





Igala Language Project Snippet November 2013

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Fascinating Fact: The Igala language is tonal.

Reading without knowing which tones to use is a guessing game. Below are just two examples. Igala is full of completely unrelated words that look identical because the tones aren't marked.

<p>ówò broom</p> 	<p>“D'ówò mi,” means, “Give me a broom.”</p> <p>“D'ówó mi,” means “Give me your hand (let's shake hands).”</p> <p>Big difference! But very clear when the tones are marked.</p>	<p>ówó hand</p> 
<p>ókò parrot</p> 	<p>“Ugbo oko wẹ dẹ?” That could mean either “Where is your parrot?” or “Where is your farm?”</p> <p>Sometimes the choice is obvious without marking the tones. Not many people own parrots! But the reader still has to run through the choices mentally or even verbally, and that makes reading quite laborious.</p> <p>If we were to mark the tones, readers would find it easier to understand the text.</p>	<p>óko farm</p> 

Although this passage is not about marking tones, it does mention writing in an understandable way.

(Paul says to the Christians in Corinth) 12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace. 13 **For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand.** And I hope that, 14 as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:12-14 New International Version (NIV) (from Biblegateway.com)

PLEASE PRAY WITH ME FOR GOD TO DO A MIRACLE.

Thank you for helping the Igala people read and understand!

Esther Nordman, Director
Igala Language Project