



## Language Specific Peculiarities Document for Paraguayan Guarani (PG) as spoken in PARAGUAY

### 1. Special handling of dialects

Paraguayan Guarani, also called *Avañe'ẽ* (people's language), belongs to the Tupi-Guarani subgroup of the Tupian language family. It is spoken throughout Paraguay as well as in the Argentinian provinces of Corrientes, Misiones, Formosa, Chaco, and the north of Santa Fe, and in the southern parts of the Brazilian states Mato Grosso do Sul, and Paraná. According to Ethnologue (2015), Paraguayan Guarani's closest relatives are Ava Guarani (Paraguay), Mbyá Guarani (Brazil), Kaiwá (Brazil), Ñandeva (Paraguay) and Pai Tavytera (Paraguay).

The language of collection is spoken Paraguayan Guarani. It is worth noting that all naturally spoken Guarani shows the influence of Spanish through semantic calques as well as frequent code-mixing (e.g., names for numerals, days, months, etc.). The resulting mixed code is often referred to as *Jópara* (from the Guarani word for 'mix'). While all Paraguayan Guarani speakers code-mix, the degree to which Spanish calques and lexical items are used in the language varies by speaker and context (proficiency in Spanish, goals of communication, degree of formality, etc.) (Dietrich, 2010).

There is an official form of the language, known as *Guaranieta*. This highly prescriptive form of the language is taught in schools and used in official documents. It purports to be free of Spanish borrowings. It is important to understand that spoken *Guaranieta* is restricted to media such as television and radio broadcasts, which in turn are uncommon (Spanish tends to dominate the media). It is not used in ordinary speech outside of these contexts.

Paraguayan Guarani does not have geographical dialect variation that is significant for data collection.

### 2. Deviation from native-speaker principle

There is no special deviation. Only data from native speakers of Paraguayan Guarani, born in Paraguay, were collected in this project.

### 3. Special handling of spelling

Paraguayan Guarani is rarely written outside of an academic or official context. There are strict conventions for the writing of *Guaranieta*, which are taught in high schools across Paraguay. These conventions were designed in 2004 by the Ministerio de Educación y Cultura (Ministry of Education and Culture - MEC), and are often referred to as "MEC 2004". Appen referenced these conventions in developing spelling guidelines for the purpose of this speech database. However, these conventions have been expanded in order to reduce the orthographic variability encountered in writing spoken Guarani.

Spoken Paraguayan Guarani contains a considerable number of Spanish borrowings which are



inconsistently nativized in both pronunciation and spelling. In the interests of avoiding inconsistency in the orthography, all Spanish borrowings are presented in a nativized spelling that adheres to an expanded Guarani alphabet and native Guarani stress marking.

#### 4. Description of character set used for orthographic transcription

Paraguayan Guarani uses the Basic Latin Unicode range (U+0041-U+007A) plus the following additional forms from the Latin-1 Supplement set, the Latin Extended-A set and the Latin Extended Additional set.

Symbol	Unicode	Description	Unicode Set
Ã	U+00C3	Latin Capital Letter A with tilde	Latin-1 Supplement
ã	U+00E3	Latin Small Letter A with tilde	Latin-1 Supplement
Á	U+00C1	Latin Capital Letter A with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
á	U+00E1	Latin Small Letter A with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
Ě	U+1EBC	Latin Capital Letter E with tilde	Latin Extended Additional
ě	U+1EBD	Latin Small Letter E with tilde	Latin Extended Additional
É	U+00C9	Latin Capital Letter E with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
é	U+00E9	Latin Small Letter E with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
Ï	U+0128	Latin Capital Letter I with tilde	Latin Extended-A
ï	U+0129	Latin Small Letter I with tilde	Latin Extended-A
Í	U+00CD	Latin Capital Letter I with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
í	U+00ED	Latin Small Letter I with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
Õ	U+00D5	Latin Capital Letter O with tilde	Latin-1 Supplement
õ	U+00F5	Latin Small Letter O with tilde	Latin-1 Supplement
Ó	U+00D3	Latin Capital Letter O with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
ó	U+00F3	Latin Small Letter O with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
Û	U+0168	Latin Capital Letter U with tilde	Latin Extended-A
ü	U+0169	Latin Small Letter U with tilde	Latin Extended-A
Ú	U+00DA	Latin Capital Letter U with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
ú	U+00FA	Latin Small Letter U with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
ü	U+00FC	Latin Small Letter U with dieresis	Latin-1 Supplement
ÿ	U+1EF8	Latin Capital Letter Y with tilde	Latin Extended Additional
ÿ	U+1EF9	Latin Small Letter Y with tilde	Latin Extended Additional
Ý	U+00DD	Latin Capital Letter Y with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
ý	U+00FD	Latin Small Letter Y with acute	Latin-1 Supplement
Ñ	U+00D1	Latin Capital Letter N with tilde	Latin-1 Supplement
ñ	U+00F1	Latin Small Letter N with tilde	Latin-1 Supplement
'	U+0027	Apostrophe	Basic Latin



The letters Ñ and ñ do not have single Unicode characters. The character series for these items are below:

Symbol	Unicode	Description Code 1	Description Code 2
Ñ	U+0047 U+0303	Latin Capital Letter G	Combining tilde
ñ	U+0067 U+0303	Latin Small Letter G	Combining tilde

## 5. Description of Romanization scheme

Not applicable.

