

Title: Proposal to Encode the HEADSTROKE for Sharada
Source: Script Encoding Initiative (SEI)
Author: Anshuman Pandey (pandey@umich.edu)
Status: Liaison Contribution
Action: For consideration by UTC and WG2
Date: 2012-09-29

1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode a new character in the Sharada block of the Universal Character Set (ISO/IEC 10646). Properties of the proposed character are:

GLYPH	CODE	CHARACTER NAME	GC	CCC	BIDI	MIRRORED	LINEBREAK
𑀓	111DB	SHARADA HEADSTROKE	Lo	0	L	N	AL

2 Description

In the birch-bark manuscript of the Kashmiri *Paippalāda Atharvaveda*, the HEADSTROKE is used for joining words across imperfections on the writing surface. For instance, the headstrokes shown in figure 3 connect words over striations in the bark. Similarly, the headstroke used at the top of figure 4 connects the syllables of a word across an indentation on the surface.

The proposed character corresponds to U+A8FB DEVANAGARI HEADSTROKE, which is used for indicating gaps and omissions. However, in the Kashmiri *Atharvaveda* the headstroke does not appear to be used for such purposes. It is possible that the character is used in other records for indicating lacunae. Additional research is required in order to determine such usage.

3 References

Bloomfield, Maurice and Richard Garbe. 1901. *The Kashmirian Atharva-veda (School of the Pāippalādas)*. Edited under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and of the Royal Eberhard-Karls-University in Tübingen, Württemberg. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.

Pandey, Anshuman. 2009. "Proposal to Encode the Sharada Script in ISO/IEC 10646". N3595 L2/09-074R2. August 5, 2009. <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/n3595.pdf>

4 Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the United States National Endowment for the Humanities, which funded the Universal Scripts Project (part of the Script Encoding Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

