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TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

Phonemes and Orthography of Komba.

Neville and Gwyneth Southwell.
Summer Institute of Linguistics.
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Introduction.

2.

This paper is a statement of the Phonemes and Orthography of the Komba language. This language belongs to the Western Huon Peninsula family and is spoken by approximately 10,000 people in 35 villages in the Kabwum Sub-district, Papua New Guinea.

The data used for this paper was collected in the village of Ruin (Koge) over a period of five years.

3.1.

CHART OF PHONEMES.

	Bilabial.	Alveolar.	Velar.	Labialised Velar.
vl.	p	t	k	kw
Stops.				
vd.	b	d	g	gw
vl.		s		
Fricatives.				
vd.		z		
Nasals.	m	n	ŋ	
Lateral flap.		l		
Semi Vowels.	w	y		
Vowels.				

	Front.	Central.	Back.
High.	i		u
Mid	e	ə	o
Low		a	

Note.

e Phoneme /ɛ/ is written as e throughout this paper for typing ease.

â Phoneme /ʌ/ is written as â throughout this paper for typing ease.

3.2. DESCRIPTION OF CONTRASTIVE FEATURES.

Consonants.

There is contrast as to manner of articulation between voiced and voiceless stops, voiced and voiceless fricatives, nasals, a lateral flap and semi-vowels.

The stops contrast as to bilabial, alveolar, velar and labialized velar points of articulation.

The nasals contrast as to bilabial, alveolar and velar points of articulation.

The semi-vowels contrast as to bilabial and alveolar points of articulation.

Vowels.

Vowels contrast vertically as to high, mid and low tongue positions. The high vowels contrast as to front and back tongue position, and the mid vowels contrast as to front, central and back tongue positions.

4.1. STATUS OF ITEMS WHICH MAY BE EITHER SEQUENCE OR UNIT.

When a nasal is followed by a stop e.g. mb, nd, ng, these are interpreted as two single phonemes.

Reasons for this.

- a. Occurs only across syllable boundaries.
- b. Nasals followed by stops of a different point of articulation also occur across syllable boundaries.

e.g. nd, ng, mg, md.

/bâbâlânđâ/ (bʌbʌlʌnđʌ) not heavy

/gilâmgâ/ (gilʌmഗâ) your blood

/mâđumđâ/ (mʌđumđâ) completed

- c. Reduces the number of consonants by three.

4.2. VOCOID LENGTH.

Double length vocoids contrast with single length vocoids in all positions. All vocoids occur with double length and have been interpreted as two identical vowels being written as VV. By this means the number of vowels is kept at 6 rather than 12.

The single vowel is comprised of one mora and the double vowel 2 moras of time. When two vowels of corresponding point of articulation occur in word initial position. The series may be either voiceless vowel plus voiced vowel, or two voiced vowels, these two series being contrastive.

Contrasts.

/i/ and /ii/

/bitŋâ/	(bitŋʌ)	his hand
/biitŋâ/	(biitŋʌ)	his sister's child
/isak/	(isʌk)	old vegetables
/iisâk/	(iisʌk)	sugar cane pith

Other occurrences.

/aibii/	(aibii)	they will go
---------	---------	--------------

/e/ and /ee/

/ket/	(khet)	taro beetle
/keetŋâ/	(Kheetŋʌ)	egg
/bet/	(bet)	hand
/beet beet/	(beet beet)	bird type

Other occurrences.

/Eelag/	(Eelag)	shelf
/keetŋâ/	(keetŋʌ)	egg

/a/ and /aa/

/bâu gam taap/ (bâu gam taap)

/bâu gaam taap/ (bâu gaam taap)

a pig has come

he is cutting the pig

Other occurrences.

/to aam gaap/ (tho amm gaap)

/daangâ/ (daangâ)

/kaapum/ (kaapum)

she is bringing water

his tail

breath

/ø/ and /œ/

/oolangsap/ (oolangsap)

/øolinqâ/ (øolinqâ)

/goknâ/ (goknâ)

/gootnâ/ (gootnâ)

he undid it

his appearance

from

plant shoot

Other occurrences.

/tøngoot/ (thøngoot)

/doongubat/ (doongubat)

wet

I will shut it

/u/ and /uu/

/kutnâ/ (khutnâ)

/kuut/ (kuut)

his name

large pit pit

Other occurrences.

/tuu/ (thuu)

/tuubabot/ (thuubabot)

do it

you two will do it

Voiceless and Voiced.

/Aamguwe/ (Aamguwe)

they encircled it.

/aamguwe/ (aamguwe)

they did womens work.

/øelinqâ/ (øelinqâ)

his appearance

/oolanip/ (oolanip)

he untied it.

4.3.

Suspect vv clusters fall into two groups.

a. Where the vocoid cluster occurring must be interpreted as two vowels, each comprising a syllable nucleus. Clusters of this group occur when a high vocoid (i or u) precedes a mid or low vocoid. When this occurs there are two separate syllables.

e.g.

