Lusoga

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Introduction

Lusoga is an interlacustrine Bantu language spoken in the Eastern part of Uganda in the region of Busoga, which is surrounded by the Victoria Nile in the west, Lake Kyoga in the north, the River Mpologoma in the east and Lake Victoria in the south. According to the 2002 census, this language is spoken by slightly over 2 million people (UBS 2006: 12).

There are four main language varieties spoken in Busoga, i.e. Lutenga, Lulamoogi, Lusiginhi and Lower Lunyole. Of the four, Lutenga is the variety generally known as Lusoga. Preliminary findings from a recently concluded fieldwork study of the varieties spoken in Busoga show that Lulamoogi and Lusiginhi border the Nilotic languages of Lango and Adhola respectively and it is possible that the varieties grew out of this relationship. Lower Lunyole, a variety bordered by Lutenga and Lake Victoria in the south of Busoga, is the most distant of all. Although there is considerable argument for not considering Lunyole as part of Lusoga, it is worth noting that Lunyole is the language of one of the 11 chiefdoms that make up the royal houses of the Busoga kingdom. This house is headed by the clan chief known as Nanhumba who hails from the Busoga county of Bunhole.

Lutenga has developed naturally as the region's lingua franca and it is the variety closest to Luganda: it is estimated that both languages have a lexical similarity of between 82% and 86% (Lewis, Simons & Fennig 2013). A considerable number of Lusoga texts have been produced both formally and informally, most notably by institutions like the Cultural Research Center (CRC) and personalities like Cornelius Gulere, but the majority of these productions do not provide well-founded linguistic descriptions of Lusoga. These publications continue to base their description on the Luganda orthography because it was the official language of instruction in the region (Ladefoged, Glick & Criper 1972: 87-99). Lusoga only featured for the first time in the Ugandan language policy in 2005 (NCDC 2006: 5). In spite of its role as a medium of instruction in Primary Education for seven years now, Lusoga is still an oral language and remains largely undocumented (Nabirye & De Schryver 2010: 327-328).

Although there has always been some research on Lusoga (Yukawa 2000; Steeman 2001; Van der Wal 2004), the real interest in the language surged after its official recognition in 2005. Examples include an update of the Lusoga orthography, the first monolingual Lusoga dictionary and a number of scientific linguistic descriptions of Lusoga (Namyalo et al. 2008; Nabirye 2008, 2009a-b, 2010; De Schryver & Nabirye 2010; De Schryver & Nabirye 2011, 2013). The description of the Lusoga sound system presented here is one of such efforts. It can be situated in the context of extensive fieldwork conducted in January 2012 when sound recordings were made in the 11 Busoga counties that make up Busoga; a total of 39 speakers were involved. However, the sound inventory presented here only represents the Lusoga variety spoken in Buwaabe (N 0^{o} 36' 05", E 33^{o} 39' 49") in Bugweri county, Iganga district. The recordings used in this illustration

are those of a 40-year-old Lutenga speaker born in Buwaabe. At this stage it is too early to comment on any regional pronunciation differences between varieties.

Consonants

The consonant chart below lists the Lusoga sounds which have been found to contrast phonologically in the Lutenga variety. The sounds between brackets have been attested in the language, but they are very rare. They have not been included in any of the numerical counts in this paper.

	Biliabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b p^w p^j (b^j) ^{m}p ^{m}b $^m p^w$ $(^m b^w)$ $^m p^j$ $(^m b^j)$		t̪ d̪ $(t̪^w)$ $d̪^w$ $d̪^j$ $(^n t̪)$ $^n d̪$ $^n d̪^w$ $^n d̪^j$	t d t^w d^w t^j d^j ^{n}t ^{n}d $^n t^w$ $^n d^w$ $^n t^j$ $^n d^j$	c ɟ ^{ɲ}c ^{ɲ}ɟ	k g k^w g^w ^{ŋ}k ^{ŋ}g $^ŋ k^w$ $^ŋ g^w$	
Nasal	m m^w m^j		n̪ $n̪^w$ $n̪^j$	n n^w n^j		ŋ $(ŋ^w)$	
Lateral flap				ɾ̪l $ɾ̪l^w$ $ɾ̪l^j$			

