

Organised Phonology Data

Wára Language [TCI]

Western Province

Linguistic Classification (according to Wurm): Tonda Sub-Family, Morehead and Upper Maro Rivers Family, Trans-Fly Stock, Trans-New Guinea Phylum.

Note: In the Tonda Sub-Family there is a dialect chain situation. Therefore, it is difficult to establish precise language boundaries. The Wára language (as defined by the present writer) comprises Wurm's Upper Peremka (Rouku) Language and, in part, Tonda Language

Population estimate: 800

Major Villages: Yékwa, Tékwa, Réku, Wámnefér, Ufaruwa

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Data checked by: Risto Sarsa, March 2001

Data is based on 7 years of fieldwork.

PHONEMIC AND ORTHOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

(In parentheses: only in loan words)

/	a	æ	(b)	(d)	e	ə	f	(g)	i	k	(l)	m	^m b	n	ⁿ d?	ⁿ d͡z	ŋ	^ŋ g	
<	a	á	(b)	(d)	e	é	f	(g)	i,y	k	(l)	m	mb	n	nd,nt	nj	nts	ng	n͡g
<	A	Á	(B)	(D)	E	É	F	(G)	I,Y	K	(L)	M	Mb	N	Nd	Nj	Ng	N͡g	
	o	ʌ	œ	(p)	r	s	t?	ð	ʃ	u	ʌ	w	j	/					
	o	ó	ô	(p)	r	s	t	th	ts	u,w	ú	w	y	>					
	O	Ó	Ô	(P)	R	S	T	Th	Ts	U,W	Ú	W	Y	>					

CONSONANTS

Simple Consonants

	Bilab	LabDen	Dent	Alv	PsAl	Retr	Pala	Velr	Uvlr	Phar	Glott
Plosive			ʈ					k			
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Trill				r							
Fricat		f	ð	s			j				
Approx											

Complex Consonants

^mb (prenasalised voiced bilabial stop)

ⁿdʔ (prenasalised voiced dental stop)

^ŋg (prenasalised voiced velar stop)

^hts (voiceless alveolar grooved affricate)

ⁿdʔ̄ (prenasalised voiced alveolar grooved affricate)

w (voiced labio-velar approximant)

The phonemes /b/, /d/, /g/, /l/ and /p/ only occur in loan words.

VOWELS

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i	ɨ	u
Close-Mid	e	ə	o
Open-Mid	œ		ʌ
Open	æ	ɑ	

