






































A a  kikaka	Dh dh  kaatadhooba	H h  kiihohooli	Kp kp  kaakpetu	P p  paasi	W w  nguwe	Aa aa  ntaama	E e  nte	I i  kiti	L l  luba	S s  sipeewa	Y y  miyembe	B b  baana	ee  meeja	ii  mupiila	M m  munagha	T t  taala	Bb bb  bbinika	F f  kifenensi	i  etimu	N n  noni	U u  mpunu	Bh bh  kaalibhaabha	G g  gaali	ii  liiso	Ny ny  nyaanya	uu  namuunu	C c  cupa	Gb gb  kigbende	J j  kaajanguwa	O o  nkoko	u  nsuka	D d  dliisa	Gh gh  kighegha	K k  kikusa	oo  nsoola	uu  ntuuli
--	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	---	---

Nuguta sya Lubwisi

Kitabo kya Kuhabula Kuhandiika Lubwisi



Approved Orthography, May 2006

Lubwisi

Spelling Guide

Suggestions, criticisms, and corrections concerning this Spelling Guide are welcomed. Please contact:

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Kitabo kya Kuhabula Kuhandiika Lubwisi

The Lubwisi Spelling Guide

Approved Orthography

May, 2006

Kitabo kya Kuhabula Kuhandiika Lubwisi

The Lubwisi Spelling Guide

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with

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Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
uu	ntuuli nkuubbi luuti tuutu kutuubba bhuusu kubuuliya	mature male animal(s) orphan(s) young female goat dust to uproot forehead to question
v*	vaakaado vanila kiveela	avocado(es) vanilla tarpaulin
w	nguwe wai walagi wanje “Weebale” mukwewa “Weesaayo”	leopard friend distilled liquor my/mine (NC 1) “Thank you” mother/son-in-law “Good afternoon”
y	miyembe kuyamba kuyagha kuuya kuliya yaawe	mangoes to help to scratch to remove from to eat your (NC 4,9)
z*	Zambia Tanzania	Zambia Tanzania

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Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
t	taala	lamp(s)
	taata	grandfather
	tita	my father
	ki <u>it</u> u <u>ub</u> bi	outdoor meeting room
	katale	market
	kutaghati <u>y</u> a	to heat
	mat <u>i</u> ti	goat's milk
u	mpunu	pig(s)
	kukunda	to love
	kikulu	important; old (NC 7)
	mbuwa	dog(s)
	kutuma	to send
	mululu	greed
	mutuku	red
uu	namuunu	cooking bananas
	huuma	fork(s)
	kukuuka	to return
	kituulo	grave
	nduulu	alarm
	kaluulu	vote
	kituumo	warmth
<u>u</u>	ns <u>u</u> ka	hoe(s)
	k <u>u</u> kunda	to punch/strike with fist
	k <u>i</u> kulu	finger nail
	mb <u>u</u> la	rain
	bu <u>l</u> i	every
	du <u>m</u> bi	immediately; then
	mu <u>k</u> umu	traditional healer

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Kitwike Kyokudubha Ntandiko

Kitabo kya Kuhabula Kuhandiika Lubwisi kini kyakolee_uwe haan_uma ya mpanuula ebili sya kugumiya walufu ya Lubwisi. Mpanuula sini sikab'o mu Kwekumi na kumui byokweli 18-22, na Kwekumi n'abili byokweli 15-19, 1997. Kighendeleluwa kya mpanuula sini kikaba kutwesiya walufu mu Lubwisi eghe ekugubha kutuul'o, kandi eghe ekugubha kwoleka nkumiya ya nuguta kibwisi, buli emui mu mulingo ghwayo.

Kitebe kya Kukula-kulaniya Kwamba/Lubwisi kini kiku_siima ngu taniikiyo kyonkaha kyakoliye mulimo ghwa kuteekaniya walufu ya Lubwisi. Bihandiiko bisatu bikakoluwa mbileng'o kwoleka ngoku Lubwisi lwangusomuwa na kuhandiikuwa. Kitebe kini kikasaalila mu bihandiiko ebi. Bihandiiko ebi niibiyo bini: *Mwise Musome Olubuisi*, ekyakolee_uwe aba kitongole kya Ntegheka na Nkula-kulaniya ya Bitwike, 1964; *Learn the Lubwisi Orthography*, ekyakolee_uwe aba Kwamba/Lubwisi Literature Club, 1992; na *The Lubwisi Orthography*, ekyakolee_uwe dheer aba Kwamba/Lubwisi Literature Club, 1993/4.

Kighendeleluwa kya kitabo kini ni kuuya ebisemeeye mu buli kihandiiko niikuwo Lubwisi lugubhe kuhandiikuwagha mu mulingo ghususaane kandi ludhoote kulusoma. Buli kimui haa bihandiiko ebi kikaba na mulimo ghusemeeye, na kitabo kini kisighikiiye haa bihandiiko ebi. Mpingiisiya esyakolee_uwe mu kihandiiko kya 1993/4 syolekee_uwe haa peeji ya 14-15 mu kitabo kini. Kitabo kini, taliikiyo kimaliliye haa mpandiika esiimilanu_uwe. Ngoku kusaalilamu mulimo oghwadubhiye kwabaay'o, niikiyo kimui kusaalilamu kitabo kini kubhonganuuwe kub'o. Ni kubballa kwatu tuti *Kitabo kya Kuhabula Kuhandiika Lubwisi* kini kigubhe kuta haa mutindo, na kugbaatikaniya kusoma na kuhandiika mu mubughe ghuni ghwa Lubwisi.

Ntegheka ebili sikakoluwa kwoleka nkumiya ya nuguta emui-emui mu Lubwisi. Ntegheka y'okudubha ekaba kukoleesiya esisusaane na sya mibughe eghe elabhaane na Lubwisi. Ntegeka y'akabili yaaba kuhandiika esikee syamu mu mulingo ghwa mbaghanija.

