

To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Deborah Anderson
Date: February 23, 2003
Re: Ol Chiki Correspondence Summary

There have been several communications received by me recently regarding the encoding of Ol Chiki. Members of the anti-Ol Chiki group have sent letters and packets, all largely with the same enclosures. Responses to the anti-Ol Chiki arguments have been written by members of the pro-Ol Chiki contingent. I have summarized separately the anti-Ol Chiki arguments (with comments) and the results of the *Report of the Committee on Santali Language* in document L2/02-456 (December 11, 2002). Below is a listing of the correspondence I have received. If copies of any of these documents are desired, please contact me and I would be happy to provide them. L2 documents numbers are provided for those items that are L2 docs. I have responded to each mail item received, acknowledging the letter/email.

Against the encoding of Ol Chiki:

[Note: The “packet” defined below is composed of the identical documents provided in L2/02-443, except that only the November 15 (=Nov. 30) mail from Mr. Raska and Mr. Marandi included item (iv) in the “General Objections” section, which is a discussion on the deviation of the Santali language in the southern-speaking area. Some packets included a bibliography of Santali books written in the Roman script. The packet from Mr. Hanuk Hansdak and Mr. Ezicheal Hembrom included the *Report of the Committee on the Santali Language* and several copies of magazines written in the Santali script.]

January 21, 2003 Letter and packet against the encoding of Ol Chiki were received from Mr. Anthony Murmu, Secretary (Tribal Unit) and Mr. Herold Mallick, General Secretary, Bangiya Christiya Pariseba, United Forum of Christians of All Denominations; email: bcpkol@yahoo.co.in; correspondence address: Mr. Anthony Murmu, Purashree Chandannagar, Dist. Hooghly -712136, West Bengal, INDIA

January 14, 2003 Letter and packet (dated December 17, 2002) received from Dr. Theophil Hembrom, Secretary, and Mr. Gabriel Soren, President, ALL INDIA Santal Welfare and Cultural Society (AISWACS); email: lawhembrom@yahoo.co.in; correspondence address: Keota Sarat Park, P.O. Sahaganj, Dist. Hooghly, West Bengal, INDIA

December 16, 2002 Email received from D. Raska with letter attached (email address: tuduraska@rediffmail.com). In this letter, the author states that Ol Chiki distorts the Santali language, which has deviated from the “path of rectitude” in the southern part (of the Santali-speaking area), and that the effort encode Ol Chiki in the BMP will serve to divide the Northern and Southern Santals as a result. This is L2/03-008.

November 30 2002 Emailed letter and packet received from D. Raska, President, Tribal and Other Rural Cultural House [TORCH], Kalapathar, and Mr. Archer Anthony

Marandi, General Secretary, T.O.R.C.H., Kalapathar; address for Mr. Divyendu Tudu Raska and Mr. Marandi: P.O.-Kalapthar, VIA-Chakulia, DIST-East Singhbhum (Jharkand), India (Note: This is a hard copy of the November 15 letter and packet.) This is L2/02-443. (There are two responses to this letter: a note of receipt by D. Anderson, which is L2/02-453, and a more pointed commentary by J. Saren, L2/03-007.)

November 15, 2002 Letter and packet sent from Mr. Divyendu Raska and Mr. Archer Anthony Marandi (= emailed version received Nov. 30, L2/02-443)

November 12, 2002 Letter (AISWACS/201/ND/374) and packet sent by Dr. D. Mardi, All India Santal Welfare and Cultural, 16, Premnagar, Tyagraj Market, New Delhi - 110003, India. (The response to this letter by D. Anderson is L2/03-005.)

November 1, 2002 Letter (Ref. No. 90 / SL&CS/2002-03) and packet sent by Mr. Hanuk Hansdak and Mr. Ezicheal Hembrom, Santali Literary and Cultural Society, 11/1, Sheriff Lane, Calcutta – 16, India. (The response to this letter by D. Anderson is L2/03-006.)

Response to the anti-Ol Chiki correspondence:

Feb.10, 2003 Email from Ramesh Chandra Hansdah and Naresh Chandra Murmu to Mr. Tudu Raska (email: ncmurmu@yahoo.com). This email, written in response to Mr. Raska's correspondence, gave evidence that there is no "secret" effort to encode Ol Chiki and disputes the notion that Ol Chiki has "distorted" the Santali language.

January 23, 2003 Email sent from Michael Everson to two members of the anti-Ol Chiki group with email addresses (Mr. Anthony Murmu bcpkol@yahoo.co.in and Mr. T. Hembrom, lawhembrom@yahoo.co.in), regarding the effort to encode Ol Chiki. He cited the results of the *Report of the Committee on Santali Language* in support of the effort and stated that Unicode/ISO 10646 does not take a stand on debates regarding orthography, grammar, or writing systems.

December 20, 2002 Email sent by Michael Everson to Mr. Tudu Raska, similar to that sent Jan. 23, 2003, citing the results of the *Report of the Committee on the Santali Language* and stating the effort to encode Ol Chiki enjoys the support of members of the community and that 64 books in Ol Chiki have been received to date.

December 19, 2002 Email with letter attached from Jyotsna Saren (email: jyotnasaren@yahoo.com), written in response to the letter sent by Mr. Tudu Raska sent November 30, 2002. This letter requested Mr. Raska and Mr. Marandi to consult with experts before sending further reports, since many of the statements contained in it are deemed by Dr. Saren to be baseless. This is document L2/03-007.

N.B. Change of view on the part of Mr. Tudu Raska (see correspondence above, sent December 15, November 30, and November 15)

Jan. 22, 2003 Copy of an email letter sent from D. Raska sent to Michael Everson in which he does admit, "Had I known beforehand that out of five scripts being used for

writing Santali four scripts were currently encoded in unicode ISO/IEC 10606 I would have not protested against encoding OL CHIKI.” He adds: “The scripts problem can be solved by joint efforts of the supporters of OL CHIKI and Roman script...At the time of beginning both the scripts should be adopted for writing Santali in all the educational institutions till the OL CHIKI attains the majority to replace the Roman script. All the scripts of the regional languages should be discouraged/ discarded which may be possible through several meetings/seminars of the Santals.” However, he does repeat his view on the need for standardization of the Santali language, and that the books published in Ol Chiki are probably not “grammatically correct,” since the version spoken in the south is a deviation of the Santali language (whereas the Roman script version is considered to be “correct,” at least by those in the northern area).