Title: Preliminary document towards advancing the Kirat Rai script

Author: Lorna Evans, Steve Smith

Status: Individual Contribution

Action: For consideration by UTC

Reference: <u>L2/11-105</u>, <u>L2/11-145</u>

Date: 2021-Jul-16

Introduction

This is a preliminary document which is not a mature proposal. It is submitted in order to indicate a desire to move the "Kirat Rai" to a mature encoding proposal.

The Bantawa [bap](1) language of Nepal, Bhutan, and India is spoken by 195,000+ people. In Nepal the language is primarily written in the Devanagari script. However, in Sikkim (India) there is increasing interest in the use of the Kirat Rai script.

This script was originally brought to the attention of ISO 10646 and Unicode in 2011 (L2/11-145). In addition, another script called Khambu Rai (L2/11-105) was also introduced. There was some question regarding whether the Khambu Rai and Kirat Rai script are the same or if one is a subset of the other.

The Kirat Rai script was placed on the roadmap for the SMP at U+16D40..U+16D7F.

The Khambu Rai script was placed on the roadmap for the SMP at U+11BCO..U+11BFF.

No additional actions were taken by the Unicode Technical Committee.

Alphabet charts seem to call the script "Rai alphabet".

We would like to see the Kirat Rai script advance to encoding and are willing to put in the research for doing so. However, we do not wish to presume that the author of the original proposals is no longer interested in advancing those proposals.

The terms Kirat, Khambu, and Rai are interchangeably used. The use of these terms are very complicated:

- 1. Kirat refers to the Limbus and Rais.
- 2. The Limbu language has its own script; Rai didn't until this script under investigation was invented.
- 3. There are about 30 different languages within Rai; and Khambu refers to an ethnic subgroup within Rai.
- 4. Among Rai, Bantawa is one of the largest languages.
- 5. The language this script is designed for is Bantawa language used in the Sikkim State of India as a lingua franca among the Rais.

Given all these facts, "Rai" appears to be the most appropriate name for this script. Second best choice would be 'Khambu Rai' and the last 'Kirat Rai'. However, the opinion of the users should be sought.

The script presented in L2/11-105 (Khambu Rai) is the script invented by a person called Kripasalyan. And we currently understand that it was further developed into the script we are looking into.

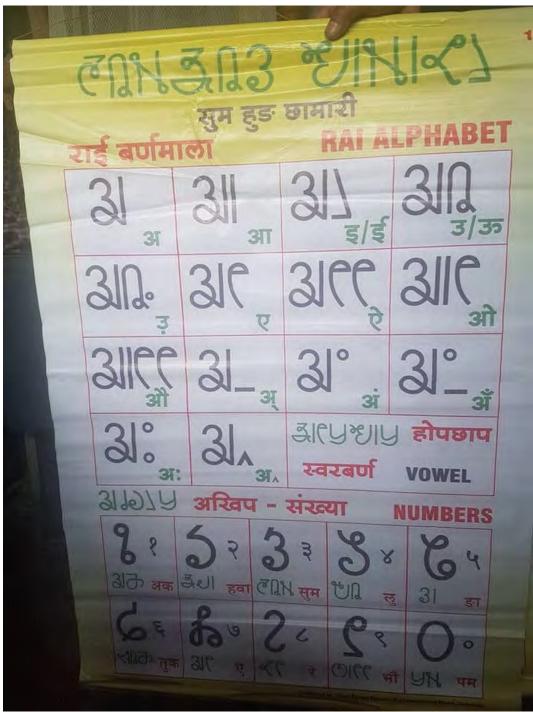
Currently we believe there may be 6 additional characters that need to be added to the proposal (one vowel, four signs, one punctuation). However, further evaluation is needed.

This document is primarily to inform of our interest in encoding the script and participating in the process.

Samples



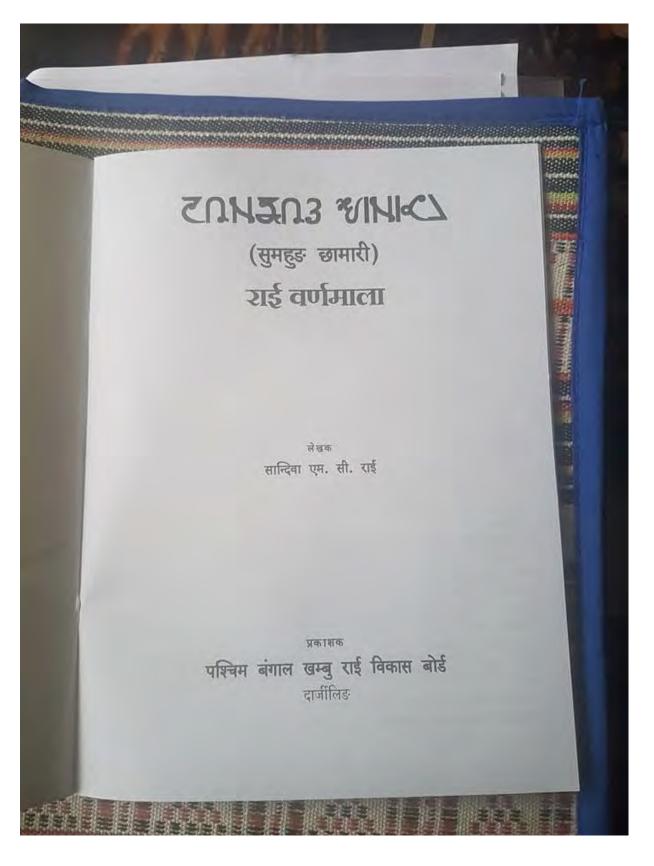
Sample 1a. Rai Consonant Alphabet Chart [FB] Includes all consonants from Table 1a.



Sample 1b. Rai Vowel, Marks, Digits Alphabet Chart [FB] does not include "sha" from Table 1a).



Sample 2a. Rai Alphabet (Consonant) Chart, [FB] (does not include "sha" from Table 1a).



Sample 3a. Title page of a book. [FB]

प्रकाशकीय

भानित सामाजिक प्राणी हुन। समाजमा बसेर नै हामी विभिन्न जात, गॉष्ठिको, भाषा, लिपि, संस्कार, संस्कृति, कृति-दिवाज, परम्परा आदि देख्डी। त्यसले एक-अर्को समुदायलाई प्रभावित पाने गर्दछ, त्यसैले भाषा समाजमा बसेर पाठने एक प्रकारको सम्पत्ति नै हो मन्दा फरक नपर्लो। भाषालाई सभ्यताको एउटा ऐना पनि भन्न सकिन्छ साथै भाषा जातिको प्राण हो पनि भनिन्छ।

जति धेरे भाषाको जाता उति विद्वान्। राई (खम्बू) जाति बहुभाषी जाति हुन्। डा. नवलकिशोर राईले प्रनि राई (ताबू)-हरूको २८ वटा मातृमाषा छ भनी खुलाशा गरिएको पाइन्छ। जतिबटा मातृभाषा भए तापनि आफ्नो-आफ्नो ज्ञातभाषा बोलोहरूको सङ्ख्या एकदमै कमित छ।