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
oo	nsoola	housefly/houseflies
	nsooliya	star(s)
	kukoola	to cough
	bikoole	beans
	kooko	cocoa
	kooti	coat(s)
	kufooka	to become
p	paasi	iron(s)
	pamba	cotton
	piki-piki	motorcycle(s)
	kipapaali	papaya
	epapa	wing
	kupaghasa lupaapulo	to work for pay piece of paper
r*	Rwenzori	Mount Rwenzori
	Rwanda	Rwanda
	Karugutu	Karugutu
	Mbarara	Mbarara
	Runyoro- Rutooro	language of the Banyoro- Batooro
s	sipeewa	hat(s)
	sente	money
	sanduuku	box(es); coffin(s)
	sahaani	plate(s)
	sabbuuni	soap
	eso	yesterday
	kuswela kuseesa	to marry to pour

*Indicates a letter borrowed from other languages

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
m	munagha	clay pot
	maasi	water
	mumelo	throat
	maligha	tears
	musuma	thief
	mahuli	eggs
	muntu	person
n	noni	bird(s)
	nanka	so-and-so
	ni	is
	naali	sister/brother-in-law
	kunaaba	to bathe
	kunaabiya	to wash
ny	nyaanya	tomato(es)
	nyama	meat
	kumanya	to know
	mwanya	space
	kunyagha	to fail to pay a debt
	binyoobuwa	ground nuts
	munyolo	mister
o	nkoko	chicken(s)
	kimole	flower
	kukola	to work; to do
	mukoli	worker
	kukoma	to pick; to choose
	mbogho	buffalo(es)
	nkomo	prison

‘Orthography’ ni kighambo kya Lujungu ekikumaniisiya nkoleesiya ya nuguta na bilaghilo bya mpandiika ya bighambo mu mubughe. Mulingo ghwa mpandiika ghuni ghwamaliye kulengeesebuwa bhyani, kandi kitabo kini kyagumibuwe kuba mpandiika ya Lubwisi.

Kitebe kya Kukula-kulaniya Kwamba/Lubwisi kikusiima bihanuulo na kuhabula kusemeeye kwona, hamui na kusananula nsobi esyali sili mu *Kitabo kya Kuhabula Kuhandiika Lubwisi* kini. Kighendeleluwa kyatu kyona ni kuta mughaso ghwa kumanya kusoma na kuhandiika mu mubughe ghwa bubyalilanuwa bwa Babwisi aba tukuheeleliya.

Niituwe,

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Fabiano Muhindi

Kitebe kya Kukula-kulaniya Kwamba/Lubwisi

Kwekumi 2006

Kitabo kini kikagumibuwa abaabaagha mu musomo ghwa kwegha kuhandiika Lubwisi byokweli 11-15 Kwakasatu, 2002 e Bundibughiyo haa Teachers’ Resource Centre.

Section 1: Preface

This Lubwisi Spelling Guide has been produced after two Alphabet Development Workshops held from November 18-22, and December 15-19, 1997. The purpose of these workshops was to produce an alphabet for Lubwisi which could consistently and easily represent the distinct sounds (phonemes) in the Lubwisi language.

The Kwamba/Lubwisi Development Association recognizes that this Spelling Guide is not the only work that has been done to prepare an alphabet/orthography for Lubwisi. Three written documents have been prepared attempting to advance reading and writing in Lubwisi. These documents were reviewed by the Association. The documents are: *Mwise Musome Olubuisi*, produced by the Ministry of Planning and Community Development, 1964; *Learn the Lubwisi Orthography*, produced by The Kwamba/Lubwisi Literature Club, 1992; and *The Lubwisi Orthography*, also produced by the Kwamba/Lubwisi Literature Club 1993/4.

The aim of this Spelling Guide is to take the best from each of the three documents in order that Lubwisi may be spelled consistently and read easily. Each document had much good to contribute, and this guide builds on that work. Changes to the 1993/4 orthography are listed on pages 14-15.

Two principles were applied to decide which letters to use to represent the distinct sounds of Lubwisi. The first principle was to use the same letters as neighboring languages use to represent the same sound. The second principle was to write differently the least common sound.

An orthography is a complete set of symbols and spelling rules used to write a language. This Spelling Guide has “Approved Orthography” status having been thoroughly tested for four years with “Working Orthography” status.

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
j	kaajanguwa	cat
	mujedh <i>ī</i>	catapult
	njala	hunger
	kujomba	to cut
	kibanja	plot of land
	kujeema	to rebel
k	njunja	jigger(s)
	kikusa	ear of corn
	kenda	nine thousand
	kukuuka	to return
	kikonko	maize cob
	ki?	what?
kp	bikaaka	elephant grass
	kiikalo	place
	kaakpetu	striped squirrel
	kaakpalata	pipe
	kukpanga	to cut
	kukpa-kpani <i>y</i> a	to shiver
l	kukpala	to scrape; scale fish
	kukpeeta	to step on
	mukpeekpe	roasted cassava
	luba	palm oil tree
	langi	colour(s)
	lughoye	dress; cloth
	lughanda	relative
	kulaala	to spend the night
	maaluwa	alcohol

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
i	kiti	tree
	kulimba	to sing
	kutigha	to resist
	mikila	tails
	mutima	heart
	mbisi	raw
	mibili	bodies
	kusigha	to sow seed
ii	mupiila	ball
	kukiina	to curse
	kisiika	room; wall
	kusiigha	to paint; smear
	kujiika	to bury
	kuhiigha	to hunt
	kuhandiika	to write
<u>i</u>	et <u>i</u> mu	spear
	ku <u>l</u> imba	to bend
	ku <u>t</u> igha	to leave
	ki <u>t</u> iti	caterpillar
	ku <u>s</u> ima	to be straight
	mu <u>k</u> ali	woman
	mi <u>c</u> ipi	belts
<u>ii</u>	li <u>i</u> so	eye
	ki <u>i</u> na	pit
	ku <u>s</u> iima	to thank; accept
	ku <u>s</u> iiba	to fast
	mu <u>h</u> iighi	hunter
	ki <u>i</u> bbili <u>i</u> ti	matchbox
	ku <u>d</u> iida	to be short

The Association invites comments, constructive criticism, and corrections to this Spelling Guide. Our purpose is to bring the benefits of literacy in the mother tongue of the Babwisi people whom we wish to serve.

Sincerely,

The Kwamba/Lubwisi Development Association
October 2006

Mubulya A. Wilson, Chairman

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This Spelling Guide was approved during a Lubwisi Writers' Workshop held March 11-15, 2002 at Bundibugyo Teachers' Resource Centre.

Section 2: The Lubwisi Alphabet

A B C D E F G H I I J K L M N O P S T U U W Y

Lubwisi uses 23 different letters in its alphabet. From those 23 different letters, all the distinct sounds of Lubwisi can be represented using single letters and multiple letter combinations. The distinct sounds of Lubwisi include consonants, vowels, long vowels, diphthongs, long diphthongs, prenasalized consonants, labialized consonants, and palatalized consonants.

Lubwisi uses 21 out of the 26 letters of the English alphabet and adds I and U. I and U are new additions to previous Lubwisi alphabets and orthographies. They represent the high close front and high close back vowels. They are called ‘heavy’ vowels. The need for adding these vowels is seen below.

The five letters Q, R, V, X, and Z of the English alphabet are not used for writing Lubwisi. These letters represent sounds which are not native to Lubwisi. These letters are used in borrowed words from other languages, especially Runyoro-Rutooro and English. These borrowed letters may be written for proper names of people and places, but beyond these uses they are not to be written according to this Spelling Guide.

Vowels

Orthographic representation	Phoneme	Lubwisi word	English definition
a	a	mba	palm oil trees
e	ɛ	nte	cow(s)
i	ɪ	kulimba	to sing
<u>i</u>	i	<u>ku</u> <u>li</u> <u>mba</u>	to bend
o	ɔ	muholo	curved knife
u	ʊ	kukunda	to love
<u>u</u>	u	<u>ku</u> <u>kun</u> <u>da</u>	to punch

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
g	gaali gaale mugala kukolooga muguudha lugaga mugimba	bicycle(s) peer group(s) backbone to stir rich person jaw bunch
gb	kigbende kiigbai kiigbutu kiigbaata kiigbelu kiigbeeku kingbanga	toad large clay pot tree cobra goiter type of large lizard cassava
gh	kighegha mughala kighona kighogho kughenda kubhegha kuughuwa ghanje	basket lazy person valley banana tree fiber to go to break to hear my/mine (NC 6)
h	kiihohooli haai kihanda haala muholo kuhumula kuhela kwobaha	butterfly near path there curved knife to rest to plant to fear

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition	Consonants			
			Orthographic representation	Phoneme	Lubwisi word	English definition
dh	kaatadhooba	candle (kerosene burning)				
	dh <u>i</u>	when?				
	dhee	also				
	mugodho	earthworm	b	β	baana	children
	mangadha	tangerine(s)	c	tʃ	c <u>u</u> pa	bottle(s)
	kudhuula	to uproot	d	d	kud <u>i</u> ida	to be short
e	kudhongoma	to squat	f	f	kafuuni	old small hoe
	nte	cow(s)	g	g	gaal <u>i</u>	bicycle(s)
	ntebe	chair(s)	h	h	kihanda	path
	enkaha	only; alone (3P Sing)	j	dʒ	kujomba	to cut
	mpete	finger ring(s)	k	k	nkoko	chicken(s)
	esenga	aunt	l	l	kulaala	to spend the night
ee	eye	he/she	m	m	maasi	water
	kwegha	to learn	n	n	nanansi	pineapple(s)
	meeja	table(s)	p	p	kipapaal <u>i</u>	papaya
	meel <u>i</u>	months	s	s	musaasa	man
	kuleeta	to bring	t	t	taata	grandfather
	kuteeka	to cook	w	w	mankwawaawa	armpit(s)
f	mabeele	breasts	y	j	kuyamba	to help
	kuheeka	to carry				
	kwegheesiya	to teach				
	kifenensi	jackfruit				
	kafuuni	old small hoe				
	kifaal <u>i</u> si	mattress				
f	kufuga	to drive a vehicle				
	kufweluwa	to suffer loss				
	kufubila	to punish				
	buufule-fule	whiskers				

Letter Groups

Consonant digraphs and trigraphs¹

Orthographic representation	Phoneme	Lubwisi word	English definition
bb	b	kubbala	to want, search for
bh	ɸ	kubhasuka	to cross water
dh	d̪	kudheedhuwa	to be happy
gb	ɡ̪	kigbende	toad
gh	ɣ	kughenda	to go
kp	k̪p̪	kaakpalata	pipe
mb ²	m̪b	mba	palm oil trees
	m̪b	kulimba	to sing
mp	m̪p̪	mpete	finger ring(s)
	m̪p̪	tamp̪i	two-edged sword

¹A digraph uses two letters to represent a sound. A trigraph uses three letters to represent a sound.

²A consonant preceded by 'm' or 'n' is a prenasalized consonant. A consonant followed by a 'w' is a labialized consonant. A consonant followed by a 'y' is a palatalized consonant. Labialized and palatalized consonants may also be prenasalized (see page 12). All labialized and palatalized consonant combinations are too numerous to list.

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
bb	bbinika	kettle(s)
	kubbala	to want; search for
	kiiibbaabba	empty nut
	bbaa	no
	kubbanga	to space out
bh	kubbeniya	to give light
	kaalibhaabha	type of fish
	kubhasula	to shoot; to fire
	kubhakiya	to light
	kubhaliya	to open the eyes
c	buubhangili	wrist bangles
	bhonde	brother(s)ister-in-law
	bhootu	friend
	bhyani	well; thoroughly
c	cupa	bottle(s)
	caai	hot tea
	mucele	rice
	buceke	weakness
	cokolo	bottle cap(s)
	bhuceme	safety; well-being
d	capati	chapati(s)
	dilisa	window
	diini	religion
	daada	plentiful
	kudunga	to seize
	kuduka	to call; check on
	madinda	pleats
	kudodoma	to be loose

Haala nkatigha Wakandibyaladhī-nkuwe oghu naaba w'okudubha mu kuligita haabwa magheji ghe. Kandi naaba mukama wa binyama byona bya mu kisaka. Wantale eye naaba katiikilo wa Wakandibyaladhī-nkuwe oghu.

