



Utugrafihan Finu' Chamorro



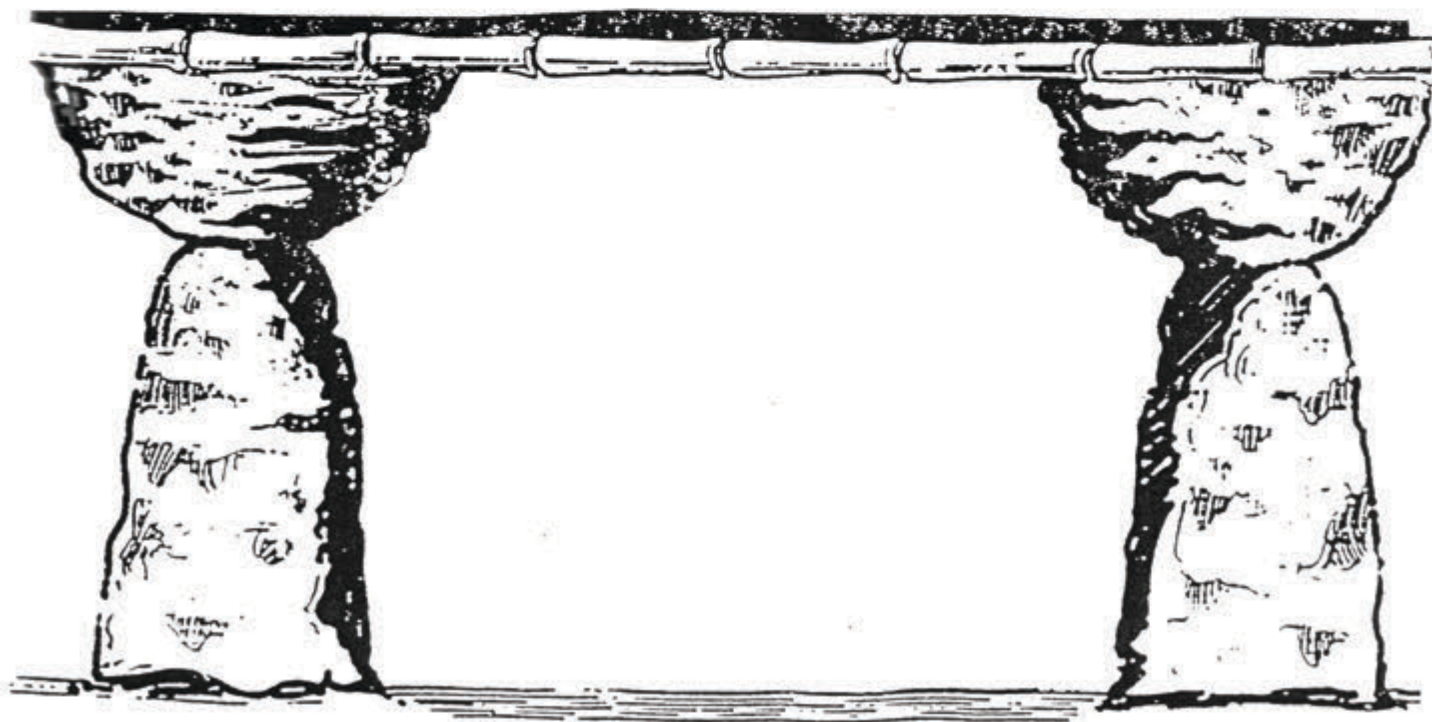
Chamorro Orthography (Revised July 2009)