सन् २0११-को अन्तरराष्ट्रिय सम्मेलतले लिएको तिर्णयानुसार साझा भाषा बाल्तवा भाषा मानिलिएपछि सिक्रिम राज्यमा ग्राथमिक विद्यालय तहदेखि उच्च माध्यमिक तहमम्म राई भाषाको पठन-पाठमको व्यवस्था गरिएको छ। दार्जीलिङ होवगा मने यसको पठन-पाठन विरलै मात्र छ। राई भाषा तालीम केन्द्र हरसिंग (लेबोड़) दार्जीलिङले भाषा शिक्षणको कार्य तरे पनि हवि नसएर हो वा समय नमएर प्रशिक्षणार्थी (सिको) नहरू नि शुल्क यातायातको बन्दोवस्त हुंदा पनि पाउने साह्रा र गाह्रो छ लेबोडस्थित हरसिंग राई भाषा तालीम केन्द्र हरसिंग (लेबोड़) दार्जीलिङले भाषा शिक्षणको कार्य तरे पनि हवि नसएर हो वा समय नमएर प्रशिक्षणार्थी (सिको) नहरू नि शुल्क यातायातको बन्दोवस्त हुंदा पनि पाउने साह्रा र गाह्रो छ लेबोडस्थित हरसिंग राई भाषा तालीम केन्द्रलाई। यसै सिलसिलामा भन्नुपद्रां पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार अनि मरकारकी दूरदर्शी मेत्री मुन्नी सन्नी त्यानर्जीद्वारा गठित पश्चिम बंगाल खम्बू राई विकास बोई मार्फत राईहरूको भाषा, लिपि, संस्कार संस्कृतिको जगेरा र संरक्षण केही हदसम्म हुन्छ कि भन्ने उद्देश्यले सई भाषा वर्णमाला पुस्तक प्रकाशन गरी वसलाई भाषा शिक्षण तालीम केन्द्र खोलेर पठन-पाठन गर्न सकिलेछ भनी बोर्ड आधावादी रहेको छ।

ास सहत्वपूर्ण कार्यलाई अभि बढाउन पश्चिम वंगालकी मुख्यमन्त्री सुश्री ममता व्यानर्जीप्रति हामी समस्त खम्बु तह जनग्रहीत छौं।

२०११ सालमा सम्पद्म अल्तरराष्ट्रिय सम्मेलनमा राई माषा र निपिको विकासको अभिभारा किराती खम्बु राई सांस्कृतिक संस्थान, दार्जीलिङ र अखिल किरान राई संघ, सिक्किमलाई दिइएको थियो। गुरु टीकाराम राईले दैविक जानदारा प्राप्त गरेको लिपि नै सुम्हूँ लिपि हो र यसलाई गुरु कुपालल्पानले अञ्च विकसित गरेका थिए। श्री विक्रम राईले वसलाई कम्प्युटरकृत (फण्ट) बनाएका छन्।

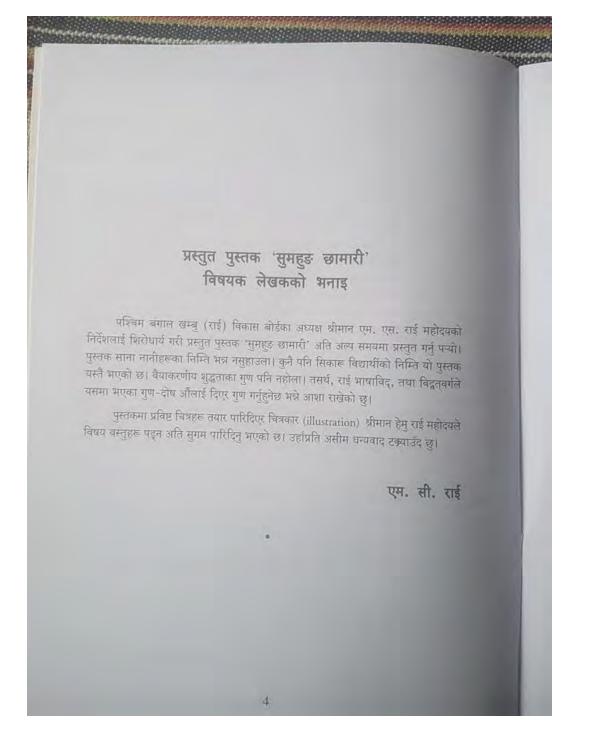
पुस्तक सबैतहको निस्ति उपयोगी बनाइएको छ। यस पुस्तकतो निस्ति अस्य समयमा नै अयक परिश्रम गरी विषयवस्तु तयार पार्नु हुने हाम्रा सान्दिता श्री एम. सी. राईप्रति जति नै यन्यवाद दिए पनि थोरे नै हुन्छ। यसरी नै पुस्तकता सजीव चित्रको अभिभारा लिई पुस्तक प्रकाशनको व्यवस्थासम्म मिलाइदिनु हुने किराती खम्बु राई सांस्कृतिक संस्थान, टार्जीलिङका संस्थापक सदस्य श्रीमान हेमु राईप्रति खम्बु सईहरू ऋणी रहनेछन्। सिक्रिमका हाम्रा सार्थीहरू उसले हार्मीलाई यस कार्यमा सहयोग पुऱ्याउनु भएका छन, श्री एस. के. राई, श्री पी. एम. राई जति श्री सन्तोष राई यन्यवादका यात्र हुनुहुन्छ। यस पुस्तकलाई सुम्हूँ लिपिमा प्रकाशित गरिदिते जनपक्ष प्रकाशनलाई धन्यवाद नर्दिई सकिन्न।

