

## ARTICULATORY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND KULISUSU (NORTH BUTON ISLAND, SULAWESI, INDONESIA)

The following consonants in Kulisusu have the same or a very similar articulation as the corresponding sound in English : g, h, j, k, l, m, n, ng, p, r, s, t. The following sounds, however, are different:

a, e, i, o, and u : Vowels in Kulisusu have their 'pure' sounds (like in Spanish). When two or more vowels occur in sequence, each vowel forms its own nucleus of articulation despite blending into each other at their margins. For example : *jao* 'paddle' (two syllables JAH-oh), *kaua* 'coconut scraper' (three syllables kah-UU-ah), and *buaea* 'crocodile' (four syllables buu-ah-EY-ah).

**6** and **b** : Kulisusu has two different *b* sounds. The most frequently occurring sound of the two, written *b*, is an implosive that has no corresponding value in English. This sound occurs in words like *biri* 'ear', *bebe* 'hit', *bake* 'fruit', and *mobaba* 'carry on the back or shoulders'. A fewer number of words, often loan words, have an ordinary *b* sound, for example *boku* 'book', *bebe* 'duck', and *bente* 'fort'. Although these two sounds are distinguished as *b* and *b* in the dictionary and in certain other guides to the Kulisusu language, in practical every-day writing only one symbol is used for both, namely *b*.

**c** : In Kulisusu, *c* is always pronounced like *ch* in English, never like *k* or *s*.

d, d dan d : Kulisusu has three different d sounds. The most commonly occurring sound, written d, is an implosive that has no corresponding value in English or Indonesian. This sound occurs in words like dahu 'dog', diu 'duyung', and modoa 'to count'. A fewer number of words, often loan words, have an ordinary d sound, for example dosu 'box', doi 'money', and koda 'photograph'. An interdental sound, written d, is pronounced with the tongue tip placed forward between the teeth. It is found in only a few words, such as doromu 'tank, drum', dudu 'female breast', adabu 'punishment'. Although these three sounds are distinguished as d, d and d in the dictionary, in every-day writing only one symbol is used for all three sounds, namely d.

r : Kulisusu r is rolled (trilled) like in Spanish.

w : In Kulisusu, w is articulated 'rough' like the English v sound; however the lower lip is placed further forward, against the upper lip rather than against the upper teeth.

' (apostrophe) : An apostrophe, always between two vowels, symbolizes a glottal stop. Glottal stop is the sound represented by hyphen in the English word *uh-oh*. A number of Kulisusu word pairs differ in meaning solely by whether a glottal stop is present or not, so it is important for it to be written. For example : *mompau* 'sew roofing thatch' next to *mompa'u* 'dump out'; *rai* 'toward' next to *ra'i* 'forehead'; and *kowoo* 'fragrant, smelly' next to *kowo'o* 'bend it'.

"Kulisusu Alphabet Chart" © 2013 by David Mead

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