

NOTES ON TRANSLITERATION

In transcribing Soninke terms, I generally follow the spelling convention in Ousmane Diagana's (2011) dictionary, except for accents and the 'ñ', which will be substituted by 'ny'.

The names of all people and places are spelled according to this convention, except when these are more widely recognized by another designation, or when people explicitly asked that a different spelling be used for their name. Particular cases of Soninke consonants are:

- *c* – pronounced as *ch* in 'church';
- *x* – pronounced as a sort of guttural *r* (or *kh*); when preceded by *n*, it is pronounced as *k*
- *ŋ* – nasal and guttural sound, approximately as in *ng*
- *ny* – pronounced as the *ñ* in Spanish (e.g., España)

Please note that some Soninke words in this book are spelled in a slightly different way from Diagana's (2011) dictionary, which is based on the Soninke spoken in Mauritania; differences reflect Gambian variations as I understood them. The Gambian Soninke tend to pronounce the *f* as an *h*, yet I did not write *h* in place of *f* unless specific words require an *h* (e.g., *hoore*).