'
/on/	(on)	'you came'
/ond/	(ont <sup>h</sup> R)	'tree'
/aɫ <sub>+</sub> /	(aɫ <sub>+</sub> )	'east'
/owi/	(owi)	'big'
/pɛ̃ɪlo/	(pɛ̃ɪlo)	'you (2) go'
/pɛ̃iyo/	(pɛ̃iyo)	'you all go'

There is also contrast between bilabial and dental, alveolar and velar. Voicing versus voicelessness is not significant.

/kom/	(kom)	'ear'
/kon/	(kon/k <sup>w</sup> on)	'face'
/pim/	(pim)	'he hears'
/pin/	(pin)	'you hear'



/mbɿ <sub>+</sub> /	(mbɿ <sub>+</sub> )	'we (2) go'
/ndzɿ <sub>+</sub> /	(ndzɿ <sub>+</sub> )	'where'
/ɛ̃r/	(ɛ̃R)	'you work'
/ɛk/	(ɛk <sup>h</sup> )	'talk'
/ndo <sub>+</sub> u/	(ndo <sub>+</sub> ü)	'stick'
/ngo <sub>+</sub> i/	(ngo <sub>+</sub> li)	'name of village'
/nundz/	(nünts)	'I ate'
/ɲundz/	(ɲunts)	'I give'

The vowels contrast in placement and position of the tongue. Fronted versus backed and high, mid, and low positioning.

/wi/	(wi)	'nothing'
/wu/	(wU)	'man'
/nɿ/	(nɿ)	'you talk!'
/no/	(no)	'you eat!'
/ɛm/	(ɛm)	'pandanas'
/am/	(am)	'milk'
/pi/	(pi)	'you hear!'
/pɿ/	(pɿ)	'you sleep!'
/pɛ/	(pɛ)	'now'
/kuŋ/	(kuŋ)	'pig'
/koŋ/	(koŋ/kɔŋ)	'wing of bird'
/kaŋ/	(kaŋ)	'boy'

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF PHONEMES AND ALLOPHONES

## 4.1. CONSONANTS -

Phonemes	Allophones
/p/	(p) Voiceless bilabial stop occurs word initial and medial.
	(b) Voiced bilabial stop occurs in fluctuation with (p).
	(p <sup>h</sup> ) Voiceless bilabial aspirated stop occurs word and utterance finally and is mutually exclusive with (p) (b).
	(p <sup>ə</sup> ) Voiceless bilabial stop with voiced central vocoid release occurs in free variation with (p <sup>h</sup> ) word finally as a transition between words in a phrase.
	/kupú/ (kupú) 'cloud'
	/p(ŋ)/ (p(ŋ)) 'black'
	/pimí/ (pimí) 'bee'
	/ndup/ (ndup <sup>h</sup> ) 'fire'
	/molá <sub>↓</sub> p/ (molá <sub>↓</sub> p <sup>h</sup> ) 'potato'
	/amb/ (amp <sup>h</sup> ) 'woman'
	/ndup ka <sub>↓</sub> / (ndup <sup>ə</sup> ka <sub>↓</sub> /ndup <sup>h</sup> ka <sub>↓</sub> ) 'start fire!'
	/molá <sub>↓</sub> p řa <sub>↓</sub> / (molá <sub>↓</sub> p <sup>h</sup> ta <sub>↓</sub> /molá <sub>↓</sub> p <sup>ə</sup> řa <sub>↓</sub> ) 'two potatoes!'

Phonemes	Allophones
/mb/	(mb) Voiced prenasalized bilabial stop occurs word initially and medially.

Phonemes	Allophones
/s/	( <u>s</u> ) Voiceless dental grooved fricative occurs initially fluctuating with ( <u>t</u> ) and ( <u>ts</u> ); medially and finally fluctuating with ( <u>ts</u> ).
	( <u>ts</u> ) Voiceless dental grooved affricate occurs word initial and final fluctuating with ( <u>s</u> ).
	( <u>t</u> ) Voiceless dental stop occurs word initial and medial in fluctuation with ( <u>s</u> ) and ( <u>ts</u> ).
	 /k <u>s</u> /            (k <u>s</u> /k <u>ts</u> ) 'bad'
	 / <u>s</u> ɛ/            ( <u>t</u> ɛ/ <u>ts</u> ɛ) 'take it'
	 /s <u>t</u> mb/            ( <u>t</u> (mp <sup>h</sup> )/ <u>ts</u> (mp <sup>h</sup> ) 'foot'

/wusi/ (wusi/woti) 'cat'  
 /o<sub>+</sub>ls(n)/ (ɔlt(n)/ɔlt<sub>+</sub>ts(n) 'yesterday'

## Phonemes

## Allophones

/ndz/

- (ndz) Voiced prenasalized dental grooved affricate occurs word initially, medially, and finally.
- (nts) Voiceless prenasalized dental grooved affricate occurs word initially and medially in fluctuation with (ndz) and fluctuates with (ns) and (ndz) finally.
- (ns) Voiceless prenasalized dental grooved fricative occurs word finally in fluctuation with (nts) and (ndz).
- (ndz<sup>h</sup>) Voiced prenasalized dental grooved affricate with slight high front vocoid release occurs freely fluctuating with (ndz) in consonant clusters preceding heterorganic stops and nasals.

/ndzi/ (ndzi) 'cold'

/ndzɿ<sub>+</sub>/ (ndzɿ<sub>+</sub>/ntsɿ<sub>+</sub>) 'where'

/kandzɿp/ (kandzɿ<sup>h</sup>/kantsɿ<sup>h</sup>) 'star'

/ɛndz/ (ɛndz/ɛnts/ɛns) 'waste'

/ɛndzɿp(n)/ (ɛndz<sup>h</sup>ɿp(n)) 'we all worked'

/ařúm/ (ařúm/ařúm) 'father'

/konu kumb řonúm/(konu kump<sup>h</sup>  
tonúm/konu kump<sup>h</sup> řonúm)  
'It is raining'

/εř/ (εŘ) 'work'

/olř/ (olt<sup>Ř</sup>/olt<sup>h</sup>) 'long'

Phonemes	Allophones
/nd/	(nd) Voiced prenasalized alveolar stop occurs word initially and medially.
	(nt) Voiceless prenasalized alveolar stop occurs in fluctuation with (nd).