Fricative	β $β^w$ $β^j$	f v (f^w) (v^w) ^mf ^mv ($^mv^w$)		s z s^w z^w ^ns ^nz $^ns^w$($^nz^w$)	(ʃ)	ɣ	(h)
Approximant	w				j		

	IPA Transcription	**Orthography**	**Gloss**
p	ɔkùpàpà	okupapa	‘to hurry’
b	bà:bá	bbaabba	‘father’
t̪	ɔkùt̪ipà	okuthipa	‘to be very tight’
d̪	ɔmùsù:d̪à	omusuudha	‘malaria’
t	ɔkútà:ɻà	okutala	‘to get ready to fight’
d	ɔkúdà:ɻà	okudala	‘to be jolly’
c	ɔkùcá	okukya	‘to stop to become day’
ɟ	ɔkùɟá	okugya	‘to go’
k	ɔkùkà:wà	okukaawa	‘to be sour’
g	ɔkùgà:wà	okugaawa	‘to go bad (of food)’
p^w	p^w ĭ:p^wĭ:p^wĭ	pwipwipwi	‘very early in the morning’
$t̪^w$	ɛ̆:ŋkù$t̪^w$á	enkuthwa	‘medicine man’s walking stick’

ɖ^{w}	ɔβùɖ^{w}á	obudhwa	‘intelligence’
t^{w}	ɔkùt^{w}â:ɹɻà	okutwala	‘to take’
d^{w}	ɛ:ɪd^{w}â:ɹʃi:ɹɻɔ	eidwalilo	‘hospital’
k^{w}	ɔkùk^{w}à:jà	okukwaya	‘to make noise (of paper, leaves, plastic)’
g^{w}	ɔmùg^{w}â:g^{w}á	omugwagwa	‘stupid person’
p^{j}	ɛcíkɛp^{j}à	ekikepya	‘rag; worn-out piece of cloth’
b^{j}	àgùb^{j}é	agubbye	‘he/she has become dirty’
ɖ^{j}	ɔmùtɛ:^{ŋ}gɛ:ɖ^{j}á	omutengeedhia	‘nurse/assistant’
t^{j}	ɔkùt^{j}á	okutya	‘to fear’
d^{j}	ɔkúgùd^{j}à	okugudya	‘to bite/affect severely’
^{m}p	ɛ:^{m}pàlá	empala	‘leopard’
^{m}b	ɔkúkû:^{m}bà	okukumba	‘to march’
^{ŋ}t	ɛ:^{ŋ}túpà	enthupa	‘bottle’
^{ŋ}ɖ	ɛ̂:^{ŋ}ɖá	endha	‘far/away’
^{n}t	ɛ:^{n}tá	enta	‘finger measurements’
^{n}d	ɛ:^{n}dà	enda	‘stomach/pregnancy’
^{ɲ}c	ɛ:^{ɲ}cɔ́	enkyo	‘tomorrow’
^{ɲ}ɟ	ɛ:^{ɲ}ɟɔ́	engyo	‘splinters from a clay pot’
^{ŋ}k	ɛ̌:^{ŋ}kàtà	enkata	‘head cushion’
^{ŋ}g	ɛ:^{ŋ}gà	enga	‘type of tree/stick’
^{m}p^{w}	ɛ:^{m}p^{w}ĭ:gùɹɻú	empwigulu	‘owl’