## 6. Description of method for word boundary detection

Word boundaries in Guarani orthography are delimited by white spaces. Compounds are written without a space between the two lexical items. Hyphens are never used with the exception of some foreign words and proper names.

## 7. Table containing all phonemes in the stipulated notation

The broad phonetic transcription of the words in this database uses X-SAMPA symbols, which can be found at <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/sampa/x-sampa.htm>. The total number of phones is 49 including allophones. There are 37 consonants and 12 vowels.

**PARAGUAYAN GUARANI PHONE CHART<sup>1</sup>**

IPA	X-SAMPA	TYPICAL PARAGUAYAN GUARANI CORRESPONDENCE	COMMENTS
<b>CONSONANTS</b>			
p	p	p	
t	t	t	
k	k	k	In Spanish proper names, [k] may be represented by <c> (before <a>, <o>, or <u>) or by the digraph <qu>.
ʔ	ʔ	ʔ	
b	b	v	In Spanish proper names, /b/ may be represented by <b>.

<sup>1</sup> Based on Rivas (1975) in Walker (1999).

IPA	X-SAMPA	TYPICAL PARAGUAYAN GUARANI CORRESPONDENCE	COMMENTS
d	d	d	In Spanish words only.
g	g	g	In Spanish words only.
<sup>ˆ</sup> t	t_n	nt	
<sup>ˆ</sup> b	b_m	mb	
<sup>ˆ</sup> d	d_n	nd	
<sup>ˆ</sup> g	g_N	ng	
m	m	m	
n	n	n	
ɲ	J	ñ	
ŋ	N	n	In Spanish words only, /n/ is realized as [ŋ] before a velar consonant and word-finally. Note that in nativized Spanish words, word-final <n> has been converted to a nasal marker on the preceding vowel.
tʃ	tS	ch	In Spanish words only.
dʒ	dZ	j	
f	f	f	In Spanish words only.
s	s	s	In Spanish proper names, [s] may be represented by <z>, or by <c> (before <e> or <i>).
ʃ	S	ch	
ʂ	s`	r	In Spanish words only, /r/ may be assimilated to [ʂ] after /t/.
x	x	h	In Spanish words only. In Spanish proper names, [x] may be represented by <j>.
h	h	h	In Spanish words, coda /s/ is commonly realized as [h], and /f/ may be realized as [h] in nativized pronunciation.
v	v	v	

IPA	X-SAMPA	TYPICAL PARAGUAYAN GUARANI CORRESPONDENCE	COMMENTS
β	B	v	In Spanish words only, /b/ is realized as [β] in all environments except word-initially, and after a nasal consonant. In Spanish proper names, [β] may be represented by <b>.
ð	D	d	In Spanish words only, /d/ is realized as [ð] in all environments excepting word-initially, and after a nasal or lateral consonant.
ɟ	j\	j	In Spanish words only. In Spanish proper names, [ɟ] may be represented by <y>.
ɣ	G	g	In Spanish words only, /g/ is realized as [ɣ] in all environments excepting word-initially, and after a nasal consonant.
j	j	i	/i/ may be realized as [j] when preceded or followed by another vowel in the same syllable.
ɖj	d_j	j	/dZ/ is realized as [ɖj] before stressed oral vowels.
ɥ	M\	g	
ũ	M\~	ḡ	/ɥ/ is realized as [ũ] before an inherently nasal vowel in native words.
r	r	rr	In Spanish words only. In Spanish proper names, <r> may be realized as [r] word-initially.
r	4	r	
l	l	l	In Spanish words, and in some native words.
ʎ	L	ll	In Spanish words only.
w	w	u	/u/ may be realized as [w] when preceded or followed by another vowel in the same syllable.