English Version



Utugrafihan Finu' Chamorro

English Version



The Chamorro Alphabet

◌
(glota) **Aa** **Āā** **Bb** **Chch**

Dd **Ee** **Ff** **Gg** **Hh** **Ii**

Kk **Ll** **Mm** **Nn** **Ññ**

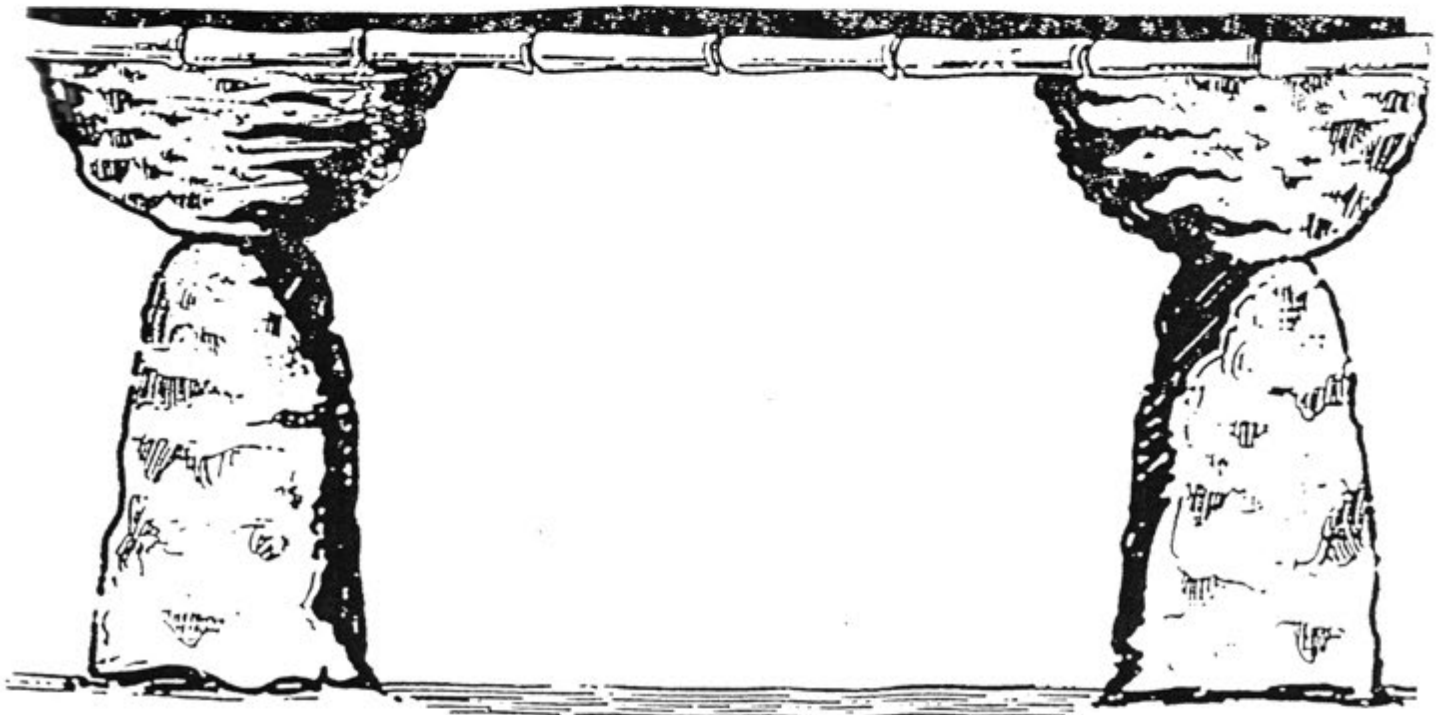
Ngng **Oo** **Pp** **Rr** **Ss**