अन्तमा, यस पुस्तकले केही मात्रामा भए पति हाम्रा खम्बु राई माझमा भाषाको रुचि जामुल गर्न सके हाम्रो परिश्रम सफल भएको हाम्री महसूस गर्नेछौं र राई (खम्बु) जाति गति जीवित जाति हो भनी हामी गर्व मर्छी।

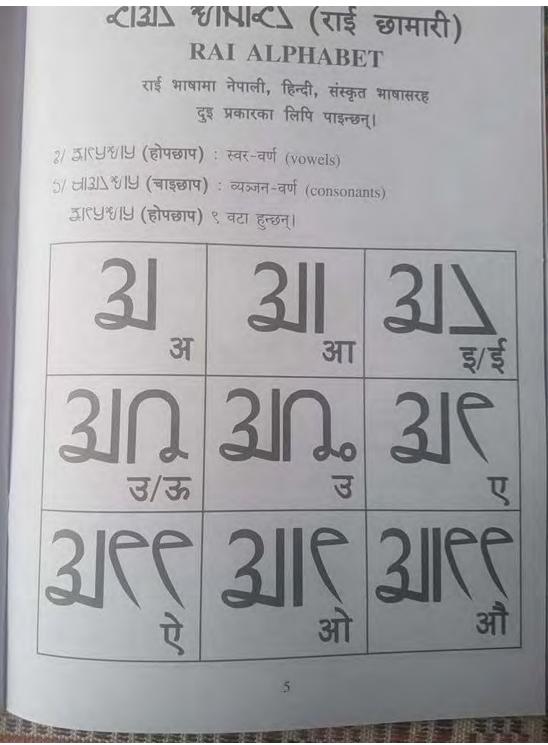
> अध्यक्ष पश्चिम बंगाल खम्बु राई विकास बोर्ड दार्वीलिङ

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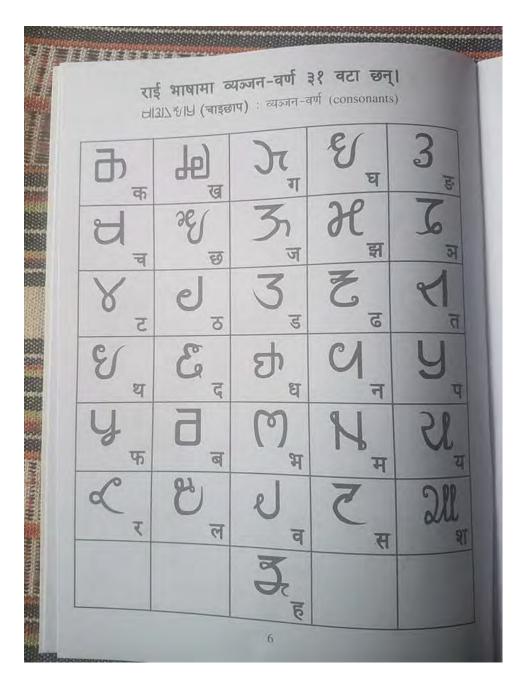
Sample 3b. Introduction page of a book. p.3 [FB]



