LUBA-KASAI (TSHILUBA)

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

ENGLISH	LUBA-KASAI	LUBA-KASAI PRONUNCIATION
I am an American and I need your help, but I do not speak your language. I'll point to the question in your language and you can point to the answer in your language.	Ndi mwena ditunga dia Amerika ne ndi ne dijinga dia diambuluisha dieba (singular)/dienu (plural),* kadi tshiena mumanya Tshiluba to. Ndi nkuleja lukonko/lukonku mu Tshiluba ne wewa undeja diandamuna mu Tshiluba.	njEE mwAY-nah jEE-too-ngAH jah ah-mAY-rEE-kah nay njEE nay jee-zhee-ngAH jah jah-mboo-lwEE-shah jAY-bah/jAY-noo, kah-jEE chAY-nah mOO-mAH-ñyah chEE-lOO-bah toh. njEE ngkoo-lAY-zhah loo-koh-ngkOH/loo-koh-ngkOO moo chEE-lOO-bah nay wAY-wah oo-ndAY-zhah jah-ndah-mOO-nah moo chEE-lOO-bah.

COMMUNICATION

ENGLISH	LUBA-KASAI	LUBA-KASAI PRONUNCIATION
Will you help me?	Ne ungenzeja(singular)/Ne nungenzeja (plural) anyi?	nAY oo-ngAY-nzAY-zhah/noo-ngAY-nzAY-zhah AH-ñyee?*
Is there someone that speaks English?	Kudi muntu udi wakula tshingeleshi anyi?	koo-jEE moo-ntoo oo-jEE wah-kOO-lah chEE-ngAY-lAY-shee AH-ñyee?
Are they willing to help me?	Mbaswa mwa kungenzeja anyi?	mbAH-swah mwah koo-ngAY-nzAY-zhah AH-ñyee?
Can they come here?	Badi mwa kulua apa anyi?	bah-jEE mwah kOO-lwAH ah-pah AH-ñyee?
I must go now but, I want to thank you for your help.	Ndi ne tshia kuya mpindiewu kadi, ndi muswa kukuela (singular)/kunuela (plural) tuasakidila bwa diambuluisha dieba/dienu	njEE nAY chah kOO-yah mpee-njAY-woo kah-jEE, njEE mOO-swah koo-kwAY-lah/koo-nwAY-lah twah-sah-kEE-jEE-lah bwah jah-mboo-lwEE-shah jAY-bah/jAY-noo.
My government will repay you for your kindness.	Mbula matadi wanyi ne akufuta (singular)/anufuta (plural) bwa diambuluisha dieba (singular)/dienu (plural)	mboo-lah-mah-tAH-jee wAH-ñyee nay ah-kOO-fOO-tah/ah-noo-fOO-tah bwah jah-mboo-lwEE-shah jAY-bah/jAY-noo.
I greatly appreciate your assistance.	Ndi nkuela (singular)/nuela (plural) tuasakidila wa bungi bwa dingenzeja dieba (singular)/dienu (plural)	njEE ngkwAY-lah*/nwAY-lah twah-sah-kEE-jEE-lah wah bOO-ngee bwah jee-ngAY-nzAY-zhah jAY-bah/jAY-noo.

