

FIJIAN SPELLING

Two systems of spelling Fijian names and words are in use in the Colony. The "Fijian" system was devised during the period 1835-37 by the Missionaries who first reduced the Fijian language to writing. They aimed at representing the various Fijian sounds by single letters and the system that resulted has been used ever since by the Fijian people and is in general use within the Colony. The letters concerned are "b", "c", "d", "g", and "q" and the following examples indicate the manner in which they are pronounced.

- (i) B is pronounced "MB" as in number, e.g. Labasa = Lambasa.
- (ii) C is pronounced "TH" as in that, e.g. Cuvu = Thuvu.
- (iii) D is pronounced "ND" as in end, e.g. Nadi = Nandi.
- (iv) G is pronounced "NG" as in sing, e.g. Siga = Singa.
- (v) Q is pronounced "NGG" as in finger, e.g. Yaqara = Yanggara.

In practically all words in Fijian, the accent is on the penultimate syllable.

The "phonetic" system is a more recent attempt to render Fijian words in English spelling. It is used in maps and in documents designed primarily for overseas reading, e.g. MBAU (BAU), THAKOMBAU (CAKOBAB), NANDI (NADI), NANDRONGA (NADROGA), MBENGGA (BEQA).