Section 6: Word List

Words that illustrate the letters and letter groups which represent the phonemes in Lubwisi

Letter/Letter group	Lubwisi word	English definition
a	kikaka	sugar cane
	mwana	child
	kwana	to produce fruit
	kyala	finger
	mata	cow's milk; bows
	mwaka	year
aa	asili	culture/tradition
	ntaama	sheep
	maani	strength
	maasi	water
	maano	teeth
	haa?	where?
b	maaha	my mother
	nkaaka	reeds
	baana	children
	bantu	people
	kubala	to count
	Babwisi	the Babwisi people
	ebumba	clay
	mbeba	rat(s)
	kuba	to be

Orthographic representation	Phoneme	Lubwisi word	English definition
nc	$\overline{n}t\overline{f}$	ncuba	mold(s) for brickmaking
	$n\overline{t}f$	bicence	rags
nd	$\overline{n}d$	ndughi	dowry
	$n\overline{d}$	kulinda	to wait, guard
ng	$\overline{n}g$	ngumba	barren woman/women
	$n\overline{g}$	kutanga	to prevent
ngb	$\overline{n}gb$	ngbaali	guard hut(s)
	$n\overline{gb}$	kingbanga	cassava
nj	$\overline{n}d\overline{z}$	njala	hunger
	$n\overline{d}z$	kibanja	plot of land
nk	$\overline{n}k$	nkolu	scar(s)
	$n\overline{k}$	munkiya	tomorrow
nkp	$\overline{n}kp$	nkpeke	nose ring(s)
ns	$\overline{n}s$	nsoni	shame
	$n\overline{s}$	kifenensi	jackfruit
nt	$\overline{n}t$	nte	cow(s)
	$n\overline{t}$	muntu	person
ny ³	\overline{n}	nyama	meat
		kumanya	to know

³This sound has come into Lubwisi recently, probably due to contact with Rutooro. It is a distinct phoneme; its occurrence is rare. It is spoken in free-variation, and is more commonly spoken by younger speakers. It contrasts with 'n' in the words *mwanya* 'space', and *mwana* 'leg of an animal'. It does not contrast with 'n' in *kumana* 'to know', *nama/nyama* 'meat', and *naana/nyaanya* 'tomato/es'.

The table below gives an example how consonants that are prenasalized, labialized, and palatalized should be written.

Orthographic representation	Lubwisi word	English definition
prenasalized ‘b’ (mb)	kulimba	to sing
labialized ‘b’ (bw)	bwile	time
palatalized ‘b’ (by)	kubyala	to give birth
prenasalized-labialized ‘k’ (nkw)	mankwawaawa	armpits
prenasalized-palatalized ‘b’ (mby)	Bakambyala.	They produced me.

Diphthongs

A diphthong is a vowel in which there is a noticeable change in sound quality within a syllable. Lubwisi diphthongs are listed below:

Orthographic representation	Phonetic transcription	Lubwisi word	English definition
ai	aɪ	mutai	branch
ai̥	ai	biijai̥	animal dung
au	au	nsau	pocket(s)
au̥	au	pau̥	greed for food
ei̥	ei	mwengei̥	elder
eu	ɛʊ	mpeu	coldness
eu̥	eu	mpeu̥	bloated stomach
oi̥	ɔi	kakongoi̥jo	outer ankle
ou̥	ɔu	ngbongbou̥	boss
ui	ʊɪ	nsui	roofs
ui̥	ui	nsui̥	fish

bakuba mbamalila. Kilo eki kyakomuwa.

Kilo eki kimaliye kukomuwa, Wakandi**by**ala-dhi-nkuwe oghulaa, aaghenda aasoolooliya bundi**by**ala-dhi-nkuwe bunakiye bwona, obwabaagha buli mu kyalo eki. Aaghenda aabudongi**ya** kamui-kamui haakpengbu ya kihanda eki kuhiki**ya** hambali ndigito esi sikughenda kuhwela.

Obu kilo kya kuligita oku kyahiki**ye**, binyama byadina. Kaamambo niiko kaabaaye kaakutandi**ki**isiya ndigito esi. Kaamambo kaalaghila binyama ebi kuligita. Byaligita. Bhaatu bitakatandi**ki**ye kuligita obu byabaaye makasimba biti bitandike kuligita, Wakandi**by**ala-dhi-nkuwe oghulaa naahalala neesimba haa mukila ghwa Wantale.

Mbitandika kuligita, mbiligita, mbiligita, mbiligita. Lughendo olu lukaba luli haai nga lwa mailo ekumi. Wantale oghu aaligiti**la** kimui, aatigha binyama ebi byona.

Obu aatighiye binyama ebi byona, naaghila ati alole enuma kughenda buke-buke ngoku aamaliye kubiti**gha**, kandi**by**ala-dhi-nkuwe akali haakpengbu kaghila kati, “Otaghenda buke-buke, otaluwakaka, siye ndi naawe!” Dumbi Wantale oghu atodha eekambila kimui kuligita. Naaghila ati alimeebigha-bigha kughenda buke-buke, kandi**by**ala-dhi-nkuwe akali haakpengbu kaghila kati, “Otaghenda buke-buke, otaluwakaka, siye ndi naawe!” Wantale oghu aatodha eekambila kimui kuligita kuhiki**ya** akidhiye.

Mu maaso hali bakaba bataay’o ntebe ebili. Eya w’okudubha akusitamila—eghi eli haa mukono ghwa buliyo, na w’akabili eghi akusitamila—eghi eli haa mukono ghwa bumesu. Oghu akudubha kukidha niiye akuba mukama; ow’akabili abe katiikilo wee.

Wantale oghu aaligiti**la** kimui, aaghenda, aakidha. Malola enuma taaboone na kantu. Dumbi Wantale oghu kwelili**kana** ati aghende asitame mu ntebe ya w’okudubha, Wakandi**by**ala-dhi-nkuwe oghu amuli haa mukila naahalala, naasitama mu ntebe ya w’okudubha!