BASIC NEEDS

ENGLISH	LUBA-KASAI	LUBA-KASAI PRONUNCIATION
May I have some water?	Ndi mwa kupetaku mayi anyi?	njEE mwah koo-pAY-tah-koo mAH-yEE AH-ñyee?
May I have some food?	Ndi mwa kupetaku tshia didia anyi?	njEE mwah koo-pAY-tah-koo chah jEE-jah AH-ñyee?
I am injured. Is there someone that can help me?	Ndi mutapika. Kudi muntu udi mwa kungenzeja anyi?	njEE moo-tAH-pEE-kah. koo-jEE moo-ntoo oo-jEE mwah ku-ngAY-nzAY-zhah AH-ñyee?
Do you have any bandages?	Udiku (singular)/Nudiku (plural) ne mbanda anyi?	oo-jEE-koo/noo-jEE-koo nay mbAH-ndah AH-ñyee?
Can you contact someone to help me?	Udiku (singular)/Nudiku mwa kuambila muntu bwa kungenzeja anyi?	oo-jEE-koo/noo-jEE-koo mwah kwah-mbEE-lah moo-ntoo bwah koo-ngAY-nzAY-zhah AH-ñyee?
Where is the latrine?	Nkumba udi penyi?	ngkoo-mbah oo-jee pay-ñyee?
I am very tired. Is there a place I can sleep?	Ndi mupungila be. Kudiku kaba ka mema/meme* kulala anyi?	njEE moo-poo-ngEE-lah bAY. koo-jEE-koo kah-bah kah mAY-mah/mAY-mAY koo-lah-lAH AH-ñyee?
May I have a blanket, or more clothing?	Ndi mwa kupetaku mbulanketa/mbulankete, anyi bilamba bikwabu anyi?	njEE mwah koo-pAY-tah-koo mboo-lah-ngkAY-tah/mboo-lah-ngkAY-tay, AH-ñyee bEE-lah-mbah bEE-kwah-boo AH-ñyee?

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	LUBA-KASAI	LUBA-KASAI PRONUNCIATION
Can you show me my location on a map?	Udiku (singular)/Nudiku (plural) mwa* kundeja mwaba undi ewu pa kalata anyi?	oo-jEE-koo/noo-jEE-koo mwah koo-ndAY-zhah mwah-bah OO-njee ay-woo pah kAH-lah-tah AH-ñyee?
Can you send word that I am alive?	Udiku/Nudiku mwa kutuma mukenji ne ndi ne moyi/moyo anyi?	oo-jEE-koo/noo-jEE-koo mwah koo-too-mAH moo-kAY-nzhee nay njEE nay moh-yee/moh-yoh AH-ñyee?
How far is it to friendly territory?	Bidi mutansthi kayi apa too ne ku mwaba udi bena dietu?	bee-jEE moo-tAH-nchee kAH-yee ah-pah toh nay koo mwAH-bah oo-jee bAY-nah jAY-too?
Can you take me there?	Udiku/Nudiku mwa kumfila koku aku anyi?	oo-jEE-koo/noo-jEE-koo mwah kOO-mfee-lah kOH-koo ah-koo AH-ñyee?

If you cannot take me, will you give me directions?	Ne kwena (singular)/kanuena (plural) mwa kumfila, udiku/nudiku mwa kundudika anyi?	nay kwAY-nah/kah-nwAY-nah mwah kOO-mfee-lah, oo-jEE-koo/noo-jEE-koo mwah koo-ndoo-jEE-kah AH-ñyee?
Is it safe to travel now?	Ne kuikala njiwu mema/meme muya mpindiewu anyi?	nay kwee-kAH-lah nzhee-woo mAY-mah/mAY-mAY mOO-yah mpee-njAY-woo AH-ñyee?
Which way do you advise me to travel?	Njila kayi udi/unudi ungambila/nungambila bwa ngangata?	nzhee-lah kAH-yee OO-jee/OO-noo-jee oo-ngah-mbEE-lah/noo-ngah-mbEE-lah bwah ngah-ngAH-tah?
How can I travel?	Ndi nya munyi?	njEE ñyah mOO-ñyee?
Automobile	Ku mashinyi anyi?	koo mah-shEE-ñyee AH-ñyee?
Train	Ku njanja anyi/tele anyi?	koo nzhah-nzhah AH-ñyee/tAY-lAY AH-ñyee?
Boat	Ku bwatu anyi?	koo bwAH-too AH-ñyee
Cart/Wagon	(There is no equivalent in Luba-Kasai)	(There is no equivalent in Luba-Kasai)
Pack Animal	Pa nyama anyi?	pah ñyah-mah AH-ñyee
On Foot	Lua makasa anyi?	lwah mAH-kah-sah AH-ñyee