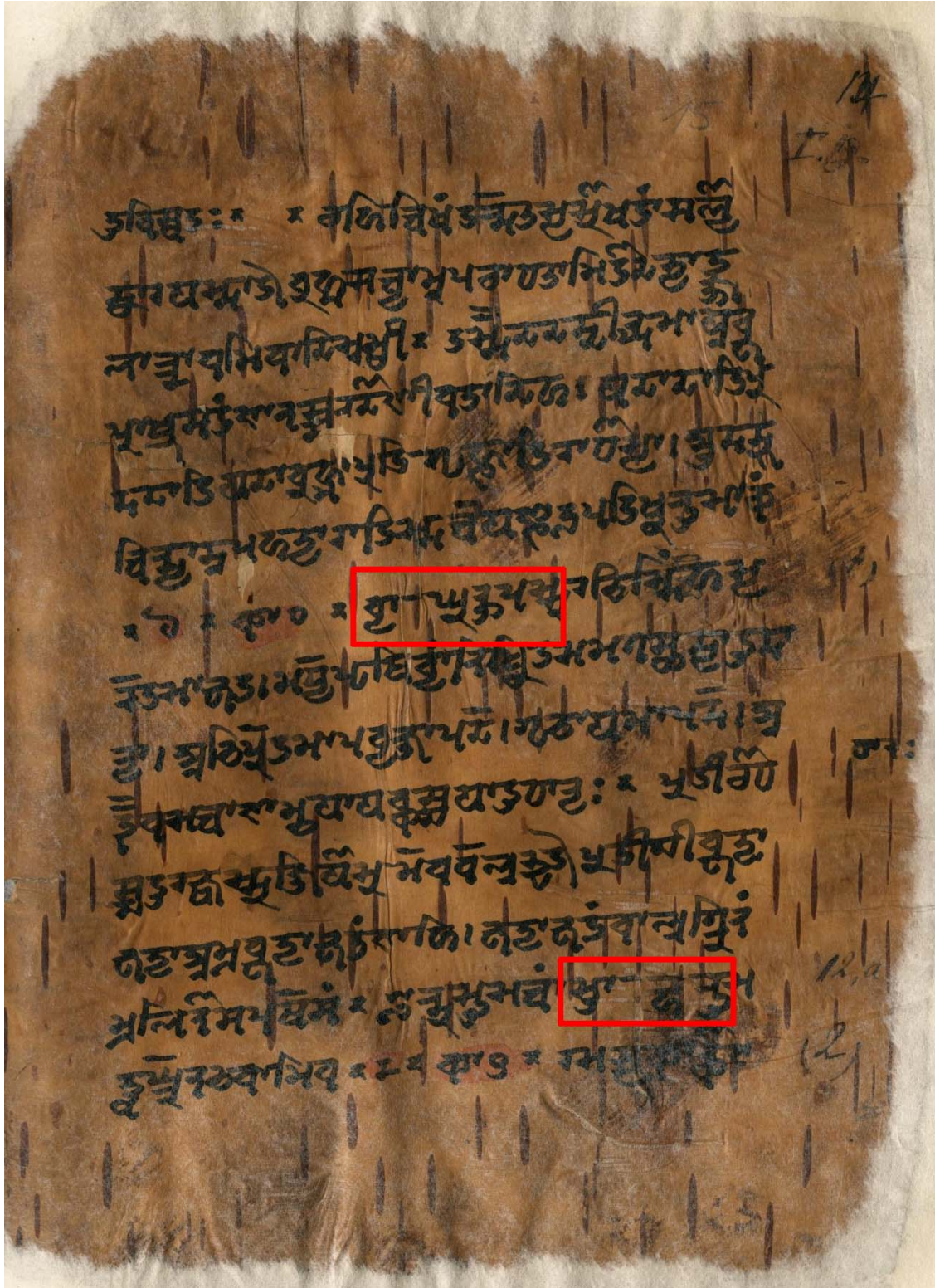


Figure 1: Single HEADSTROKE in the words *vyāghrarūpas* (*vyā_ghra°*) and *tān* (*°tā_n°*) (from Bloomfield and Garbe 1901: Folio 14b).