Wantale ameebigha-bigha ati asitame, Wakandi**by**ala-dhi-nkuwe oghu aaghila ati, “Mukama wanje, otansitamila.” Dumbi Wantale naalughamu, naasitama mu ntebe ya w’akabili.

The Dash

The dash shall be used to mark a sudden break in thought, to set off a summary or an appositive, or to set off a parenthetical element that is very abrupt or that has commas within it.

Nkabona baheekela babili—kedha I saw two rebels—or were
bakaba bali basatu? they three?

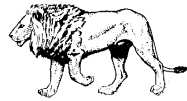
Paragraphs

A paragraphs is used to group together one or more sentences that relate to a particular point. A paragraph break should be used to mark a shift in thought or topic. A paragraph break may be used to mark a change of speaker in a conversation or dialogue. Paragraphs shall begin on a new line and may be marked by indenting three spaces, or by inserting a line space for block paragraph style.



Section 5: Illustrative Story

*kandi**byala**-dhi-nkuwe na Wantāle*



Kilo kimui binyama bya mu kisaka bikeekumaaniya hamui, byakola lukulato niikuwo byekomele mukama. Binyama bya buli mulingo byasa: njoghū, nguwe, ntale, na bunyama bunji bunabwana bwa mu kisaka, byagumbaana.

Haala, Wakandi**byala**-dhi-nkuwe oghu akaba ali kanyama kanabwana aahaayo kyelilikano kiye, aaghila ati, “Bbaa, njoghū na ntale sisobola kutwala bukama obu, nanga siyo nsinamulito, kandi syeboone maani. Ki**ise** ntubbala kwekomela mukama, binyama bisimbe mu ki**kalo** kimui biligite. Ekilasaaliya binakyakiyo kuligita, niikiyo kikuba mukama wa binyama byona bya mu kisaka.”

Binyama byona obu byaghuu**ye** eki, byasi**ima** kyelilikano eki Wakandi**byala**-dhi-nkuwe aahaaye. Dumbi baakoma kilo eki bakukolelamu ndigito esi—hambali bakuba mbatandikila na hambali

Long vowels⁴

Orthographic representation	Phoneme	Lubwisi word	English definition
a	a	kikaka	sugar cane
aa	a:	kikaaka	elephant grass
e	ɛ	kulegha	to report a wrong
ee	ɛ:	kuleegha	to pull tight
i	ɪ	kusigha	to sow seed
ii	ɪ:	kusiigha	to paint, smear
<u>i</u>	i	kus <u>i</u> ma	to be straight
<u>ii</u>	i:	kus <u>i</u> ima	to thank, accept
o	ɔ	kukola	to work, do
oo	ɔ:	kukoola	to cough
u	ʊ	kukula	to grow
uu	ʊ:	kukuula	to remove from its handle
<u>u</u>	u	kul <u>u</u> la	to be stunted
<u>uu</u>	u:	kul <u>u</u> ula	to undress

⁴This table shows minimal pairs of vowel length to show the need for carefully writing long vowels.

Changes to *The Lubwisi Orthography, 1993/4* (read across both pages)

Phoneme	Type	2002-2006	Current Lubwisi representation	English
β	voiced bilabial approximate	b	kubala	to count
b	voiced bilabial plosive	bb	kubbala	to want
ɸ	voiced bilabial implosive	bh	kubhasuka	to cross water
d̪	voiced alveolar implosive	dh	kudheedhuwa	to be happy
l	voiced lateral approximate	l	kulolela	to look from
ɪ	high open front vowel	i	kilimi	tongue
i	high close front vowel	<u>i</u>	k <u>u</u> l <u>i</u> m <u>b</u> a	to bend
ʊ	high open back vowel	u	kukunda	to love
u	high close back vowel	<u>u</u>	k <u>u</u> k <u>u</u> n <u>u</u> da	to punch

The Exclamation Point

The exclamation point shall be used after an emphatic interjection,

Ali atiya? How is he/she?

and after a phrase, clause, or sentence to express a high degree of surprise, incredulity, or strong emotion.

The Semi-colon

Twasingiye! We have won!

A semi-colon shall be used to join two related clauses that are not joined by a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for).

The Colon

Aaluwakaka kulinda; He was tired of waiting; he
aatuwamu kughenda e ka. decided to go home.

A colon shall be used after a formal introductory statement to direct the attention to what follows.

Parentheses

Binyama bya buli mulingo byasa: All kinds of animals came:
njoghu, nguwe, ntale, na bunyama elephants, leopards, lions, and
bunji bunabwana. other small animals.

Parentheses shall be used for parenthetical, supplementary, or illustrative matter and to enclose figures or letters for enumeration within a sentence.

Akaswela Bilungi (oghu He married Bilungi (the one
aasomagha naye). he was schooling with).

Section 4: Punctuation

(From Harbrace College Handbook, 7th ed.)

Quotations

There are two kinds of quotations: direct and indirect. Indirect quotations do not take quotation marks. Direct quotations begin with a comma with the words quoted in double opening and closing quotation marks. Punctuation marks are placed within the quotes.

Indirect: *Akaghila ati akwisa.* He said that he will come.

Direct: *Akaghila ati, “Nkwisa.”* He said, “I will come.”

Quotations within a quotation will be written with single quotes.

The Period (Full-stop)

(Yesu) *aaghila bantu aba ati,* Jesus said to them, “Surely you
“Majima kuwo mukuntwila lusimo will quote this proverb to me,
luni muti, ‘Mukumu weetambile.’ ” ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ ”
 (Luka 4:23) (Luke 4:23)

Periods shall mark the end of declarative and mildly imperative sentences, after indirect questions, and after most abbreviations.

The Comma

Kilo eki kyakomuwa. That day was chosen.

Okome kilo. You choose the day.

Aabyuliya R.D.C. ngoku He asked the R.D.C. how he
akwehighuwa. was feeling.

The comma shall be used to mark a necessary pause within a sentence.

The Question Mark

The question mark shall be written after direct questions.

