

## Romanization and Pronunciation

*This is the romanization system, which will be used to spell the Shu language using the Roman alphabet. The full system is described in detail below.*

- **A, a:** Pronounced like the “a” in “sofa”—even when occurring in stressed position.
- **Aa, aa:** Pronounced like the “a” in “father”.
- **Ao, ao:** Pronounced like the “ow” in “cow”.
- **B, b:** Pronounced like the “b” in “bad”.
- **D, d:** Pronounced like the “d” in “diet”.
- **E, e:** Pronounced like the “e” in “get”.
- **G, g:** Pronounced like the “g” in “goat” (never like the “g” in “genius”).
- **Gh, gh:** Pronounced like the “r” in French “rouge” (never like the “gh” in “ghost”).
- **I, i:** Pronounced like the “i” in “machine”.
- **J, j:** Pronounced like the “j” in “jam”.
- **K, k:** Pronounced like the “k” in “kite”.
- **L, l:** Pronounced like the “l” in “love”.
- **M, m:** Pronounced like the “m” in “matter”.
- **Mh, mh:** Pronounced roughly like the “mh” in “I’m hot”. This sound can occur at the beginning of a word, and is just like a regular *m*, but with air allowed to pass through unperturbed. It feels a lot like pronouncing an *m* followed by a very breathy *h*.
- **N, n:** Pronounced like the “n” in “never”.
- **Ng, ng:** Pronounced like the “ng” in “sing”.

- **Nh, nh:** Pronounced roughly like the "nh" in "inherit". This sound can occur at the beginning of a word, and is just like a regular *n*, but with air allowed to pass through unperturbed. It feels a lot like pronouncing an *n* followed by a very breathy *h*.
- **O, o:** Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".
- **P, p:** Pronounced like the "p" in "pike".
- **R, r:** Pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "pero". Nearly identical to the "t" or "d" sound in English "matador" (pronounced quickly).
- **S, s:** Pronounced like the "s" in "sad".
- **Sh, sh:** Pronounced like the "sh" in "shade".
- **T, t:** Pronounced like the "t" in "take".
- **U, u:** Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".
- **V, v:** Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- **W, w:** Pronounced like the "w" in "walk".
- **Y, y:** Pronounced like the "y" in "yet".
- **Z, z:** Pronounced like the "z" n "zebra".
- **Zh, zh:** Pronounced like the "z" n "azure".

Stress:

- In general, Shu words are stressed word-finally. Where they are not stressed word-finally, an acute accent is placed over the vowel (e.g. *lówe* “please”).