$^{m}b^{w}$	è:$^{m}b^{w}$á	embwa	‘dog’
$^{n̪}d̪^{w}$	ńn̪â:$^{n̪}d̪^{w}$ï:ɻɻè	nnhandhwile	‘I have introduced’
$^{n}t^{w}$	è:$^{n}t^{w}$ï:gà	entwiga	‘giraffe’
$^{n}d^{w}$	ê:$^{n}d^{w}$áiɻɻé	endwaile	‘diseases’
$^{ŋ}k^{w}$	ě:$^{ŋ}k^{w}$à:^{m}bǐ	enkwambi	‘type of bird’
$^{ŋ}g^{w}$	ɔβùwà:$^{ŋ}g^{w}$á	obuwangwa	‘traditions/customs’
$^{m}p^{j}$	è:$^{m}p^{j}$à:ká	empyaka	‘new’
$^{m}b^{j}$	nàmù:$^{m}b^{j}$á	Namumbya	‘Kisoga name’
$^{n}d̪^{j}$	ɔkùjɔ:$^{n}d̪^{j}$á	okuyondhia	‘to clean’
$^{n}t^{j}$	ɔkŭ:$^{n}t^{j}$à	okuntya	‘to fear me’
$^{n}d^{j}$	è:$^{n}d^{j}$â:^{ŋ}gà	endyanga	‘bag/pocket’
m	àmàtá	amata	‘milk’
n̪	ɔmùn̪á	omunha	‘gecko lizard’
n	nàtá	nata	‘I put’
ŋ	dàŋá	daŋa	‘jackfruit fibres’
m^{w}	ɔm^{w}â:nà	omwana	‘child’
$n̪^{w}$	ɔkùn̪^{w}á	okunhwa	‘to drink’
n^{w}	ɔmùn^{w}á	omunwa	‘mouth’
$ŋ^{w}$	ŋ:^{w}áɻí	ŋŋwali	‘crested crane’
m^{j}	ɔkútɛ̀m^{j}à	okutemya	‘to blink’
$n̪^{j}$	ɔm^{w}ăgà:n̪^{j}à	omwagaanhia	‘gap/space’

nʲ	ɔkùnʲɔlà	okuniola	‘to wring’
ɻ̩	ɛ̌ɪβɛ̀ːɻ̩lɛ̀	eibeele	‘breast’
ɻ̩ʷ	ɛ̀cíɡɛ̂ːⁿdɛ̀ɻ̩lɛ̀ɻ̩ʷà	ekigendelelwa	‘aim/goal’
ɻ̩ʲ	ɛ̀ɪɻ̩ʲá	eilya	‘marriage’
β	ɔkùβàːɻ̩là	okubala	‘to count’
f	ɔkùfàːwɔ̀	okufaawo	‘to become extinct’
v	ɔkùvàːwɔ̀	okuvaawo	‘to leave’
s	ɔkùsàːlà	okusaala	‘to make a hissing sound’
z	ɔkúzàːɻ̩là	okuzaala	‘to give birth; to reproduce’
ʃ	ʃi̯ːjá	shiiya	‘bah’
ɣ	ɣàːɻ̩lɛ́	ghale	‘there’
h	àhà	aha	‘aha’
βʷ	ɔβʷâːⁿgà	obwanga	‘face’
fʷ	ɔkùfʷàːwɔ̀	okufwawo	‘to become extinct’
vʷ	ɔkùvʷàːwɔ̀	okuvwawo	‘to leave’
sʷ	ɔkùsʷáːɻ̩lá	okuswala	‘to be ashamed’
zʷ	ńzʷ̃ìːɻ̩lɛ̀	nzwile	‘I have found’
βʲ	ɛ̀βʲâːⁿdà	ebyanda	‘long span of time’
ᵐf	ɛ̀ːᵐfúmɔ̀	enfumo	‘fables’
ᵐv	ɛ̀ːᵐvú	envu	‘grey hair’
ⁿs	ɛ̀ːⁿsà	ensa	‘sweatiness’
ⁿz	ɛ̌ːⁿzɨ̃ɻ̩lɔ̀	enzilo	‘soot’

$^{ɱ}v^{w}$	sɛ́ːᵑᵐvʷʷiːɹl̠ɛ̀	senvwile	‘moved forward’
$^{n}s^{w}$	ɛ̀ːⁿsʷɛ́ːɹl̠á	enswela	‘housefly’
$^{n}z^{w}$	àːⁿzʷʷiːɹl̠ɛ̀	anzwile	‘he/she has found me’
w	ɔ̀kùwɛ́ːɹl̠à	okuwela	‘to patch’
j	ɔ̀kùjá	okuya	‘to get ready (of food); to get burnt’

While the Upper Lunyole consonant system consists of 62 consonants (Namulemu 2006), Lusoga has 81. The size of this consonant inventory is to be qualified as large in the knowledge that the mean consonant inventory size is 22.7 (Maddieson 2011).

