



/w/ voiced labial-velar approximant

/k<sup>w</sup>/ voiceless labialized velar plosive

/g<sup>w</sup>/ voiced labialized velar plosive

/m<sup>w</sup>/ voiced labialized bilabial nasal

/p<sup>w</sup>/ voiceless labialized bilabial plosive

/b<sup>w</sup>/ voiced labialized bilabial plosive

p	pou	‘egg’	[pou]	d	daibi	‘garden’	[ˈdɛibi]
	wapa	‘plenty’	[ˈwɛpɛ]		yada	‘clouds’	[ˈjɛdɛ]
p <sup>w</sup>	pwalāge	‘throw’	[p <sup>w</sup> ɛˈlɛyɛ]	n	nawalai	‘moon’	[nɛwɛˈlɛi]
	tutupwali	‘strike sparks’	[tutɔˈp <sup>w</sup> ɛli]		mwanua	‘bird’	[m <sup>w</sup> ɛˈnuɛ]
b	bonubonu	‘pumpkin’	[ˌbɔnuˈbɔnu]		simokin	‘mosquito’	[siˈmɔkin]
	nubaigu	‘cousin’	[nuˈbɛigu]	ɺ	lugu	‘leaves’	[ˈluɔ]
b <sup>w</sup>	bwaga		[ˈb <sup>w</sup> ɛgɛ]		tululu	‘cold’	[tɔˈluɔ]
	bwasulu		[b <sup>w</sup> ɛˈsulu]	s	suala	‘sun’	[suˈɛlɛ]
m	madi	‘cuscus’	[ˈmɛdi]		musara	‘animal’	[muˈsɛlɛ]
	nima	‘arms’	[ˈnimɛ]	ɣ	ḡaba	‘cry’	[ˈɣɛbɛ]
	simsim	‘watermelon’	[ˌsimˈsim]		yovoḡe	‘down, to lower’	[jɔˈvɔyɛ]
m <sup>w</sup>	mwanua	‘bird’	[m <sup>w</sup> ɛˈnuɛ]	j	yavala	‘wind’	[jɛˈvɛlɛ]
	mwata	‘snake’	[ˈm <sup>w</sup> ɛtɛ]		buyama	‘prawns’	[buˈjɛmɛ]
w	wagulu	‘shadow’	[wɛˈguɔ]	k	kokoleko	‘sweet potato’	[kɔkɔˈlɛkɔ]
	asiwa	‘wash’	[ɛˈsiwɛ]		yokuyoku	‘sweat’	[jɔkɔˈjɔkɔ]
f	faiona	‘three’	[fɛiˈɔnɛ]	k <sup>w</sup>	kwalabu	‘pitpit’	[k <sup>w</sup> ɛˈlɛbu]
	lofalofana	‘long’	[lɔˌfɛlɔˈfɛnɛ]		ikwamo	‘bilum’	[iˈk <sup>w</sup> ɛmɔ]
v	vesala	‘woman’	[vɛˈsɛlɛ]	g	gomana	‘child’	[gɔˈmɛnɛ]
	bolovi	‘big rat’	[bɔˈlɔvi]		biga	‘dance’	[ˈbigɛ]
t	topa	‘pool’	[ˈtɔpɛ]	g <sup>w</sup>	gwagwa	‘valley’	[ˈg <sup>w</sup> ɛg <sup>w</sup> ɛ]
	nato	‘come’	[ˈnɛtɔ]		gwai	‘laugh’	[ˈg <sup>w</sup> ɛi]

**Vowels**

i		u				
ɛ		ɔ				
	ə					
ə	avali	‘carry’	[əˈvəli]	ɔ	oya	‘mountain’ [ˈɔjə]
	buawa	‘pig’	[buˈəwə]		doḡa	‘ground’ [ˈdɔɣə]
	mwata	‘snake’	[mˈwɛtə]		maḡo	‘yesterday’ [ˈmɛɣɔ]
ɛ	ena	‘his’	[ˈɛnɛ]	u	udo	‘taro’ [ˈudɔ]
	kena	‘sleep’	[ˈkɛnɛ]		vunu	‘kill’ [ˈvunʊ]
	sale	‘sing’	[ˈsɛ.lɛ]		kaḡegu	‘my leg’ [kəˈɣɛɡʊ]
i	isu	‘nose’	[ˈiːsʊ]			
	taulinemo	‘at the back’	[təʊ.liˈnɛmɔ]			
	peki	‘die’	[ˈpɛki]			

**Suprasegmentals (tone, stress, length)**

- Stress is predictable and generally goes to the penultimate syllable of a word.
- Stress is generally realized as high pitch and lengthened vowel.
- Vowel length does not occur in reduplicated syllables, reduplicated syllable pairs or in syllables with two vowels.
- Words with reduplicated syllable pairs have two stresses – the primary on the penultimate syllable and the secondary on the first syllable of the syllable pair that is being reduplicated.