/nian/	(nian)	I eat
/niet/	(niet)	we 2 eat
/âibion/	(^ibion)	you all may go
/muriabot/	(muriabot)	you 2 are breaking it
/kâduik/	(khâduik)	he must seek

b. Where the vocoid cluster occurring must be interpreted as vv comprising one syllable nucleus. Clusters of this group occur whenever a high vocoid (i or u) follows a mid or low vocoid. Whenever this occurs it is one syllable.

e.g.

/mâi mây/	(mâi mây)	comb
/âim/	(âim)	go
/kâukgâ/	(khâukgâ)	my head
/âum/	(âum)	pandanus

Whenever 2 high vocoids are contiguous each is a syllable nucleus.

e.g.

/gâsuin/	(gâsuin)	you held
/sâmbuip/	(sâmbuip)	he picked it

4.4. STATUS OF ITEMS WHICH MAY BE CONSONANT OR VOWEL.

The vocoids i and u and semi-vocoids y and w have been interpreted as vowels when in any syllable nuclear position and as semi-vowels when in non nuclear position.

Nuclear positions.

/ni/	(ni)	bird
/dit/	(dit)	grub
/ibâgâ/	(ibâgâ)	his father
/ŋâi/	(ŋâi)	who
/gâip/	(gâip)	he came
/tâik/	(thâik)	it must stay
/um/	(um)	pit pit
/mulum/	(mulum)	snake
/mulun/	(mulun)	slowly
/wâu/	(wâu)	dog
/kâuŋâ/	(kâuŋâ)	white
/kâukŋâ/	(kâukŋâ)	his head

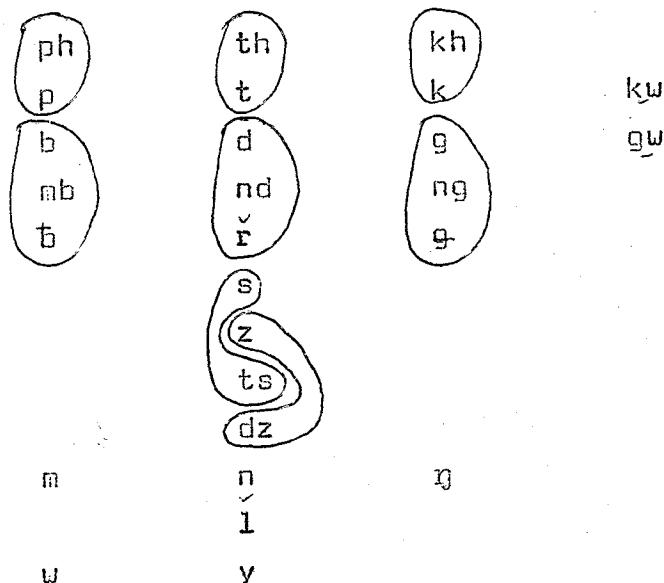
Non nuclear positions.

/yeiagâ/	(yeiagâ)	his mother's brother
/yen/	(yen)	nothing
/yangâ/	(yangâ)	left hand
/muyagiap/	(muyagiap)	he appeared
/wenza/	(wenza)	the coast
/waatpap/	(waatpap)	he will blow it
/aiwan/	(aiwan)	I went
/gawet/	(gawet)	we 2 came

5.

DESCRIPTION OF PHONEMES.

5.1. Work Chart.



All consonants are produced with egressive lung air.

5.1.2.

Voiceless Stops.

Voiceless stops occur at bilabial, alveolar and velar points of articulation. Word initially the voiceless stops are aspirated.

/p/		
/ponâŋâ/	(phonŋʌ)	his elder sister
/kopa/	(khopa)	retarded faculties
/kwap/	(kwap)	it hit
/t/		
/toden/	(thořen)	end
/pateŋ/	(phateŋ)	cold
/paset/	(phaset)	fence
/k/		
/kungâ/	(khungʌ)	first child
/kâukŋâ/	(khukŋʌ)	his head
/pâkeŋâ/	(phakeŋʌ)	covering
/gâik/	(gʌik)	he must come

Voiceless Stops

Voiceless bilabial, alveolar and velar stops occur word initially and medial contiguous to a nasal. Voiceless stops fluctuate word initially in a limited number of words with pre-nasalised voiceless stops produced at corresponding points of articulation.

Voiceless bilabial and velar fricatives and alveolar flap occur inter vocally.