Lusoga has plosives at 5 places of articulation with a clear phonemic distinction between a dental and alveolar place of articulation. This is evidenced by near minimal pairs like [èbǐt̪èpèlɛ̀] ‘fried cookies’ vs. [èbítèlɛ̀kɛ̀] ‘parcels’ and [ɔ̀músàːd̪à] ‘man’ vs. [ɔ̀kùsàːdà] ‘to shake a liquid in a container’.

Ladefoged & Maddieson (1996: 20-23) suggest that dental plosives tend to be laminal with tongue contact on both the teeth and the anterior part of the alveolar ridge, while alveolar plosives tend to be apical with tongue tip contact in the middle of the alveolar ridge. The palatograms in figures 1-6 show that this also appears to be the case in Lusoga.

Figure 1 (Colour online): Palatogram of the dental plosive in [aṭa]. The bulk of the occlusion is against the rear of the upper teeth.

Figure 2 (Colour online): Palatogram of the alveolar plosive in [ata] with well defined contact on the alveolar ridge only.

Figure 3 (Colour online): Palatogram of the voiced dental plosive in [aḍa] showing tongue contact with the back of the upper teeth and the anterior portion of the alveolar ridge. Dental contact is asymmetrical in the midsagittal plane.

Figure 4 (Colour online): Palatogram of the voiced alveolar plosive in [ada] with contact on the alveolar ridge only.

Figure 5 (Colour online): Palatogram of the dental nasal in [aṇa] showing tongue contact with the back of the upper teeth and the anterior portion of the alveolar ridge.

Figure 6 (Colour online): Palatogram of the alveolar nasal in [ana] with contact on the alveolar ridge only.

At all places of articulation the plosive pairs are distinguished in terms of voicing. This is witnessed by (near) minimal pairs like : [ɔ̀kùpɪ̏kà] ‘to put pressure into something’ vs. [ɔ̀kúbɪ̏kà]

‘to relay bad news; [èbɪ̈tèpèɹɻè] ‘fried cookies’ vs [èbɪ̈d̪èɡèɹɻè] ‘chains’; [ðkútàɹɻà] ‘to get ready to fight’ vs. [ðkúdàɹɻà] ‘to be jolly’; [ðkùcá] ‘to stop; to become day’ vs. [ðkùɟá] ‘to go’; [ðkùkàːwà] ‘to be sour’ vs. [ðkùgàːwà] ‘to go bad (of food)’.

Voiceless plosives have a small Voice Onset Time (< 30 msec in the recordings provided with this illustration), while the voiced plosives have considerable prevoicing. The palatal plosives [c] and [ɟ] are typically realized as affricates [tʃ] and [dʒ]: [càːβàʑîːⁿgà] ‘title for the Busoga king’ and [ðkùɟá] ‘to go’. The glottal stop only occurs as the strong onset of word-initial vowels: [ʔíɲ̈àɪfè] ‘queen of Busoga’. The occurrence of a glottal stop often gives rise to a significant creaky voice quality on the preceding and following vowels especially in the context of low tones.

The labial, dental, alveolar and velar plosives also occur with labialization and these are contrastive with the plain plosives: there are clear minimal pairs for [b] (e.g. [èːᵐbʷá] ‘dog’ vs. [èːᵐbá] ‘jaws’), [t] (e.g. [ðkùtʷâːɹɻà] ‘to take’ vs. [ðkútàɹɻà] ‘to get ready to fight’), [d] (e.g. [êːⁿdʷáɪɹɻɛ́] ‘diseases’ vs. [èːⁿdà] ‘stomach/pregnancy’), [k] (e.g. [ðkùkʷàːjà] ‘to make noise (of paper, leaves, plastic)’ vs. [ðkùkàːjà] ‘to make bitter’), and [ɡ] (e.g. [ðmùɡʷâːɡʷá] ‘stupid person’ vs. [ðmúgáːgà] ‘type of tree’). There is no minimal pair for [p], [t̪] and [d̪] but there is evidence that they have labialized counterparts in similar phonetic environments: e.g. [pʷɨːpʷɨːpʷɨ] ‘very early morning’ vs. [ðkùpɨ̈kà] ‘to put pressure into something’ and [ðβùd̪ʷá] ‘intelligence’ vs. [ðβúd̪àmà] ‘dirtiness’. Furthermore, the voiceless and voiced alveolar plosives occur in phonemic contrast with the palatalized alveolar plosive: e.g. [ðkùtʲá] ‘to fear’ vs. [ðkùtá] ‘to put’ and [ðkúgùdʲà] ‘to bite severely’ vs. [ðkùgùdà] ‘to gulp’.

