



Utugrafihan CHamoru,Guåhan Guam CHamoru Orthography

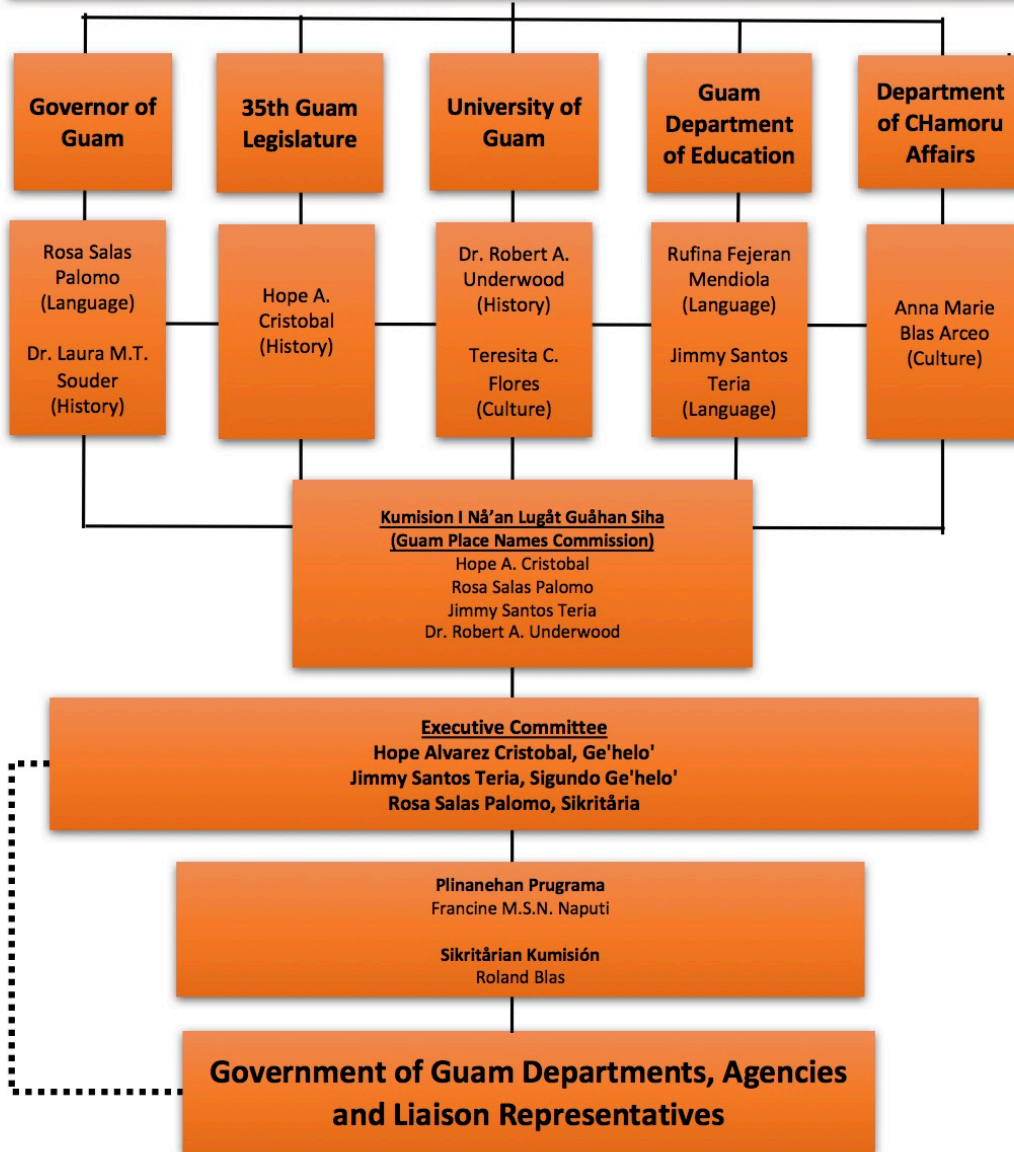
KUMISIÓN I FINO' CHAMORU YAN FINA'NÁ'GUEN I HISTORIA YAN LINA'LA' I TAOTAO TÁNO'
Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History & Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam

Revised and Updated
April 2019

CHamoru Heritage Commission Act of 2016

5GCA CH.88§ 88101-88108

The Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam



KUMISIÓN I FINO' CHAMORU YAN FINA'NÁ'GUEN I HISTORIA YAN LINA'LA' I TAOTAO TÁNO'
Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam



Front Row (L-R) Robert Underwood, Rufina F. Mendiola, Terisita Flores, Rosa Salas Palomo Ann Marie Arceo, Hope A. Cristobal, Laura M. Torres Souder, Jimmy Teria

***I MANGGÉ'HELO' I KUMISIÓN
(COMMISSION ON CHAMORU LANGUAGE BOARD)***

Hope Alvarez Cristobal, Gé'helo' (LEG)
hristobalmom@gmail.com

Jimmy Santos Teria, Sigundo Gé'helo' (GDOE)
jsteria@gdoe.net

MEMBRO

Teresita Conception Flores (UOG)
florestd1211@gmail.com

Rufina Fejeran Mendiola (GDOE)
rfmendiola@gdoe.net

Rosa Salas Palomo (GOV)
kailee.rosapalomo@gmail.com

Anna Marie B. Arceo (DCA)
annmarie.arceo@dca.guam.gov

Dr. Laura M. Torres Souder (GOV)
souder@betances.com

Dr. Robert A. Underwood (UOG)
anacletus2010@gmail.com



About the Logo:

There are several distinct symbols that have been incorporated into how we chose to represent our work as the COMMISSION ON CHAMORU LANGUAGE AND THE TEACHING OF THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF GUAM. Our logo is shaped both like a sling stone, which is part of the artefactual legacy of the ancient CHamoru *latte* builders; and, an eye to represent sight or vision. Indigenous insight is known as *mata* or *mana* throughout the Island Pacific. As a Commission, we draw on the wisdom of our ancestors to interpret our reality both past and present. This wisdom allows us to see beyond the physical. It connects us with a force more powerful than our individual selves. It creates a safe space for confronting power with truth. In this state of consciousness, we discover what it means to be CHamoru.

Inside the eye are symbols which frame our way of life. The heat of the sun and the light of the moon which influence our designation of time and season are represented by the orange orb and the white *sinâhi*. We are the *taotao tâno' yan tâsi* or people of the land and sea, hence the image of the green hilly landscape and buoyant blue waves of our ocean.

We express our thanks to Graphic Designer, Bryan Duenas, for his creative representation.

FORWARD

With the enactment of P.L. 33-236 re-establishing I Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'någuen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tåotao Tåno' (Kumisión) came the responsibility to refine a standard way of linking the *atfabeton CHamoru* to the sounds of our indigenous language. We adopted some changes to the 1983CHamoru orthography and hereby present this booklet so that we may embark on the Kumisión's vision and planned goals and objectives.

An orthography is simply the establishment of the norms of spelling, emphasis, capitalization, punctuation, pre- and infixes, and other rules for writing language. We also know that there are always more sounds than letters and that no alphabet fits its language exactly. We can see this in the dialectal differences of spoken CHamoru. While spoken language varies from place to place and from time to time, written language will always be less flexible than its spoken parent. Written language has a different function and is produced mechanically. It must serve everyone who speaks the language, and it does this by keeping the spelling similar from one time to another. By this adopted Orthography, the Kumisión members made great efforts to provide a more standardized approach to writing CHamoru. The Kumisión acknowledges dialectical, generational, island specific and personal preferences.

In careful consideration of our movement forward, we agreed that our own orthographic rules and use of the *Atfabeton CHamoru* must also conform to the broader norms of language systems in society, e.g. the adherence to the rule on endonyms. Other considerations of language that must be explored in the standardization and the advancement of CHamoru includes, for example, studying the desired relationship that CHamoru, a non-English language, will have with English.

Agreeing on a shared way to use our *Atfabeton CHamoru* in writing is necessary in building proficiency and therefore, building stability into CHamoru as the mother tongue of our people of the Mariana Islands. The consistency that we sought was to be able to represent all and only the distinctive sound contrasts with the fewest possible symbols and conventions including an attempt at preserving historical information, highlighting cultural affiliations and supporting dialectal or regional variation. This booklet provides guidance in order that we do just that - communicate in a more standard way in CHamoru.

We hope that you will cherish this booklet and employ the rules consistently and frequently.

HOPE A. CRISTOBAL

Gé'helo'

September 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Symbols & Abbreviations	1-2
Atfabeton CHamoru (CHamoru Alphabet)	
Simbolo (Symbols)	
Buet Siha (Vowels)	
Konsonante Siha (Consonants)	
Manerân Silâba (Syllable Construction)	
Guma' Buet (Vowel Positioning)	
Orthography Rules	3-17
Rule 1. Choice of Alphabetic Symbols and Corresponding Sounds	3
Rule 2. Diphthongs	4
Rule 3. Consonant Symbols in Final Position.....	5
Rule 4. Proper Names	5
Rule 5. Capitalization.....	6
Rule 6. Stressed Vowels	7
Rule 7. Spelling of Borrowed Words	8
Rule 8. Consonant Alternation	9
Rule 9. Excrescent Consonants	10
Rule 10. Superfluous Consonants	10
Rule 11. Geminate Consonants and Syllable Final –h	10
Rule 12. Unstressed Vowels in Open Syllables in CVCV and CVCCV constructions	11
Rule 13. Unstressed Vowels in Closed Syllables	12
Rule 14. Vowel Harmony	12
Rule 15. Free Words	13
Rule 16. Affixes	15
Rule 17. Possessive Pronouns and Locative Words	17

Symbols & Abbreviations

ATFABETON CHAMORU (CHamoru Alphabet)

Guâha bente kuattro (24) na letra siha gi Atfabeton CHamoru.