/b/

/bâligâ/	(bʌliŋʌ)	bad
/be/	(be) (mbe)	taro
/bedəm/	(bə̄dəm)	sea breeze
/bemu/	(bemu) (mbemu)	sweet potato
/ibângâ/	(iB̄ŋgʌ)	his father
/âiboot/	(Aiboot)	you may go
/imbaŋâ/	(imbaŋʌ)	much
/kâmbam/	(khʌmbam)	stick

/d/

/danggon/	(danggon)	garden border mark
/den/	(den)	talk, message
/dit/	(dit) (ndit)	ground grub
/danggât/	(dânggât) (ndanggât)	ginger plant
/dinâ/	(dinʌ)	it's sound
/badâ/	(bařʌ)	mountains, bush
/zidâ/	(ziřʌ)	here
/pindok/	(phindok)	hat
/bâbâlaŋdâ/	(bʌbʌlaŋdʌ)	not heavy

/g/

/gâtâm/	(gʌtʌm)	later
/gelap/	(gelap)	hollow shrub
/gedâ/	(geřʌ) (ngeřʌ)	hollow pit pit type
/gupmân/	(gupmʌŋ) (ngupmʌŋ)	red hardwood tree

/g/ contd.

/zagât/	(zag ^{kt})	two
/mogatsap/	(mogatsap)	he vomited
/binggongon/	(binggongon)	Jesus harp
/mungâ/	(mung ^ŋ)	your young brother

Fricatives.

Voiced and voiceless alveolar fricatives fluctuate with voiced and voiceless affricates respectively in word initial position in a limited number of words. The fricatives occur medially with out fluctuation.

/s/

/sumbem/	(sumbem)	sky
/sadu/	(sar ^u)	sea
/sugaap/	(sugaap) (tsugaap)	he pierced it
/soomat/	(soomat) (tsoomat)	frog
/bisâ/	(bis ^ŋ)	brother in law
/oolangsap/	(oolangsap)	he undid it
/asagiap/	(asagiap)	he appeared

/z/

/zaasap/	(zaasap)	he arose
/zagât/	(zag ^{kt})	two
/zuu/	(zuu) (dzuu)	bush animal
/zângguan/	(zângguan) ~ (dzângguan)	I hit them
/bâzagât/	(bâzag ^{kt})	ten
/kinzap/	(kinzap)	he stood up
/bukuzatŋâ/	(bukuzatŋ ^ŋ)	his 2 friends
/wenzâ/	(wenzâ)	the coast

Labialised Velar Stops.

/ku/ (ku)

Voiceless labialised velar stop occurs word initially and medially.

/kuən/	(kuən)	I hit
/kuənu/	(kuənu)	house breaker
/sūlāp kuan/	(sūlāp kuan)	I read, counted
/dukucip/	(dukucip)	he told him
/gu/ (gu)		

Voiced labialised velar stop occurs word initially and medially.

/guən/	(guən)	edible pit pit
/guəlā/	(guəlā)	rest, raw
/kułemguan/	(kułemguan)	I wrote, marked.
/dázğguan/	(dázğguan)	I told them.

Nasals.

/m/ (m)

Voiced bi-labial nasal occurs word initial, medial and final.

/məməŋ/	(məməŋ)	his mother
/sumun/	(sumun)	dark
/mədum/	(mədum)	completed
/n/ (n)		

Voiced alveolar nasal occurs word initial, medial and final.

/nimbep/	(nimbep)	he will eat
/ńinę/	(ńinę)	we must go
/nulun/	(nulun)	snow
/ń/ (ń)		

Voiced velar nasal occurs word initial, medial and final.

/ńai/	(ńai)	who
/pńkerń/	(pńkerń)	covering
/ńmęg/	(ńmęg)	clay pot

Lateral flap.

/l/ (l)

Voiced alveolar lateral flap occurs word initial and medial.

/lāmun/	(lāmun)	conch shell
/lāugñ/	(lāugñ)	his mouth
/gola/	(gola)	white skin
/ulubet/	(ulubet)	bamboo flute

Semi Vowels.

/u/ (u)

Voiced bi-labial semi-vowel occurs word initial and medial.

/uadu/	(uažu)	pumpkin
/uote/	(uote)	edible greens
/ñiuon/	(ñiuon)	we went
/egåuan/	(egåuan)	I saw it.

/y/ (y)

Voiced alveolar semi-vowel occurs word initial and medial.

/yen/	(yen)	nothing
/yeigen/	(yeigen)	outside
/yatā/	(yatā)	like that
/muyagisap/	(muyagisap)	he appeared

5.1.3. CONTRASTS OF CONSONANTS.

/p/ and /b/

/patə/	(phatʌ)	big
/batɪ/	(bati)	enough
/nepən̩/	(nepən̩)	my mother's sister's child
/nebən̩/	(nebən̩)	at work
/ponən̩/	(phonən̩)	my sister
/bongâ/	(bongʌ)	fruit
/pot/	(phot)	loin cloth
/bet/	(bet)	last in line
/sâputn̩/	(səputn̩)	mu lips
/pebutn̩/	(phebutn̩)	my knee

/t/ and /d/

/topŋa/	(thopŋʌ)	butt
/dopŋaŋ/	(dopŋaŋ)	sufficient
/timbâ/	(thimbʌ)	bou
/dimbagom/	(dimbagom)	sugar type
/ita/	(itʌ)	like this
/idâ/	(irʌ)	string bag
/pata/	(phatʌ)	big
/padə/	(phažʌ)	horizontal
/ətəŋp/	(ʌtəŋp)	his eldest brother sis.
/ədəŋjâ/	(ʌdəŋjʌ)	his bottom