Finally, it should be mentioned that Lusoga has 19 prenasalized plosives. Prenasalized consonants in this paper have been considered as unitary segments for the following reasons (among others): (1) the overall duration of these sounds falls well within the range of what can be expected for a single sound; (2) the prenasalizations are always homorganic, so their phonetic realization is dependent on the place of articulation of the plosive; (3) if syllables are taken to start with a cluster consisting of two segments, the sonority hierarchy predicts that the segment with the lowest sonority (i.e. the plosive) occurs first; (4) Lusoga has minimal pairs contrasting prenasalized plosives with plain ones: e.g. [ðkúgûːᵐbà] ‘to gather; to grow’ vs. [ðkùgùbà] ‘to become dirty’, [ðmùpûːⁿtà] ‘surveyor’ vs. [ðmùtápùtà] ‘interpretor’, [ðkúwàːⁿdà] ‘to spit’ vs. [ðkùwàdà] ‘to accuse falsely; try’, [ɛ̌ːᵑkàtà] ‘head cushion’ vs. [kàtá] ‘almost’ and [ðkúsɨ̂ːᵑgà] ‘to win’ vs. [ðkúsɨ̈gà] ‘to sow’; (5) Lusoga has minimal pairs contrasting prenasalized consonants with full nasal phonemes: e.g. [ðkŭːᵐpà] ‘to give me’ vs. [ɔ́kùmà] ‘you light a fire’; (6) the prenasalized plosives participate in the same processes of labialization and palatalization as the plain plosives.

A comparison with prenasalization of the plosives in the UPSID corpus (Maddieson 1984) reveals that 53 of the 451 languages included in UPSID (11.75%) have prenasalized plosives.

The total number of prenasalized plosives in Lusoga is exceptionally high in comparison to the UPSID mean (2.92).

Nasals occur at four places of articulation, i.e. labial, dental, alveolar and velar. The Lutenga variety does not have a palatal nasal which occurs in the other Lusoga varieties. The labial, dental and alveolar nasals contrast with a labialized counterpart: there are minimal pairs for [m] (e.g. [ɔmʷîːzɛ̀] 'return him/her' vs. [ɔmĩzɛ́] 'you have swallowed'), [n̪] (e.g. [ɛ̀cĩn̪ʷá] 'bundle of firewood' vs. [ɛ̀cíṉà] 'gecko lizard') and [n] (e.g. [ɛ̀cĩnʷá] 'ugly mouth' vs. [ɛ̀cîːnà] 'hole'). Furthermore, the labial nasal occurs in opposition with a palatalized labial nasal: e.g. [ɔkútɛ̀mʲà] 'to blink' vs. [ɔkútɛ̀mà] 'to cut'.

Geminate nasals also occur and these typically surface as the result of Meinhof's Law (or the Ganda Law): "a nasal + voiced consonant sequence becomes a geminate nasal when the next syllable also begins with a nasal" (Hyman 2003: 52). Nouns in classes 9 and 10 (which take the prefix eN-) are especially affected: e.g. eN-[βaːᵐba] > emmamba [ɛ̆mːàːᵐbà] 'meat', eN-[jaːⁿgɛ] > ennhange [ɛ̆n̪ːàːⁿgɛ̀] 'dove', eN-[gɛːⁿdɔ] > eŋŋendo [ɛ̀ŋːɛ̆ːⁿdɔ̀] 'journeys'. Geminate nasals also surface with the first person singular morpheme (-N-), either as subject (e.g. N-[jɛːⁿda] > nnhenda [n̪̊n̪̊ɛːⁿdà] 'I want') or as object (e.g. [a] N [βiːⁿg] [a] > amminga [àmĩːⁿgà] 'he chases me'). Nasals are the only sounds in Lusoga which occur as singletons and geminates.