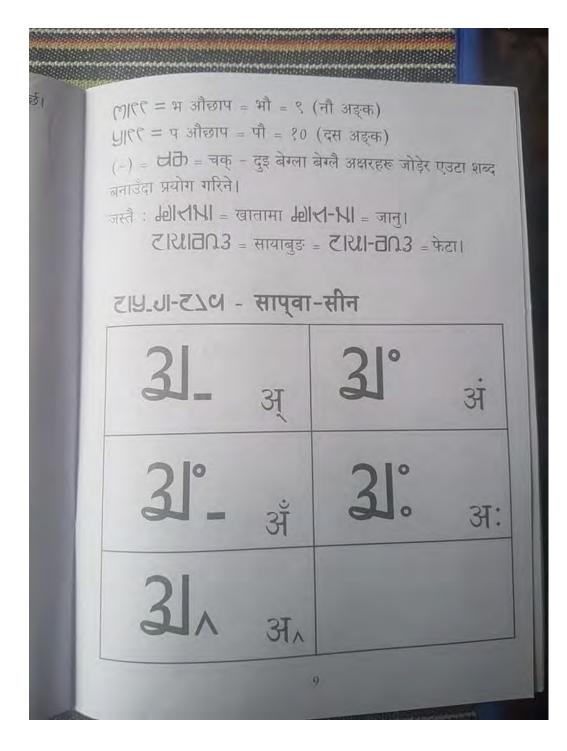
Sample 3c. Introduction(?) page of a book. p.4 [FB]



Sample 3d. Vowel Chart, p5. [FB] Includes all vowels from Table 1b (but not column 2).



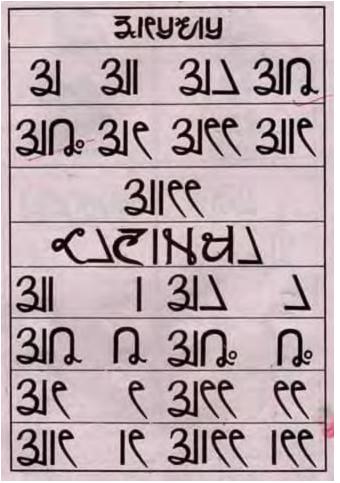
Sample 3e. Consonant Chart, p6. [FB] Includes all consonants from Table 1a.



Sample 3c. Marks Chart, p9. [FB] Includes all marks from Table 1c.

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Sample 4a. Vowels, Consonants, Numbers Charts. [FB] Consonant chart does not include "nya" nor "sha" from Table 1a.



Sample 5a. Vowel Charts. [FB]. Includes marks by themselves.



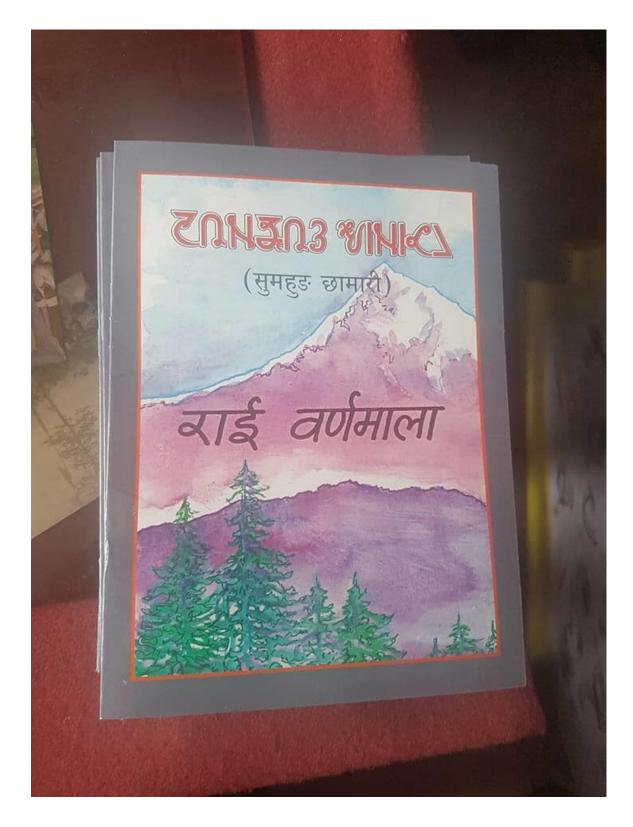
Sample 5b. Consonant Chart. [FB]. Includes all consonants in Table 1a.