/k/ and /g/

<i>/keda/</i>	(khērā)	cabbage
<i>/gedâ/</i>	(geřā)	helloc pit pit
<i>/kengât/</i>	(khengât)	fear
<i>/gen/</i>	(gen)	pau pau
<i>/kâun/</i>	(khâung)	bamboo type
<i>/gâun, lâun/</i>	(gâung/lâung)	house gables
<i>/kombâ/</i>	(khombâ)	flyng fox
<i>/gem/</i>	(gem)	geko lizard
<i>/kêu/</i>	(khâu)	ashes, grey
<i>/gâu, gäu/</i>	(gâu, gäu)	spider
<i>/mukan/</i>	(mukan)	yesterday / tomorrow
<i>/bugam/</i>	(busam)	yam type

/ku/ and /gu/

<i>/kuap</i>	(kuap)	he hit
<i>/guap, guap/</i>	(guap, guap)	scraps
<i>/kuenu/</i>	(kuenu)	house bearer
<i>/guendu/</i>	(guendu)	verandah
<i>/kuade/</i>	(kuâde)	scrobery
<i>/guadon/</i>	(guâdən)	name of spring
<i>/kuan/</i>	(kuan)	I hit
<i>/guani/</i>	(guani)	edible pit pit
<i>/kuolap/</i>	(kuołap)	he bought
<i>/guolâ/</i>	(guołâ)	rest, raw

/gu/ and /g/

/guama/	(guama)	Guama river
/gâmap/	(gâmap)	he comes - hab
/guani/	(guani)	edible pit pit
/gaan/	(gaan)	I have come
/guader/	(guâder)	name of spring
/gâdat/	(gâdat)	later we 2 will come
/guela/	(guelâ)	he rests
/gola/	(golâ)	white
/guilimbit/	(guilimbit)	ant
/gilâm/	(gilâm)	blood

/k/ and /ku/

/kela/	(khela)	hock
/kuela/	(kuelâ)	cassowary
/keetgâ/	(kheetgâ)	egg
/kueta/	(kueta)	leech
/kelâkijâ/	(keliñkjñ)	it's fat
/kuclon/	(kuclon)	food
/keggât/	(khengât)	fear
/kuenu/	(kuenu)	house bearer
/kâmut/	(khâmut)	much
/kuamitgâ/	(kuamitgâ)	it's sound

/b/ and /v/

/âibân/	(âibân)	you will go
/âiuân/	(âiuân)	I went
/badâ/	(bařâ)	bush
/uadu/	(uařu)	pumpkin
/gâban/	(gâban)	you will come
/gâuan/	(gâuan)	I came
/badâm/	(bařâm)	tree type
/uadân/	(uařân)	village name
/bâu/	(bâu)	pig
/uâu/	(uâu)	dog

/d/ and /l/

/badâm/	(bařâm)	tree type
/balam/	(baļam)	flame
/âdâŋâ/	(âřâŋâ)	his bottom
/âlaŋâ/	(âlaŋâ)	his grandmother
/dâuŋaaŋ/	(dâuŋaaŋ)	when
/lâuŋâ/	(lâuŋâ)	his mouth
/dâmân/	(dâmân)	fence - pit pit
/lâmun/	(lâmun)	conch shell
/daazâ/	(daazâ)	his tail
/laŋ/	(laŋ)	nevertheless

/t/ and /č/

/bati/	(bati)	enough
/Báliap/	(báliap)	it is ruined
/topgá/	(thopgá)	butt
/loop/	(loop)	digging stick
/kueta/	(kueta)	leech
/kwela/	(kwela)	cassowary
/tuum/	(thuum)	to do - med
/lum/	(lum)	to carry - med
/tandá/	(thandá)	post
/lag/	(lag)	nevertheless

/s/ and /z/

/siap/	(siap)	it is cooked
/ziap/	(ziap)	he reclines
/sidik/	(sírik)	clear
/zidik/	(zírik)	this particular one
/sidá/	(sírá)	garden mound
/zidá/	(ziďá)	here
/sákŋá/	(sákŋá)	his skin
/zákŋá/	(zákŋá)	he - nom. pronoun
/si/	(si)	salt
/zi/	(zi)	here
/âsagiap/	(âsagiap)	he appeared
/ibâzatgá/	(ibâzatgá)	his two fathers

/z/ and /y/

/zen/	(zen)	they
/yen/	(yen)	for nothing
/zaŋgon/	(zaŋgon)	wallaby arrow
/yanggon/	(yanggon)	moss
/zuu/	(zuu)	tree kangaroo
/yupu/	(yupu)	tree tomato
/zeke/	(zeke)	shelf
/yakop/	(yakop)	marrow
/zâŋguan/	(zâŋguan)	I hit them
/yanggon/	(yanggon)	moss
/bukuzatŋâ/	(bukuzatŋâ)	his 2 cousins (parallel)
/muyagiap/	(muyagiap)	he appeared