Lusoga has no trills, but it has an alveolar lateral flap in words like: [ŋːʷáɻ̩í] 'crested crane', [ɔmúwùːɻ̩ù] 'umarried man', [ɛːᵐpʷĩgùɻ̩ú] 'owl' and [ɛ̆ɪβàːɻ̩ɛ̀] 'stone'. The speaker who has read the words for this article displayed significant variability in the pronunciation of the lateral flap. Sometimes it is realized as an alveolar tap as in [ɛ̀cĩβĩɾɻ̩ĩːɾĩ] 'matchbox', [ɛ̆ɪβɛ̀ːɾɻ̩ɛ̀] 'breast' and [ɛ̆ːⁿzĩɾɻ̩ɔ̀] 'soot'. In other instances it appears as an alveolar lateral approximant: [ɛ̀ɪdʷâːɭĩlɔ̀] 'hospital', [ɔkùlɔ̀βà] 'to refuse'. Alveolar lateral flaps are rare in languages of the world: UPSID lists 9 languages (2 %) with this sound. One of the better known examples is Japanese (Okada 1991). In Lusoga, the alveolar lateral flap occurs contrastively with a labialized flap: [ɔkùɾɻ̩ʷà] 'to be late' vs. [ɔ́kùɾɻ̩à] 'you grow up', [ɛ̀cígɛ̂ːⁿdɛ̀ɾɻ̩ɛ̀ɾɻ̩ʷà] 'aim, goal' vs. [ɛ̀cígɛ́ːⁿdɛ̀ɾɻ̩ɛ̀ɾɻ̩à] 'is intended'. In addition, it contrasts with a palatalized flap: e.g. [ɔkùɾɻ̩ʲá] 'to eat' vs. [ɔ́kùɾɻ̩à] 'you grow up', [ɛ̂ɪɾɻ̩ʲà] 'marriage' vs. [ɛ̂ɪɾɻ̩à] 'later'.

Lusoga has fricatives at 6 places of articulation: the labio-dental and alveolar fricatives are represented by a voiceless and voiced member each, while the labial and velar places have a voiced fricative only. There is substantial variability in the phonetic realization of the velar fricative [ɣ] which may range from palatal/prevelar [ɟ] to outright uvular [ʁ]. Nevertheless, palatal and uvular realizations are not phonemic. Lutenga is the only Lusoga variety with a velar fricative. The glottal fricative is very rare. The plain alveolar fricatives contrast phonemically with their labialized counterparts: [ɔkùsʷáːɾɻ̩á] 'to be ashamed' vs. [ɔkùsàːɾɻ̩à] 'to make a hissing sound' and [àːⁿzʷîːɾɻ̩ɛ̀] 'he/she has found me' vs. [ɛ̆ːⁿzĩɾɻ̩ɔ̀] 'soot'. Very exceptionally labialized labio-dental fricatives are heard, but they are not contrastive: [ɔkùfʷàːwɔ̀] and [ɔkùfàːwɔ̀] 'to

become extinct', [ɔkùvʷàːwɔ̀] and [ɔkùvàːwɔ̀] 'to leave'. The labial fricative contrasts with a palatalized labial fricative: e.g. [èβʲâːⁿdà] 'long span of time' vs. [èβàːⁿdà] 'it hits'.

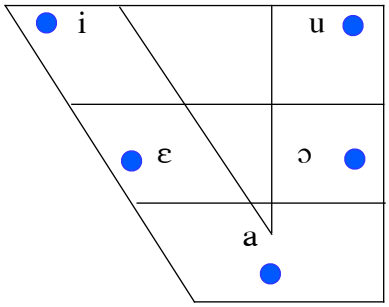
Lusoga also has 5 prenasalized fricatives which – just like the plosives – have been treated as unitary segments for reasons stated earlier. A few (near) minimal pairs are: [ɔmʷêːᵐvù] 'ripe' vs. [ɔmʷéːvù] 'educated' and [èːᵐvú] 'grey hair' vs. [ɛ̌ɪvù] 'ash'. Only 7 UPSID languages (1.55%) have prenasalized fricatives.

Lusoga has two approximants, i.e. [w] and [j].

