Title:Introducing the Bhujinmol ScriptAuthor:Anshuman Pandey (pandey@umich.edu)Status:Expert contributionAction:For consideration by WG2 and UTCDate:2014-10-28

1 Introduction

This document provides a brief description of the historical Bhujinmol script, discusses encoding requirements, and provides a few specimens. The script was used between the 12–17 centuries CE in the region that now encompasses parts of Nepal and northern parts of the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in India. It is attested in a limited number of manuscripts and inscriptions. It is currently known as 'Bhujinmol' (भुजिंमोल *bhujimmol*), a term from the Newar language meaning "fly-headed", which refers to the shape of the headstroke used in the script.

2 Structure

Bhujinmol is an alphasyllabic script based upon the Brahmi model and is written from left-to-right. It is structurally similar to the Newar script that has been proposed for encoding (N4184 L2/12-003). As in the Newar script, certain vowel signs are written using contextual forms when they combine with certain consonant letters. These contextual forms modify the head-strokes of consonants. The behavior of these vowel signs is identical to the 'wavy-headed' forms used in the Newar script and they occur with the same set of consonants in both scripts.

3 Character Repertoire

The character repertoire of Bhujinmol corresponds to that of the Newar script. Bhujinmol appears graphically distinct from the 'prachalit' or 'current' Newar script on account of its headstroke: the headstrokes of Newar letters are flat, while the Bhujinmol letters have curved or hooked headstrokes. A comparison of glyphs reveals a nearly identical structure for the letterforms of the two scripts. Distinctive letters in Bhujinmol are VOWEL LETTER VOCALIC LL, NNA, DHA, PHA, SHA. Also distinctive are the representations of the consonant conjuncts ksa and jña. See figures 7–10 for comparisons.

4 Considerations for Encoding

The method of representing Bhujinmol in the UCS depends upon whether it is to be considered a stylistic variant of the Newar script or an independent script.

Bhujinmol may be considered one of seven documented styles of the Newar script. All of the stylistic variants are structurally and graphically related. They are distinguished primarily by the shape of their headstrokes and they are named according to the Newar terms for these shapes., with all names ending in *-mol* "head". The 'Prachalit' form of the Newar script is itself based upon the 'Pachumol' or "flat-headed" style. If Bhujinmol is to be considered a 'style' of script, then it may be unified with the Newar script. Unification offers users

the benefit of using a single script block for both the 'Bhujinmol' and 'Prachalit' styles of Newar. The same text may be displayed in either of these styles through font selection.

On the other hand, Bhujinmol may be considered a separate script for purposes of encoding if there is a need to represent it distinctively in plain text. The case is similar to other scripts that are classified as a 'style' of another. Given that there are several records written in Bhujinmol, it may be necessary to represent the script in plain text.

5 References

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Figure 1: Folios of the Devīmāhātmya written in Bhujinmol.

BHUJIMOL SCRIPT 84 मक्षिमुख) ोलोप माल rug ros VOWEL स्वर् Sy J 00 00 स्तृ LRI ब् 1 ई ĭ <u>ร</u>ุ ป त् LRI उ ね U RJ Ä 3 औ ओ Þ স रु ঞা AH A] AM F ÂŬ 0 वश्वन CONSONANT Ś U <u>U</u>X JA छ् CHHA भर् *JH*A **ন** *K*A **रव** КНА ିସ୍ GHA S NA ्च CHA 기 গ GA ŇA Ø શુ ન S ล Ŋ 9) म ₹5 ्ड त থ ষ न 2 T ₹. DA TA DHA THA DA DHĄ THA NA ŤA. NĄ ભુ સુ শ म ल ब **फ्** प ब य ₹ PA BHA PHA BA MA УA LA VA RA भो KSA तराहत जो **জ**্গ JÑA TSHA **स**ऽA ₹HA

Figure 2: A chart of the Bhujinmol script (from Shakyavansha 1974: 45).

