

Special rendering of some jihvamuliya/upadhmaniya characters

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This is with reference to my previous document L2/10-330R. Its contents in brief are:

In Brahmi and Sharada, the jihvamuliya/upadhmaniya written forms are observed to form a stack with the following consonant. The respective proposals of those two scripts had suggested that the sequence JIHVAMULIYA/UPADHMANIYA + VIRAMA + CONSONANT be used to achieve the stacking. However, the usage of VIRAMA with JIHVAMULIYA/UPADHMANIYA is superfluous as those two characters are always presented in these scripts stacked with the following consonant. Hence JIHVAMULIYA/UPADHMANIYA + CONSONANT should automatically be presented as the stack/ligature.

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Now in feedback from an Editorial Committee Meeting, I was informed:

Here is a proposed text change suggested at yesterday's meeting. Let me know if this suffices:

From TUS 6.0 p 346:

*“Unlike visarga, these two signs are not combining diacritics. Instead, they behave like ordinary consonant signs, entering into ligatures with the following stop consonant, **without the use of a virama**”*

However, this would be misleading, as there is no precedent for “ordinary consonant signs” to “enter into ligatures with the following stop consonant without the use of a virama”.

It would be better if the wording for the Malayalam dot reph be followed instead:

*Unlike visarga, these two signs have the character properties of a letter, and are not considered combining marks. They however enter into ligatures with the following homorganic voiceless stop consonant **without the use of a virama.***

The same should be repeated for Sharada, or at least a reference to Brahmi such as “the Sharada Jihvamuliya/Upadhmaniya characters are similar in property and behaviour to the corresponding Brahmi characters” is recommended. Similar treatment should be accorded to future characters exhibiting such behaviour.

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Now it is evident that such rendering would be considered “special”, and hence the representative glyphs for such characters should be shown in the charts with a dotted square. While the Sharada jihvamuliya/upadhmaniya characters (see <http://www.unicode.org/Public/6.1.0/charts/blocks/U11180.pdf>) are shown correctly with a dotted square, the corresponding Brahmi characters are not (see <http://www.unicode.org/Public/6.1.0/charts/blocks/U11000.pdf>).

It is hence requested that the glyphs of the Brahmi characters be corrected to be shown inside a dotted square, and care be taken to ensure that all future characters of this kind be accorded similar treatment.

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