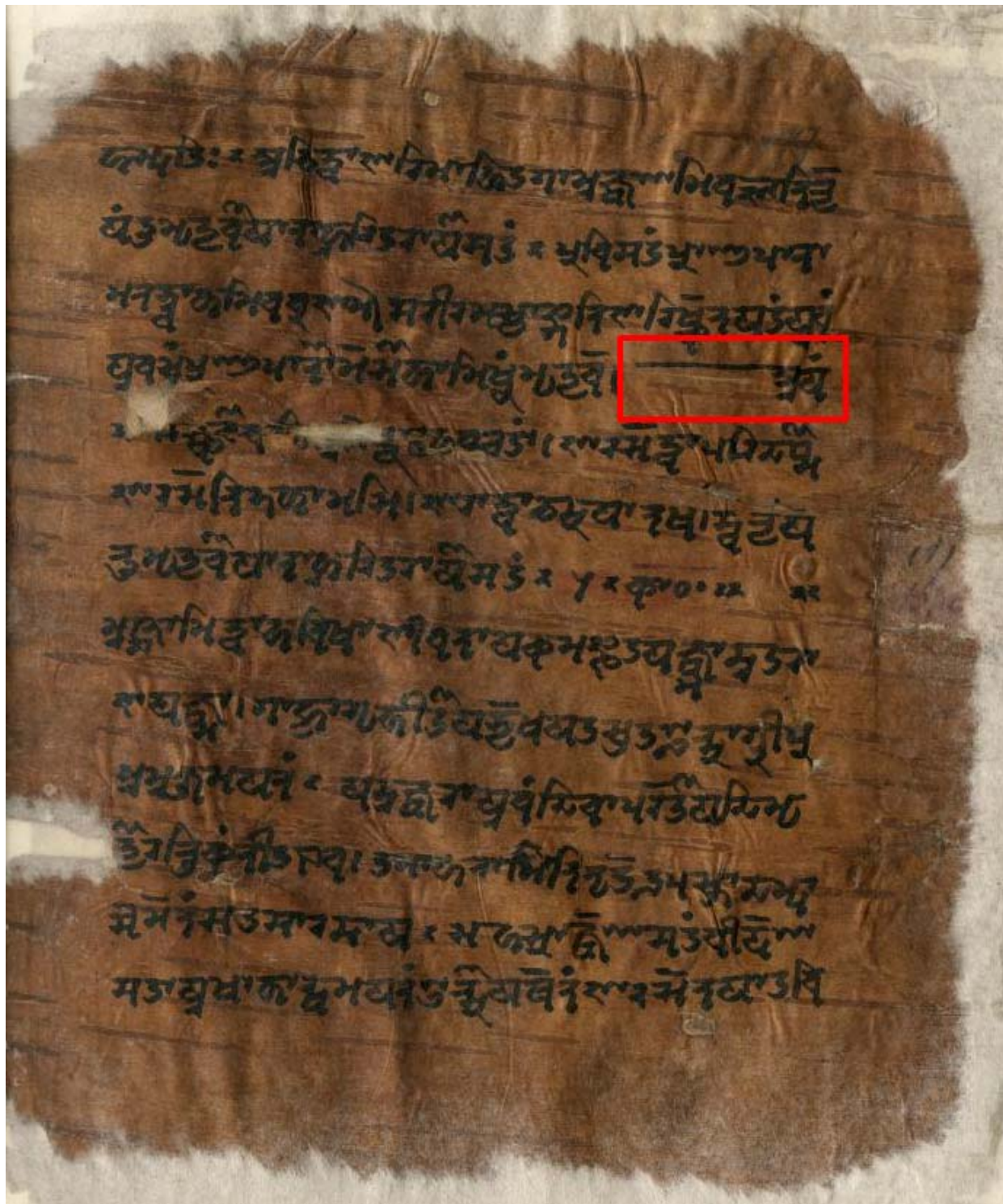


Figure 2: Multiple HEADSTROKE-s preceding the start of a *pada*, which begins with the word *ayam* (from Bloomfield and Garbe 1901: Folio 19a).

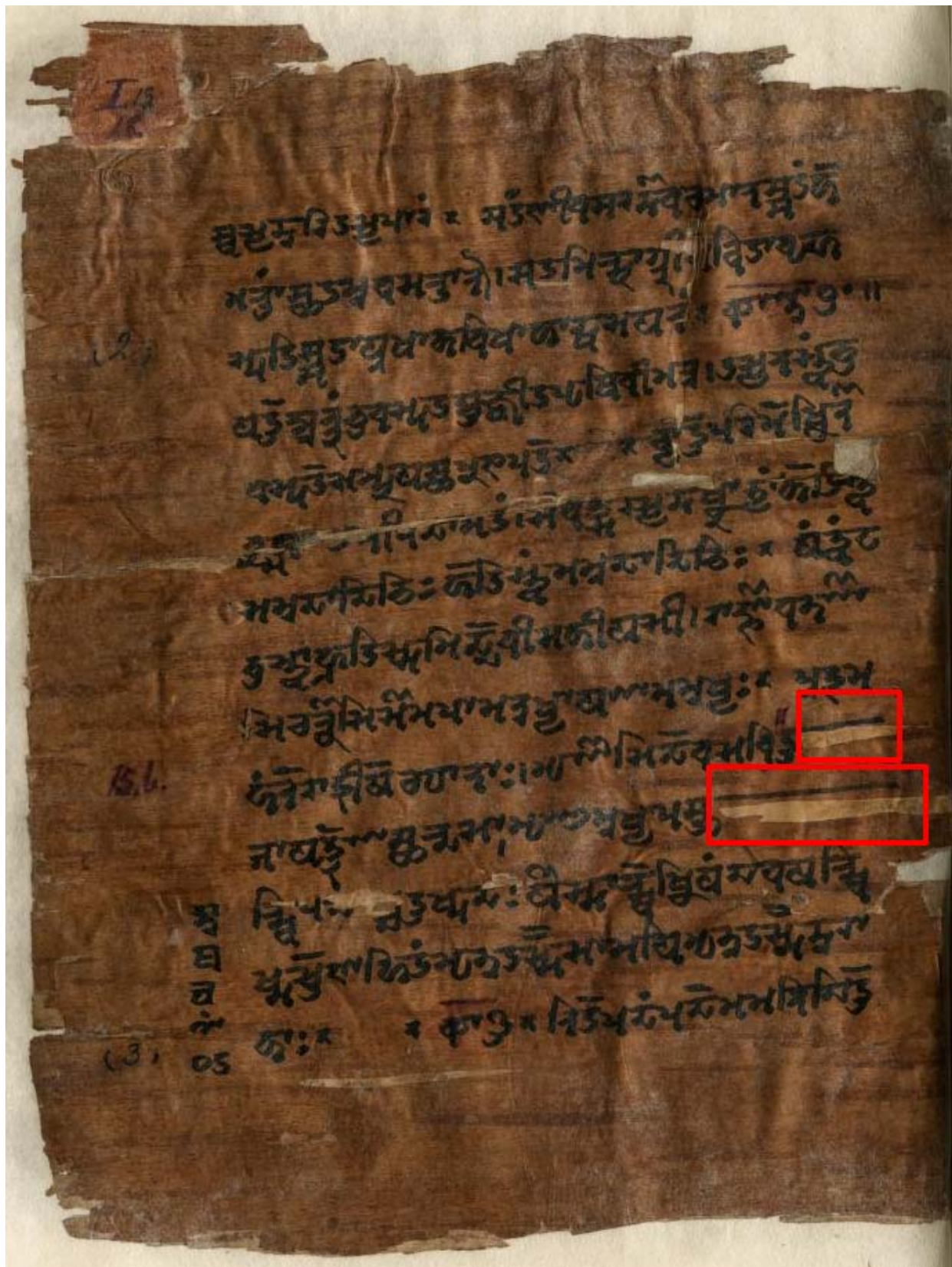


Figure 3: Multiple HEADSTROKE-s connecting words across striations in the bark (from Bloomfield and Garbe 1901: Folio 19b). The first headstroke joins the words *savitur gāyatṛeṇacchandasā* (^o*tu_rgā*^o). The second joins the words *paśūn* and *dvipadās* (^o*sū_ndvi*^o).