´ (glota) Aa Ââ Bb CHch Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Kk Ll Mm Nn Ññ NGng Oo Pp Rr Ss Tt Uu Yy

SYMBOLS (Simbolo)

1. glota (glottal stop) ´
2. titda (tilde) ~
3. lonnat (dotted a) â
4. a'gang na sunidu (acute accent stress) á, á, é, í, ó, ú
5. dollan (hyphen) -

BUET SIHA (Vowels)

Sais (6) na buet

Aa Ââ Ee Ii Oo Uu

KONSONANTE SIHA (Consonants)

Disiocho (18) na konsonante siha

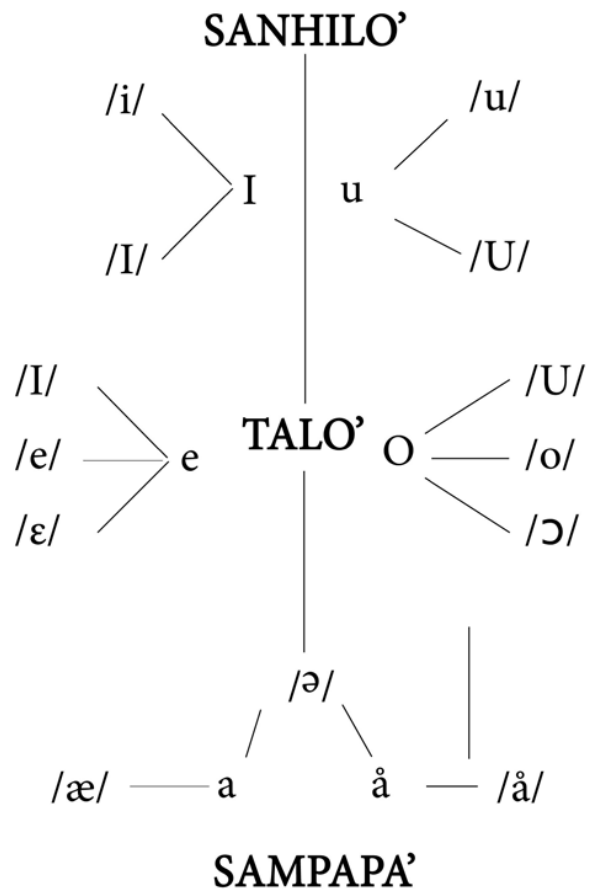
´ (glota)	Mm	ma mâ me mi mo mu
Bb	Nn	na nâ ne ni no nu
CHch	Ññ	ña nâ ne ni no nu
Dd	NGng	nga ngâ nge ngi ngo ngu
Ff	Pp	pa pâ pe pi po pu
Gg	Rr	ra râ re ri ro ru
Hh	Ss	sa sâ se si so su
Kk	Tt	ta tâ te ti to tu
Ll	Yy	ya yâ ye yi yo yu

MANERAN SILÁBA (Syllable Construction)

K = Konsonante B = Buet (C =Consonant V= Vowel)

CHamoru	English
KB	CV
KBK	CVC
BK	VC
KKB	CCV
KBKB	CVCV
KBKKB	CVCCV

GUMA' BUET (Vowel Positioning)



Orthography Rules

Rule 1. Choice of Alphabetic Symbols and Corresponding Sounds

A. The following list of consonants and vowel symbols and their corresponding sounds will be used in CHamoru spelling. They are given here in alphabetical order. Example words are given to illustrate the phonetic value of each of the spelling symbols.

Letters	Sound	Example Word	English Meaning
'		hâga'	<i>blood</i>
a	ae	baba	<i>to open</i>
â	ah	bâba	<i>bad</i>
b	be	bâba	<i>bad</i>
ch	tse	châlan	<i>road</i>
d	de	dâggao	<i>to throw</i>
e	e	ékungok	<i>to listen</i>
f	fe	fugo'	<i>to squeeze</i>
g	ge	ga'chong	<i>friend</i>
h	he	hâtsa	<i>to lift</i>
i	i	hita	<i>we (inclusive)</i>
k	ke	kada	<i>each</i>
l	le	litrâtu	<i>picture</i>
m	me	malago'	<i>to want</i>
n	ne	nâna	<i>mother</i>
ñ	ñe	ñâmu	<i>mosquito</i>
ng	nge	nginge'	<i>to sniff</i>
o	o	oppe	<i>to answer</i>
p	pe	pâchot	<i>mouth</i>
r	re	râmas	<i>branch</i>
s	se	sâddok	<i>river</i>
t	te	tâya'	<i>nothing</i>
u	we	uchan/guihan	<i>rain/fish</i>
y	dze	yan	<i>and</i>

B. The following are symbols used in written CHamoru:

glota (glottal stop) '

titda (tilde) ~

lonnat (dotted a) â

a'gang na sunidon (acute accent stress marker) â, á, é, í, ó, ú

dollan (hyphen) -

C. The letters *c, j, q, v, w, x, z, ll, rr*, will be used in the spelling of proper names only. These letters are not in the CHamoru alphabet.

For example:

Letters	Proper Names	
C	Carmen	Cecilia
J	Jose	John
Q	Quichocho	
V	Vicente	
W	Wilfred	
ll	Quintanilla	
rr	Terry	

D. The glottal stop (ʻ) is a letter in the alphabet, although it is never used at the beginning of a word. It is usually found within or at the end of the word after a vowel.

