

The Phonemes

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Introduction

This chapter gives a brief introduction to the phonetics and phonological system of the Mah Meri language spoken in Kampung Bukit Bangkung (A), Sepang, Selangor.

The Phonemes

The Mah Meri language has 19 phoneme consonants, 2 semi-vowels, and 8 vowels.

Consonants

The 19 consonants in Mah Meri are labelled as plosives, nasals, fricatives, affricates, trill, lateral and semi-vowels. Refer Table 4.1.

The Consonant Phonemes and Their Distributions

Plosives

The plosive consonants /p, t, d, k/ in Mah Meri can occur in all positions of the syllable or the word: initial, medial and final. On the other hand, consonants /g/ occur as word-initial and word-medial only, and the glottal stop /ʔ/ in the word-medial and word-final positions.

All the plosives that occur in the final position are unreleased. Examples: