

Orthography

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All Satawalese vowels (Table 1) contrast long and short sounds. The vowel length contrast is not indicated for the vowels *ea*, *eo*, *iu*, *oa* in the orthography system used in this dictionary, but appears in the alternative spelling (Table 2). Alternative spellings are provided under *AltSp* at the end of each entry, when it is different from the spelling used for the entry form. The order of letters in the dictionary, follows that used in the English alphabet.

Table 1 Vowels

	FRONT	MID	BACK
HIGH	i	ɨ	u
MID	e	ə	o
LOW	æ	ɐ	ɒ

Table 2 Orthography and alternative spellings of vowels

Short Vowels			Long Vowels		
Phoneme	Orthography used in this dictionary	Alternative Spelling	Phoneme	Orthography used in this dictionary	Alternative Spelling
/i/	i	ɨ	/i:/	ii	ii
/e/	e	e	/e:/	ee	ee
/æ/	ae	á	/æ:/	ae	áá
/ɐ/	a	a	/ɐ:/	aa	aa
/ɨ/	iu	ú	/i:/	iu	úú
/ə/	eo	é	/ə:/	eo	éé
/u/	u	u	/u:/	uu	uu
/o/	o	o	/o:/	oo	oo
/ɒ/	oa	ó	/ɒ:/	oa	óó

All the consonants (Table 3), except for *y* and *w*, occur doubled as geminates. The consonants *mw* and *pw* are velarized sounds. The geminate consonants of the sounds *ch*, *mw*, *ng*, *pw* and *rh* are indicated as *cch*, *mmw*, *nng*, *ppw* and *rrh*. For other consonants, the letter is simply doubled, e.g., *ff* for a geminate *f*. The character *ʀ*, instead of *rh*, is used in some publications (Table 4).

Table 3 Consonants

MANNER OF ARTICULATION		POSITION OF ARTICULATION					
		BILABIAL	LABIO-DENTAL	DENTAL-ALVEOLAR	RETROFLEX	PALATAL	VELAR
VOICELESS	PLAIN STOPS	p		t			k
	VELARIZED STOP	p ^w					
	FRICATIVES		f	s			
	AFFRICATE				ʈʂ		
VOICED	PLAIN NASALS	m		n			ŋ
	VELARIZED NASAL	m ^w					
	TRILL			r			
	APPROXIMANTS				ɻ	j	w

Table 4 Orthography and alternative spellings of consonants

Phoneme	ORTHOGRAPHY USED IN THIS DICTIONARY	ANOTHER CHARACTER USED FOR THE SAME SOUND SPELLING	REPRESENTATION OF THE CORRESPONDING GEMINATE CONSONANT
/m/	m		mm
/m ^w /	mw		mmw
/p/	p		pp
/p ^w /	pw		ppw
/f/	f		ff
/n/	n		nn
/t/	t		tt
/s/	s		ss
/r/	r		rr
/ɻ/	rh	ɻ	rrh
/ʈʂ/	ch		cch
/j/	y		
/ŋ/	ng		nng
/k/	k		kk
/w/	w		

Meaning-distinguishing stress or pitch accent on a word is not observed. Uttered in isolation in normal speed, a word usually carries the heaviest stress on its last syllable and the highest pitch on its next-to-the-last syllable.