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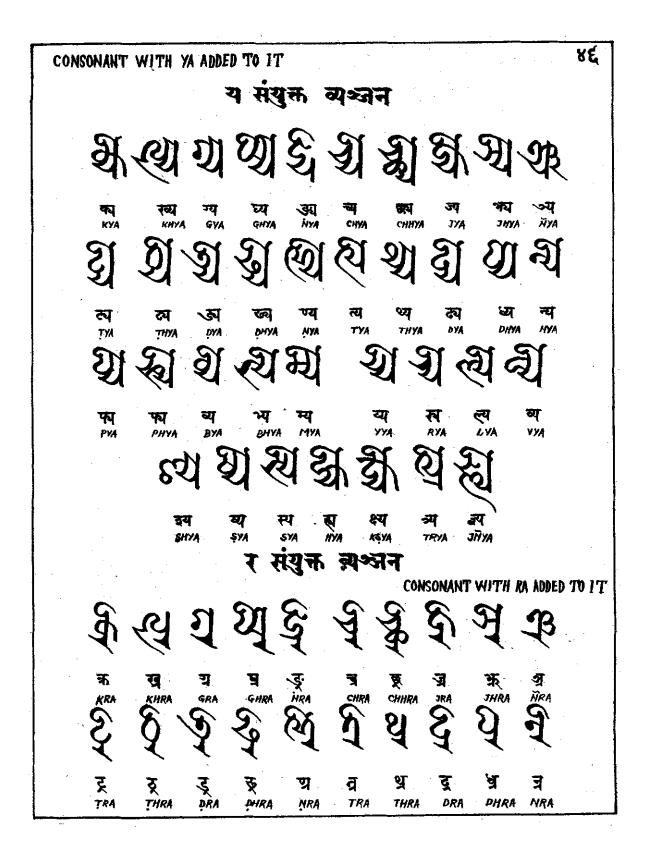


Figure 3: Examples of Bhujinmol conjuncts (from Shakyavansha 1974: 46).

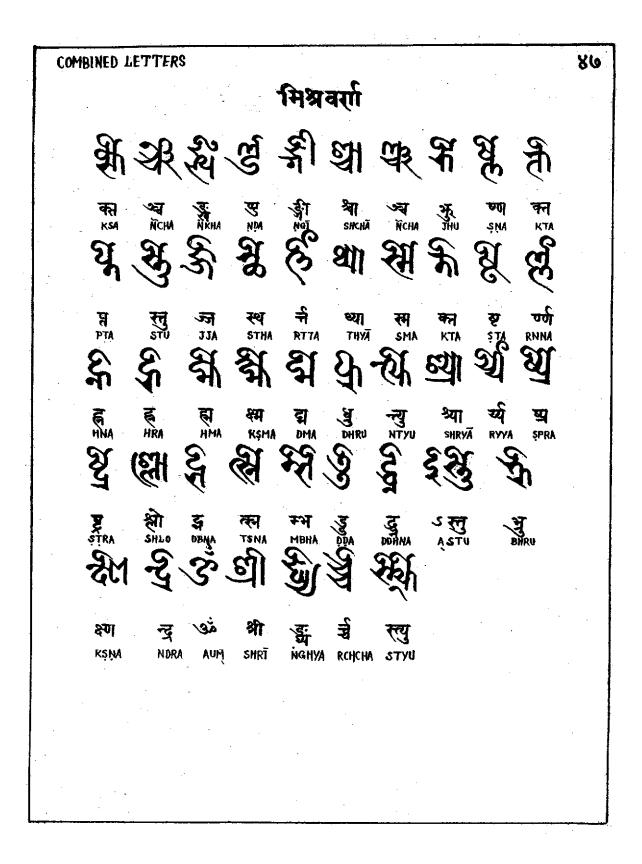


Figure 4: Examples of Bhujinmol consonants and conjuncts with contextual forms of vowel signs (from Shakyavansha 1974: 47).