(nt <sup>h</sup> )	Voiceless prenasalized alveolar aspirated stop occurs word final.
(nt <sup>Ṙ</sup> )	Voiceless prenasalized alveolar stop with voiceless flapped vibrant release occurs word finally in free fluctuation with (nt <sup>h</sup> ).
(nt <sup>ə</sup> )	Voiceless prenasalized alveolar stop with vocoid release occurs in free fluctuation with (nt <sup>h</sup> ) utterance medial as a transition between words.

/ndup/	(ndup <sup>h</sup> /ntup <sup>h</sup> )	'fire'
/kenda <sub>1</sub> /	(kenta <sub>1</sub> /kenda <sub>1</sub> )	'place name'
/nond/	(nont <sup>h</sup> /nont <sup>Ṙ</sup> )	'I am eating'
/ond kaip <sub>1</sub> /	(ont <sup>h</sup> kaip <sub>1</sub> /ont <sup>ə</sup> kaip <sub>1</sub> )	'kind of tree'

Phonemes	Allophones	
/k/	(k)	Voiceless velar stop occurs word initial and medial.
	(g)	Voiced velar stop occurs in fluctuation with (k).
	(k <sup>h</sup> )	Voiceless velar aspirated stop occurs word final.
	(k <sup>ə</sup> )	Voiceless velar stop with voiced central vocoid release occurs in free fluctuation with (k <sup>h</sup> ) utterance medial as a transition between words.

Preceding /a/ and /o/ in some words /k/ and /ku/ occur in free variation.

/ka/	(ka)	'good'
/aká/	(aká/agá)	'sweet potato'
/kombú/	(kombú)	'marita'
/kon/, /kuon/		'string bag'
/kondúk/, /kuondúk/		'shirt'
/ndok/	(ndɔk <sup>h</sup> )	'frog'
/niřík/	(niřík <sup>h</sup> )	'inside'
/pɛk řo/	(pɛk <sup>h</sup> to/pɛk <sup>ə</sup> řo)	'peel'

## Phonemes

## Allophones

/ŋg/

- (ŋg) Voiced prenasalized velar stop occurs word initially and medially.
- (ŋk) Voiceless prenasalized velar stop occurs in fluctuation with (ŋg).
- (ŋk<sup>h</sup>) Voiceless prenasalized aspirated velar stop occurs word finally.
- (ŋk<sup>ə</sup>) Voiceless prenasalized velar stop occurs in free fluctuation with (ŋk<sup>h</sup>) utterance medial as a transition between words.

/ŋgoł̥/ (ŋgoł̥/ŋkoł̥)  
 'strong pit-pit'

/ŋgupú/ (ŋgupú) 'mouth'

/mónge/ (mónge) 'line of  
 people'

/aŋg/ (aŋk<sup>h</sup>) 'they stood  
 up'

/aŋg punmún/ (aŋk<sup>h</sup> punmún/  
 aŋk<sup>ə</sup> punmún) 'they went'

Phonemes	Allophones		
/m/	(m)	Voiced bilabial nasal occurs word initially, medially, and finally.	
		/mɛ/	(mɛ) 'taro'
		/omú/	(ɔmú) 'fish'
		/nɪm/	(nɪm) 'you 'sing'
/n/	( <u>n</u> )	Voiced dental nasal occurs word initially, medially and finally.	
		/ɛnɪ/	(ɛnɪ) 'sun'
		/nɪm/	(nɪm) 'you'
		/kon/	(kon) 'face'
/n/	(n)	Voiced alveolar nasal occurs word initially, medially and finally.	
		/kon/	(kon) 'belium'
		/noɪ̯/	(noɪ̯) 'water'
		/ɛnɪm/	(ɛnɪm) 'they'

Phonemes	Allophones		
/ŋ/	(ŋ)	Voiced velar nasal occurs word initial, medial and final.	
		/ŋɛndz/	(ŋɛnts) 'skin'
		/kaŋɪ̯/	(kaŋɪ̯) 'boy'
		/kuŋ/	(kuŋ) 'pig'
		/pɛŋ/	(pɛŋ) 'head'



- /ɬ̥/ (ɬ̥) Voiceless dental lateral fricative occurs word final.
- (ɬ̥) Voiced dental lateral fricative occurs intervocallically.
- (ɬ̥) Voiced alveodental lateral occurs intervocalically, preceding a consonant.

/moɬ̥aɬ̥/ (moɬ̥aɬ̥) 'I'm not staying'

/ŋgaɬ̥/ (ŋgaɬ̥) 'pencil'

/ɛɬ̥p/ (ɛɬ̥p<sup>h</sup>) 'joined together'

/muɬ̥/ (muɬ̥) 'point of spear'

/oɬ̥sɪn/ (oɬ̥sɪn) 'yesterday'

- /ɬ̥/ (ɬ̥) Voiced alveolar flapped lateral occurs word intervocalically.
- (ɬ̥) Voiced alveolar lateral occurs preceding /ɬ̥/.

/muɬ̥um/ (muɬ̥um) 'he was staying before'

/ngoɬ̥um/ (ngoɬ̥um) 'pit pit'

/paɬ̥ŋ/ (paɬ̥ŋ) 'pig fence'

/keɬ̥p/ (keɬ̥p<sup>h</sup>) 'cough of an old person'

/kaɬ̥ř/ (kaɬ̥ř̥) 'I cooked'

- /ɬ̥/ (ɬ̥) Voiceless velar lateral fricative occurs word finally.
- (ɬ̥) Voiced velar lateral fricative occurs intervocalically.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix}^2$$

Voiceless velar lateral fricative  
with voiced central vocoid  
release occurs word finally as  
a transition between words.