ˌssˈss      ˌba.ɡiˈba.ɡi      ‘work’

**Syllable Patterns**

There are 6 syllable types in the Kakabai language

V	<b>a.va.li</b>	‘carry’
CV	<b>to.pa</b>	‘pool’
CVV	<b>kai.ka.na</b>	‘already’
CVC <sub>1</sub>	<b>sim.sim</b>	‘watermelon’
CVVC <sub>1</sub>	<b>kaem</b>	‘your leg’
C <sub>1</sub>	<b>m.ba</b>	‘there’

**Conventions: Phonological**

/l/ is pronounced as either [l], [r] or [l] depending on which dialect is spoken

/ɣ/ is fronted towards [j] before front vowels. In one dialect there is free fluctuation between [j] and [h] before front vowels.

The labialized consonants /k<sup>w</sup>/ /g<sup>w</sup>/ /m<sup>w</sup>/ /p<sup>w</sup>/ and /b<sup>w</sup>/ occur only before the vowel /ɐ/

/u/ is pronounced [u] in stressed syllables and word initially, and [ʊ] in all other environments.

**Conventions: Orthographic**

/ɣ/ The velar fricative is written <g̃>

/ɐ/ is written <a>

/ɛ/ is written <e>

/ɔ/ is written <o>

**Sample Text**

kəusɔlu bi kɔijədə

m<sup>w</sup>enuwə .ləbu isədi kəkə bi duwəgə || kəkə wəpumɔ imɔdine i səyəsəyɛ bi duwəgə ɔjəmɔ i mɔdine i  
jɔvɔjɔvɔ || etəmɔ ɛi tɛu bənəvɛ tɛ dəibi ɐ vɔiɛdi || kəkə ɛnɛ dəibi i vɔie i kɔijədə bi i wədiwədi || bi duwəgə  
ɛnɛ dəibi i vɔie i kəusɔlu bi i wədiwədi ||

kəkə iwəi kite səyɛ duwəgə i kite i kəkəkəusɔlu tɛ i giu tɛm bɛi kwɛ kəkəkəuwɛ | kwɛ kəkə dubədubɛm ||  
kɔtɛ duwəgə i kite jɔvɔ kəkə i kite i kɔikɔijədə tɛ i giu jɔvɔ tɛm bɛi kwɛ kəkə səbəsɛbɛm || nigenɛnɛ wəpu  
dəyɛnɛ səbəsɛbɛnɛ bi ɔjɛ dəyɛnɛ dubudubɛnɛ || wəpu sɛ dəibi bi gidɛvine sɛ jədə bi sɛ wədi | ɔjɛ .ləvɛdi  
nigenɛnɛ sɛ dəibi tɛ sɛ gɛbukəuɛ sɛ kəusɔlu bi dəyɛ kɛ.lɛkɛ.lɛtinɛmɔ sɛ wədi kəkə jɛ .ləubɛni kəuwɛ || nigɛ

<sup>1</sup> The syllable coda position can only be filled by the phoneme /m/. Historically, it is likely that these closed syllables originated as two open syllables, but the final vowel has been apocopated.

titikunē kojedē bi kausolu demōnē

### **Kausolu Bi Koiyada**

Mwanuwa labu isedi Koka bi Duwaga. Koka wapumo imodina i saḡasaḡa bi Duwaga oyamo i modina i yovoyovo. Etamo ai tau banava te daibi a voiedi. Koka ena daibi i voie i koiyada bi i wadiwadi. Bi Duwaga ena daibi i voie i kausolu bi i wadiwadi.

Koka iwai kita saḡa Duwaga i kita i kaukausolu te i giu, "tam bai kwa kaukauwe, kwa kaka dubadubam", kota Duwaga i kita yovo Koka i kita i koikoiyada te i giu yovo, "tam bai kwa kaka sabasabam?". Niganana wapu doḡana sabasabana bi oya doḡana dubudubana. Wapu sa daibi bi gidevina sa yada bi sa wadi, oya lavedi niganana sa daibi te sa gabukaue sa kausolu bi doḡa kalakalatinemo sa wadi kaka ye laubani kauwa. Niga titikuna koiyada bi kausolu damona.

### **Kausolu and Koiyada**

There were two birds named Koka and Duwaga. Koka was going up the mountain from the flat land and Duwaga was coming down. They met on the way and made a new garden. Koka made the new garden and cleared it and was planting. (At the same time) Duwaga made a new garden and cleared it and was planting. Koka looked up and saw Duwaga clearing the garden and said to him, "What are you doing, you are making yourself all black (dirty)." And Duwaga looked down and saw Koka cleaning his new garden and called down to him, "Koka why are you making yourself all red?" That is why now the earth on the flat land is red and the earth on the mountain is black. (So now) when people make a new garden in the flat land, they only clear the green plants (without burning it) and they plant. Now the mountain people burn their new garden properly, clean it, and plant and will reap a good harvest. This is the end of the story of two ways of making a garden.