

TABLE 8  
The West Greenlandic Phonemic System

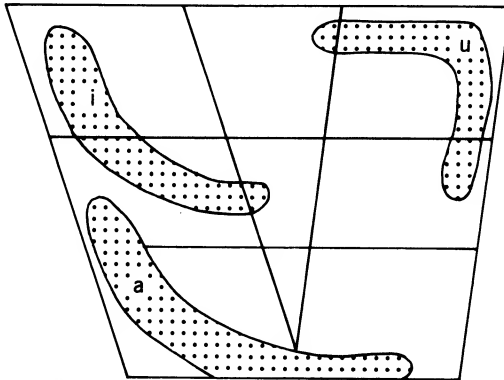
Consonants (*aappersarissat*)

	labial	alveolar	palatal	velar	uvular	
stops	p	t		k	q	(misaqqasut)
fricatives	v	s*	j	ɣ	r	(nilaalasut)
nasals	m	n		ŋ (ng)	(N)**	(sorlukkoortut)
lateral	l					

(*qarlormiut*) (*oqarmiut* or *kigummiut*) (*qilaarmiut*) (*nerilittarmiut*)

The new orthography uses the orthographic symbols given above, but with 'g' for /ɣ/ and 'ng' for /ŋ/. The uvular nasal appears (geminate only) as 'rng'. All geminate fricatives are voiceless, thus, 'll' is [tʰ], 'gg' is [xʰ], 'rr' is [χχ] and 'ff' is written for [vʰ]. This applies also to 'rl' ([tʰ]) and 'rf'. Geminate 'ng' is written 'nng', 't' before 'i' is [tʰi], and /Cti/ is written 'tsi'.

Vowels  
(*ersiutit*)



The most centralized/lowered allophones are those occurring before (and especially between) uvulars, which in the orthography are written 'e' and 'o' (no difference for /a/).

\* Many central West Greenlandic speakers still have a distinction between this and palato-alveolar /s/ ([ʃ]).

\*\* Outside the central dialect area this is replaced by ordinary /r/; it occurs as a single segment only as the result of nasalization of a word-final /q/ before a vowel-initial enclitic. The same speakers have /m/ rather than /NN/.

Source: M. Fortescue.