Examples: Consonants

Phon.	#C	VCV	C#	CC	CC
mb	<i>mbath</i> 'grasshopper' <i>mbis</i> 'k.o.kingfisher'	<i>sambu</i> 'HoB (kin term)'	<i>mbundamb</i> 'to.you'	<i>mbratsi</i> 'state.after.giving.birth'	<i>kánmbrim</i> 'come.back.here!'
m	<i>mar</i> 'k.o.plant' <i>misóm</i> 'tightly'	<i>mamu</i> 'k.o.pidgeon' <i>yame</i> 'mat'	<i>kam</i> 'back'	<i>namtha</i> 'that (conj.)'	<i>mantma</i> 'female.animal'
f	<i>far</i> 'post/pole' <i>fis</i> 'husband'	<i>safum</i> 'pull (it/them) out for him'	<i>kaf</i> 'with'	<i>frase</i> 'hunger'	<i>nakfá</i> 'just.here'
ð	<i>thar</i> 'give.to.them!' <i>thirthir</i> 'pig.tusk'	<i>ngathunḡwór</i> 'he.lies'	<i>fath</i> 'clearing'	<i>thrar</i> 'he.will.give.them'	tsô <tha< th=""> 'new'</tha<>
t̥	<i>tar</i> 'friend' <i>tiftif</i> 'number'	<i>atôtô</i> 'kind of tree'	<i>kat</i> 'k.o.bamboo'	<i>transe</i> 'scraping'	<i>ertómór</i> 'he.cuts.then'
ⁿ d̥	<i>ndarndar</i> 'faster' <i>ndirndir</i> 'k.o.bird'	<i>yénta</i> 'two'	<i>ndént</i> 'earthworm'	<i>ndrándrá</i> 'kind.of.bird'	<i>mbarnti</i> 'local.hockey.gar'
(ts)	<i>tsar</i> 'give.her!' <i>tsir</i> 'wet'	<i>matso</i> 'sea'	<i>féts</i> 'forest'	<i>tsra</i> 'swamp'	<i>yétsa</i> 'I.called.him'
ⁿ d̥z	<i>njar</i> 'I.give.you' <i>njirét</i> 'k.o.vine'	<i>njuwanjér</i> 'I.was.sitting'	<i>kwants</i> 'bald' <i>ménst</i> 'house'	<i>njar</i> 'he.will.give.us.two'	<i>yéfnja</i> 'I.hit.hi'
n	<i>nar</i> 'this.way'	<i>nane</i> 'older.sibling'	<i>nan</i> 'this'	<i>kánmbrim</i> 'come back!'	<i>mbnakase</i> 'rising'
r	<i>rar</i> 'for.which?'	<i>maru</i> 'sugar.glider'	<i>nar</i> 'this.way'	<i>sertóm</i> 'cut it!'	<i>trakase</i> 'falling'
s	<i>sar</i> 'give.to.hi m!'	<i>nase</i> 'long yam'	<i>sas</i> 'call (s.g.) for.him'	<i>srar</i> 'he.will.give.him'	<i>fakórsok</i> 'metal.arrow tip'
j	<i>yaritha</i> 'you.gave.t o.him'	<i>ndeya</i> 'k.o.wallaby'	<none>	<none>	<i>káfyúr</i> 'swallow!'
k	<i>kar</i> 'named.place'	<i>keke</i> 'no/not'	<i>nak</i> 'here'	<i>krar</i> 'he.will.do'	<i>karkase</i> 'pulling'
[?] g	<i>nḡar</i> 'water.lily'	<i>fanguth</i> 'wide'	<i>nanḡ</i> 'grass.skirt'	<i>nḡra</i> 'k.o.tree' <i>nḡráth</i> 'soft'	<i>karnḡú</i> 'huge' <i>tsérnḡe</i> 'amazed'
?	<i>ngari</i> 'married.w oman'	<i>tinga</i> 'cardinal.lory' (only this one found!)	<none>	<none>	<i>kothngare</i> 'black.crow'
w	<i>war</i> 'he.gave.m e'	<i>awe</i> 'come!'	<none>	<i>wrose</i> 'planting'	<i>efenwór</i> 'he.clears.them'