For example:

gua'gua' <i>to gag</i>	nâ'na' <i>to hide</i>	ba'ba' <i>to pat gently on back side</i>
guagua' <i>basket</i>	nâna <i>mother</i>	bâ'ba' <i>undeveloped seed</i>
guaguan <i>expensive</i>	nâ'an <i>name</i>	baba <i>to open</i>
		bâba <i>spoiled</i>

Rule 2. Diphthongs (Buebuet)

A. The diphthongs in the writing system will be treated as a sequence of vowels.

The most common diphthongs are as follow:

ao	<u>taotao</u>	<i>person</i>
ai	<u>taitai</u>	<i>read</i>
oi	<u>hagoi</u>	<i>pond or lake</i>
io	bakasi <u>ón</u>	<i>vacation</i>
ie	<u>siette</u>	<i>seven</i>
ia	estori <u>a</u>	<i>story</i>
iu	pres <u>iu</u>	<i>price</i>

B. All the letter combinations of the above listed diphthongs shall be treated as diphthongs, unless the glottal stop is distinctly heard between the two vowels.

For example:

Letter Combination	Diphthongs	Not Diphthongs
ie	<u>siette</u>	li'e'
io	<u>adios</u>	fi'on
ia	estori <u>a</u>	espiha
iu	pres <u>iu</u>	fihu

A sure test of a diphthong is when both vowels reduplicate.

For example:

Letter Combination	Diphthongs
ie	<u>siésiente</u>
io	bumakasi <u>osion</u>
ia	umestori <u>áriayi</u>

C. The letter h rather than the *glottal stop* (ʻ) shall be used in spelling of non- diphthong combinations of *io, ie, ia,* and *iu,* which are sometimes confused with diphthongs.

For example:

fihʻ not fiʻu
paseh not paseʻu
maneha not maneʻa

Rule 3. Consonant Symbols in Final Position

A. The following consonants will not appear at the end of a word:

b, ch, d, g, h, l, ñ, r, y

For example:

maolek not maoleg/mauleg
idát not edád/idád

B. The consonants b, d, g, and l may appear at the end of a syllable only when the consonant is geminate, (double or twin consonant) or when the following syllable of the same word begins with the same sound.

For example: yabbao *to slash*
 godde *to tie*
 hálla *to pull*
 meggai *many*

Rule 4. Proper Names

A. Names of people will retain their spelling.

B. Family names which have never been written before should be written and spelled in the CHamoru language using the rules on CHamoru .

C. Proper names will not conform to Rule 7 and 8.

D. Place names that are of CHamoru origin will be CHamorurized in spelling.

For example:

Writing in English	Writing in CHamoru
<i>Inarajan</i>	Inaláhan
<i>Ritidian</i>	Litekyan
<i>Agaña</i>	Hagátña
<i>Agat</i>	Hâgat
<i>Sinajana</i>	Sinahânña
<i>Dededo</i>	Dédidu

E. Places with no known CHamoru names will retain their written names.

For Example: Banzai Cliff
Paseo de Susanna
Plaza de España
Paseo de Oro
Jonestown
Kaiser

The Kumisión is responsible for approving new place names and reviewing established placed names.

F. Months, days, and numerals shall conform to CHamoru spelling rules.

G. The word **CHamoru** will be spelled as CH-a-m-o-r-u in accordance with PL 33-236. When referring to the indigenous inhabitants of Guam, it is highly recommended that this spelling be used in English or other languages to honor the CHamoru spelling of the word

Rule 5. Capitalization

A. Proper names of people, places, animals, things, institutions and organizations, titles, days of the week, months of the year and the beginning of sentences will be capitalized.

For example:

- People: Carmen, Jose
- Places: Hagåtña, Malessó
- Animals: Spot, Bunita, Tiger
- Things: Puntan Dos Amântes, Insular Guard
- Institutions: Unibetsedát Guåhan, Kilehon Kumunidát Guåhan
- Organizations: Konsilion Mahót Guåhan Siha, Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru
- Titles: Siñot Teria, Siñora Flores, Maga'lâhi Roberto, Maga'hâga Esperansa
- Days: Damenggo, Sábalu
- Months: Huño, Disembre
- Beginning of sentences: Maolek este na fina'che'cho'!

B. The affixed forms of proper names beginning with consonants shall be capitalized.

For example:

-um- + Sablan = **Sumablan**
-in- + Sablan = **Sinablan**
-um- + Taitano = **Tumaitano**
-in- + Taitano = **Tinaitano**

- C. The affixed forms of proper nouns beginning with vowels will have both the affix and the name capitalized.

For example:

-um- + Afaisen = **Um**Afaisen
-in- + Afaisen = **In**Afaisen
-um- + Untalan = **Um**Untalan
-in- + Untalan = **In**Untalan

- D. When the plural subject marker (PSM) man- is affixed to a proper name, the m- will also be capitalized.

For example:

man- + Juan = **Man**Juan
man- + Rosario = **Man**Rosario
man- + Dueñas = **Man**Dueñas
man- + Babauta = **Man**Babauta

- E. The conventional practice of capitalizing pronouns or nouns relating to the divinity itself will be followed.

For example:

Yu'os *God* Saina *God*
 Gui'/Guiya *He* (referring to the Divinity)

- F. The letters CH and NG of the CHamoru alphabet will be considered one character and will be capitalized on proper nouns and beginning of sentences.

For example:

CHamoru Familian **NG**ãnga'
CHargualaf I Piyitos **NG**ãnga' Siha (book title)
CHamoru yu'. **NG**inge' si Nãna yan Tãta.