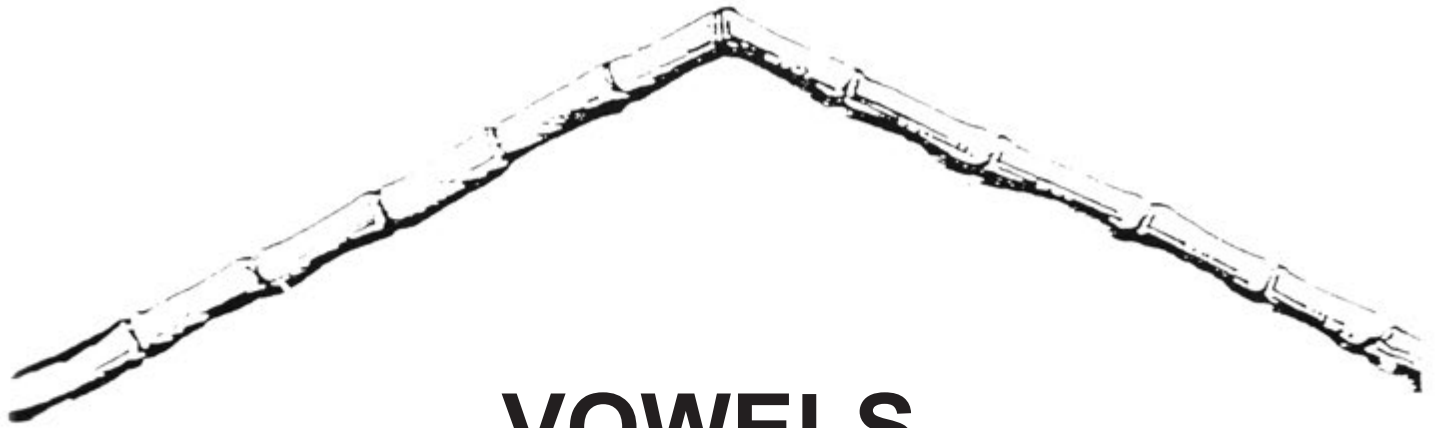
Tt **Uu** **Yy**



CONSONANTS

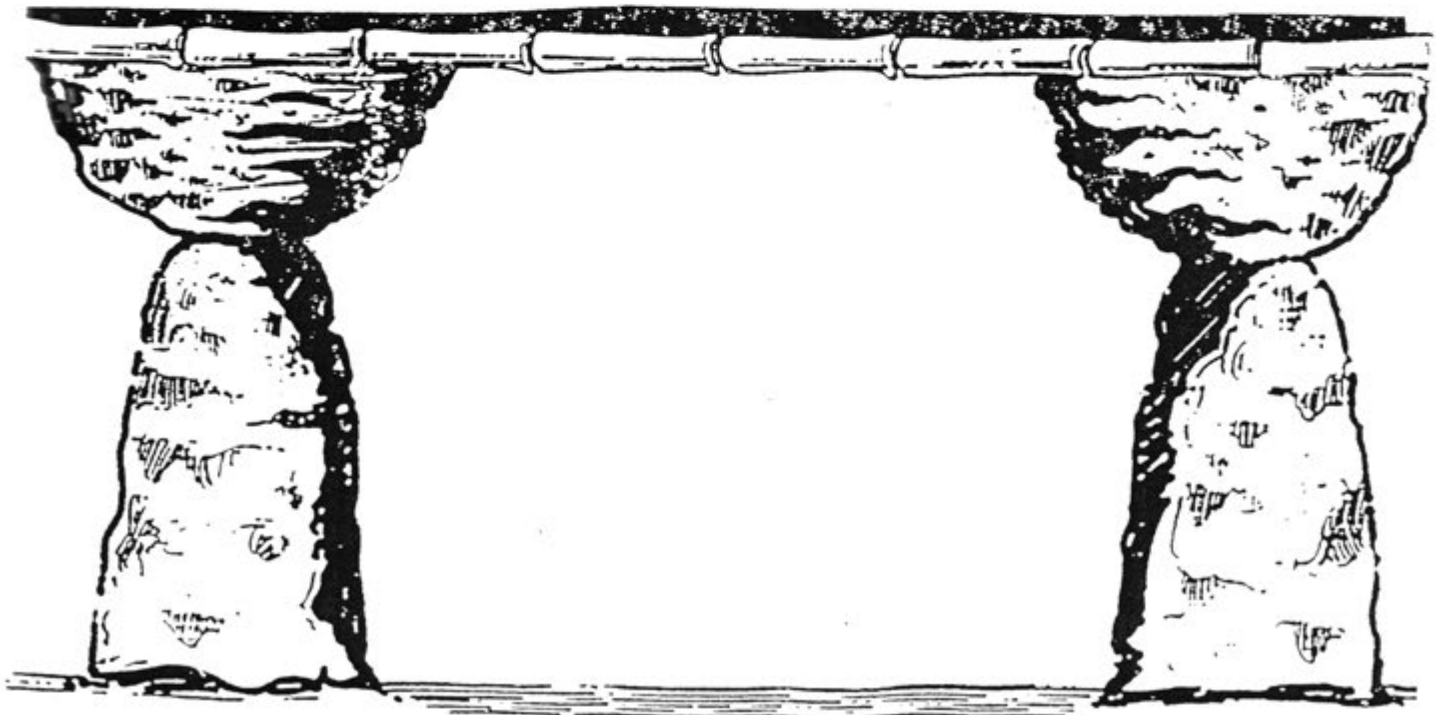
	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
STOP	p b		t d		k g	ʔ
FRICATIVE		f		s		h
AFFRICATE				ch y		
NASAL	m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
LIQUID			l r			