UNFRIENDLY

ENGLISH	LUBA-KASAI	LUBA-KASAI PRONUNCIATION
What types of troops are in the area?	Basolayi kayi badi munemu?	bah-soh-lAH-yee kAH-yee bah-jee moo-nAY-moo?
Are they army troops?	Mbasolayi ba bushuwa anyi?	mbAH-soh-lAH-yee bah bOO-shoo-wah AH-ñyee?
Are they militia?	Mba ntomboji anyi?	mbAH-ntoh-mboh-zhEE AH-ñyee?
Have you noticed any increase of troops or patrolling?	Udi (singular)/Nudi (plural) mumona (singular)/bamona (plural) basolayi ba bungi bendakana/bendakena* munu anyi?	oo-jEE/noo-jEE mOO-moh-nah/bAH-moh-nah bah-soh-lAH-yee bah bOO-ngee bAY-ndah-kAH-nah/bAY-ndah-kAY-nah moo-noo AH-ñyee?
When do they patrol?	Badi bendakana/bendakena diba kayi?	bah-jEE bAY-ndah-kAH-nah/bAY-ndah-kAY-nah jEE-bah kAH-yee?
Can you take me to them?	Udi (singular)/Nudi mwa kumfikisha kudibu anyi?	oo-jEE/noo-jEE mwah koo-mfee-kEE-shah koo-jee-bOO AH-ñyee?
Are you aware of others like me?	Udi (singular)/Nudi (plural) mumona (singular)/bamona (plural) bakwabu ba bu mundi emu anyi?	oo-jEE/noo-jEE mOO-moh-nah/bAH-moh-nah bAH-kwah-boo bah boo mOO-njee ay-moo AH-ñyee?

*Note: This is not a phonetic transcription but an English pronunciation of Luba-Kasai. The pronunciation is consistent throughout the translation. The same punctuation is used for both the translation and the pronunciation. The language has two different forms, the second person singular and the second person plural. The / indicates where two (pronunciation, vocabulary, or grammatical) forms may be alternated. Capitalized vowels indicate a high tone (stress). The majority of the consonant sounds are like the English consonant sounds. However, special attention needs to be paid to some combinations.

a is represented by **ah** and pronounced like in **black**
e is represented by **ay** and pronounced like in **bay**
i is represented by **ee** and pronounced like in **see**
u is represented by **oo** and pronounced like in **moon**
o is represented by **oh** and pronounced like in **tone**
w and **u** are interchangeable when preceding a vowel: **mwa/mua** as in **muaba/mwaba** 'place'.
a and **e** are sometimes interchangeable at the end of a word (and sometimes internally as in bendakena/bendakana (i.e. 'patrolling' within the Unfriendly block).
o and **u** are sometimes interchangeable at the end of some words.
byah like in **Bianca**
di is represented by **j** and pronounced like in **jean**
nd is pronounced as in **Linda**. Any combination of the nasals **n** or **m** with a consonant is pronounced as one sound.
ng is pronounced as in **song**
ny is represented by **ñy** and pronounced like in **canyon**
tsh is represented by **ch** and pronounced like in **church**
j is represented by **zh** and pronounced like in **pleasure**
Where the clusters **ngk** occurs in the pronunciation of Luba-Kasai as in **loo-koh-ngkoh/loo-koh-ngkoo** 'question', the cluster is pronounced like **nk** in **bank**.

VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	LUBA-KASAI	LUBA-KASAI PRONUNCIATION
Hello	Moyo / Wetu awu	mOH-yoh/wAY-twah-oo
Goodbye	Shala bimpa / bimpe	shah-lah bEE-mpah/bEE-mpay
Thank you	Tuasakidila	twAH-sah-kee-jEE-lah
Please	Swaku	swah-kOO
Ammunition	Masashi	mah-sAH-shee
Armed Vehicle	Mashinyi a mvita	mah-shEE-ñyah-mvEE-tah
Checkpoint	Mwaba udibu bakala bantu	mwah-bah oo-jee-bOO bah-kAH-lah bah-ntoo
Day	Dituku	jEE-too-koo
Danger	Njiwu	nzhEE-woo
Desert	Tshipela	chee-pAY-lah
East	Kudi diba dipatukila	koo-jee jEE-bah jee-pah-too-kEE-lah
Evening	Dilolo / Dilolu	jEE-loh-loh/jEE-loh-loo
Food	Tshia kudia	chah kOO-jah
Good	Bimpa / bimpe	bEE-mpah/bEE-mpay
Bad	Bibi	bEE-bee
Here	Apa	ah-pah
Hour	Diba	jEE-bah
Kilometer	Kilometa	kee-loh-mAY-tah
Knife	Kela / Kele	kAY-lah/kAY-lay
Leader	Mfumu	mfoo-moo
Medicine	Bwanga	bwAH-ngah
Men	Bantu baluma / balume	bah-ntoo bAH-loo-mah/bah-lOO-may
Women	Bantu bakaji	bah-ntoo bAH-kah-zhee
Minute	Munuta	moo-nOO-tah
Morning	Dinda	jEE-ndah
Mountain	Mukuna	mOO-koo-nah
Night	Butuku	bOO-too-koo
North	Ku mutu	kOO-mOO-too
Pass	Kakanda ka njila	kAH-kah-ndah kAH-nzhEE-lah
Pistol	Kangoma ka ku bianza	kAH-ngoh-mah kAH-kOO-byah-nzah*
Radio	Tshisanji / tshisanji thia ladio	chEE-sah-nzhee/chEE-sah-nzhee chah lAH-joh
River	Musulu wa mayi	mOO-soo-loo wah mAH-yEE
Road	Njila	nzhEE-lah
Shelter	Tshisokemenu	chEE-sOH-koh-mAY-noo
South	Ku manda	kOO mah-ndah
There	Kuaka	kwAH-kah
Valley	Lupongo / lupongu	lOO-poh-ngoh/lOO-poh-ngoo
Village	Musoko / musoku	moo-soh-koh/moo-soh-koo
Water	Mayi	mah-yee
Weapon	Tshilwidi	chee-lwee-jee
West	Kudi diba dibwelela	koo-jee jee-bah jee-bah jee-bway-lay-lah
Yes	Eyowa	ay-yoh-wah
No	To	toh
1	Umwa	OO-mwah
2	Ibidi	EE-bee-jee
3	Isatu	EE-sah-too
4	Inayi	EE-nah-yee
5	Itanu	EE-tah-noo
6	Isambombo / Isambombu	EE-sah-mboh-mboh/oo
7	Mwandamutekete / Mwandamuteketa	mwAH-ndah-mOO-tay-kay-tay/ah
8	Mwandamukulu	mwAH-ndah-mOO-koo-loo
9	Tshitema	chEE-tay-mah
10	Dikumi	jEE-koo-mee
20	Makumi abidi	mAH-koo-mee AH-bee-jee
30	Makumi asatu	mAH-koo-mee AH-sah-too
40	Makumi anyi	mAH-koo-mee AH-nah-yee
50	Makumi atanu	mAH-koo-mee AH-tah-noo
60	Makumi asambombo / asambombu	mAH-koo-mee AH-sah-mboh-mboh/oo
70	Makumi mwandamutekete / mwandamuteketa	mAH-koo-mee mwAH-ndah-mOO-tay-kay-tay/ah
80	Makumi mwandamukulu	mAH-koo-mee mwAH-ndah mOO-koo-loo
90	Makumi tshitema	mAH-koo-mee chEE-tay-mah
100	Lukama	lOO-kah-mah
500	Nkama itanu	ngkAH-mah EE-tah-noo
1000	Tshinunu	chEE-noo-noo