/ε<sub>1</sub><sup>1</sup>(p/ (ε<sub>1</sub><sup>1</sup>(p<sup>h</sup>) 'you (2)'

/no<sub>1</sub>/      (no<sub>1</sub>)      'water'

/ku<sub>+</sub>l<sub>+</sub>ā/      (ku<sub>+</sub>l<sub>+</sub>ā)      'dry'

/mol/ (mol) 'I stay'

/mul<sub>+</sub>ε<sub>+</sub>/      (mul<sub>+</sub>ε<sub>+</sub>)      'you (2)  
stay'

/nonēné<sub>+</sub> n / (nonēné<sub>+</sub> n) 'you (2)  
cannot eat, you say'

Phonemes      Allophones

/w/ (w) Voiced bilabial high closed rounded semi vocoid occurs word initially and medially.

/wu/                      (wU)                      'man'

/owá/      (owá)      'yes'

/wi/	(wi)	'nothing'
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/owú/      (ɔwú)      'dog'

/y/ (y) Voiced high close front unrounded semi vocoid occurs initial and medial.

/s<sup>h</sup>iyo/      (tsiyo)      'get it!'

/ya/	(ya)	'here'
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/puiyo/      (puiyo)      'you go!'

/yo/                    (yo)                    'get it!'

## 4.2. VOWELS

Vowels differ in inherent basic length according to tongue position, the low vowel /a/ being the longest, /ɛ/, /i/, and /u/ the shortest. Vowels tend to be longer in stressed final position than elsewhere in words of the same number of syllables.

## Phonemes      Allophones

/i/            (i)      Voiced high closed front unrounded vocoid occurs word medially and finally.

/kip/            (kip<sup>h</sup>)      'a name'

/wi/            (wi)      'nothing'

/pim<sup>í</sup>/            (pim<sup>ɪ</sup>)      'bee'

/wɛmb<sup>í</sup>/            (wɛmb<sup>ɪ</sup>)      'snake'

/ɛ/            (ɛ')      Voiced high open front backed unrounded vocoid occurs preceding lateral consonants and fluctuates freely with (ɛ) following consonant clusters immediately preceded by front and central vocoids.

(ɛ)      Voiced high open central unrounded vocoid occurs following consonant clusters immediately preceded by front and central vocoids.

(ɛ)      Voiced high open front unrounded vocoid elsewhere.

/k <u>u</u> ɿ/	(k <u>u</u> ɿ)	'food'
/ɛp <u>ɿ</u> /	(ɛp <u>ɿ</u> )	'something'
/kɿs/	(kɿs)	'bad'
/o <u>u</u> ɿ/	(o <u>u</u> ɿ)	'together'
/o <u>l</u> sɿn/	(o <u>l</u> tɿn)	'yesterday'
/ɛndzɿŋ <u>ɿ</u> /	(ɛndzɿŋ <u>ɿ</u> )	'dl. worked'
/nɿ <u>ɿ</u> /	(nɿ <u>ɿ</u> )	'mark on face'
/mu <u>l</u> nɛndzɿpɿn/	(mu <u>l</u> nɛndzɿpɿn)	'we didn't stay'
/ku <u>ɾ</u> nɛɾpɿn/	(ku <u>ɾ</u> nɛɾpɿn)	'we didn't find it'

Phonemes	Allophones
/ɛ/	<p>(ə) Voiced mid close central unrounded vocoid occurs in unstressed second syllable in multi-syllable words following non-dental laterals following /ɛ/ in initial syllable.</p> <p>(e) Voiced mid close front unrounded voiced occurs as first member of complex nuclei.</p> <p>(ɛ) Voiced mid open front unrounded vocoid occurs elsewhere.</p>
	/tɛ <u>ɿ</u> ɛnɛmbɿ/ (tɛ <u>ɿ</u> ɛnɛmbɿ) 'I will not plant'
	/ɛndɛ <u>ɿ</u> m/ (ɛndɛ <u>ɿ</u> m) 'one'
	/sɛ <u>ɿ</u> / (tɛ <u>ɿ</u> ) 'get it'
	/ɛn <u>ɿ</u> / (ɛnɿ) 'sun'
	/ɛm/ (ɛm) 'goroka nut'
	/mɛ <u>ɾ</u> / (mɛ <u>ɾ</u> ) 'north'
	/e <u>ɿ</u> / (e <u>ɿ</u> ) 'up'

/bɛ̃lɛmbɪ̃/ (bɛ̃lɛmbɪ̃) 'we two will  
read'  
/wɛ̃lɛpi/ (wɛ̃lɛpi) 'clan name'

## Phonemes

## Allophones

/a/

- (ʌ) Voiced mid open central unrounded  
vocoid occurs word finally  
following a lateral and in free  
fluctuation with (ʌ̃) word finally  
following /w/.
- (æ) Voiced low close front unrounded  
vocoid occurs word medially in  
free fluctuation with (a)  
preceding velar laterals.
- (ʌ̃) Voiced mid open central raised  
unrounded vocoid occurs in free  
fluctuation with (ʌ) word finally  
following /w/.
- (a) Voiced low open central unrounded  
vocoid occurs elsewhere.

/am/ (am) 'milk'

/aká/ (aká) 'sweet potatoe'

/mam/ (mam) 'his mother'

/səl̩m/ (təl̩m/tal̩m) 'it is  
here'

/pəl̩/ (pəl̩/pəl̩<sup>h</sup>) 'male'

/pɪ̃l̩/ (pɪ̃l̩) 'girl's name;

/ãruwá/ (ãruwá/ãruwá) 'pumpkin'

/u/

- (u) Voiced high close back round  
vocoid, occurs only in CV  
syllables medially and finally.  
It usually follows velar stops  
and fluctuates with (o) when  
preceded by (k) and followed by  
nasal or a stop. (u) also occurs  
in the environment of liquids.