“Otaghenda buke-buke, “Don’t go slowly, don’t get
otaluwakaka, siye ndi naawe!” tired, I am with you!”

1993/4 representation

Reasons

bh
kubhala

Most common sound of the three ‘b’ sounds decided to be written simply. Runyoro-Rutooro and Luganda use this representation. Makes words shorter, written more consistently. Written this way in earlier orthographies.

b
kubala

Rare sound, doubling the consonant gives it the force it needs. Luganda has double consonants for strong plosives. Runyoro-Rutooro writes the phoneme this way. (Mk. 2:3)

bb
kubbasuka

Used in previous orthographies, other languages (Mangbetu).

dd
kuddeeduwa

Used in previous orthographies. It patterns after the implosive ‘b’.

l/r
kulolera

‘R’ is not a distinct phoneme. A good rule for writing ‘r’ was not able to be made. ‘R’ is allowed for proper names, places, and borrowed words.

ii
kiiliimii

Double vowels are used to indicate vowel length, not vowel quality. Therefore to double the vowel to indicate vowel quality is confusing. E.g., writing *muupiüila* for ‘ball’ is awkward.

i
kulimba

It seems that more effort is used to produce this sound and heavy i. Both theses vowels taken together seem to be less common than i and u together. Therefore this vowel and i were chosen to be written differently.

uu
kuukuunda

See above reasons for phoneme I. Writing *kiituuuulo* for ‘grave’ is awkward.

u
kukunda

See above for phoneme i.

Section 3: Spelling

Syllable Patterns

Lubwisi syllable patterns are the most important factor to determine spelling. The following syllable patterns exist in Lubwisi: V, CV, NCV, CSV, and NCSV where C = consonant, V = vowel, NC = prenasalized consonant, CSV = a labialized or palatalized consonant where S = semi-vowel (w or y), and NCSV = a prenasalized CSV. Note that a syllable can only have one vowel. A vowel can have two vowel lengths: short or long. A vowel may be a diphthong. A long vowel can either be a doubled vowel or a vowel plus a diphthong. Examples of the patterns are seen below:

Pattern	Lubwisi word	Syllable pattern	English definition
V	etama	V-CV-CV	cheek
CV	tita	CV-CV	my father
	walagi	CV-CV-CV	distilled liquor
	caai	CV	tea
NCV	kingbanga	CV-NCV-NCV	cassava
CSV	kyala	CSV-CV	finger
NCSV	Akambyala.	V-CV-NCSV-CV	She/he produced me.

It is helpful to think that one syllable has one beat. If a word has two beats, then it should have two syllables. Most Babwisi consider the word *kuliya* [kùlîâ] ‘to eat’ as having three beats with the syllable pattern CV-CV-CV. If so, then *kulya* is not a possible spelling since only two vowels are written indicating only two syllables with the syllable patterns (CV-CSV). With a few exceptions, it appears that Lubwisi allows only two syllable patterns word-final, CV and NCV, in words with more than one syllable. Therefore CSV word-final is

niimuwo ‘it is in there (NC 18)’ *niiyo* ‘it is there (NC 23)’

Adverbs and conjunctions shall be written as one word.

haabwaki? ‘why?’ *nangaaki?* ‘why?’
haabweki ‘because of that’ *nahabweki* ‘therefore’
ninkabha/nankabha ‘even if’

Prepositions and other common words listed below shall be written as one word.

<i>hansi</i>	under	<i>munda</i>	in the stomach
<i>haakpengbu</i>	beside	<i>munsi</i>	in the world
<i>haagati/haakati</i>	in the middle	<i>elughulu</i>	above
<i>haai-haai</i>	nearby	<i>ekuwa</i>	below
<i>hanja</i>	outside	<i>eeguuli</i>	on top
<i>mukilo</i>	night		

Ki will be written as a separate word when it follows a noun or a verb and not an adverb or conjunction such as those written above. Therefore, write two words for *kukola ki?* ‘to do what?’; *mulingo ki?* ‘what kind?, which way/type?’; *mntu ki?* ‘what person?’

Write two words for the following prepositional phrases:

<i>e ka</i>	at home
<i>mu maaso</i>	in front/ahead
<i>mu numba</i>	in the house
<i>mu kihanda</i>	along the way/path

Every attempt should be made to complete words on the same line of paper. However, if this cannot be done, the word must be separated at the syllable break with a hyphen at the end of the line. The remainder of the word will be written on the next line below.

Tone

Lubwisi is a tonal language. Tone is a pitch that conveys part of the meaning of a word. Two words which are spelled the same can have different meanings according to the pitch or tone in which the word is spoken. [kùkómà] *kukoma*, ‘to go up’ differs from [kùkòmà] *kukoma*, ‘to pick, choose.’ The word written in context should distinguish the meaning of the word for the reader. Therefore, according to this Spelling Guide, tone will not be written. Further study may be needed.

Word division

Prepositions will generally stand alone when they precede a noun. They can be attached to verbs. *Aaghendiye e Bundibughiyo* and *Aaghendiye* mean respectively, ‘He has gone to Bundibugyo,’ and ‘He has gone there.’

Conjunctions will be written separately from the words they precede except for pronouns. *Akughenda hamui na Kisembo*, means ‘He will go together with Kisembo,’ but *Akughenda naye*, means ‘He will go with him.’

Possessives shall be written separately from the words they precede or follow except for pronouns. *Liina liye* means ‘his name’, but *liina lyakiyo* means ‘the name of it (NC 7).’

The affirmative copula *ni* shall be joined to the pronoun it precedes.