Examples: Vowels

Phon.	#V.C	CV.CV	CVC	CV#
i	<none>	<i>nífathwór</i> 'he.holds.him.here'	<i>míth</i> 'face' <i>samír</i> 'hang.it.up.for.him!'	<i>fí</i> 'but' <i>tsarfi</i> 'vice'
e	<i>eran</i> 'they.(two.)are' <i>ertómór</i> 'he.cuts.them'	<i>nefathwór</i> 'he.holds.them.here'	<i>mef</i> 'k.o.tree' <i>theth</i> 'dancing' <i>nḡamer</i> 'tongs.PURP'	<i>fe</i> 2s.ABS (you) <i>ngafe</i> 'father'
æ	<i>ánatha</i> 'I.ate.them' <i>ártómór</i> 'he.cuts.for.them'	<i>náfathwór</i> 'he.holds.for.them.here'	<i>fáth</i> 'small.one, kid' <i>njmár</i> 'fat'	<i>má</i> 'where' <i>témá</i> 'strength'
ɥ	<none>	<i>núfathwór</i> 'he.holds.her.here'	<i>fúth</i> 'rotten.tuber' <i>fámúr</i> 'cutting.tool.PURP'	<i>bramú</i> 'all' <i>mbéngfú</i> 'fighting.club'
ə	<none>	<i>néfathwór</i> 'he.holds.us'	<i>fér</i> 'thicket' <i>tséféth</i> 'base, origin'	<i>tsé</i> 'AFFIRMATIVE'
ɑ	<i>ara</i> 'only, just' <i>atôtô</i> 'k.o.tree'	<i>nafathwór</i> 'he.holds.for.us' <i>mbanḡu</i> 'a.sociolog..section'	<i>maf</i> 'who' <i>fath</i> 'clearing' <i>semar</i> 'look.at.him!'	<i>ra</i> 'what' <i>kefa</i> 'sore, ulcer'
o	<i>ofóth</i> 'light [weight]' <i>or</i> 'k.o.pidgeon'	<i>nofa</i> 'from water' <i>bongū</i> 'k.o.banana'	<i>semor</i> 'put.it leaning'	<i>no</i> 'water' <i>karo</i> 'termite'
ʌ	<none>	<i>fórók</i> 'blood' <i>bónḡu</i> 'bladder'	<i>fór</i> 'ridge' <i>ofóth</i> 'light [weight]'	<none>
œ	<none>	<i>nômá</i> 'k.o.food' <i>tsófáth</i> 'bird' <i>fônḡwath</i> 'k.o.snake'	<i>mbôk</i> 'water.rat' <i>môf</i> 'k.o.dove' <i>thárfithôr</i> 'erase.them!'	<i>karifô</i> 'river' <i>méyô</i> 'desire'
u	<i>ukwan</i> 'sound.of.wind' <i>ufaf</i> 'top.beam' <i>wôm</i>	<i>nufathwór</i> 'he.holds.me.here' <i>fumase</i> 'pulling.out'	<i>futh</i> 'k.o.vine' <i>thámuth</i> 'dig.them [holes]!' <i>fur</i> 'animal.baby'	<i>yu</i> 'k.o.dance' <i>tsaru</i> 'k.o.tree'

PURP = Purposive (The object in question is the purpose or goal of the present action, e.g., when the

subject is trying to reach for the object.)

SUPRASEGMENTALS

Secondary Articulation

There are three prenasalized phonemes, /^mb /, /ⁿd / and /^ŋg / There is no other kind of secondary articulation, e.g. palatalisation or velarisation.

Length

There is no phonemic length in Wára. There are differences in phonetic length, however. There are three rules for the phonetic vowel length:

Emphasis: Several speakers of the language have said that they lengthen sounds for “strength”, i.e. emphasis. This seems to be true for vowels.

Vowel quality: The more open a vowel is, the longer it tends to be.

Syllable structure: Vowels in open syllables are generally longer than in closed syllables. Vowels in monosyllabic words tend to be longer than in polysyllabic words.

Stress

In polysyllabic words the main stress usually falls on the penultimate syllable, sometimes on the ultimate or antepenultimate syllable.

Pitch

There are various intonation patterns. Non-emphatic declarative clauses have a generally declining intonation. Polar questions can be made either syntactically or by a clause final rising intonation. In clauses containing a question word, there is a pitch rise at the question word, followed by a steep decline.

No lexical tone contrasts have been observed in Wára.

SYLLABLE PATTERNS

	Mono	Initial	Medial	Final
V	<i>a</i> 'and'	<i>e.rá</i> 'they.are'	<none>	<i>ní.ú</i> 'we.EMPH'
VV	<i>au</i> 'that's right!'	<i>au.si</i> 'old.woman'	<none>	<none>
CV	<i>ra</i> 'what'	<i>ke.ke</i> 'no'	<i>na.fa.ne</i> 'theirs'	<i>a.ra</i> 'only/just'
CVV	<i>toi</i> 'lightning'	<i>tau.ri</i> 'wallaby'	?	?
CCV	<i>tro</i> 'k.o. tree'	<i>tri.ka.se</i> 'story'	<i>e.tri.kwór</i> 'he.tells.him'	<i>ta.bru</i> 'five'
VC	<i>or</i> 'k.o.dove'	<i>ef.ka.ther</i> 'he.peels'	?	<i>ní.an</i> 'we.come'
CVC	<i>kam</i> 'bone'	<i>kur.se</i> 'decision'	<i>té.taf.ko</i> 'k.o.bush'	<i>o.fóth</i> 'light(weight)'