VOWELS

	FRONT	BACK
HIGH	[i] isa	[u] uchan
CENTRAL	[e] empi'	[o] otchu
LOW	[ae] aga'	[ǎ] ǎbas



(1.) Rule One : Choice of Alphabetic Symbols and Corresponding Sounds.

- 1.) There are twenty-four (24) alphabetic symbols, eighteen (18) consonants, and six (6) vowels. These corresponding consonants and vowels will be used in Chamorro spelling as **One Sound One Symbol**.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Example</u>
' (glota)	/ ' /	â' a' / i' i' / o' o'
a	/ ae /	abak / ababbang / ada / afa'fa' / a'gang / atcha
â	/ â /	âbas / âdding / âgang / âlu / âsni / âsu
b	/ be /	baba / bâba / bâli / bendi / bihu / bola / bula
ch	/ che /	chandiha / châda' / chetnut / chiba / chotda/chura
d	/ de /	da'uk / dândan / debi / dibi / donni' / duda
e	/ e /	echa / egga' / ekgu' / ekkis / espongha / etti
f	/ fe /	fachi' / fâ'i / fedda' / fihu / foggun / fugu'
g	/ ge /	gama / gâhu/ gera / gisa / goma / guma'
h	/ he /	habao / hâfa / hentu / hima / hoflak /huyung
i	/ i /	iba' / idât / irensia / igi / ilotis / inusenti
k	/ ke /	kabâlis /kâhit / ketchup / kichu / kobra / kuna
l	/ le /	lasa / lâta / letchi / liyang / lobu / luchan
m	/ me /	mafñut / mâffak / mehna / minutu / motmut / mumu
n	/ ne /	nangga / nâpu / nengkanu' / nigap / nota / nufu'
ñ	/ ñe /	ñating / ñâmu / ñehum / Ñiñu / ñora / ñukut
ng	/ nge /	ngaha'/ ngânga'/ngelu'/ngingi' / ngoknguk /ngulu'
o	/ o /	obra / odda' / otchu / onsi / ora / osu
p	/ pe /	padda' / pâchut / petchu / pika / po'lu / pugas
r	/ re /	rason / râmas / rektu / ripot / royu / rubetbit
s	/ se /	sabâna / sâgu / sedi / siya / sopbla / sufa'
t	/ te /	tahlang / tâli / tetcha / tisu / to'lang / tufuk
u	/ u /	ubas / usuni / umeskuela / ulu / usa / uttimu
y	/ ye /	yabbao / yâbi / yettik / yippa' / yommuk / yulang

A.) The letters **c, j, q, v, w, x, z, ll,** and **rr** will be used in the spelling of proper names.