<i>niisiye</i>	‘it is me’	<i>niituwe</i>	‘it is us’
<i>nuuwe</i>	‘it is you’	<i>niinuwe</i>	‘it is you (pl.)’
<i>niiye</i>	‘it is he/she’	<i>niibo</i>	‘it is they’
<i>niighuwo</i>	‘it is it (NC 3)’	<i>niiyoy</i>	‘it is those (NC 4)’
<i>niiliyo</i>	‘it is it (NC 5)’	<i>niigho</i>	‘it is it/those (NC 6)’
<i>niikiyo</i>	‘it is it (NC 7)’	<i>niibiyo</i>	‘it is those (NC 8)’
<i>niiyoy</i>	‘it is it (NC 9)’	<i>niisiyo</i>	‘it is those (NC 10)’
<i>niiluwo</i>	‘it is it (NC 11)’	<i>niiko</i>	‘it is it (NC 12)’
<i>niituwo</i>	‘it is it/those (NC 13)’	<i>niibuwo</i>	‘it is it/those (NC 14)’
<i>niikuwo</i>	‘it is it (NC 15)’	<i>niiho</i>	‘it is at there (NC 16)’

rejected.⁵ Similarly, syllable patterns dictate that *kulia* (CV-CV-V) is not a correct spelling. While it does have three vowels indicating three syllables, the Lubwisi writing system allows the syllable pattern V to be written at the beginning of words only. Furthermore, Lubwisi doesn’t allow V-V sequences in syllables or across syllable boundaries. Within the syllable the first vowel is either elided or loses its syllabicity to become a semi-vowel. Across syllable boundaries a semi-vowel is inserted between the two vowels. Therefore the common 2-syllable phonetic V-V sequences such as [ia], [ia], [ie], [io], [ua], [ue], and [uo] must have a semi-vowel inserted and be written /iya/, /iya/, /iye/, /iyo/, /uwa/, /uwe/, and /uwo/ respectively.

If one is unsure how to spell a word, it may help to first sound out the word and count the syllables. A word will have the same number of vowels as it has syllables. The Lubwisi word for ‘to eat habitually’ is spelled *kuliyagha* because it is thought to have four syllables (CV-CV-CV-CV).

Heavy vowels

Writing the heavy vowels (*i* and *u*) is the most difficult issue the Kwamba/Lubwisi Development Association had to deal with. The Association feels that all the distinct phonemes, including all seven vowels, should be represented in the orthography. Therefore, heavy vowels should be written everywhere they occur.

Generally, within a word, if one vowel is heavy, then other i’s and u’s next to that vowel will also be heavy due to the process of vowel harmony.

⁵*kumanya* ‘to know’ appears to be CSV, but is actually CV because *ɲ* is to be considered as a consonant phoneme. *Haabwa* ‘for’ and words like *ebya* ‘for, of, which (NC 8)’ appear to be exceptions. *Ghwa*, *lya*, *kya*, *sya*, *lwa*, *twa*, *bwa*, and *kwa* ‘of’ are one-syllable words which have the syllable pattern CSV.

Rules for writing heavy vowels:

1. Only 'i' or 'u' (i or u) can be heavy. Never underline the vowels 'a', 'e', 'o'.
2. If it sounds heavy, underline the 'i' or the 'u' wherever the sound occurs.
3. The 'a' vowel blocks the right-to-left effect of vowel harmony. Therefore other i's and u's are not changed to be heavy vowels if the 'a' stands between those vowels and the heavy vowel to the right, e.g., *mukali* 'woman', **not** *mukali*; *kutaghatiya* 'to heat', **not** *kutaghatiya*.

Advice for writing heavy vowels

Suffixes: heavy vowels in the verbal suffixes such as the causative, agentive, and perfective suffixes usually make preceding i's and u's heavy also.

The causative/instrumentive verbal suffixes *-iya*, *-iisiya*, *-eesiya* are always heavy, e.g.,

kuliya 'to eat', *kuliisiya* 'to feed' (to cause to eat).

The agentive verbal suffix *-i* is always heavy, e.g.,

kukola 'to work', *mukoli* 'worker';

kulima 'to cultivate', *muliimi* 'cultivator'.

The perfective verbal suffix *-iye* is usually heavy except when it follows right next to another vowel which isn't heavy, e.g.,

Infinitive

kuliya 'to eat'

kukula 'to grow'

kukulila 'to grow from'

kukuliya 'to be pregnant'

Perfective

aaliye 'he has eaten'

aakuliye 'he has grown'

aakuliye 'he has grown from'

akuliye 'she is pregnant'

The applicative verbal suffix *-ila*, passive suffix *-uwa*, reversive *-ula*, *-uka* is **not** heavy except when it is preceded or followed by a heavy vowel, e.g.,

Below is a chart for noun classes and their possessives. Note that the vowel 'a' in the prefix of noun classes 2, 6, and 12 gets elided in 3P Sing possessives, also in 3P Pl in classes 1, 4, and 9. The vowel cannot be doubled before prenasalized 'j' (nj) in 1P Sing. Noun classes 16, 18, and 23 are locative and are not included.

NC	word	1P Sing	2P Sing	3P Sing	1P Pl	2P Pl	3P Pl
1	mwana	wanje	waawe	wee	waatu	waanu	wabo
2	baana	banje	baawe	be	baatu	baanu	baabo
3	mutima	ghwanje	ghwawe	ghuwe	ghwatu	ghwanu	ghwabo
4	mitima	yanje	yaawe	yee	yaatu	yaanu	yabo
5	ehuli	lyanje	lyawe	liye	lyatu	lyanu	lyabo
6	mahuli	ghanje	ghaawe	ghe	ghaatu	ghaanu	ghaabo
7	kintu	kyanje	kyawe	kiye	kyatu	kyanu	kyabo
8	bintu	byanje	byawe	biye	byatu	byanu	byabo
9	ntebe	yanje	yaawe	yee	yaatu	yaanu	yabo
10	ntebe	syanje	syawe	siye	syatu	syanu	syabo
11	lukui	lwanje	lwawe	luwe	lwatu	lwanu	lwabo
12	kaasukaali	kanje	kaawe	ke	kaatu	kaanu	kaabo
13	twisi	twanje	twawe	tuwe	twatu	twanu	twabo
14	bulili	bwanje	bwawe	buwe	bwatu	bwanu	bwabo
15	kulu	kwanje	kwawe	kuwe	kwatu	kwanu	kwabo

Possessives

The correct way for spelling possessives may be seen in the following tables:

Noun class (NC)	Associative prefix	Possessive prefix preceding V	Associative pronoun used in a noun phrase
1	o-	wa-	wa
2	ba-	ba-	baa
3	ghu-	ghw-	ghwa
4	e-	ya-	ya
5	li-	ly-	lya
6	gha-	gha-	ghaa
7	ki-	ky-	kya
8	bi-	by-	bya
9	e-	ya-	ya
10	si-	sy-	sya
11	lu-	lw-	lwa
12	ka-	ka-	kaa
13	tu-	tw-	twa
14	bu-	bw-	bwa
15	ku-	kw-	kwa
16	ha-	ha-	haa
18	mu-	mw-	mwa
23	e-	ya-	ya

The pattern for possessives is below:

1P Sing	-anje	my	1P Pl	-atu	our
2P Sing	-awe	your	2P Pl	-anu	your
3P Sing	-e	his/her	3P Pl	-abo	their

<i>kuhinduka</i>	‘to be changed’	<i>kyahindukiye</i>	‘it has changed’
<i>kutumba</i>	‘to stir’	<i>kutumbila</i>	‘to stir from’
<i>kwituwa</i>	‘to be killed’	<i>aatiwe/aatuuwe</i>	‘he/she has been killed’

Long vowels

Long vowels are common in Bantu languages. They shall be represented by doubling the vowel. Long vowels occur across prefix and root boundaries such as *kiinigha* ‘anger’ (NC 7) and *biina* ‘holes’ (NC 8), and in the root of words such as *namuunu* ‘cooking bananas’ (NC 9-10) and *bikoole* ‘beans’ (NC 8).

Vowels can be long at the beginning of words. This occurs in verb prefixes, e.g., *Aaghendiye*, *aaghenda*; ‘he has gone’, ‘he went’; *baaghendiye*, *baaghenda* ‘they have gone’, ‘they went.’ This is because Lubwisi uses an *a-* prefix to indicate action which has taken place in the past. This *a-* prefix follows the subject prefix of the verb. Therefore, 1-3rd person singular and 3rd person plural subjects shall have the long *aa* vowel to indicate past action in the narrative tense and in the perfect aspect. *Naaghendiye* ‘I have gone’ contrasts with *Naaghendiye* ‘If he goes’ only in tone.

Vowels can be long in verbal suffixes also, frequently in the perfect aspect. *Aaghuliye* ‘He has bought’ contrasts with *Aaghuliiye* ‘He has sold.’ *Kubona* ‘to see’ becomes *Baamuboone* to mean ‘They have seen him/her.’

Certain environments tend to lengthen the sound of short vowels. These environments occur preceding prenasalized consonants (consonants preceded by ‘m’ or ‘n’) and following labialized and palatalized consonants (consonants followed by ‘w’ or ‘y’ respectively). Even though the vowels sound long, they will not be written as long vowels. Therefore the following rules apply to writing long vowels:

Rules for writing long vowels:

1. Long vowels will be represented by writing the vowel twice. Three identical consecutive vowels will not be written for long vowels, although a vowel plus a diphthong is possible, e.g., *kusaaiye*, 'it exceeds, is better than,' *kusemeeiye* 'it has made beautiful.'
2. Long vowels will not be written before prenasalized consonants (e.g., *kulimba* **not** *kuliimba* 'to sing').
3. Long vowels will not be written after labialized and palatalized consonants (Cw and Cy) (e.g., *mwana* **not** *mwaana* 'child'; *byona* **not** *byoona* 'all').
4. Long vowels will be written everywhere else they occur.

Note: It is possible for a long vowel to follow the consonants 'w' and 'y' as in *Waaghenda naye*, 'You went with him/her', and *yoona* 'all'.

Advice for Spelling

Most spelling mistakes will occur when writing the vowels. All seven vowels have two different lengths: long and short. The i's and the u's have two different vowel qualities: heavy and light. So when you spell a word, ask yourself, "Is the vowel long or short?" After determining vowel length, and if the vowel is an 'i' or a 'u', ask yourself, "Is it heavy or light?"

Use of the Apostrophe

The apostrophe is written to stand for letters which are elided (not pronounced) in the process of joining two words. Examples are listed below:

<i>Taaliyo n'omui</i>	'There is no one.'	<i>ekumi n'ebili</i>	'twelve'
<i>ng'oghu</i>	'like that one'	<i>kuuy'o</i>	'except'
<i>Muswija ghwamulugh'o.</i>	'The fever left him/her.'		

The apostrophe is required for the words and phrases on the previous page, but the words written below in parentheses are also acceptable due to common use:

<i>Olaay'o</i>	(<i>Olaayo</i>)	'Good morning'
<i>Weesaay'o</i>	(<i>Weesaayo</i>)	'Good afternoon'
<i>Weesal'o</i>	(<i>Weesaloo</i>)	'Goodbye'

Common words like those written below can be written as one word and do not need an apostrophe:

<i>ngoku</i>	'as, like'	<i>byokulaalila</i>	'bedding'
<i>kyakulolelo</i>	'example'	<i>byokuluwala</i>	'clothing'
<i>byokuliya</i>	'food'		

Capitalisation

Words which refer to names of people, places, terms for holidays, days of the week, months, titles, and names for deity will be capitalised. The beginning of each sentence will begin with a capitalised letter. The beginning of direct quotations will also begin with a capitalised letter.

Reduplication

Reduplicated words will be split up with a hyphen.

<i>bwangu-bwangu</i>	quickly	<i>kubona-bona</i>	to suffer
<i>buke-buke</i>	slowly	<i>haai-haai</i>	nearby
<i>kusanga-sangaana</i>	to meet together		

Double Consonants

'M' and 'N' shall be doubled if these letters stand for a subject or object prefix which precedes a verb root. E.g., *Mmaniye* 'I know'; *Nnaaba* 'I bathe.' *Yaammela* means 'They/it swallowed me' (Jonah 2:3). The double consonants will be written even though they may not be heard as doubled. Correspondingly, *Ambbaliye* 'He/She wants me,' will be written with 'bb' to correctly distinguish the meaning from *Ambaliye* 'He/She has counted me.'