Plundered Kitchens, Empty Wombs

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Pronunciation Guide

The Bangangté language (Medumba) is a tonal language; rising and falling tones make a difference in the meaning of words. Accent marks on Bangangté words indicate tones.

The glottal stop (what English speakers would have to do to pronounce “a ark”), a common consonant in Bangangté, is indicated with an apostrophe. Nasals (e.g., “ng” or “mb”) are part of the consonant blends, not separate syllables.

ng as in ngaka is pronounced as in looking
nt as in Nteshun is pronounced as in and
mf as in mfi is usually pronounced mf, but is pronounced mv in mfen (sounds like mvun)

The Bangangté language has many vowels that do not appear in spoken English. These are written with phonetic characters, according to the CEPOM orthography, in the glossary, and with simplified Latin letters in the body of the text.

α written a in the text is pronounced between “ah” and “aw” similar to “awl”
ɔ written o in the text is an “open o” similar to “Noah” (but one syllable)
ɤ written u in the text is similar to “u” in the French “tu”

In addition to these vowels, the consonant c in the CEPOM orthography is pronounced “ch” as in “cherry.”