CVVC	<i>kwik</i> 'sick'	<i>kuar.sa</i> 'k.o. bush.fowl'	?	?
CCVC	<i>srak</i> 'boy'	<i>krán.mbrim</i> he.will.come.back'	<i>ya.fram.njér</i> 'he/she.blesses.him'	<i>sa.trif</i> 'tell.him!'
Ç	<none>	<i>m'kátér</i>	?	<none>
CC	<none>	?	<i>M'nǵniaka</i>	<none>

There are only a few cases of unambiguous syllabic consonants. These are verbal prefixes, as in

- 1) *m'nǵniaka* /mⁿgⁿiaka/ [mⁿgⁿa:ka] 'don't go'
- 2) *m- nǵn- iak -a*
NEG.IMP- 2sS- go -D.P (D.P = Distal-Personal [away from speaker's
present position])
'don't go'

Although a very short and weak vowel-like sound can be heard between the sounds [m] and [g], as well as between [g] and [n], these are interpreted as epenthetic vowels, not vowel phonemes. The speakers of Wára prefer not to write epenthetic vowels, though in some cases where there are more than two phonetically close consonants in a phoneme cluster or there are two similar consonants in a prefix cluster, the epenthetic vowels can be written using the grapheme of the phonetically closest full vowel, e.g., *njénmbrinǵak*, not *njn~~n~~mbrinǵak*.

- 3) *njénmbrinǵak* /ⁿdzⁿm^briⁿg^ak/ [iⁿdzⁿnⁿm^briⁿg^ak]
'he/she.is.returning us.two.here'
- 4) *njn- n- mbrinǵ-ak*
us- here - return -DUAL
'he/she.is.returning us.two.here'

PHONOLOGICAL CONVENTIONS

Lexical Occurrence Restrictions

The phonemes /b/, /d/, /g/, /l/ and /p/ only occur in loan words, e.g.,

<i>bara</i>	'paddle' (from Motu)
<i>God</i>	'God'
<i>sotgan</i>	'shotgun'
<i>Pol</i>	'Paul'

Interpretation

Unit versus Sequence

Prenasalised plosives could be interpreted as units or nasal-plosive sequences. The latter option would introduce a heavy syllable type CCCVC, as in /*sen.mbrim*/ 'return it here.!''. There are no univalent occurrences of this syllable type, so it seems plausible to interpret prenasalised plosives as units.

Vowel glides (diphthongs) are interpreted as sequences. There are no univalent VV sequences, so interpreting diphthongs as units is also possible. The latter would increase the number of vowel units from ten to twenty-one, whereas the former would increase the number of syllable types from eight to eleven. For reasons of economy, the interpretation of diphthongs as sequences is adopted.

Consonant versus Vowel

The semivowels /w/ and /j/ are interpreted as consonants, as the speakers of Wára make a distinction between these and the short unstressed variants of the phonemes /u/ and /i/.

Vowel Phoneme versus Open Transition

In consonant clusters, where the consonants are rather similar in sonority, e.g., plosive – plosive there can be a short, weak vowel-like sound which can be interpreted as either a vowel phoneme or an open transition between adjacent consonants.

There are four distinct types of occurrences:

1. In the onset of syllable, where the latter consonant is a trill.

In this case there is no vowel-like sound.

5) *tro* /tro/ [tro] ‘kind.of. tree’

2. In the onset of syllable, where the latter consonant is other than a trill

There is a vowel-like sound, interpreted as **epenthetic vowel**. Interpreting the sound as a vowel phoneme would be against the normal rhythm pattern of the language (see section on stress). Orthography testing shows preference for either omitting the epenthetic vowel in most consonant clusters, or marking it with an apostrophe.