A comparison of the Lusoga secondary articulations with languages in UPSID reveals that labialization occurs in 84 of the 451 UPSID languages (18.63 %). In this database, the number of labialized sounds varies between 0 and 29 with a mean of 4. Lusoga has 20 labialized sounds with a complete series of labialized stops and nasals, and an incomplete set in the fricatives. As far as palatalization is concerned, 35 of the UPSID languages (7.76%) have palatalized sounds with a mean of 5.2 and a range between 0 and 17. Lusoga has 13 palatalized sounds, none of which consitute a complete series.

Vowels

Lusoga has 5 qualitatively different vowels with a phonemic length distinction. With this system, it has the most frequent vowel system in the world. In addition, Lusoga has three rising diphthongs which are not the result of morphophonology. Although there are some examples of dipthongs in Lower Lunyole, their occurrence is rare when compared to the other Lusoga varieties.



	IPA Transcription	**Orthography**	**Gloss**
i	ɔkùɹl̪̆ìmà	okulima	'to dig'
ɛ	ɔkùɹl̪̆èmà	okulema	'to defeat'

a	ɔkùɹl̪àmà	okulama	‘to come back to life’
ɔ	ɔkùɹl̪ɔβà	okuloba	‘to refuse’
u	ɔkúɹl̪ùmà	okuluma	‘to bite; to be painful’
iː	ècĭβĭɹl̪ĭːtĭ	ekibiliiti	‘matchbox’
ɛː	ĕɪβèːɹl̪è	eibeele	‘breast’
aː	ĕɪβàːɹl̪è	eibaale	‘stone’
ɔː	ɔkùβôːɹl̪à	okuboola	‘to segregate’
uː	ɔmúwùːɹl̪ú	omuwuulu	‘unmarried man’
aɪ	átàɪɹl̪è	ataile	‘he/she has put’
ɛɪ	ĕɪɹl̪àːmè	eilaame	‘a will’
ɔɪ	ècíkôɪkɔ̀	ekikoiko	‘riddle’

Prosody

Although a detailed study of Lusoga tone is still underway, preliminary findings indicate that Lusoga has two main tones H and L, and combinations thereof such as HL, and what appears to be a “reversive tone system” (meaning that it has diachronically inverted the tones of Proto-Bantu).

ècĭkɔ́mɔ́	‘bangle’	ècíkɔ́mɔ̀	‘the end’
ɔ́bùdɔːⁿgɔ̀	‘soft mud’	ɔ̀búdɔːⁿgɔ́	‘state of being a musician’
ɔ̀kʷàːgà	‘to scratch’	ɔ̀kʷâːgá	‘to have a certain size’
ènsʷêːɹl̪à	‘cobra’	ènsʷéːɹl̪á	‘housefly’

Transcriptions

English version

The North Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger, when a traveller came along wrapped in a warm cloak. They agreed that the one who first succeeded in making the traveller take his cloak off should be considered stronger than the other. Then the North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew the more closely did the traveller fold his cloak around him. And at last the North Wind gave up the attempt. Then the Sun shone out warmly, and immediately the traveller took off his cloak. And so the North Wind was obliged to confess that the Sun was the stronger of the two.

Orthographic version

Lunaku lulala, empewo dh'omu mambuka n'endhuba by'etaba mu kusindanwa okusobola okubona ani ku byombi asinga amaanhi. Byali bikaali awo, waidhawo omutabaazi eyali yeesuuliile ekigoye ekimusuuya.

Bano abaali mu ntaka dh'okusindanwa baasalawo okwikilizigania nti, anaasooka okuleetela omutabaazi oyo okwewembula ekigoye kye yeewembeleile ni aidha okuba asinze mwine.

Olwo, empewo dh'omu mambuka dhaatoolela dhaakunta n'amaanhi amabitilivu; aye ye dhaakoma okufuuwa, omutabaazi ye yakoma okwezingila ekigoye kye. Enkomelelo ya byonabyona yali ya mpewo dha mu mambuka kuva mu luyookaano.

Olwo ni omusana gw'avaayo gwona gw'ayaka okwekansa. Amangu n'embilo, omutabaazi yeebwikula ekigoye kye yali yeewembeleile.

Ekyavaamu, empewo dh'omu mambuka dhaalina okwemenha dhaikiliza nti, bwene omusana n'ogwali gudhisinga amaanhi.