- (<sup>i</sup>u) Voiced high close front unrounded vocoid on-glide to voiced high open back rounded vocoid occurs between two dental consonants, and following dentals in open monosyllables.
- (t) Voiced high open central unrounded vocoid occurs following dental consonants following back vowels.
- (i) Voiced high open back unrounded vocoid occurs in open final syllables following alveolar consonants following back vowels.
- (u) Voiced high open back rounded vocoid occurs elsewhere.

/ndzu/ (ndz<sup>i</sup>u) 'man's name'

/kun/ (kun/kun) 'straight place'

/wu/ (wu) 'man'

/nomú/ (nomú) 'louse'

/ku<sub>+</sub>á/ (ku<sub>+</sub>á) 'grass'

/ndup/ (ndup<sup>h</sup>) 'fire'

/kunú<sub>+</sub>/ (kunú<sub>+</sub>/kunú<sub>+</sub>) 'kind of greens'

/nundz/ (n<sup>i</sup>unts) 'I ate'

/pundzún/ (pundz<sup>i</sup>tŋ) 'they went'

/opřú/ (opř<sup>i</sup>) 'lizard'

/tonú/ (ton<sup>i</sup>) 'up'

## Phonemes      Allophones

/o/	(o)	Voiced mid, close back, rounded vocoid occurs word initial, medial and final.
	(ɔ)	Voiced, mid, open back, rounded, vocoid occurs word initial, medial and fluctuates with (o).
	(ə)	Voiced mid close central rounded vocoid occurs in unstressed second syllable in multi-syllable words following non-dental nasals and prenasalized stops following /o/ in initial syllable.

/omb/      (omp<sup>h</sup>/ɔmp<sup>h</sup>) 'sugar'

/no/      (no) 'eat!'

/op/      (op<sup>h</sup>/ɔp<sup>h</sup>) 'yam'

/řokú/      (tɔkú/tɔgú) 'tobacco'

/pop/      (pɔp<sup>h</sup>/pop<sup>h</sup>) 'wind'

/nonomún/ (nonəmún) 'they will eat'

/kongonúm/ (kongənúm) 'they are  
biting'

## 5. CONTRASTS OF PHONEMES

## 5.1. CONSONANTS:

/p/ and /mb/	/pɪn/	(pɪn)	'you sleep'
	/mbɪn/	(mbɪn)	'we will go'
	/kɪp/	(kɪp <sup>h</sup> )	'burned food'
	/kɪmb/	(kɪmp <sup>h</sup> /kɪmb <sup>h</sup> )	'name'
	/pɛp/	(pɛp <sup>h</sup> )	'I am sleeping'
	/pɛmb/	(pɛmb <sup>h</sup> /pɛmp <sup>h</sup> )	'I want to sleep'
/r/ and /nd/	/sɪp/	(tɪp <sup>h</sup> /tsɪp <sup>h</sup> )	'getting it'
	/sɪmb/	(tɪmp <sup>h</sup> /tsɪmp <sup>h</sup> )	'leg'
	/ɛř/	(ɛř̃)	'you work!'
	/ɛnd/	(ɛnt)	'I am working'
	/ɛřɪm/	(ɛř̃ɪm)	'he worked'
	/ɛndɪm/	(ɛntɪm)	'cooked'
/r/ and /s/	/nũř/	(nũř̃)	'I ate before'
	/nũndz/	(nũnts)	'I ate'
	/ɛřɪŋ/	(ɛř̃ɪŋ)	'other side'
	/ɛndzɪŋ/	(ɛntzɪŋ)	'they work'
	/ɛřɪm/	(ɛř̃ɪm)	'he works'
	/ɛsɪm/	(ɛs̃ɪm)	'he worked'
	/kɪř/	(kɪř̃)	'to tie bundle'
	/kɪs/	(kɪs)	'a name'
	/řu/	(tu)	'bring it!'
	/su/	(tu/tsu)	'mark it!'



	/εř(k <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> )/	(εř(k <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> ))	'dl.do it'
	/εsk <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> /	(εsk <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> )	'smoke'
/nd/ and / <u>ndz</u> /	/ndu/	(ndu)	'kind of bird'
	/ <u>ndzu</u> /	( <u>ndz</u> u)	'a name'
	/kand/	(kant <sup>h</sup> )	'I am looking'
	/k <u>andz</u> łp/	(k <u>ands</u> łp <sup>h</sup> )	'star'
	/end/	(end <sup>h</sup> /ent <sup>h</sup> )	'I work'
	/ <u>endz</u> /	( <u>ents</u> )	'I worked'
	/pund/	(punth)	'I am going'
	/p <u>undz</u> łŋ/	(p <u>undz</u> łŋ)	'they go'
/s/ and / <u>nd</u> /	/εs <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> /	(εs <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> )	'grass'
	/εnd <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> /	(εnd <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> )	'put something'
	/εs <sub>1</sub> m/	(εs <sub>1</sub> m)	'worked'
	/εnd <sub>1</sub> m/	(εnd <sub>1</sub> m)	'cooked'
	/k <sub>1</sub> s/	(k <sub>1</sub> s)	'bad'
	/k <sub>1</sub> nd/	(k <sub>1</sub> nd <sup>h</sup> /k <sub>1</sub> nt <sup>h</sup> )	'put it!'
	/s <sub>1</sub> up/	(t <sub>1</sub> up <sup>h</sup> /s <sub>1</sub> up <sup>h</sup> )	'bringing it'
	/ndup/	(ndup <sup>h</sup> )	'fire'
/s/ and / <u>ndz</u> /	/as <sub>1</sub> łp/	(as <sub>1</sub> łp <sup>h</sup> )	'a name'
	/ <u>andz</u> łp/	( <u>andz</u> łp <sup>h</sup> )	'a name'
	/k <sub>1</sub> s <sub>1</sub> ap/	(k <sub>1</sub> s <sub>1</sub> ap <sup>h</sup> )	'a name'
	/k <sub>1</sub> <u>ndz</u> łp/	(k <sub>1</sub> <u>ndz</u> łp <sup>h</sup> )	'kind of tree'
	/εs <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> /	(εs <sub>1</sub> ł <sub>1</sub> )	'grass'
	/ε <u>ndz</u> łŋł <sub>1</sub> /	(ε <u>ndz</u> łŋł <sub>1</sub> )	'dl. worked'