6) *kmam/k'mam* /kmam/ [k^ʌmam] ‘don't!’

7) *rma/r'ma* /rma / [r^ʌma] ‘why?’

3. In the coda of syllable.

There is a vowel-like sound, interpreted as **epenthetic vowel**. It is at present marked in the orthography when followed only by a word final consonant. The only cases found are those where a suffix or clitic consisting of a single consonant is attached to a verb or noun root or to another suffix which ends in a consonant.

Examples:

8) *w- a- sinj -r (-ø)*
1sO- DAT- cook be -he/she
‘he/she is cooking for me’

9) *wasinjér* /wa.si.ⁿdʒr/ [w^ʌsiⁿdʒ^r] ‘he/she is cooking for me’

4. Between syllables

When a syllable ends in a consonant and an adjacent syllable starts with a consonant, there is an optional epenthetic vowel, as in

10) *wámne* /wæmne/ [w^ʌm^əne] ~ [wæm₁ne] ‘tree, log’

Variants

Consonant Phonemes

^hdʒ/ is devoiced after central and back vowels. ^hdʔ/ is devoiced word medially and word finally. ^hg/ is devoiced word finally.

Voiceless and devoiced plosives are slightly aspirated word finally. There is free variation between aspiration and unreleased plosive, the former being more common.

The phoneme /f/ is realised by the allophones: [f],[v],[ϕ] and [β]. They are all in free variation. The first two are much more common than the latter two. The [v] is rather common but considered a little ‘sloppy’. [f] is the only sound considered ‘proper’.

There is free variation between the realisations [nts] and [ns] of the phoneme ^hdʒ/ in word final position. The former is more common and is considered more ‘proper’.

In prenasalised plosives the nasalisation is rather slight word initially; Word medially it is more distinct, resembling a nasal + plosive consonant cluster.

Vowel Phonemes

The phonemes /e/, /æ/ and /o/, when occurring in the stressed syllables of heavily stressed or carefully pronounced words (e.g. strong commands, emphasizing certain words), are often pronounced as glides [i̯:], [e̯:] and [o̯:], as in [s^{i̯}e:ntor] ‘bring it here!’, [k^{e̯}æ:məs] ‘sit down!’, [t^{o̯}ːtma] ‘beware the nails!’, “when you ask more than two people to sit down, don’t say [kɑ:mse] but [k^{e̯}æ:mse]!”

/i/ Close front unrounded vowel phoneme, realized by the phone [i], as in

11) *si* /si/ [si] ‘eye’

/e/ Close-mid front unrounded vowel phoneme, realized by the allophones [e], [i̯:], and [e̯:].

[e̯:] open-mid front unrounded vowel occurs preceding /a/, as in

12) *nameya* /na.me.ja / [na.me.i̯a] ‘good’

[i̯:] close-mid front unrounded lengthened vowel with close front unrounded vowel as onglide, occurs elsewhere, in emphatic speech, as in

13) *senmbrim* / sen^mbrim / [s^{i̯}e:n^mbrim] ‘bring.it.here!’

[e] mid-close front unrounded vowel, occurs elsewhere.

/æ/ Open front unrounded vowel phoneme, realised by the allophones [æ] and [e̯:].

[e̯:] open front unrounded lengthened vowel with mid-open front unrounded vowel as onglide, occurs elsewhere, in emphatic speech, as in

14) *kántóf* / kæn̩tɒf / [k^{e̯}æ:n̩tɒf] ‘come!’

[æ] open front unrounded vowel, occurs elsewhere, as in

15) *káfe* / kæfe / [kæfe] ‘sulphur-crested cockatoo’

/ʉ/ Close central rounded vowel phoneme, realized by the allophones [ʉ], [ɻ] and [ü].