IPA	X-SAMPA	TYPICAL PARAGUAYAN GUARANI CORRESPONDENCE	COMMENTS
<b>VOWELS</b>			
a	a	a / á	NOTE: In the orthography, the acute accent indicates primary stress.
ã	a~	ã / a	NOTE: In the orthography, the tilde indicates a stressed, nasalized or nasal vowel in a syllable with a non-nasal onset or coda. A nasalized vowel not bearing primary or secondary stress may be written without a tilde. The tilde may also indicate an unstressed, inherently nasal vowel, i.e., a vowel which has not become nasalized through nasal harmony.
e	e	e / é	See note at /a/ above.
ẽ	e~	ẽ / e	See note at /ã/ above.
i	i	i / í	See note at /a/ above.
ĩ	i~	ĩ / i	See note at /ã/ above.
o	o	o / ó	See note at /a/ above.
õ	o~	õ / o	See note at /ã/ above.
u	u	u / ú	See note at /a/ above.
ũ	u~	ũ / u	See note at /ã/ above.
ɨ	ɪ	ɨ / ý	See note at /a/ above.
ɨ̃	ɪ~	ɨ̃ / y	See note at /ã/ above.

<b>OTHER SYMBOLS</b>	
"	primary stress
%	secondary stress
.	syllable break
#	word boundary



## Nasal Harmony

Nasal harmony is prevalent in Paraguayan Guaraní, tending to spread nasality from stressed nasal vowels to all voiced segments bi-directionally, and from pre-nasalised stops to all voiced segments regressively. Nasality may be blocked by a stressed syllable containing an oral vowel, which spreads orality regressively. In blocking syllables, both the vowel and the onset consonant remain oral. This nasal harmony does not apply to Spanish or foreign words and roots.

### 7.1 List of rare phones

None.

### 7.2 List of foreign phones

None.

## 8. Other language items

### 8.1 Table Digits

Numeral	Guarani	Spanish (nativized)
0	mba'eve	séro
1	peteĩ	
2	mokõi	
3	mbohapy	
4	irundy	kuátro
5	po	sínko
6	poteĩ	séih
7	pokõi	siéte
8	poapy	ócho
9	porundy	nuéve

Note: In conversation, people tend to use the Spanish terms for numbers 0 and 4 and above



## 8.2 Other Numbers

Numeral	Guarani	Spanish (nativized)
10	pa	dieh
100	sa	siénto
1,000	su	mil
10,000	pasu	dieh mil
100,000	sasu	siě mil
1 million	sua	ũ millõ
10 million	pasua	dieh millóneh

## 8.3 Spelling Alphabet

Both native and Spanish pronunciations of letters are included in the table below. Please note that it is rare to use the native pronunciations of letters when spelling a word in Guarani - typically the Spanish pronunciation is used. The only exceptions would be the nasal version of each vowel, the vowel <y>, and <g>, which are unique to Guarani.

Orthography	Usual Native Pronunciation	Usual Spanish Pronunciation
A, a, Á, á	" ? a	" ? a
Ã, ã	" ? a~	N/A
B, b	N/A	" b e b e . " l a 4 . g a
C, c	N/A	" s e
Ch, ch	" S e	s e . " a . t S e s e . " a . S e
D, d	N/A	" d e
E, e, É, é	" ? e	" ? e
Ē, ě	" ? e~	N/A
F, f	N/A	" ? e . f e
G, g	" M \ e	" x e
Ğ, ğ	" M \ ~ e~	N/A
H, h	" h e	" ? a . t S e " ? a . S e
I, i, Í, í	" ? i	" ? i
Ĩ, ĩ	" ? i~	N/A



Orthography	Usual Native Pronunciation	Usual Spanish Pronunciation
J, j	"d_je	"x o . t a
K, k	"k e	"k a
L, l	"l e	" ? e . l e
Ll, ll	N/A	" ? e . l e
M, m	"m e~	" ? e . m e~
Mb, mb	"b_m e	% ? e . m e~ . " b e
N, n	"n e~	" ? e . n e~
Nd, nd	"d_n e	% ? e . n e~ . " D e
Ng, ng	"g_N e	% ? e . n e~ . " x e
Nt, nt	"t_n e	% ? e . n e~ . " t e
Ñ, ñ	"J e~	" ? e . J e~
O, o, Ó, ó	" ? o	" ? o
Õ, õ	" ? o~	N/A
P, p	"p e	"p e
Q, q	N/A	"k u
R, r	"4 e	" ? e . 4 e
Rr, rr	N/A	" ? e . r e
S, s	"s e	" ? e . s e
T, t	"t e	"t e
U, u, Ú, ú	" ? u	" ? u
Û, ù	" ? u~	N/A
V, v	"v e	" b e b e . " k o 4 . t a
W, w	N/A	b e . " D o . B l e
X, x	N/A	" ? e . k i s
Y, y, Ý, ý	" ? 1	? i . " G 4 j e . G a h
ÿ, ÿ	" ? 1~	N/A
Z, z	N/A	"s e . t a
'	p u . " s o	N/A



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