Rule 6. Stressed Vowels

- A. All vowels will be used to represent stressed vowels in both closed and open syllables when the stressed vowel clearly reflects the pronunciation of that vowel in the stressed vowel.

For examples:

yu'	<i>I, me</i>	hotno	<i>oven</i>
ta'lo	<i>again</i>	tisu	<i>stiff</i>
tubu	<i>tube</i>	leche	<i>milk</i>
boti	<i>boat</i>	tãta	<i>father</i>

- B. The General Stress Rule of CHamoru is called the Penultimate Stress Rule. The PSR means that it is the next to the last syllable that is the loudest, or stressed, syllable in a CHamoru word.

For examples:

to'ãya	<i>towel</i>	asagua	<i>spouse</i>
chocho	<i>to eat</i>	kumãti	<i>cried</i>
tuhong	<i>hat</i>	dogga	<i>footwear</i>
ga'lãgu	<i>dog</i>	mamãhlao	<i>embarrassed</i>

- C. There are exceptions to the Penultimate Stress Rule in CHamoru. When a CHamoru or Chamorurized word does not adhere to the PSR then the stressed vowel, that is the loudest syllable, is made visible by marking the stressed vowel with the stressed marker, acute stress marker (´), above the loudest vowel (á, á́, é, í, ó, ú) in that syllable.

For examples:

asút	<i>blue</i>	hatdín	<i>garden</i>
bátsala	<i>to pull</i>	lála'la'	<i>still alive, living</i>
ékungok	<i>to listen</i>	sumésena	<i>eating dinner</i>
tátaitai	<i>to be reading</i>	ásagua	<i>to wed, to marry</i>

Rule 7. Spelling of Borrowed Words

- A. English, Spanish and Japanese words which have been assimilated into CHamoru will be spelled according to the general rules for CHamoru spelling. The spelling will reflect the changes in pronunciation.

For examples:

Spanish	Chamoru	English
lavador	labadót	<i>sink</i>
verde	betde	<i>green</i>
paloma	paluma	<i>dove</i>
caballo	kabáyu	<i>horse</i>

Japanese	CHamoru	English
zori	yore'	<i>flipflops</i>
daikon	daigo'	<i>pickled radish</i>

English	CHamoru
<i>ice cream</i>	aiskrem
<i>cake</i>	kek
<i>chaser</i>	chesa

- B. Recently borrowed English words will retain their English spelling and will be placed in '*single quotation*' when in print.

For example:

'x-ray', 'computer', 'badge'.

- C. When an English word contains CHamoru affixes, then it will be spelled according to the general rules for CHamoru spelling.

For example:

pumiknek	<i>picnicked</i>
bumasketbo'	<i>played basketball</i>
maneksplen	<i>explained</i>

Rule 8. Consonant Alternation

- A. When the pronunciation of consonants changes due to affixation, the spelling will be changed accordingly to represent the change in pronunciation. Most of the changes in consonants are caused by the affixation of the prefix **man-**, as in the following examples:

man-	+ po'lo	=	mam o'lo	to put
man-	+ tanña'	=	man anña'	to taste
man-	+ kâti	=	man gâti	to cry
man-	+ saga	=	man âga	to stay
man-	+ châlek	=	man âlek	to laugh
man-	+ tunu	=	man unu	to barbeque
man-	+ puti	=	mam uti	to hurt

In some dialects of CHamoru the sounds are not assimilated. For example, in Rota, it is usually mansaga instead mañâga.

- B. The following are examples of poly-syllabic words in which the initial consonant of the base word is not altered:

man-	+ bendisi	=	man bendisi
man-	+ bunita	=	man bunita
man-	+ pachakâti	=	man pachakâti
man-	+ pagamento	=	man pagamento
man-	+ piligru	=	man piligru
man-	+ piniti	=	mam piniti*

*In the last example, the **man-** becomes **mam-** when it is clearly pronounced.

- C. The pronunciation of the first person singular possessive pronoun -hu is determined by the stem to which it is attached.

For example:

- It is pronounced **-tu** when it follows a stem ending with **-t**, as in pachot**t-tu** (*my mouth*).
- It is pronounced **-su** when it follows a stem ending with **-s**, as in lassas**s-su** (*my skin*)
- It is pronounced **-ku** when it follows a stem ending in **-k** as in kalaguak**k-ku** (*my side*)
and
- It is pronounced **-ku** when it follows a stem that ends with a **vowel preceded by two consonants**, as in lepblo**-ku** (*my book*).
- For most purposes the sounds **-hu** and **-ku** are clearly audible. Some dialects use only **-hu** as in Rota.

Rule 9. Excrescent (Additional) Consonants

When additional consonants are added through affixation, they will be represented in the spelling system. In some cases it is necessary to add a consonant in order to make the words sound right. These are called excrescent consonants because they have no other function than to make the words sound good to the native speaker's ear.

For example:

n - lepblo + - mami - lepblo + n + mami = lepblon-mami (*our book*)
n - sãga + ñaihon - sãga + n + ñaihon = sãgannñaihon (*stay a while*)
g - hãnao + - i = hãna + g + u + -i = hanãgui (*for someone's behalf*)
y - sãngan + - i = sãngan + i + y + -i = sanganiyi (*tell for someone*)
' - a + ågang = ã + ' + ågang = ã'agang (*be calling*)

Rule 10. Superfluous (Unnecessary) Consonants

When the pronunciation of the consonant *t* before *ch* is predictable, and a mid-vowel follows *ch*, only *ch* will be written.