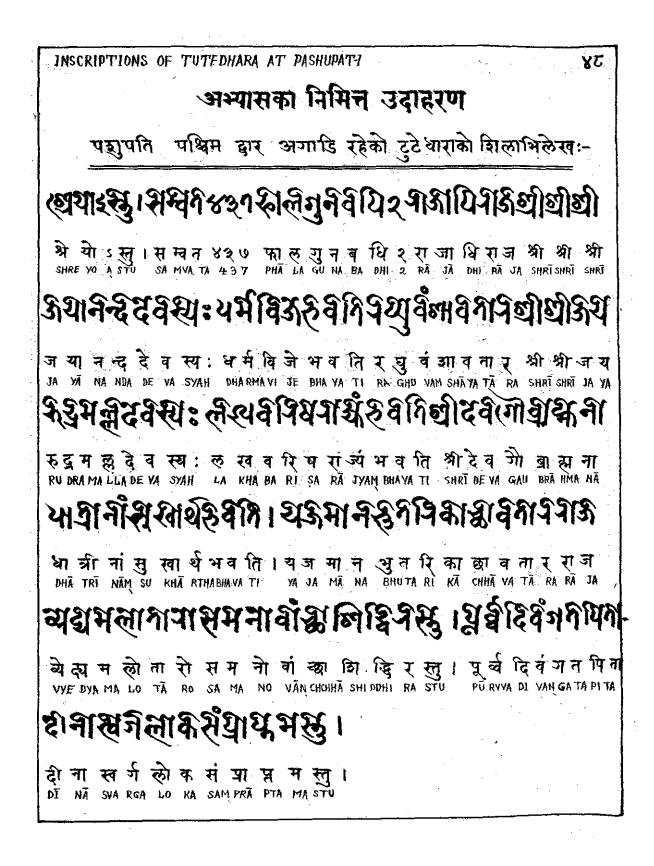


Figure 5: Transcription of an inscription in Bhujinmol (from Shakyavansha 1974: 48).

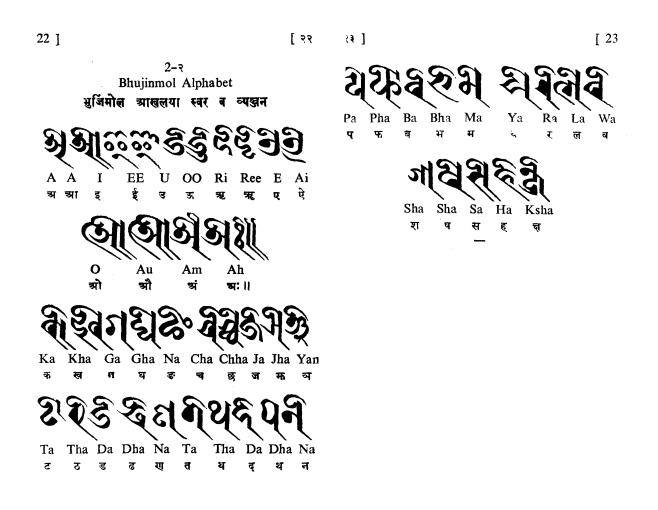


Figure 6: A chart of the Bhujinmol script (from Shakyavansha 1985: 22-23).

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Figure 7: Comparison of letters A to KHA of Newar, Ranjana, Bhujinmol, etc. (from Government of Nepal 1962).

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Figure 8: Comparison of letters GA to DDHA of Newar, Ranjana, Bhujinmol, etc. (from Government of Nepal 1962).

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Figure 9: Comparison of letters NNA to SA of Newar, Ranjana, Bhujinmol, etc. (from Government of Nepal 1962).

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Figure 10: Comparison of letters HA and some ligatures of Newar, Ranjana, Bhujinmol, etc. (from Government of Nepal 1962).

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Figure 11: Comparison of digits of Newar, Ranjana, Bhujinmol, etc. (from Government of Nepal 1962).

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Figure 12: Vowel and consonant letters of Bhujinmol ('Bandžin-Mola') compared with Kaithi and Ranjana (from Faulmann 1880: 157).