/m/ and /n/

/mamŋâ/	(mamŋâ)	his mother
/namŋâ/	(namŋâ)	her milk
/mimbap/	(mimbap)	he will get
/nimbap/	(nimbap)	he will eat
/aibam/	(aibam)	ready to go
/aiban/	(aiban)	you will go
/sunumŋâ/	(sunumŋâ)	his meat
/sumun/	(sumun)	dark
/nimbam/	(nimbam)	ready to eat
/nimban/	(nimban)	you will eat

/n/ and /ŋ/

/namnâ/	(namnʌ)	my mother
/mamŋâ/	(mamŋʌ)	his mother
/nâi/	(nʌi)	bush spirit
/ŋâi/	(ŋʌi)	who
/tan/	(than)	walking stick
/tân tân/	(thʌŋ thʌŋ)	straight
/dâmân/	(dʌmʌn)	woven pit pit fence
/âmæŋ/	(ʌmæŋ)	clay pot
/nâ/	(nʌ)	I
/ŋâtik/	(ŋʌtik)	night

/s/ and /t/

/icâk/	(ieʌk)	old vegetables
/itâ/	(itʌ)	like this
/sâkŋâ/	(sʌkŋʌ)	his skin
/tâk/	(thʌk)	vine
/sida/	(siɛ̄ʌ)	vegetable mound
/tidek/	(thiɛ̄ek)	stile
/katek/	(khatok)	vegetable mound
/kaesonâ/	(khasomʌ)	my grand child
/toonâ/	(thoɔŋʌ)	its' water - juice
/soonâ/	(soɔŋʌ)	his thigh

/z/ and /d/

<i>/zagon/</i>	(zagɔn)	wallaby arrow
<i>/dæggen/</i>	(dægən)	garden border mark
<i>/zuu/</i>	(zuu)	bush animal
<i>/dum/</i>	(dum)	again
<i>/zin̪a/</i>	(zin̪a)	they - nom. pronoun
<i>/din̪a/</i>	(din̪a)	its' sound
<i>/ibâzat̪gâ/</i>	(ibazat̪gâ)	his 2 fathers
<i>/ibâdapnâ/</i>	(ibapnâ)	all his fathers
<i>/bukuzatnâ/</i>	(bukuzatnâ)	my 2 cousins
<i>/bukudapnâ/</i>	(bukudapnâ)	all my cousins

5.2. VOWELS.**5.2.1. Work Chart.**

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e		o
Low		a	

All vowels are produced with egressive lung air. Each vowel has a voiceless counterpart which occurs in word initial positions followed by its corresponding voiced vowel. The voiceless vowels are written as h.

5.2.2.

All voiced vowels occur in word initial, medial and final positions.

/i/ (i)

High close front unrounded vowel.

<i>/idak/</i>	(iřak)	today
<i>/dit/</i>	(dit)	small grub
<i>/ängi/</i>	(ängi)	door

/e/ (ə) Mid open front unrounded vowel.

/əmə/ (əmə) edible pit pit

/dən/ (dən) sound, noise

/kənə/ (khənə) left

/ə/ (ʌ) Mid open central unrounded vowel.

(ə) Mid open central rounded vowel.

There is free non contrastive fluctuation between
(ʌ) and (ə)

/əm/ (ʌm) (ʌm) sugar cane

/aatpə/ (aatpʌ) (aatpə) I must scratch

/kətik/ (khətik) (khətik) strong

/ə/ (ə) Low open central unrounded vowel.

/a/ (ə) man

/aka/ (aka) pig arrow

/batum/ (batum) sweet potato - gen.

/u/ (u) High closed back rounded vowel.

/upu/ (upu) tree tomato

/uduukŋā/ (uɖukŋʌ) warm

/kembu/ (khembu) important man

/ɔ/ (ə) Mid closed back rounded vowel.

/obak/ (əbək) perspiration

/ombəŋ/ (əmbəŋ) plank

/ko/ (kho) hit - imperative

5.2.5. CONTRASTS.

Vowels.

/i/ and /e/

/ni/	(ni)	bird
/ne/	(ne)	cat
/sim/	(sim)	cliff
/sem/	(sem)	cane
/ika/	(ikʌ)	where
/ok/	(ok)	look
/giləm/	(gilʌm)	blood
/gelep/	(gelep)	shrub type
/kip/	(kip)	weeping bamboo
/kəp/	(kəp)	dance

/e/ and /ə/

/sem/	(sem)	cane
/səm təap/	(səm təap)	he is speaking
/əm/	(əm)	edible plant
/ək/	(ək)	sugar cane
/əke/	(əke)	look
/təp/	(təp)	get out of the way
/təp kuap/	(təp kuap)	waste
/kəŋə/	(kəŋə)	he spat
/soŋʌ/	(soŋʌ)	village name his thigh