For example:

Proper Names

C	Catalina	Candaso
J	Juan	Jesus
Q	Quinata	Quitano
V	Vicente	Villagomez
W	Wilfred	Alexandro
ll	Villagomez	Ulloa
rr	Harry	Guerrero
Z	Zina	Zita

À.) The glottal stop will be used in alphabetizing words.

For example:

1. gua'gua'	1. nâ'na'	1. ba'ba'	1. bả'ba'
2. guagua'	2. nâna	2. baba	2. bảba

(2.) Rule Two: Diphthongs

- 1.) When two vowels are together in a single syllable they are called **diphthongs**.

For example:

ao- daddao

åo-påopåo

ai- taitai

iu - mediu

ui - babui

ie - sientu

ue - eskuela

io - aksion

uo - kuota

ia – sensia

ua - guaka

iå - espisiåt

uå - kakaguåtis

oi - hagoi

- A.)** When two vowels are together in one syllable but they are separated by the glottal stop, they are not diphthongs.

For example:

ma'uk

di'amånti

tagu'a

ma'i'ut

tri'anggulu

li'i'

di'u

fa'nu'i

u'us

Å.) The symbol ' h' rather, then the glottal stop shall be used in spelling of non-diphthong combination, which are sometimes confused with diphthongs.

For example:

fihu	åhi'	ti	fiu	pat	fi'u
pasehu	åhi'	ti	paseo	pat	pase'u
maneha	åhi'	ti	manea	pat	mane'a
graduha	åhi'	ti	gradua	pat	gradu'a

(3.) Rule Three: Consonant Blend

'.) When two consonants are together in the same syllables as in **b** and **l**, these are called blends.

For example:

<u>bl</u>	<u>fl</u>	<u>gl</u>	<u>kl</u>	<u>pl</u>	<u>dr</u>
blångku lepblu	flores flema	Gloria gloriosa	klåsi klema	plåsa pluma	draiba dråks
<u>br</u>	<u>fr</u>	<u>gr</u>	<u>kr</u>	<u>pr</u>	<u>tr</u>
bråbu brohas	frångku frihon	grådu grifu	kri'on kredu	prensa prublema	tråba tres

(4.) Rule Four: Consonant Symbols in Final Positions

') The following consonants may not appear at the end of syllable or a word: **b**, **ch**, **d**, **g**, **l**, **ñ**, **r**, and **y**.

A.) These consonants **b**, **d**, **g**, **l**, and **ñ** at the end of a syllable only when the consonant is gemminate, i. e., when the following syllable of the same word begins with the same letter.

For example:

yabbao goddi cheggai kollat dañña'

Å.) Some Chamorro speakers do not pronounce the final 'h' at the end of the first syllable but for spelling purposes the final 'h' must be used.

For example: I simbulu 'h' :

sahngi mamåhlåo mohmu
tohgi tahlang tohni

(5.) Rule Five: Spelling of Borrowed Words.

'.) English, Spanish, Japanese, Filipino and words from other languages which have been assimilated into Chamorro will be spelled according to the general rules for Chamorro spelling. The spelling reflects the changes in pronunciation.

For example:

<u>Español</u>	<u>Chamorro</u>	<u>Chapanis</u>	<u>Chamorro</u>
lavador	labadot	zori	yori'
verde	betdi	denke	dengki' (kåndit)
paloma	paluma		
caballo	kabåyu		

<u>Englis</u>	<u>Chamorro</u>	<u>Tagalog</u>	<u>Chamorro</u>
ice cream	ais krim	pancit	pansit
cake	kek	adobo	adobu
chaser	chesa		

A.) The affixes may be used on the verbs that are borrowed.

