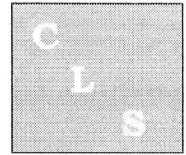


University



of Malawi



CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

Director
Professor Pascal J. Kishindo, BA MA FCCS

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

6th October, 2010

P.O. Box 108 Zomba, Malawi

Tel.: (265) 527 460/524 709
Fax: (265) 525 587

E-mail: cls@sdp.org.mw

<http://www.unima-cls.org>

To Whom it May Concern

AMENDMENTS AND /OR ADDITIONAL RULES TO CIYAWO ORTHOGRAPHY

As you might be aware, the Centre for Language Studies in line with its mandate from the Malawi Government published the first standard orthography of Ciyawo in 2005. This document was a result of thorough consultative meetings with a cross-section of language practitioners including writers, linguists, language teachers, religious leaders and native Ciyawo language speakers. Although each rule was carefully considered and every attempt made to simplify the orthography for ease of understanding and application, it was not assumed that everything would be perfect. In recent years, users have made observations on existing rules in need of further refinements as well as suggestions for the inclusion of additional rules in areas that were not considered in the earlier discussions. Below we present amendments and /or additional rules that have been made by the Centre for Language Studies after thorough consultations with language practitioners in Ciyawo.

1.0. Future Tense Marker

The Future tense marker is variously represented by *-ci-* and *-ti-*. The standard form should be *-ci-* as in:

*C*indende (I will do) not *T*indende

*C*itutende (We will do) not *T*itutende

Musi wetu *uc*ikamula masengoga malaŵi (Our village will do the work tomorrow)

Ce Yusufu *caci*yika akuno mwesi wa mtondo (Mr Yusufu will come here the month after next)

2.0. Use of W and Y (amendment to rule 22)

A glide should be inserted before a vowel or between two vowels if it is pronounced as such. For example:

Yijuni yili kwapi? (Where are the birds?)
Yome yeleyo yili yangu. (Those cats are mine.)
Iyayi (no) and not *iai*.
Liwupa (bone) and not *liupa*.

3.0 The Bilabial nasal M/m

Nouns in the Wu-Ji class which have a nasalized initial sound followed by another consonant are variously written with an **m-** or **n-** in the singular. The standard form should be **m-** as in:

mlango (doorway) and not *nlango*
mnowu (flesh) and not *nnowu*
mtoca (leggings) and not *ntoca*
mlungu (week) and not *nlungu*

4.0 Foreign or Borrowed Words (amendment to rule 8.0)

- (i) Foreign common nouns should be written as they are pronounced in Ciyawo, i.e. following the phonological structure of Ciyawo as in:

galaja (garage)
jusi (jersey)
fawundeconi (foundation)
satifiketi (certificate)

- (ii) For religious proper names, their historical form in Ciyawo should be maintained. For example:

Klistu (Christ) and not *Kilisitu*
Paulo(Paul) and not *Pawulo*
Saulo (Saul) and not *Sawulo*
Klaudio (Klaudio) and not *Kilawudiyo*
Aglipa (Aglipa) and not *Agilipa*

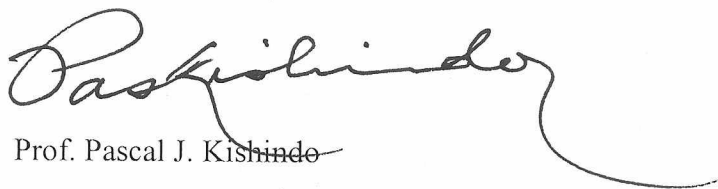
- (iii) Plural forms of foreign common nouns beginning with the vowel **a-** should be written with a double vowel. For example:

Akita (actor) - *Maakita* (actors)
Ansala (answer) - *Maansala* (answers)
Ampulifaya (Amplifier) - *Maampulifaya* (amplifiers)

Those interested in getting their own copy of these amended and or /additional rules should contact the Director of the Centre for Language Studies on the address given above, until such a time when the 2nd revised edition of Ciyawo Orthography Rules will be published and on general

We wish to acknowledge the support and constructive comments of all stakeholders in the formulation of these rules. We hope individual writers and institutions involved in producing materials in Ciyawo will find them useful.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pascal J. Kishindo', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Prof. Pascal J. Kishindo

Director, Centre for Language Studies