/ə/ and /ə/

/yembə/	(yambʌ)	whiskers
/yemba/	(yemba)	mountain name
/kəmbə/	(khəmbʌ)	bat
/komba/	(khombʌ)	name of people
/sət/	(sat̪)	teeth
/sat/	(sat̪)	Sarawaged mountains
/səp/	(sap̪)	fly
/sap/	(sap̪)	he said
/ʌm/	(ʌm̪)	sugar cane
/ambo/	(ambɔ)	wall stud

/ə/ and /ə/

/sətŋə/	(satŋʌ)	his teeth
/sət/	(sat̪)	and
/kəpiap/	(khəpiap̪)	he covered and tied
/kəp gaap/	(khəp̪ gaap̪)	he came up
/nətəp/	(nətəp̪)	path
/motŋəi/	(motŋai)	I think
/kəmbukŋə/	(khəmbukŋʌ)	forbidden
/kəmbə/	(khəmbʌ)	bat
/tək/	(thʌk)	vine
/ketek/	(khetek̪)	garden mound
/ədəŋə/	(ʌdəŋʌ)	his bottom
/ədət məmə/	(ədət məmə)	customs

/ə/ and /u/

/əmbə/	(əm'bʌ)	old
/əməp/	(əməp)	he pierces it
/kəmbə/	(kəm'bʌ)	bat
/kumbə/	(kumbʌ)	I must hit
/əm.nimbə/	(əm nim'bʌ)	I must cook and eat it
/umnə/	(um'nʌ)	my insides - feeling
/əmbəŋ/	(əm'bəŋ)	plank
/umbug/	(umbug)	green beetle
/zə/	(zə)	that there
/zu/	(zu)	bush animal

5.3. SUPER-S SEGMENTAL ITEMS.

Stress:

Stress is predictable. The primary stress occurs on word initial syllables and secondary stress on following alternate syllables. The final secondary stress in three, five and seven syllable words is optional. Words of from one to seven syllables have been found.

E.g. /əl.ənək/ Two syllable words. "— —

/"gə.nək/	("gə.nək)	all come
/"bi.təp/	("bi.təp)	corbuncle; boil
/"gə.təm/	("gə.təm)	litter

Three syllable words. "— — —" '— —'

/"ke.uet.'ŋə/	("kə.uet.'ŋə)	his father in law
/"mi.đə.'ŋən/	("mə.đə.'ŋən)	at his house
/"ni.i.si.'ap/	("nii.si.'ap)	it burned me

Four syllabic words. "— — — —" '— — — —'

/"kəm.bi.'am.ŋə/	("kəm.bi.'am.ŋə)	his liver
/"ə.sa.'gi.baap/	("ə.sa.'gi.baap)	he will appear
/"bə.si.'gi.ap/	("bə.si.'gi.ap)	it is ripe

Five syllable words.

/"u.lu'lun.sei.'kə/ ("u.lu.'lun.sei.'kə) when it is ripe

/"ə.bān.'di.bā.'man/ ("ə.bān.'di.bā.'man) I am going for a walk

/"mū.ya.'gi.ba.'bet/ ("mū.ya.'gi.ba.'bet) they 2 will appear

Six syllable words.

/"mō.li.'zing.gā.'ba.bet/ ("mō.li.'zing.gā.'ba.bet)

They two will pursue them.

/"i.bā.'zat.zing.'an.gāt/ ("i.bā.'zat.zing.'an.gāt)

For their two fathers.

Seven syllable words.

/"sāk.u.'rāp.niŋ.'ag.gā.'ren/ ("sāk.u.'rāp.niŋ.'ag.gā.'ren)

To our ancestors.

Intonation.

The phonological phrase boundaries are determined by pause.

The phonological phrase may consist of from one to fifteen phonological words. In phrases of more than 5 words the rhythm is very rapid. Contrastive phonological phrases are determined by contrastive intonation patterns.

Question and Statement type phrases are contrastive.

Question Phrase.

The question phrase has a stressed low pitch nucleus followed by rising pitch to the end of the phrase. There may be from one to 5 syllables of prenuclear level pitch.

e.g.

/ñlip nāŋgaat/	(ñlip nāŋgaat)	do you understand well?
/gā wanīŋ gābāgaat/	(gā wanīŋ gābāgaat)	where have you come from
/zi' gābap/	(zi' gābap)	will he come here?
/wanjā' goeasp/	(wanjā' goeasp)	what hit you?

Statement Phrase.

The statement phrase has a stressed high pitch nucleus followed by falling pitch and a slight fade in intensity. Where the end of the phonological phrase coincides with the end of the phonological sentence, the postnuclear contour drops markedly both in pitch and intensity tending to fade to voicelessness at the end. There may be from one to 10 syllables of prenuclear level pitch. Then the postnuclear contour consists of a single syllable the pitch drops sharply to low on that syllable. When there is repetition of a word preceding the nucleus the repeated word nuclei may have the same or nearly the same intensity as the phrase nucleus.

e.g.

/upat khon̄ggam ko sâip/ (upat khon̄ggam k̄o sâip)
when he planted t e bush he said.