For example:

piknik	mampiknik	pumiknik	pumipiknik
basketbo'	mambasketbo'	bumabasketbo'	bumasbasketbo'

(6.) Rule Six: Consonant Alternation

'.) When using the prefix **man** and **fan**, the first voiceless consonant is changed. The final **n** in **man** and **fan** also changed. (The ' and the **h** is voiceless and it is not applicable.)

For example:

Voiceless Consonant:

(**p, t, k, s, ch, f,**)

Voiced Consonants

(**b, g**)

fan + po'lu = famo'lu
man + po'lu = mamu'lu
fan + tañña' = fanañña'
man + tañña' = manañña'
fan + kâti = fangâti
man + kâti = mangâti
fan + châlik = fañâlik
man + châlik = mañâlik
fan + feggi' = fameggi'
man + feggi' = mameggi'

fan + bendi = fambendi
man + bendi = mambendi
fan + gâgao = fanggâgao
man + gâgao = manggâgao

A.) The first consonant in polly-symbolic words do not change but the letter **n** in **man** and **fan** changed unless words begin with the letter, **b, p,** or **g**

For example: **Man** + **ottru** siha na palâbra fuera di betbu.

man + biha = mambiha
man + bailadora = mambailadora
man + guaiyayun = mangguaiyayun
man + pendehu = mampendehu
man + chochotchu = mañochochotchu
fan + chochotchu = fañochochotchu

Å.) The pronunciation of the first person singular possessive pronoun (-**hu**, -**ku**, -**su**, yan -**tu**) is determined by the stem to which it is attached.

For example:

Word		Possessive Pronoun	Pronunciation
pachut	+	-tu	pachot-tu
lassås	+	-su	lassås-su
lepblu	+	-ku	lepblok-ku
tatti	+	-ku	tattek-ku

(7.) Rule Seven: Excrescent Consonant

'.) When additional consonants are added through affixation, they will be represented in the spelling system such as: **k, n, ñ, g, y, ' , m, ñ, and t.**

For example:

<u>Palåbra</u>		<u>Tokchin Palåbra</u>		<u>Ma'umenta</u>		<u>Humuyong-ña</u>
ågang		å	+	'	=	å'agang
hånåo	+	hånåo-	+	g + u + i	=	hanågui
såga	+	-ñaihun	+	n	=	såganñaihun
sångan	+	sångan	+	i + y + i	=	sanganiyi
lepblu	+	-ku	+	k +	=	lepblok-ku
lepblu	+	-måmi	+	n +	=	lepblun-måmi
lepblu	+	-mu	+	m	=	lepblo-mu
lepblu	+	-ña	+	ñ	=	lepbloñ-ña
lepblo	+	-ta	+	t	=	leplot-ta

(8.) Rule Eight: Vowel Harmony

1.) Vowel Fronting

When the pronunciation of a **vowel** is changed due to **vowel fronting**, this change will be reflected in the spelling. (Refer to Vowels chart)

For example:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|-------------|---|------------|
| 1. tuba | - | i tiba | 5. toktuk | - | en tektuk |
| 2. potta | - | gi petta | 6. pátgun | - | ni patgun |
| 3. kollat | - | in kellat | 7. saláppi' | - | misalappi' |
| 4. tåtti | - | santatti | 8. tuhung | - | tinihung |

(9.) Rule Nine : Free Words

- 1.) All content words (**names, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs** will be written as separate word in Chamorro.

For example:

Ná'an

kareta
guma'
flores
tåotåo

Betbu

hánao
fugu'
maila'
suha

Ayektibu

dikiki'
mañaña'
asut
ma'aksum

Atbetbibu

bibu
makkat
ñating
chaddik

“) The following function words (articles, particles, etc.) will be written as separate words in Chamorro.