Phonetic transcription

ɻl̩únàkù ɻl̩ùɻl̩àɻl̩à ɛ̆ːᵐpèwɔ̀ ɖ̪ɔ̂ːmù màːᵐbùká | nɛ̀ːⁿɖ̪ùβà βʲɛ̂ːtábà mù kúsʔ̂ːⁿdànʷą̱ ɔ̀kúsɔ́βɔ́ɻl̩ɔ̀ kṵ̱βɔ̀nà̱ʔą́nʔ̀ kù βʲɔ̀ːᵐbʔ̀ ʔà̱sʔ̂ːⁿgàːmă̱ːn̪ʔ̀ | βʲáɻl̩ʔ́ βʔ̈ikàːɻl̩ʲáwɔ̀ wă̱ɪɖ̪àwɔ́ ɔ̀mùtàβà̱ːz̲ʔ̀ ʔɛ̱̀jáɻl̩ʔ́ jɛːsùːɻl̩ʔ̈ːɻl̩è ècígɔ̀jè ècʔ̈ìmùsùːjà̱ | bànɔ̱̀ʔàbâːɻl̩ʔ̀ mŭ ⁿtàkˣà ɖ̪ɔ̆ːkùsʔ̂ːⁿdànʷá βâːsáɻl̩áwò kʷʔ̈ːkíɻl̩ʔ̀ zígànʲà̱ ⁿt̪ʔ̨̀ ánă̱ːsɔ̀ːkà ʔɔ̀kúɻl̩ɛ̀ːtèɻl̩ ɔ̀mùtàbàːz ɔ̂jɔ̀ ɔ̀kʷɛ̂ːwèːᵐbʊ́ɻl̩ ɛ̱̀cígʷɛ̱̀ c é jɛːwɛ̂ːᵐbɛ̱̀ɻl̩ɛ̱̀ɪ | nă̱ɪɖ̪àʔɔ̀kùβą́ʔ ʔà̱sʔ̂ːⁿzè mʷʔ̈ːnɛ́ | ʔɔ̱̀ɻl̩ʷɛ̆ːᵐpèwɔ̀ ɖ̪ɔ̂ːmù màːᵐbùká ɖ̪ă̱ːtɔ̀ːɻl̩ɛ̀ɻl̩áɖ̪ă̱ːkûːⁿtánâːmâːn̪ʔ̀ àmáβʔ́tʔ̈ɻl̩ʔ́ivù | ʔą̱̀jɛ̀jɛ̀ ɖ̪âːkɔ̀mà̱ ʔɔ̱̀kúfùːwà̱ ʔɔ̀mútàβáːzʔ̀ jɛ̱̀ já̱kɔ̀mà̱ ʔɔ̱̀kʷɛ̂ːzʔ̀ːⁿgʔ̈ɻl̩á̱ ècígɔ́jècɛ̱́ | ɛ̆ːⁿkɔ̀mɛ̀ɻl̩ɛ̀ɻl̩ɔ́ jă̱bʲɔ̂ːnábʲɔ̂ːná jàːɻl̩ʔ́ jă̱ːᵐpèwɔ̀ ɖ̪à mù màːᵐbùkˣá

kùvàmù ɻl̪ùjɔːˣa̰ːnɔ̀ | ʔɔ̰ːɻl̪ʷô nl̪̃ ʔɔ̰mùsáná gʷáːvăːjɔ̀ gʷôːná gʷàːjákq̰́ ʔɔ̰kʷêːkàⁿsà | ʔą̰măːᵑgù nêːᵐbl̪̈ːɻl̪ɔ̰̃ ʔɔ̰mútʰàβáːzl̪̈ jĕːβʷl̪̈ːkúːɻl̪ ècígʷè cè jáːɻl̪̈ì jèːwêːᵐbèːɻl̪ĕːɻl̪è | ʔę̰càːvàːmú ĕːᵐpèwɔ̀ d̪̈ômù màːᵐbùká d̪̈ăːɻl̪̈ínq̰́ ʔɔ́kʷêːmèń̪á d̪̈ăɪkl̪̈ːɻl̪̈ízą̆ ⁿ̥tl̪̈ bʷêːnè ʔɔ̀músàːná nɔ̀ːgʷâːɻĺ̪í gúd̪̈ísíːᵑgàːmăːñ̪ì

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