For example:

le <u>che</u> milk	eskabe <u>che</u> fried fish with vegetables
ganggo <u>che</u> gunny sack	pe <u>cho</u> chest
pach <u>a</u> to touch	o <u>cho</u> eight (8)

Rule 11. Geminate (Twin) Consonants and Syllable Final -h

A. Although the pronunciation of geminate or twin consonants varies among different speakers of CHamoru, it will be included in the final spelling.

For example:

to <u>mmo</u> knee	lã <u>ggua</u> parrot fish
fã <u>tto</u> come	hã <u>lla</u> to pull
megg <u>ai</u> many	

B. The pronunciation of Syllable Final -h varies among different speakers of CHamoru. It will be included in the final spelling.

For example:

mo <u>hmo</u> to chew
sa <u>hnge</u> separate
mamã <u>hlao</u> be bashful
to <u>hge</u> to stand

Rule 12. Unstressed Vowels in Open Syllables in V, CV, CVCV, and CVCCV Constructions (refer to *Maneran Silâba or Syllable Construction Chart*)

- A. The letters *i* and *u* will be used to represent unstressed vowels in open syllables (where C = consonant, V= vowel)

For example:

lâhi	<i>male</i>
hâ <u>u</u>	<i>you</i>
nâ'i	<i>to give</i>
lâ <u>u</u>	<i>north</i>

The same rule applies to unstressed vowels in open syllables of poly-syllabic words, except when the preceding unstressed vowels are *o* or *e*.

For example:

tri'ân <u>o</u> lo	<i>triangle</i>
dâ <u>ngk</u> olo	<i>big</i>
prôks <u>e</u> mo	<i>approximate</i>

In the case of *dângkolo*, etc. the first o results from the preceding consonant cluster ngk (see Rule 12B): the final o results from the preceding o through vowel harmony.

- B. The unstressed vowels in open syllables following a sequence of consonants will be represented by *e* and *o*.

For example:

tât <u>e</u>	<i>back</i>
list <u>o</u>	<i>ready</i>
ho'ye	<i>agree</i>
hamy <u>o</u>	<i>you (plural)</i>

The sounds represented by some of the vowels above may appear to be misrepresented (i.e., *tâtte* instead *tatti*). However, all of the examples under Rule 12 are unstressed vowels when the possessive text is applied; adding *ña* or *ku*, the sound clearly reflects the appropriate vowel, as in *tâtte-ku*.

- C. The letter *a* will be used in unstressed open syllables in both the CVCV and CVCCV constructions.

For example:

mâ <u>a</u>	<i>face</i>
hâ <u>ll</u> a	<i>to pull</i>
châ <u>k</u> a	<i>rat</i>
kontra	<i>against</i>

D. The following blends/digraphs (combination of letters) will be considered as one consonant for spelling purposes.

For example:

br	pr	pl
br ongko	pr ensa	pl uma
br ohas	pr eba	pl ātu
br uha	pr ugrāma	pl ānta
bl	fl	tr
bl āngko	fl itu	tr osu
tāp bl a	fl ores	tr āngka
misirāp bl e	fl echa	tr ongko
fr	kl	
fr esko	chang kl etas	
fr uta	kl asifika	
fr itāda	mes kl áo	

Rule 13. Unstressed Vowels in Closed Syllables

The vowels e, o and a will be used to represent the unstressed vowels in closed syllables, i.e., syllables which end with a consonant.

For example:

huy <u>o</u> ng	<i>to go out</i>
hāl <u>o</u> m	<i>to go in</i>
lāp <u>e</u> s	<i>pencil</i>
li' <u>e</u> '	<i>to see</i>
hākm <u>a</u> ng	<i>eel</i>

Rule 14. Vowel Harmony

A. Vowel Fronting - When the pronunciation of a vowel is changed due to vowel fronting, this change will be reflected in the spelling.

For example:

i + f <u>o</u> ggon	=	i f <u>e</u> ggon	<i>the stove</i>
i + g <u>u</u> ma'	=	i g <u>i</u> ma'	<i>the house</i>
i + s <u>u</u> ni	=	i s <u>i</u> ni	<i>the taro</i>
i + s <u>a</u> tge	=	i s <u>a</u> tge	<i>the floor</i>
i + p <u>o</u> tta	=	i p <u>e</u> tta	<i>the door</i>
i + l <u>a</u> hi	=	i l <u>a</u> hi	<i>the boy</i>

Some borrowed words are not fully fronted and may be written without fronting. This and other exceptions will be addressed in a writing guide.