Function Words:

Example Phrase

i	i paláo'an
ni	ni paláo'an
si	si Juan
nu	nu guåhu
na	dångkulu na tåtåtå
ha'	hu tungu' ha'
fan	nangga fan, un råtå
ni	ni hâyî?
u	para u hånåo
bai	para bai hu hånåo

Å.) The word **gof** and **sen** are function words. The spelling of these words change when they are infixed with **um-** and prefixed with **man**.

For example:

sen + um = sumen dångkulu
gof + um = gumof måolik
man + sen = mansen dangkulu
man + gof = manggof bunita

B.) Compound Words:

When two words whether they have the same form and meaning or not are combined and have different meaning, they are called **compound words**.

For example:

Dopbli Palåbra

buchibuchi
påopåo

halumtånu'
tåotåomo'na

(10.) Rule Ten: Affixes

'). Prefixes:

The following prefixes will be written as part of the word to which it is attached.

For example:

a -	apatcha
acha -	achalokka'
an -	ansopbla
chat-	chatbunita
e -	esapatus
o -	otenda
fa'-	fa'na'an
fama' -	fama'bola
ga' -	ga'maigu'
ge' -	ge'papa'

ha-	hapoddung
hat-	hattalum
ka-	kama'gas
ke-	kehatsa
la -	ladangkulu
ma -	matugi'
man -	manatan
mi-	misalåppi'
mina'-	mina'tres
na' -	na'gåsgas
pinat -	pinatmantika
san-	sanme'na
tai -	taiguennao
tak-	takhilu'
talak-	talakhiyung
ya-	yamo'nana

The classifiers **na'**, **ga'** **gimin**, yan **iyu** will be written as separate words.

For example:

na' ga'lågu
na'-måmi

ga'-ña
ga' Jose

iyun i patgun
iyun Maria

gimin-ñiha
gimin guaka

A.) Infixes:

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

For example:

- um -	hugåndu	+	um	=	humugåndu
	huyung	+	um	=	humuyung
	patcha	+	um	=	pumatcha
- in -	nå'i	+	in	=	nina'i
	maguf	+	in	=	minaguf
	patcha	+	in	=	pinatcha
- um -	atan	+	um	=	umatan
- um -	ipi'	+	um	=	umipi'
- in -	atan	+	in	=	inatan
- in -	usa	+	in	=	inisa

These words represent the sound. They are called **matupeha na palåbra**.

Matupeha Na Palåbra Siha:

kaskas	tingting	paspas	bongbung
pångpang	bisbis	pispis	lokkluk
påkpak	bosbus	chikchik	pippip

A.) Suffixes:

The following list contains the suffixes of Chamorro which will be written as part of the word to which it is attached.

For example:

fan . . . an	=	fambinaduyan (binådu)
fan . . . yan	=	fanggualu'an (gualu'an)
- yi	=	atchayi (atcha)
-ña	=	bunitåña (bunita)
- i	=	fugu'i (fugu')
- yun	=	guaiyayun (guaiya)
- un	=	guaså'un (guåsa')
- an	=	mimigu'an (mugu')
- ñaihun	=	sanganñaihun (sångan)
- guan	=	pinalakse'guan (palaksi')

The first item on the list is called discontinuous affix. The **fan –** is dependent upon the suffix **–yan** to give a complete meaning of the word.

(Gef Hassu)

G. H. The suffix **-an** can also be written **guan** as in **påguan** (from **påo + an**). This is not the same as the **guan** suffix. The most common is **-gui** for the suffix **'i'** as in **hanågui**.

B.) Reduplication

Reduplicated syllables and affixes will be written as part of the word even though the resulting words may contain an unusually large number of letters. Words will be divided on the basis of the rules presented in this paper.

For example:

å'ñao	-	å'å'ñao	ma'å'añao	manachama'å'ñao
pulan	-	pupulan	mamumulan	manmamumulan
luhan	-	luluhan	manluluhan	
guaiya	-	guaguaiya	manguaguaiya	

(11.) Rule Eleven : Hyphen (-)

- '.) The hyphens are used to show the special relationship that possessive pronouns, directional words and others have with the stem to which they are attached. The same mark is used to represent a clitic is used to hyphenate syllables when breaking a word.

