

no written records to maintain its purity. Absolutely no liberties have been taken with the manuscript; the discrepancies show two things; that the language itself is unstable, and that Dr. Rand had no fixed usage in spelling the words; he used different forms for the same sound in different places, and at different times.

Mr. Clark, in his preface to the portion of the dictionary which he edited, refers to some of these inconsistencies and difficulties, as follows;-

"In the south, at Yarmouth, the a was flatted in many words, and often when occurring as initial to a word was preceded by a submerged y ..... Take the word alasoodumai (as spoken by the central bands) which was sounded almost Yalasoodumi at Yarmouth and alasoodumai at Restigouche in the north, while in Cape Breton it received its briefer alasoodmai, and in Prince Edward Island, conformed to the standard.

The gutural g is always hard, and often displaced by k. The sharper k is often found in simple nouns while the flatter g is heard distinctly in related verbs and compounds.

The dentals d and t, and the labials b and p easily displaced each other, and it is often almost impossible to know which has been used even when a compound of the word is introduced.

Two or three vowel sounds in succession are common, and are connected with a gliding slur which sounds very musical but requires deliberation; euphonic particles frequently occur. Every letter is sounded, and sounded as written, in Micmac".

The long a and short e are by many sounded so nearly alike as to cause confusion, as are also â and ow. Dr. Rand instances the word alasawa which he claims might be written elasâwa or elasowwa. Letters are often transposed, even in the one dialect, apparently without intention or change of meaning, as shown in the terminations, ookse and koose.