	/kɪs/	(kɪs)	'bad'
	/kɪndz/	(kɪnts)	'I put'
/ř/ and /ndz/	/ɛř/	(ɛR̃)	'you work!'
	/ɛndz/	(ɛnts)	'I worked'
	/ɛř(ŋ)/	(ɛř(ŋ))	'behind'
	/ɛndz(ŋ)/	(ɛndz(ŋ))	'we all work'
	/nuř/	(nuR̃)	'I ate before'
	/nundz/	(nundz)	'I ate'
	/puř/	(puR̃)	'I went before'
	/pundz/	(pundz)	'I went'

$\frac{1}{+}$  and  $\frac{1}{+}$  and  $\frac{1}{+}$  MEDIAL POSITION

/ɛ $\frac{1}{+}$ (p)/	(ɛ $\frac{1}{+}$ (p <sup>h</sup> ))	'joined together'
/kɛ $\frac{1}{+}$ (p)/	(kɛ $\frac{1}{+}$ (p <sup>h</sup> ))	'cough of old person'
/ɛ $\frac{1}{+}$ (p)/	(ɛ $\frac{1}{+}$ (p <sup>h</sup> ))	'you two'
/ku $\frac{1}{+}$ a/	(ku $\frac{1}{+}$ a)	'name of greens'
/ku $\frac{1}{+}$ u/	(ku $\frac{1}{+}$ u)	'chicken'
/ku $\frac{1}{+}$ a/	(ku $\frac{1}{+}$ a)	'dry'
/pa $\frac{1}{+}$ m/	(pa $\frac{1}{+}$ m)	'a name'
/pa $\frac{1}{+}$ (ŋ)/	(pa $\frac{1}{+}$ (ŋ))	'pig fence'
/pa $\frac{1}{+}$ (t)/	(pa $\frac{1}{+}$ (t))	'bamboo rope'

$\frac{1}{+}$  and  $\frac{1}{+}$

FINAL POSITION

/nga $\frac{1}{+}$ /	(nga $\frac{1}{+}$ )	'pencil'
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/nga <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(nga <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'scratch oneself'
/mu <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(mu <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'spear point'
/mu <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(mu <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'egg'
/ŋgo <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(ŋgo <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'red leaf of tree'
/ŋgo <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(ŋgo <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'a name'
/ni <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(ni <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'mark face'
/ni <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(ni <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'talked'

/l̥/ and /r̥/

## MEDIAL POSITION

/tu <sub>+</sub> l̥úm/	(tu <sub>+</sub> l̥úm)	'sew up mat'
/tu <sub>+</sub> r̥úm/	(tu <sub>+</sub> r̥úm)	'he fought before'
/kɛ <sub>+</sub> l̥íp/	(kɛ <sub>+</sub> l̥íp <sup>h</sup> )	'cough of old person'
/ɛ <sub>+</sub> r̥íp/	(ɛ <sub>+</sub> r̥íp <sup>h</sup> )	'I make'
/ku <sub>+</sub> l̥úm/	(ku <sub>+</sub> l̥úm)	'fill up'
/ku <sub>+</sub> r̥úm/	(ku <sub>+</sub> r̥úm)	'he found'
/mu <sub>+</sub> l̥úm/	(mu <sub>+</sub> l̥úm)	'he stayed'
/mu <sub>+</sub> r̥ú/	(mu <sub>+</sub> r̥ú)	'good smell'

/t̥/ and /k/

/a <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(a <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'east'
/ak/	(ak <sup>h</sup> )	'dig!'
/no <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(no <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'water'
/nok/	(nok <sup>h</sup> )	'they ate'
/řa <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> /	(ta <sub>+</sub> <sub>+</sub> )	'two'
/řak/	(tak <sup>h</sup> )	'you build'

	/ŋgu <sub>+</sub> /	(ŋgu <sub>+</sub> )	'take off'
	/ŋguk/	(ŋguk <sup>h</sup> )	'target'
/ŋ/ and / <u>n</u> /	/pɛŋ/	(pɛŋ)	'head'
	/pɛ <u>n</u> /	(pɛ <u>n</u> )	'straight place'
	/ŋum/	(ŋum)	'he gave'
	/ <u>n</u> ɪm/	( <u>n</u> ɪm)	'you'
	/kuŋ/	(kuŋ)	'pig'
	/ku <u>n</u> /	(ku <u>n</u> )	'straight'
	/koŋ/	(koŋ)	'to bite'
	/ko <u>n</u> /	(ko <u>n</u> )	'face (cheek)'
/n/ and / <u>n</u> /	/kon/	(kon)	'string bag'
	/ko <u>n</u> /	(k <sup>w</sup> o <u>n</u> )	'face'
	/ʀon/	(ton)	'you fight'
	/ʀ <u>n</u> /	(tu <u>n</u> )	'you fought before'
/n/ and /ŋ/	/kon/	(kon)	'string bag'
	/koŋ/	(koŋ)	'to bite'
	/na/	(na)	'I'
	/ŋa/	(ŋa)	'later'
	/nɛ <u>ndz</u> /	(nɛ <u>nts</u> )	'where'
	/ŋɛ <u>ndz</u> /	(ŋɛ <u>nts</u> )	'skin'
	/nonu <u>m</u> /	(nonu <u>m</u> )	'he is eating'
	/ŋon <u>u</u> m/	(ŋon <u>u</u> m)	'he gave it'