For example:

Klã'an Dueñu

tihong-hu	tihung-mãmi	leplok-ku
tihong-mu	tihung-miyu	lassãs-su
tihong-ña	tihung-ñiha	pachot-tu
tihong-ta		

Palãbran Direksion:

hanão-guatu	chule'-magi
po'lon-guatu	poddong-papa'

Put ti nahung kãmpu:

Mampus na'piniti na tiempu sa' makkat i lina'la' gi todú i man-
era sa' put sumen baba i ikunumiha.

A.) Family names which have never been written before will be Chamorrized in spelling.

For example:

Kilili'
Batitang

Ti'an
Uyisang

Bolis
Kiyu'

A.) Place names that are of Chamorro origin will be Chamorrized in Spelling.

For example:

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Marpi | Makpi' | 5. Charangka' | Chalan Kanao |
| 2. Managaha | Mañagåha | 6. Obyan | Opyan |
| 3. Saipan | Sa'ipan | 7. Tinian | Tini'an |
| 4. Tanapag | Tanåpak | | |

B.) Places with no known names remain as it is but newly named places to be named will be written in Chamorro.

For example:

- '.) Pakpåk Beach
- a.) Kilili' Beach
- å.) Micro Beach

Ch.) Months, days and numeral shall conform to the Chamorro spelling rules.

For example:

Mes Gi Sakkan

Ineru	Huliu
Fibreru	Agostu
Måtsu	Septembri
Abrit	Oktubri
Måyu	Nubembri
Huniu	Disembri

Ha'åni Gi Simåna

Damenggu	Betnis
Lunis	Såbalu
Måttis	
Metkulis	
Huebis	

Numiru Siha

unu	onsi	trenta	kinientus
dos	dossi	kuarenta	mit
tres	tressi	singkuenta	miyon
kuåttru	katotsi	sisienta	triyon
singku	kinsi	sitienta	
sais	disisais	otchenta	
sietti	disisietti	nubenta	
otchu	disi'otchu	sientu	
nuebi	disinuebi		
dies	benti		

Såkkkan

1948 – Mit nuebi sientus kuarentai'otchu

1983 – Mit nuebi sientus otchentaitres

2009 – Dos mit nuebi

2112- Dos mit sientu dossi

(14.) Rule Fourteen : Capitalization

- 1.) All proper names must be capitalized such as names of people, places, animals, things, institutions, organizations, titles, days of the week, months, and the beginning of all sentences.

For example:

<u>Name of People</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Animal</u>	<u>Things</u>
Vince Diaz (V.D.)	Luta	Chiubâka	Santa Rosa (boti)
Elizabeth Aldan Jack(E.A.J.)	Pâgan	Ândre	Sânta Biplia
Marieta Baza Perez (M.B.P.)	San Antonio	Kirida	Ton Goru's Guyuria

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Title</u>
Northern Marianas College	Lion's Club	Dr. Rita H. Inos
University of Guam	PAWS	Gubietnu Fitial
Juan A. Sablan Building	Chamber of Commerce	Justice Manglona

<u>Months</u>		<u>Days</u>	
Ineru	Huliu	Damenggu	Sâbalu
Fibreru	Agostu	Lunis	
Mâtsu	Septembri	Mâttis	
Abrit	Oktubri	Metkulis	
Mâyu	Nubembri	Huebis	
Huniu	Disembri	Betnis	

Beginning of the sentence:

Bumaila i patgun gi giput nigap.
Guâhu yumuti' i basula gi cha'guan.
Itaotâo chumuli' i katga.

- A.)** The conventional practice of capitalizing pronouns relating to the divinity will be used.

For example:

Tatan-mâmi ni gaigi **Hào** gi langit, u matuna i na'ân-mu