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Notes on the Malagasy Language

The following points should be noted concerning Malagasy phonetics and spelling:

- The letters c, q, u, w, and x do not exist in Malagasy.
- ao: is pronounced as *o*
- j: like *z* or *dz*
- s: is pronounced as *sh*
- o: as *ou*
- y: often at the end of words, is hardly pronounced
- The digraphs TR and DR are difficult to pronounce and can best be illustrated by example:
  andriana ("the nobles") is pronounced as andreen
  misaotra ("thanks") is pronounced as misotch
- In Malagasy no distinction exists between the singular and plural noun forms. Thus, the same word *olona* means both "person" and "people".
- The term *Ra* commonly precedes names to indicate respect. For example, *Koto* becomes *Rakoto*.