/ŋ/ and /ŋg/	/ŋo <sub>+</sub> lúm/	(ŋo <sub>+</sub> lúm)	'he gave'
	/ŋgo <sub>+</sub> l/	(ŋgo <sub>+</sub> l)	'pit pit'
	/món <sub>+</sub> ge/	(món <sub>+</sub> ge)	'line of people'
	/mon <sub>+</sub> é/	(mon <sub>+</sub> é)	'come to get something'
/k/ and /ŋg/	/kupu/	(kupu)	'cloud'
	/ŋgupu/	(ŋgupu)	'mouth'
	/ka <sub>+</sub> l/	(ka <sub>+</sub> l)	'you cook!'
	/nga <sub>+</sub> l/	(nga <sub>+</sub> l)	'scratch skin'
	/ko <sub>+</sub> lúm/	(ko <sub>+</sub> lúm)	'he died'
	/ngo <sub>+</sub> lúm/	(ngo <sub>+</sub> lúm)	'pit pit'
	/kuk/	(kuk <sup>h</sup> )	'fur of kapule'
	/ŋguk/	(ŋguk <sup>h</sup> )	'tanget'
/w/ and /p/	/wɛi/	(wɛi)	'all come!'
	/pɛi/	(pɛi)	'all go!'
	/wi/	(wi)	'nothing'
	/pi/	(pi)	'hear'
	/wɛ <sub>+</sub> l/	(wɛ <sub>+</sub> l)	'come (dl)!'
	/pɛ <sub>+</sub> l/	(pɛ <sub>+</sub> l)	'go (dl)!'
	/owu/	(ɔwu)	'dog'
	/opú/	(opú)	'fight'

## 5.2 CONTRASTS OF VOWELS:

/i/ and /ɪ/, and /ɛ/

/kip/	(kip <sup>h</sup> )	'a name'
/kɪp/	(kɪp <sup>h</sup> )	'something burned'
/kɛp/	(kɛp <sup>h</sup> )	'dry'
/pɪndz/	(pɪnts)	'I heard'
/pɪndz/	(pɪnts)	'I slept'
/pɛndz/	(pɛnts)	'dirty'
/pi/	(pi)	'hear'
/pɪ/	(pɪ)	'sleep'
/pɛ/	(pɛ)	'now'
/pip/	(pip <sup>h</sup> )	'I hearing'
/pɪp/	(pɪp <sup>h</sup> )	'top on bottle'
/pɛp/	(pɛp <sup>h</sup> )	'I want to sleep'

/u/ and /o/ and /a/

/kuŋ/	(kuŋ)	'pig'
/koŋ/	(kɔŋ)	'bite'
/kaŋ/	(kaŋ)	'boy'
/kumb/	(kump <sup>h</sup> )	'nose'
/komb/	(kɔmp <sup>h</sup> /komp <sup>h</sup> )	'name'
/kamb/	(kamp <sup>h</sup> )	'worm'
/tuk/	(tuk <sup>h</sup> )	'break'
/tok/	(tok <sup>h</sup> /tok <sup>h</sup> )	'they hit'

	/tak/	(tak <sup>h</sup> ) 'build'
/a/ and /ɛ/	/kɛm/	(kɛm) 'kind of tree'
	/kam/	(kam) 'mouth full of food'
	/ɛm/	(ɛm) 'pandanus'
	/am/	(am) 'milk'
	/pɛ/	(pɛ) 'now'
	/pa/	(pa) 'you go quick!'

## 6. DISTRIBUTION OF PHONEMES

### 6.1. CONSONANTS

All single consonants may occur in all consonant positions of the word, with the following limitations.

Neither  $\frac{1}{+}$ ,  $\frac{1}{+}$  or  $\check{1}$  occur word initial.

Neither w, y, ŋg, or  $\check{1}$  occur word final.

There are no consonant clusters word initial.

Consonant clusters of two consonants may occur word medial but are divided by the syllable break. There is also a class of verbs in certain aspects which has a consonant cluster finally.

/ɛs.k(1)/	(ɛsk(1))	'smoke'
/kɛs.p(1)/	(kɛsp(1))	'kind of bird'
/o1.s(1)n/	(o1st(1)n)	'yesterday'
/mo1r/	(molt <sup>h</sup> )	'now staying'
/mu1s/	(mults)	'I stayed'
/ka1r/	(kalt <sup>h</sup> )	'I am cooking'

/kɛɪ <u>s</u> /	(kɛɪ <u>ts</u> )	'I cooked'
/mbɛɪ <u>ř</u> /	(mbɛɪ <u>t</u> <sup>h</sup> )	'I am reading'

## 6.2. VOWELS

All vowels may occur in all vowel positions of the word with the following limitations.

Neither /i/, /ɪ/, or /u/ occur word initial.

/op/	(op <sup>h</sup> )	'yam'
/am/	(am)	'milk'
/ɛm/	(ɛm)	'pandanas nut'
/wi/	(wi)	'nothing'
/nɛ/	(nɛ)	'you talk!'
/su/	(tu)	'bring!'
/pin/	(pin)	'you hear!'
/sɛ(n)	(tɛ(n))	'we all'
/řun/	(tun)	'name place'

Vowel clusters of two vowels may occur in all CVV or VVC syllables of the word.

/ɛim/	(eim)	'he/she'
/aim/	(a <sup>h</sup> im)	'his sister'
/řoi/	(to <sup>h</sup> i)	'light'
/kɛi/	(kei)	'bird'
/řui/	(tui)	'ax'
/kou/	(kou)	'you carry!'
/koip/	(ko <sup>h</sup> ip)	'a name'
/wɛipɛ/	(wɛipɛ)	'flying fox'



## 7. THE SYLLABLE

The syllable comprises a nucleus of one or two vowels which may be preceded or followed by a consonant. Each syllable nucleus is a unit of potential stress placement. Diverse vowel clusters /ai/, /ɛi/, /ɛʊ/, /oi/, /ou/, /ui/, and /ou/ comprise the complex nucleus of the syllable, having only one stress.