- B. **Vowel Raising** - When the syllable construction (CVC) of a word is changed through affixation, the vowel change – raising – will be reflected in the spelling to be consistent with Rule 8. (refer to *Mapan Buet or Vowel Structure*)

For example:

CVC - - - CVCV – Rule 8.

fugo'	+ <i>i</i>	=	fugu' <u>i</u>
toktok	+ <i>i</i>	=	toktu <u>ki</u>
tuge'	+ <i>i</i>	=	tugi'i
chenchule	+ <i>i</i>	=	chenchuli'i

- C. **Vowel Lowering** - When the syllable construction of a word is changed through a semantics construction the vowel change – lowering – will be reflected in the spelling to be consistent with Rule 13. Vowel lowering occurs when excrescent consonant –n is added to words that has CV structure at the end. (refer to *Mapan Buet or Vowel Structure*)

For example:

CVCV - - - CVCV – Rule 9

sun <i>i</i>	+ <i>n</i>	=	sun <u>en</u> agaga'
tupu	+ <i>n</i>	=	tup <u>on</u> rayao

Rule 15. Free Words

- A. **Free words** are words that can stand alone. All content words (adjectives, verbs, nouns) will be written as separate words in CHamoru.

For example:

kareta	<i>car</i>
dangkolo	<i>big</i>
fugo'	<i>to squeeze</i>

- B. The following **function words** (articles, particles, etc.) will be written as separate words in CHamoru:

Function Word	Example Phrase	English Meaning
i	<u>i</u> palao'an	<i>the woman</i>
ni'	<u>ni'</u> palao'an	<i>from, which (relational term) woman</i>
si	<u>si</u> Juan	<i>(honorific) John</i>
as	<u>as</u> Juan	<i>(located at) John</i>
nu	<u>nu</u> guåhu	<i>me</i>
na	dangkolo <u>na</u> taotao	<i>big man</i>
ha'	Hu tungo' <u>ha'</u> .	<i>I already know.</i>
fan	Nangga un råtú <u>fan</u> .	<i>Wait a minute, please.</i>
ni	<u>ni</u> hãyi	<i>no one</i>
u	para <u>u</u> hãnao	<i>he will go</i>
bai	para <u>bai</u> hu hãnao	<i>I will go</i>
gof/gef	<u>gof</u> malångu	<i>very sick</i>

gos/ges **gos** maolek very good

C. **Examples of Derivational Prefixes**

1. The **word gof** functions as a derivational prefix, which changes the meaning of the word.

For example:

gof

Ha **gofli**'e si Juan si Yu'os.

Juan likes/loves God.

[As compared to: Ha gof li'e' si Juan si Sânta Maria. Juan saw Santa Maria very clearly. – which is not derivational]

2. The **word tai** functions as a derivational prefix, which changes the meaning of the word.

For example:

tai

Ti taiguenna macho'gue-ña i che'cho'.

That's not the way to do the work.

[As compared to: Tai magâgu si Rosa. Rosa doesn't have clothes. – which is not derivational]

3. The **word gai** functions as a derivational prefix, which changes the meaning of the word.

For example:

gai

Gai'ase nu guâhu.

Have mercy on me.

4. The **word sen** functions as a derivational prefix, which changes the meaning of the word.

For example:

sen

Senmanng'e' i néngkanno!

The food is delicious.

5. The **word sin** functions as a derivational prefix, which changes the meaning of the word.

For example:

sin

Abiba i isla **sin**parât.

Praise our island forever more.

- D. **Functional words sen, sin, tai and gai**. The spelling of these words changes when they are infixed with **-um-** and prefixed with **man-**.

For example:

<i>sen</i>	+ -um-	=	sume	=	<u>sumen</u> dângkolo
<i>sin</i>	+ -um-	=	sumin	=	<u>sumin</u> magâgu
<i>tai</i>	+ -um-	=	tumai	=	<u>tumai</u> salappe'
<i>gai</i>	+ -um-	=	gumai	=	<u>gumai</u> salappe'
<i>man-</i>	+ <i>sen</i>	=	mansen	=	<u>mansen</u> dângkolo
<i>man-</i>	+ <i>sin</i>	=	mansin	=	<u>mansin</u> magâgu
<i>man-</i>	+ <i>tai</i>	=	mantai	=	<u>mannai</u> salappe'
<i>man</i>	+ <i>gai</i>	=	manggai	=	<u>manggai</u> salappe'

E. For the purpose of spelling, these function words should not be combined with any content word.

For example: manggai kareta prefixed function word, *manggai*
 content word, *kareta*

Rule 16. Affixes

A. Prefixes.

The following list contains the prefixes of CHamoru which will be written as part of the word to which they are attached:

Prefix	Meaning/Function	Example	Meaning
á-	to each other	umápacha	<i>to touch each other</i>
achá-	similarity, sameness, equally	achá lokka'	<i>same height</i>
án-	leftover	án sopbla	<i>leftover</i>
chát-	not very	chát bunita	<i>not very pretty</i>
é-	to look for, to hunt for	ésapatos	<i>to look for/ to shop for shoes</i>
ó-		ótenda	<i>to shop for</i>
fa'-	to pretend, to change to	fa' guaha	<i>to pretend to have</i>
ga'-	to like something very much	ga' -maigo'	<i>likes to sleep</i>
gé-	more in that direction	gé' papa'	<i>further down</i>
gi-	person from	Gi Barrigada	<i>from Barrigada</i>
há-	usually	há poddong	<i>prone to falling</i>
hát-	more in the direction of	hát talom	<i>move further in</i>
ká-	having, exhibiting	ká ma'gas	<i>having some authority</i>
ké-	about to, try	ké hatsa	<i>about to lift</i>
lá-	comparative	lá maolek	<i>better</i>
ma-	passive marker	ma taitai	<i>was read</i>
man-	indirect object marker	Man áyuyot yu'.	<i>I prayed.</i>
man-	plural subject marker	Man hâspok.	<i>They (plural) are full.</i>
mí-	have lots of	mí salappe'	<i>having lots of money</i>
mina'-	ordinal marker	mina' tres	<i>third</i>
na'-	to cause, make, let do something	na' gâsgas	<i>to make clean</i>
pinat-	to have more of	pinat donne'	<i>having more hot peppers</i>
san-	in the direction of	san me'na	<i>toward the front</i>
tai-	like	ta iguenna	<i>like that</i>
ták-	in the direction of	ták hilo'	<i>way up high</i>
talak-	look towards the direction of	talak hiyong	<i>look towards the outside</i>
ya-	towards the direction of	ya mó'nana	<i>way up front</i>