Sample 6. Books in the script. [FB].



Sample 7. Girl writing in the script on a whiteboard. [FB].



Sample 8. Is this a book cover or artwork? [FB].

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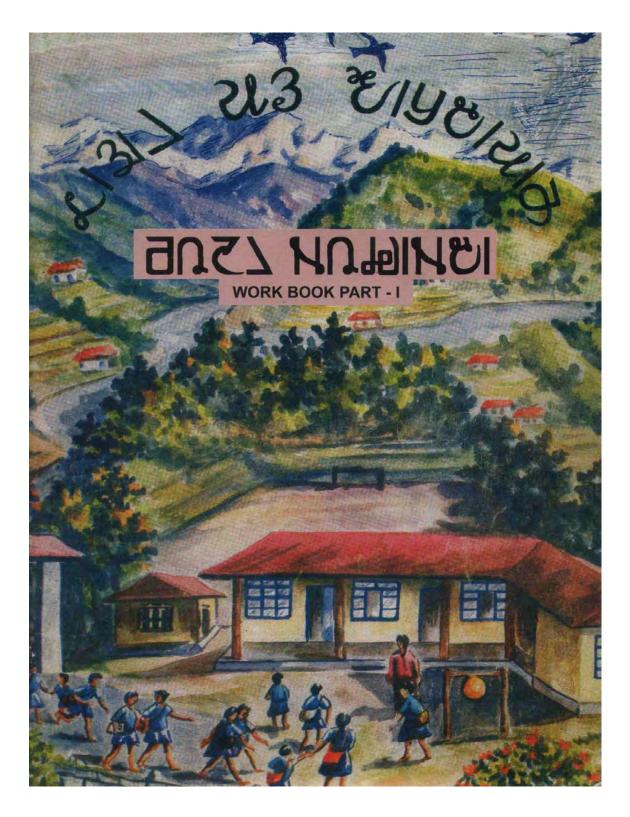
Sample 9. Running text [FB]. No punctuation.



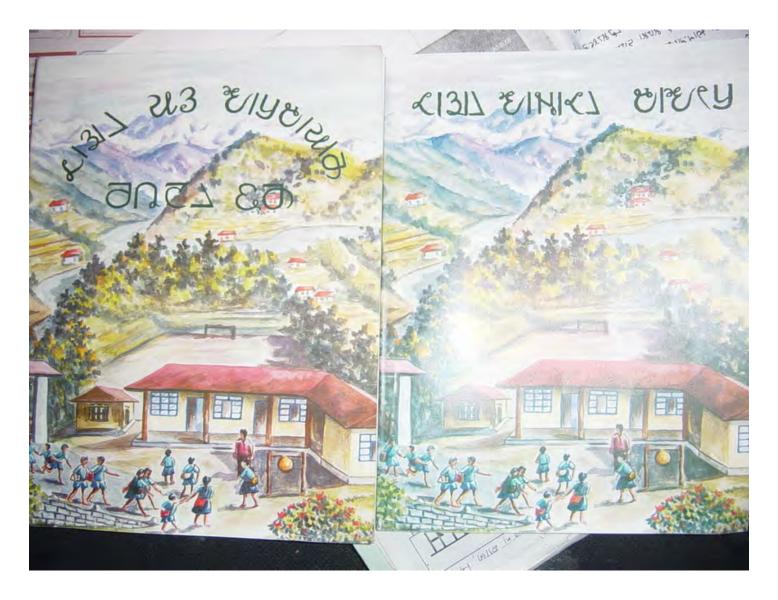
Sample 10. Book cover [FB].