Mono- Syllable patterns are:

VV	/oi/	(oi)	'moon'
VVC	/ɛim/	(eim)	'him'
CVV	/mɛi/	(mei)	'ground'
CVVC	/koip/	(koip <sup>h</sup> )	'kind of tree'
CV	/ku/	(ku)	'stone'
CVC	/no <sub>+</sub> /	(no <sub>+</sub> )	'water'
VC	/am/	(am)	'milk'

Syllable patterns combine to make up two syllable words.

V.CV	/ɛ.ɫú/	(ɛɫú)	'kind of tree'
V.CVV	/ɛ.řɛi/	(ɛřɛi)	'you all make it!'
VC.CVC	/ɛs.k(ɫ)/	(ɛsk(ɫ))	'smoke'
VV.CVC	/ɛi.m(ɫ)/	(eim(ɫ))	'left-over food'
CV.CV	/kupú/	(kupú)	'cloud'
CV.CVC	/k(ɫ.řáp/	(k(ɫřáp <sup>h</sup> )	'kind of tree'
CVC.CV	/k(ɫ.s.pí/	(k(ɫspí)	'kind of bird'
CVV.CV	/wɛi.kí/	(weikí)	'greens'

Syllable patterns further combine to make up words of from 3 to 5 syllables.

VC.VC.CVC /and.ɛn.mín/ (andɛnmín) 'they are walking'

VC.CVC.CVC /ɛnd.nénj.p̄n/ (ɛndnénjp̄n) 'we didn't walk'

CVC.CVC.VC /tɛk.ná.n̄m/ (tɛknán̄m) 'he didn't build'

CVC.CVC.CV /p̄ur.nēn.mbá/ (p̄ur̄nēnmbá) 'it won't rot'

CV.CVC.CVC /no.nénj.p̄n/ (nonénjp̄n) 'we didn't eat'

CVC.VC.CVC /mo<sub>+</sub>.u<sub>+</sub>.mún/ (mo<sub>+</sub>u<sub>+</sub>mún) 'we are always staying'

CVC.VC.VC.CVC /p̄end.<sub>+</sub>ɛ.<sub>+</sub>ɛ.mín/ (p̄endɛɛmín) 'We are always putting'

CVC.CVC.VC.CVC /mo<sub>+</sub>.ná<sub>+</sub>.ɛ<sub>+</sub>.m̄n/ (mo<sub>+</sub>ná<sub>+</sub>ɛ<sub>+</sub>m̄n) 'we are not always staying'

CV.CV.VC.VC.CVC /kɛ.ná.<sub>+</sub>ɛ.<sub>+</sub>ɛ.m̄n/ (kɛná<sub>+</sub>ɛ<sub>+</sub>m̄n) 'We are not always seeing'

/p̄end.ná.<sub>+</sub>ɛ.<sub>+</sub>ɛ.m̄n/ (p̄endná<sub>+</sub>ɛ<sub>+</sub>m̄n) 'We are not always in the habit of putting'

## 8. THE PHONOLOGICAL WORD

The phonological word in Nii consists of one to five syllables with one primary stress ' (a composite of higher pitch and intensity) which is unpredictable except in the following cases.

In verbs, stress falls on the final syllable of words with two or more syllables. When the verb includes a negative affix a secondary stress ¯ occurs. When the final syllable is a future suffix the primary stress falls on it and the secondary stress falls on the negative affix; in all other

cases the primary stress falls on the negative affix and the secondary stress falls on the final syllable.

/noná <u>l</u> mīn/	(noná <u>l</u> mīn)	'we didn't eat'
/punēnmbí/	(punēnmbí)	'I will not go'
/niné <u>ndz</u> (p̄n)/	(niné <u>ndz</u> (p̄n))	'we didn't talk'
/piná <u>l</u> īm/	(piná <u>l</u> īm)	'he doesn't know'

## MONOSYLLABLES

/oi/	(ói)	'moon'
/ol/	(ól)	'mud'
/ei/	(éi)	'3rd person'
/el/	(él)	'tail of bird'

## TWO-SYLLABLES

/řómbu/	(tómbu)	'sweet potato'
/ndambí/	(ndambí)	'green's'
/éndl/	(éndl)	'one'
/endé/	(endé)	'the same'
/múini/	(múini)	'lizzard'
/tířa/	(tířa)	'banana'
/kí <u>l</u> ip/	(kí <u>l</u> ip <sup>h</sup> )	'duck'

## THREE SYLLABLES

/adɪnīm/	(andɪnīm) 'walk'
/koŋunūm/	(koŋunūm) 'bite'
/nonɛ́nɛ́ɪ̄/	(nonɛ́nɛ́ɪ̄) 'you dl. didn't eat'
/řakɪnīm/	(takɪnīm) 'he is building'
/kɛɪ̄ánīm/	(kɛɪ̄ánīm) 'he didn't cook'
/řuɪ̄ánīm/	(tuɪ̄ánīm) 'he didn't sew mat'
/kuɪ̄ánīm/	(kuɪ̄ánīm) 'he didn't die'

## 9. INTONATION

When making a statement, a falling intonation pattern occurs over the later part of the statement.

During a narration or statement followed by a time indicator a sharp rise is noted. The following patterns have been observed, but later on a paper on intonation may be written.

na    ɲi    koni'    pundR̃.

"I    house    place    I am going.

kunɪ    nop    pendɪp    pe    na    ɲi    koni'    bi.

"Food I eating putting now    I house place I will go."