The classifiers na', ga', gimen and iyo will be written as separate words or with a clitic or hyphen when used with a possessive pronoun.

For example:

na' ga'lâgu

dog food

na' babui

pig food

ga' taotao

animal belonging to a person

ga' pátgon

animal belonging to a child

gimen neni	<i>milk for a baby</i>
gimen gâ'ga'	<i>drink for an animal</i>
iyon nâna	<i>thing belonging to a mother</i>
iyon ma'estra	<i>thing belonging to a teacher</i>

na' -hu	<i>my food</i>	na' -ña	<i>his/her/its food</i>
ga' -mu	<i>your animal</i>	ga' -ta	<i>our animal, inclusive</i>
gimen -ña	<i>his/her/its drink</i>	gimen -miyu	<i>your drink, exclusive</i>
iyon -ña	<i>their thing</i>	iyon -ku	<i>my thing</i>

B. Infixes

1. The infixes -um- and -in- will be written as part of the word.

For example:

-um- + hugândo = humugândo	-in- + nâ'i = nina'i
-um- + huyong = humuyong	-in- + magof = minagof

2. Reduplicated syllables and infixes will be written as part of the word even though the resulting words may contain a usually large number of letters. Words will be divided on the basis of the rules presented in this paper, not on the basis of length. Some examples of the long words resulting from multiple affixation and reduplication are provided.

For example:

konne'	kokonne'	mangokonne'
ma'â'ñao	ma'â'a'ñao	manma'â'a'ñao
gé'helo'	gége'helo'	lagége'helo'
guaiya	guâguaiya	manguâguaiya

C. Suffixes

The following list contains the suffixes of CHamoru which will be written as part of the word to which they are attached.

Prefix	Meaning/Function	Example	Meaning
-an/-guan	attributive	minigu'an/pâguan	<i>having secretion from the eye/smelly</i>
-hun	quotative	Gumupuhun si Pete .	<i>It was said that Pete flew.</i>
-guan	unintentional, covertly	pinalakse'guan	<i>slip of the tongue</i>
-i/-yi/-gui	referential marker	sangâni/nâ'iyi/li'of gui	<i>to tell/give/dive for someone</i>
-iyi/-guiyi	benefactive	sanganiyi/hanaguiyi	<i>tell /went for or on behalf of someone</i>
-ña	comparative	bunitâña	<i>prettier</i>
-ñaihon	for a little while	sâganñaihon	<i>stay for a while</i>
-on/-yon	abilitative/capable of	guasâ'on/guaiyayon	<i>sharpener/loveable</i>

D. Circumfixes – Part Prefix, Part Suffix

CHamoru has a discontinuous affix:

fan- ... **-yan**
fan- ... **-an**

The prefix **fan-** is dependent upon the suffix **-yan** to give a complete meaning of the word.

For example:

fan- + binadu + yan	= fambinaduyan	<i>place of deer</i>
fan- + pika + yan	= famikåyan	<i>cutting board</i>
fan- + huyong + -an	= fanhuyongan	<i>exit</i>
fan- + halom + -an	= fanhaluman	<i>entrance, gate</i>

Rule 17. Possessive Pronouns and Locative Words (Clitics)

The clitics or hyphen (*dollan*) will be used to show the special relationship that possessive pronouns, directional words and others have with the stem to which they are attached.

A. Possessives

For examples:

rilos- hu	<i>my watch</i>	rilos- måmi	<i>our (exclusive) watch</i>
rilos- mu	<i>your watch</i>	rilos- miyu	<i>your (dual, plural) watch</i>
rilos- ña	<i>his/her/its watch</i>	rilos- ñiha	<i>their (dual, plural) watch</i>
rilos- ta	<i>our (inclusive) watch</i>		
matå- hu	<i>my face</i>	matan- måmi	<i>our face</i>

B. Directional-Locatives

For examples:

hanåo- guatu	<i>on your way over, go to</i>
hanåo- huyong	<i>on your way out, go out</i>
chulé'- halom	<i>bring (it) on your way in</i>
chulé'- magi	<i>bring (it) on your way over here</i>
po'lón- hulo'	<i>drop (it) on your way up</i>
po'lón- papa'	<i>drop (it) on your way down</i>
nå'én- guatu	<i>give (it) on your way over there</i>
na'én- magi	<i>give (it) on your way over here</i>

The same mark used to represent a clitic will also be used to hyphenate syllables when breaking a word.