



Note on Orthography

Ọ̀yọ́túnjì Village and Santeria speech communities are not native Yorùbá speakers. The residents of Ọ̀yọ́túnjì Village use Yorùbá as a second language and as a mechanism for cultural reclamation. In using Yorùbá, however, Ọ̀yọ́túnjì Village residents tend to differently pronounce words—and in relation to the standards of native Yorùbá speakers they would be seen as mispronouncing and therefore misusing many Yorùbá words and phrases. As a result, each speech act that I incorporated here was interpreted according to both pronunciation standards as well as differing social contexts. To reduce the ambiguities as well as to respect Yorùbá orthographic standards, the transliteration used here is based on modern Yorùbá orthographic conventions.

Yorùbá Orthographic Conventions

Yorùbá consonants are much like English consonants. However, some exceptions exist. The “p” is a double articulation sound [kp], called a voiceless labial-velar stop in phonetic terms; “gb” is its voiced counterpart. Both [kp] and [gb] are digraphs. [ṣ] is the same sound pronounced as “sh” in English. It has a phonetic value of [ʃ]. The vowels “ẹ” and “ọ” are pronounced like the English vowels [e] and [o] in *get* and *fall*, respectively. Without the diacritical marks “e” and “o” resemble the initial vowel sound in the diphthongs [ei] and [ou] in *mate* and *drove*, respectively.