## 10. ORTHOGRAPHY

## 10.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Phoneme	Previous Orthog.	Proposed Orthography
/i/	ii	ii
/ɨ/	i	i
/ɛ/	e	e
/u/	u	u
/o/	o	o
/a/	a	a
/p/	p	p
/mb/	b	b- -mb- -mb
/ř/	r	t- -r- -r
/nd/	d	d- -nd- -nd
/k/	k	k
/ŋg/	g	g
/s/	s	s
/ndz/	j	j- -nj- -nj
/m/	m	m
/n/	ny	<u>n</u>
/n/	n	n
/ŋ/	ng	ng
/ɬ/	l	l
/ɬ/	ll	ɬ
/ɭ/	rr	ɭt
/w/	w	w
/y/	y	y
/ˈ/ (stress)	... is unmarked	... is unmarked

## 10.2 MORPHOPHONEMICS

Class II verbs are those whose stem final consonant is a lateral. There are two basic stems for Class II verbs (1)  $\langle CV\check{I} \rangle$  occurs with present tense (singular dual indic. and interrog. and plural affixation) and with distant past tense (singular only) indic. and interr. affixation. (2)  $\langle CV\underline{I} \rangle$  occurs with all other persons, tenses and moods.

Each of these basic stems has allomorphs that are phonologically defined (1) where  $CV\check{I}$  is followed by a nasal as in all negatives  $/\check{i}/ \rightarrow / \underline{i}/$   
 (2) where  $CV\underline{I}$  is followed by any consonant  $/\underline{i}/ \rightarrow / \underline{i}/$

Even when the nasal of the negative suffix is omitted in fast speech the stem final dental lateral is retained. An alternate analysis would be to set up 3 stems the above 2 for verbs in the positive  $\langle CV\underline{I} \rangle$  as the negative stem.

Change of tense is marked by stem vowel change as well as by suffixation.

present/N.Pst. stem vowel  $o \rightarrow u$  with all other tenses

" " " "  $a \rightarrow e$  " " "

Positive stem vowel  $a \rightarrow i$  in negative  
 in all tenses

Medial Same Subject stem vowel  $/a/$  remains  $/a/$   
 in the positive.

Examples:

/kaľř/'Icook', /ke<sub>+</sub>ľmbí/'I will cook', /ki<sub>+</sub>ľnánd/'I do not  
cook'  
/koľř/'I die', /ku<sub>+</sub>ľumbí/'I will die', /ku<sub>+</sub>ľnēmbi/'I will  
not die'

### 10.3. LIST OF PIDGIN WORDS

English	Pidgin
go	ingo
come	ikum
stop	i <u>stap</u> <sup>h</sup>
today	nau
yesterday	as <u>dei</u>
tomorrow	tum <u>řa</u>
man	man
woman	m <u>ě</u> ři
boy	manki
girl	p(ik)in(ɪ) m <u>ě</u> ři
baby	p(ik)in(ɪ)
red	ř <u>e</u> t <sup>h</sup>
black	mb <u>u</u> ľ <u>ek</u> <sup>h</sup>
ground	ng <u>ř</u> aun
sky	skai
cloud	kl <u>u</u> t <sup>h</sup>
sun	<u>s</u> un
water	wa <u>ř</u> a
food	kai kai
tree	diwai

wood	paiya wu <sup>h</sup>
grass	kunai
house	aus
dog	ndɔk
pig	pik <sup>h</sup>
tree kangaroo	kapu <sub>+</sub>
later	mbiain
one	wʌn pɛ <sub>+</sub> la
two	tu pɛ <sub>+</sub> la
three	tʁi pɛ <sub>+</sub> la
four	pɔ pɛ <sub>+</sub> la
five	paip <sup>h</sup> pɛ <sub>+</sub> la
seven	sɛpɛn pɛ <sub>+</sub> la
ten	tɛn pɛ <sub>+</sub> la
tracter	ndʌʁɔk <sup>h</sup>
flower	p <sub>+</sub> lauwa
plane	mba <sub>+</sub> lus



## 10.4. SAMPLE TEXT

Phonetic Script - pɛ mbálus é+ toní wamp<sup>h</sup> tuřúm.

Orthography - pe balus é+ tonú wamp turúm

Morphemes - now airplane it on top came brought me.

English Trans. - I got inside the airplane and it brought me.

Phonetic Script - tu waŋ koní tuřúm. koní taŋ na n+piř.

Orthography - tu wang konú turúm. konú tang na n+piir.

Morphemes - We came rain brought me. rain hitting I thought.

English Trans. We came and it rained. I thought the rain was coming.

Phonetic Script - mbálus mbok<sup>h</sup> tumbá ením n+piR. mbok<sup>h</sup>

Orthography - bálus bok tumbá ením n+piir. bok

Morphemes - airplane fall it will make it I think fall

English Trans.-I thought the airplane would fall down.

Phonetic Script - tunéřím. na ka piř. pɛ o pu+ ya

Orthography - tuneririm. na ka piir. pe o pu+ ya  
I good think. Now coming

Morphemes - But it didn't fall. we 2 here

English Trans.- It didn't fall down. I think this is good. Now we came here.

Phonetic Script- mbálus pení maní o pu+. wambí+ kař

Orthography - bálus pení maní o pu+. wambí+ kar

Morphemes - airplane place down we 2 coming. Coming kar

English Trans -to the air strip and came down. We 2 coming

Phonetic Script - endí o pirím.

Orthography - endí o pirím.

Morphemes - one coming it stayed.

English Trans.- one car was there.

Phonetic Script - o pen na kōn tu mení<sup>h</sup> kaR̃ eɬ

Orthography - o peng na kon si mengí<sup>h</sup> kar eɬ

Morphemes - it stayed my travel bag I carrying my bag

English Trans. - The car was here and I carried by bag.

Phonetic Script - toní tu wuR̃. tu wamp<sup>h</sup> ya o pun.

Orthography - tonú tu wur. tu wamb ya o pun.

Morphemes - on top I bringing I bringing here we came.  
coming. coming

English Trans. - and we came on top. I brought my bag and  
we came here.

Phonetic Script - ya op<sup>h</sup> keníR̃ n̩ n̩m mułún .

Orthography - ya op kenír̃ n̩ n̩m multún.

Morphemes - here I coming I saw here you stayed.

English Trans.- I came and I saw you were here.