/akon niigi ko/

(akon niieḡ k̄o)

I disliked then.

/singi dâsoiga nûngânaan/

(singi dâsoiga nûngânaan)

Near the story I am going to tell you.

/mûtâp lapit nii manâ manâ panetâ/ (mûtâp lapit nii manâ manâ phnestâ
along the road they beat and beat me and put me.

/gâm ko/

(gâm k̄o)

They came them.

6. DISTRIBUTION.

6.1. General.

6.1.1. Syllable Description

The syllable consists of a nucleus of a single vowel or complex nucleus composed of two identical vowels or a centre or low vowel followed by a high vowel.

The nucleus may be preceded by a single consonant as onset and/or followed by another consonant as offset.

6.1.2. Syllable Types.

The following syllable types occur.

v

/ə/	(ə)	man, male
/e/	(e)	yes

CV

/zi/	(zi)	this here
/ni/	(ni)	bird

CVC

/sʌp/	(sʌp)	fly
/kəp/	(kəp)	dance

VG

/ek/	(ek)	lock
/ʌm/	(ʌm)	sugar cane

CVV

/bəu/	(bəu)	pig
/gəi/	(gəi)	go down
/məi məi/	(məi məi)	comb

CVVC

/kəuk/	(kəuk)	head
/gaep/	(gaep)	he came
/gəip/	(gəip)	he came yesterday

vv

/ʌi/

(ʌi)

go

/əu/

(əu)

yes, you called me

vvc

/aam/

(aam)

to do women's work

/aatpʌ/

(aatpʌ)

I must scratch

6.2. Specific.

6.2.1. Syllable occurrences within words.

All syllable types except vv and vvc have been found to occur in word initial, medial and final positions, in multi syllable words. Each syllable type can stand on its own forming a word. vv syllables have not been found in final position in multi syllable words. vvc syllables have not been found in medial position in multi syllable words.

Individual word.	Word initial.	Word medial.	Word final.	
v	x	x	x	x
cv	x	x	x	x
cvc	x	x	x	x
vc	x	x	x	x
cvv	x	x	x	x
cvvc	x	x	x	x
vv	x	x	x	x
vvc	x	x		x

6.2.2. Phoneme occurrences within syllables.

Phonemes are divided into classes on the basis of their occurrences in syllable types.

c1 All consonant phonemes.

c2 All voiceless stops.

v1 All vowel phonemes.

v2 Vowel phonemes a, ʌ, e, ɔ.

v3 Vowel phonemes a, e, i, u

v4 Vowel phonemes a, e, i, o, u

These phonemes classes occur in the different syllable types as charted below.

Syllable types.	Phoneme classes.
v syllable	v1
cv syllables	c1v1
cvc syllables	c1v1c2
vc syllables	v1c2
cvv syllables	c1v2v3
cvvc syllables	c1v1v4c2
vv syllables	v4v5
vvc syllables	v2v3c2

6.2.3. Restrictions of occurrence in complex nuclei.

The vowel combinations which have been found in syllables with a complex nucleus have been charted below. The initial vowel is on the left of the chart.

i	e	a	â	o	u
x					
x	x				x
		x			
x			x		x
x				x	
					x

6.2.4. Consonant clusters.

Consonant clusters do not occur within syllables. Consonant clusters across syllable boundaries have been found as charted below.

All consonants may occur word and syllable initial but only voiceless stops and nasals may occur word and syllable final.

The initial consonants of clusters are listed to the left of the chart.

	p	t	k	b	d	g	kw	gw	m	n	ŋ	s	z
p						x	x		x	x	x		
t	x					x			x	x	x	x	
k	x	x				x			x	x	x	x	
m			x	x	x		x		x	x			
n			x	x	x				x		x		x
ŋ		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	

7. ORTHOGRAPHY.

7.1. Proposed orthography.

Phonemes.	Allphones.	Proposed orthography
p	ph p	p
t	th t	t
k	th	k
b	b b̪	b
d	d d̪	ð
g	g g̪	g
ku	ku	ku
gu	gu	gu
m	m	m
n	n	n
ŋ	ŋ	ŋ
s	s ts	s
z	z dz	z
l	l	l
w	w	w
y	y	y
i	i	i
e	e	e
a	a	a
â	â ð	â
o	o	o
u	u	u
Voiceless Vowels	I.E.A.Ə.Ө.Ӯ	h

7.2. PREVIOUS ORTHOGRAPHY.

Komba has no previous orthography of its own but the Kate orthography must be considered as it has had a great influence in the area and it is the language in which many of the people are semi-literate or literate. People now write Komba using the Kate orthography.