[ü] close back centralised rounded vowel, occurs following velar consonants, as in

16) *karnǵú* / kɑrⁿǵʉ / [kɑrⁿǵü] ‘huge’

[ɻ] close front rounded vowel, occurs following front vowels and the consonant [j], as in

17) *níú* / niʉ / [niɻ] ‘us.only’

[ʉ] close central rounded vowel, occurs elsewhere, as in

18) *wesú* / wesʉ / [wesʉ] ‘k.o.tree’

/ə/ Close-mid central vowel phoneme, realized by the allophones [ɜ], [ö] and [ə].

[ə] Close-mid central unrounded vowel, occurs following bilabial and labiodental consonant, as in

19) *méni* / mənɪ / [mənɪ] ‘fire’

20) *fén* / fən / [fən] ‘you (sg.)’

/ɑ/ open central unrounded vowel phoneme, realized by the allophones [ɑ] and [ä].

[ä] open fronted central unrounded vowel, occurs in some polysyllabic words following [j], as in

21) *yame* / jame / [jäˈme] ‘vowen.mat’

[ɑ] open central unrounded vowel, occurs elsewhere, as in

22) *mar* / mar / [mɑːr] ‘which way’

23) *yam* / jam / [jɑːm] ‘custom, habit,’

/o/ Close-mid back rounded vowel phoneme, realized by the phones [o] and [ʷo].

[ʷo:] close-mid back rounded lengthened vowel with close back rounded vowel as onglide, occurs in emphatic speech, as in

24) *totma!* / tʷoʔma / [tʷʷoʔma] ‘[beware.]because.of.nails!’

/o/ close-mid back rounded vowel, occurs elsewhere, as in

25) *tosai* / tʷosaⁱ / [tʷosaⁱ] ‘toddler’

26) *fewo* / fewo / [fewo] ‘smell’

[ʌ] mid-open back unrounded vowel, realized by the phone [ʌ], as in

27) *móth* / mʌð / [mʌð] ‘road’

[œ] mid-open front rounded vowel, realized by the allophones [œ] and [ö]

[ö] mid-open central rounded vowel, occurs following velar consonants as in

28) *kwôf* / kuœf / [k^uöf] ‘fighting.club’

[œ] mid-open front rounded vowel, occurs elsewhere, as in

29) *nôamá* / nœmæ / [nœmæ] ‘k.o. feast food’

/u/ close back rounded vowel, realized by the allophones [u] and [w],

[u]close back rounded vowel

30) *kut* / kut / [kut] ‘trap’

Generally only /e/, /æ/ and /a/ occur word initially. None of these is very common. Only very few instances of word initial /o/ and /u/ have been found. No instances of word initial /i/, /ʰ/, /œ/, /ə/ or /ʌ/ have been found.

ORTHOGRAPHIC CONVENTIONS

The following conventions were discussed and approved by the Wara Language Committee, a group of distinguished men representing different villages in the language area.

As a principle, the spelling of the lingua francas of the area, i.e., primarily English, secondarily Hiri Motu (Police Motu) are followed as much as possible.

The dental fricative /ð/ is written as <th>.

The affricate /ⁿdz/ is written <ɲj> where the voiced variant occurs, <nts> where the devoiced variant occurs.

The affricate /ts/ is written as <ts>. Formerly it was written as <ch> but was changed to <ts> as <ch> can be confused with English pronunciation [tʃ]. The Wára pronunciation is [ts].

In prenasalized consonants the nasal is written. In the case of /^mb/ this is to avoid confusion with /b/, and in the case of /ⁿd/ and /ⁿdz/ the nasal has to be written in order to avoid confusion with the non-nasalised phonemes /t/ and /ts/.

The devoiced variant of the phoneme /ⁿd/ is written as <nt>

The phonemes /^ʔ/ and /^ʔg/ are written as <ng> and <nḡ>, respectively (The letter ḡ occurs in Hiri Motu. That language is used as lingua franca in the area). Using only English letters (i.e., writing <ng> and <nḡg> was disapproved as that would make words long. E.g., *nḡwarnḡwar* ‘mud’ is considered better than *nggwarnḡgwar*. The phonetic character ɲ was also tried as a letter, forming <ɲj>, <ɲg> and <ɲgw>. This was found to be difficult for new readers.