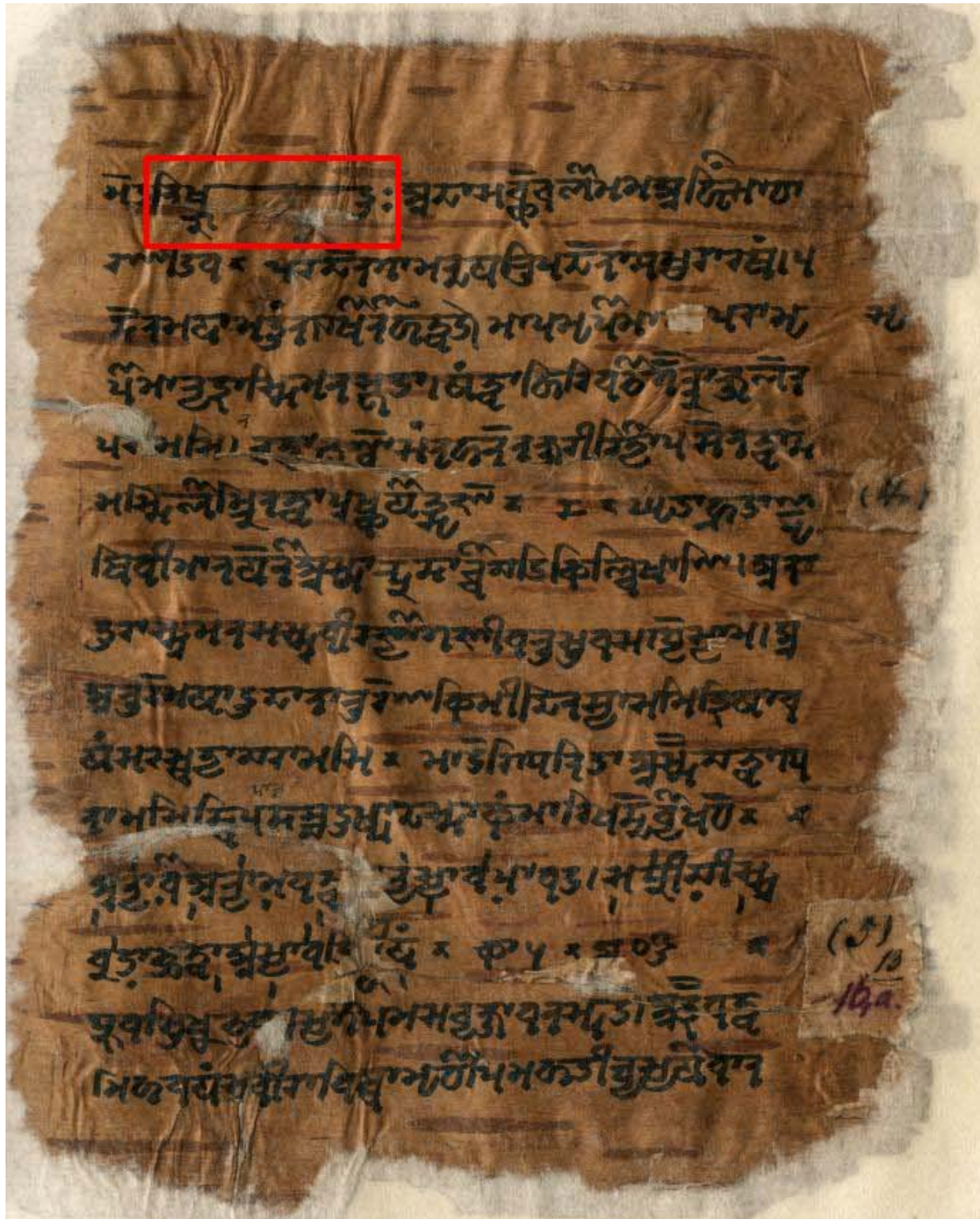


Figure 4: Multiple HEADSTROKE-S used for connecting the word *niṣṅṛtuḥ* (*niṣṅṛ_tuḥ*) across an imperfection on the writing surface (from Bloomfield and Garbe 1901: Folio 19b).