



Inuit or not). However, it would appear that in the beginning the writings are closer to the spoken language but diverge from it thereafter. The style of the first writings is simple and without embellishment, and retains several characteristics of the oral language.

The traditional stories included in the document [Tell Me a Story](#) follow this model. Initially transcribed into Inuktitut, and remaining faithful to the oral tales of the narrators, they were then translated into English and into French. These stories, as well as several other legends and myths, have inspired numerous sculptors and artists of the North since the end of the 1940s.

In 1950s Nunavik, a woman named Mitiarjuk Nappaaluk started the writing of what would become the first novel in the Inuit language, « Sanaaq ». The novel originated when the author, who was asked to help a few missionaries learn Inuktitut by setting out on paper, in syllabics, sentences containing as many every day terms as possible, “grew wearied of this type of writing and, letting her imagination overflow, created characters and described their good and misfortune in the seasonal cycle of their activities.”<sup>1</sup> (Open translation) Fortunately, the written output of Mitiarjuk Nappaaluk did not stop with « Sanaaq ». Amongst other things, this holder of an Honorary PhD from McGill University and member of the Order of Canada would go on to contribute greatly to the teaching of the Inuit language by creating and writing numerous pedagogical documents in Inuktitut.

Thus, although writing appeared in the North relatively late, the Inuit adapted rapidly to this new mode of ‘cultural transmission.’ Nowadays, books, newspapers and web sites are all written in Inuktitut, and young people are even writing rap songs in their mother tongue.

#### Web Links

<http://www.inuktitut.org/Nunavik/Exposition.html>

[http://cours.fss.ulaval.ca/webct/blog/ant17259z1\\_a/index.php?q=node/181](http://cours.fss.ulaval.ca/webct/blog/ant17259z1_a/index.php?q=node/181)

<http://services.banq.qc.ca/sdx/makivik/>

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NAPPAALUK, Mitiarjuk, **Sanaaq**, transliterated and translated from Inuktitut by Bernard Saladin d’Anglure, Stanké International Editions, Paris, 2002, 304 pages.

NUNGAK, Zebedee et ARIMA, Eugene, **Légendes inuit de Povungnituk, Québec, figurées par des sculptures de stéatite**, translated by Bernard Saladin d’Anglure, Bulletin number 235, National Museum of Man – National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, 1975, 138 pages.

PETRONE, Penny (compilateur), **Northern Voices, Inuit Writing in English**, University of Toronto Press, 1992, 314 pages.

SEIDELMAN, Harold et TURNER, James, **The Inuit Imagination, Arctic Myth and Sculpture**, Douglas & McIntyre Ltd editions, Vancouver, 1993, 224 pages.

<sup>1</sup> NAPPAALUK, Mitiarjuk, **Sanaaq**, transliterated and translated from Inuktitut by Bernard Saladin d’Anglure, preface of Bernard Saladin d’Anglure, Stanké International Editions, Paris, 2002, 304 pages. Page 7.

#### Syllabic Alphabet of Nunavik :

◁ : a	Δ : i	▷ : u	▽ : ai	
< : pa	Λ : pi	> : pu	∇ : pai	◁ : p
C : ta	∩ : ti	∪ : tu	U : tai	◐ : t
b : ka	P : ki	∩ : ku	∩ : kai	◑ : k
L : ga	∩ : gi	J : gu	∩ : gai	◒ : g
L : ma	∩ : mi	J : mu	∩ : mai	◓ : m
◐ : na	◑ : ni	◒ : nu	◓ : nai	◔ : n
◑ : sa	◒ : si	◓ : su	◔ : sai	◕ : s
◒ : la	◓ : li	◔ : lu	◕ : lai	◖ : l
◓ : ja	◔ : ji	◕ : ju	◖ : jai	◗ : j
◔ : va	◕ : vi	◖ : vu	◗ : vai	◘ : v
◕ : ra	◖ : ri	◗ : ru	◘ : rai	◙ : r
◖ : qa	◗ : qi	◘ : qu	◙ : qai	◚ : q
◗ : nga	◘ : ngi	◙ : ngu	◚ : ngai	◛ : ng