

WIELD's Recommended Americanist Transcription System

CONSONANTS

		Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental		Alveolar	Retroflex	Palato-alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
				Non-sibilant	Sibilant									
PLOSIVES	Voiceless	p		t̪		t	ɽ			k̟	k	q		ʔ
	Voiced	b		ɖ		d	ɖ			g	g	ɢ		
IMPLOSIVES	Voiceless	ɸ				ɸ̥				f̥	ɕ̥	ɕ̥		
	Voiced	ɓ				ɸ̄				f̄	ɕ̄	ɕ̄		
AFFRICATES	Voiceless		pf	tθ	ç	c	ç	č	ć		kx	qx		
	Voiced			dð	dʒ	dz	dʒ	ǰ	dʒ̣					
FRICATIVES	Voiceless	ɸ	f	θ	ɬ	s	ɬ	š	ś	x̟	x	x̠	ħ	h
	Voiced	β	v	ð	ʐ	z	ʐ	ʒ	ʒ̣	ɣ̟	ɣ	ɣ̠	ʕ	ɦ
NASALS	Voiceless	ɱ		ɳ̪		ɳ	ɳ̠			ɲ̟	ɲ			
	Voiced	m		ɳ̪̄		n	ɳ̠̄		ɲ̟̄	ɲ̄	ɲ̄			
LATERALS	Voiceless					l̥ (approximant) ɬ̥ (fricative)				ɬ̥̟				
	Voiced			l̪		l (approximant) ɬ̄ (fricative)	ɬ̄			ɬ̟̄				
LATERAL AFFRICATES	Voiceless					ɬ̥								
	Voiced					ɬ̄								
RHOTICS	Voiceless					ɬ̥̥̥ (trill) ɬ̥̥̥ (tap) ɬ̥̥̥ (approximant)								
	Voiced			ɬ̄̄̄		ɬ̄̄̄ (trill) ɬ̄̄̄ (tap) ɬ̄̄̄ (approximant)	ɬ̄̄̄					R (trill)		
GLIDES	Labial-velar	Voiceless	w̥ ~ ɱ̥											
		Voiced	w											
	Labial-palatal	Voiceless									ɥ̥			
		Voiced									ɥ			
	Other	Voiceless									ɥ̥			
		Voiced		ɥ							y	w̥		

DIACRITICS

	c = consonant v = vowel
Aspiration	c ^h
Breathy phonation	ᵛ
Creaky phonation	̰
Fronting	̟
Geminate consonants	c: ~ cc
Glottalization	̚
Labialization	c ^w
Nasalization	̃
Palatalization	c ^y
Prenasalization	ⁿ c ~ nc
Primary stress	ˈ
Retraction	̠
Rhotacization	v ^r
Secondary stress	ˌ
Velarization	c ^ɣ
Voiceless vowels	̥
Vowel Length	v:

VOWELS

		Front		Central		Back	
		Unround	Round	Unround	Round	Unround	Round
High	Higher	i	ü	ɨ	ɥ	ĩ	u
	Lower	ɪ	ʊ	ɜ	ɔ̞		ʊ
Mid	Higher	e	ö	ə	ɔ̞	ë	o
	Lower	ɛ	ɔ̞	ɛ̃	ɔ̃	ʌ	ɔ
Low	Higher	æ	ɐ̃	ǣ			
	Lower	a					

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- (1) Symbols for clicks, epiglottal consonants, and tonal diacritics are the same as those of the IPA
- (2) Diphthongs should be written as a sequence of two vowels unless the phonology of the language suggests a final glide as a consonant (e.g. English <I> would be /ai/, but Southern Pomo 'cry' would be /mi:may/ from underlying ||mi:mač-||)
- (3) Vowel systems with a three-way length distinction may be represented as v v: vv:, v v: v::, or v v• v:

SAMPLE TEXT

The primary goal of WIELD's standardized Americanist transcription is to promote a standard system that is suitable for data in all languages with only minor variation. The use of a single system, one that fits within the already robust tradition of transcribing the languages of the Americas with Americanist symbols, would be a great aid to both scholars and heritage language communities. The data from fragmented languages are fragile, and each word, clause, and sentence is precious. WIELD therefore advocates for more rather than less information in linguistic examples within articles and books. Even if a scholar's paper-/book-internal style is clearly explained elsewhere within the work, other scholars are likely to lift random examples and reuse them in their own work. In too many instances, the data so used reappear without sufficient transcription and glossing detail to be correctly understood outside of the context of the original writing. One half of the solution to this problem is to use a third-party standard, such as WIELD's transcription system, for all broad transcriptions. However, the other half of the solution lies in the parsing and glossing that accompanies such transcriptions.

At a minimum, WIELD recommends three tiers of data for examples: A broad transcription in WIELD's Americanist system (which may be parsed), a gloss, and a free translation. A separate tier for parsing of morphemes is often useful, especially if there is a desire to keep unbroken words on at least one tier. To these four tiers might be added the traditional or source orthography, which may be placed within angled brackets < > (especially if the traditional orthography is in a Roman script), and a narrow transcription in the International Phonetic Alphabet (in cases where phonetic phenomena are relevant), which should always be within square brackets []. In addition, some languages have such complex allomorphy and allophony that a tier might be necessary in which morpheme segments are written in what might be termed a morphophonemic transcription, which should be enclosed in doubled pipes || ||. Morphophonemic parsing is tantamount to a language-internal reconstruction, and such a tier should be reserved for discussions that require the disambiguating of morphemes which are not parsable at the surface level.

When all are present, the tiers should be ordered as follows: (0) standard/source orthography, (1) broad transcription (may be parsed if tier (4) is omitted), (2) IPA narrow transcription, (3) morphophonemic transcription, (4) morphemic breakdown, (5) gloss, (6) free translation. Below are three examples of the recommended use of tiers within examples.

Moribund Everglades English dialect from South Bay, Florida (tiers 1, 5, and 6)

1. *Broad transcription:* æn ɔl ðə=çild-æn wʊd ɡɪt mət ju kɔl ə=ɪnʌmbətu wɑʃtʌb
 5. *Gloss:* and all the=child-PL would get what you call a=number.two washtub
 6. *Free translation:* ‘and all the children would get what you call a number-two washtub’

Northeastern Pomo (tiers 0, 1, 4, 5, and 6)

0. *Traditional/source orthography:* <áhto hámu· p̄é:ten>
 1. *Broad transcription:* ʔáhʔo hámu: p̄é:t̄en
 4. *Morphemic breakdown:* /ʔáhʔo hámu: p̄é:t̄-en/
 5. *Gloss:* 1SG.ACC 3SG.NOM be.angry-DEFAULT.VERBAL.SUFFIX
 6. *Free translation:* ‘he’s mad at me’

Southern Pomo (tiers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

0. *Traditional/source orthography:* <ha:ʒatłókč̣a>
 1. *Broad transcription:* ha:č̣atłok^hč̣a
 2. *IPA narrow transcription:* [ḥa:tʃaṭ.lɔk^h.tʃ̣a]
 3. *Morphophonemic breakdown:* ||ha-hč̣a-ṭ-alokoč̣-a||
 4. *Morphemic breakdown:* /ha-:č̣a-ṭ-lok^hč̣-a/
 5. *Gloss:* by.wing-fly-PLURAL.ACT-DIRECTIONAL-EVIDENTIAL
 6. *Free translation:* ‘they’re flying out’