	KATE	KOMBA		
Phonetic	Orthographic	Phonemes	Allophones	Proposed Orthography.
p	p	p	ph	p
t	t	t	th	t
k	k	k	kh	k
b	b	b	b	b
d	d	d	d	d
g	g	g	g	g
kp	q	ku	ku	kw
gb	q	gw	gw	gw
m	m	m	m	m
n	n	n	n	n
ŋ	ŋ	ŋ	ŋ	ŋ
ts	s	s	ts	s
dz	z	z	dz	z
r	l/r	l	r	r
v (click)	v	w	w	w
y	j	y	y	y
i	i	i	i	i
e	e	e	e	e
a	a	a	a	a
ɔ	â	â	ʌ >	â
o	o	o	o	o
u	u	u	u	u
f	f			
ʔ glottal stop	c			
h	h		Voiceless Vowels	IEAAQDU h

7.3.

List of Pidgin words as pronounced by Komba speakers.

<u>ENGLISH.</u>	<u>PIDGIN.</u>	<u>KOMBA.</u>
tomato	tomato	tomate
flower	palaua	palaua
wire	waia	waia
house	haus	häuser
salt	sol	soli
sugar	suga	suga
head	het	het
airplane	balus	balusi
stone	siton	siton
never mind	maski	maskit
round	raunpela	râunpela
book	buk	buk
hand	han	han
coffee	kopi	kopi
orange	muli	muli
razor	resa	resa
big	bikpela	bikpela
cabbage	kabis	kabisi
bean	biin	biin
water	wara	wara
best	nambawan	nambawan
tree	diuai	diuai
road	rot	rot

7.4. SAMPLE TEXT.

Mulubeg gât digâ sâbâman. mulubeg zo tópjâ yatâ. mulubeg
 Mulubeg gât digâ sâbâman. mulubeg zo thoppayatâ. mulubeg
 sobime. zo ko ibâdâp zinjâ nume. zodat dâpjâ sâmjâ sobime.
 sobime. zo kho ibârâp zinjâ nume. zo'at dâpjâsâmjâ sobime.
 sâbem panetâ, tâiko, too omjâ ko kiijaan landâbotjâ same.
 sâbem phanet, thâiko, theo omjâ kho kiijaan landâbotjâ same.
 idak abâj ândia kuak mak opap gât. too pindânetâ ko,
 i'rak abâj ândia kuak mak opap gât. tho' phindânet kho,
 too pam, âim nebo kwap-me. be kamitme. bâu om pindâme.
 tho' pham, âim nebo kwap-me. be khamitme. bâu om phindâme.
 zo ko âlip zjigâk opmap. zo zengât anutu zinjâ gât ko yatâ
 zo kho âlip zjigâk opmap. xo zengât anutu zinjâ gât kho yatâ
 upme.
 upme.

Free Translation.

I will tell the story or mulubeg. They used to carve mulubeg (idols). It was like this, when their fathers died they carved images, having carved the image they put it (in the house) and it stayed. They cooked pig and gave him, when things were bad. When they planted yams but they did not grow good, but were bad. They heated water and put at his feet and said "today father there will help us." They gave the water to him, they put it then went and planted yames. They planted taro. They cooked and gave him pig, then he did well for them. That was their god, for that reason they acted like that.

Appendix.Application for clearance of orthography.

There have been no major changes in the analysis or orthography of Komba since the tentative statement was presented in 1968. We are left with no unresolved problems and are satisfied that there is no likelihood of any future changes in analysis or orthography.

On this basis we request that the orthography be cleared as an established orthography.

The Lutheran mission has been teaching literacy in Kâte in village schools throughout the area for over forty years. As a result of this there is a high literacy rate and it has had a moulding and settling influence on the orthography of Komba. Literate Kombas have been writing Komba using the Kâte orthography. Due to the high literacy rate we have no plans for literacy work but seek to get the people to make the few unavoidable adjustments to the Komba orthography. In presenting reading materials in Komba the most obvious problem for the people in adapting to the orthography is the change from the symbols q and q used for Kâte double stops to the symbols ^{stops}ku and gw used for the corresponding labialized _{in Komba.}

We have done a dialect survey and are satisfied that the orthography proposed is satisfactory for the four Komba dialects.

2. Changes in this paper.

The one change made which should be noted is the inclusion of one more symbol in the Orthography of Komba. In the previous paper we stated Voicelss Vowels fluctuate with voiced in word initial ^{Position When Followed} by a vowel of corresponding point of articulation. We have since found contrast between these indicating voiceless vowels are phonemic.

/ʌamguue/	(ʌamguue)	they encircled it.
/aamguue/	(aamguue)	they did womens work.
/ɔolinqâ/	(ɔolinqâ)	his/her appearance
/ɔolinqip/	(ɔolinqip)	he untied it.

As the six voiceless vowels are limited in distribution to word initial position we propose to symbolize them with the symbol h. This fits in well with the Kâte orthography which includes h and is the manner in which literate Kombas have been symbolizing them using the Kâte orthography.

Some occurrences.

/holinqâ/	(holinqâ)	his appearance
/hamguue/	(ʌamguue)	they encircled it
/helay/	(Eeləy)	shelf
/hiringsap/	(Iiringsap)	he was silent
/hâm/	(ʌn)	earth
/humutŋik/	(Umumutŋik)	withered