The non-English vowels are generally written with the acute accent over the an English vowel. Dieresis and caret was also tried, but acute accent was favoured. Caret is in use in /œ/, written as <ô> There is a need to distinguish between /o/, /ʌ/ and /œ/, written as <o>, <ó> and <ô>, respectively.

The vowel /æ/ is written as <á>.

The vowel /ʰ/ is written as <ú>.

The vowel /ə/ is written as <é>.

The vowel /ʌ/ is written as <ó>.

The vowel /œ/ is written as <ô>

The vowel /i/ is written as <i>

The vowel /u/ is written as <u>

SAMPLE TEXT

/næ kai | t̄se t̄auri m̄əyæ kwΛfram ? w̄aʔik | na^mbi fisi a naifo ðrefaf ? w̄aʔik | rafara
fiafar ? man wiaka maðen ʔja ? w̄aʔik | kwrātsik t̄əʔfæ tsua^mbra^gwram ? f̄anm̄ə
kwafiakamo | sækwan kwanwram | t̄a^ri ðað ? t̄a^rio wenkarisa ? ŋankwira ⁿd̄zu t̄sawe
? t̄sa^gar ^mbak ara ranmsa ? w̄aʔik kma sækwan kwanwram ? fewo t̄sə wækumða ?
w̄aʔik | ramaðako ? f̄a^mba we krefar |sækwan we kwΛʔ kwanwram ? næ t̄a^rio we
wenkarisa ? ⁿd̄zu^ada^mb nakfæ ŋankwira t̄soⁿd̄ze fefe ?nə^gai ? yəambar fof rem^ga ? f̄ambfæ
kwasi raʔra/

<Ná kai tse tauri méyô kwófram. Watik, nambi, fisi a naifo threfaf. Watik, rafara
fiafór. Man wiaka móthen nja. Watik, kwrátsik, tétfô tsuambranḡwram. Fónmú
kwófiakamo, sôkwan kwanwram tauri thath. Taurio wenkarisa. Ngankwira nju tsawe.
Tsanḡar mbak ara ranmésa. Watik, kma sôkwan kwanwram. Fewo tsé wákumtha.
Watik, ramathako. Fóm̄ba we krefar, sôkwan we kwót kwanwram. Ná taurio we
wenkarisa. Njundamb nakfá ngankwira tsonje fefe. Nénḡai! Yémbar fof remḡa.
Fóm̄bfá kwósi ratra > .

‘One day I had a desire for wallaby. So, I took a bow, arrow and knife. Then I went hunting. I
went just along the road. Then I entered [the forest] and followed a creek. I walked on, making
sounds like a wallaby. A wallaby heard me. It ran towards me, to my right hand side. It sat down
far from me. Then I tried to make wallaby sounds. It smelled me. Then it went its way. I then
got up and again made wallaby sounds. Another wallaby heard me. It ran to me, very close. Oh
boy! I shot it right on the head. From that spot it fell down dead.’

ORTHOGRAPHY CHART

W = Wára, E = English, M = Motu:

<u>W</u>	< a	á	mb	nd	nj	e	é	f	nḡ	i	k	m	n
<u>E</u>	< a	ae	mb	nd	nj	e	e,i,o,u	f	ng	i	k	m	n
<u>M</u>	< a	ae?	mb	nd	nds	e	e,o	f	nḡ	i	k	m	n
<u>W</u>	ng	o	ó	ô	r	s	t	th	ts	u	ú	w	y >
<u>E</u>	ng	o	u	oe	r	s	t	th	ts	u	ue	w	y >
<u>M</u>	ng	o	u	oe?	r	s	t	th	ts	u	u?	u	i >