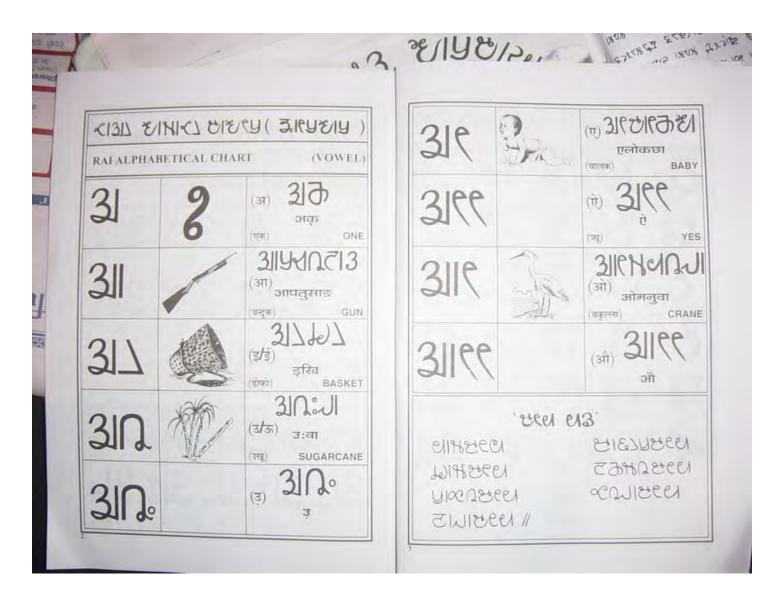
Sample 11. Running text [FB]. Note use of danda, double danda, quotes, commas, hyphen, word spacing.



Sample 12. Book cover [FB].



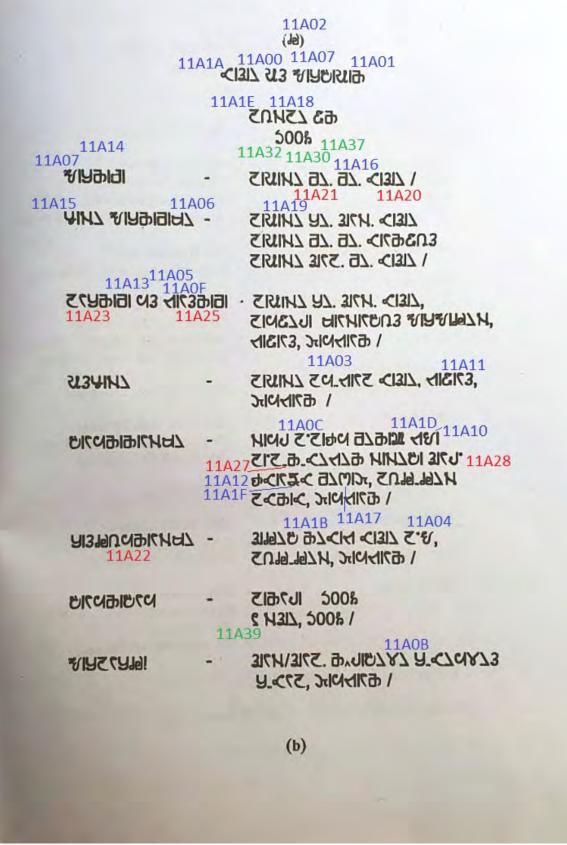
Sample 13. Book cover [SS].



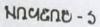
Sample 14a. Rai Alphabetical Chart (Vowel) [SS].



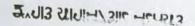
Sample 14b. Rai Alphabetical Chart (Consonant) [SS].



Sample 15a. Class 3 Textbook [SS].

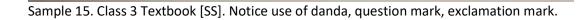


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- [2] 2011-05-01. Pandey, Anshuman. Introducing the Kirat Rai Script. (L2/11-145)
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- [FB] Facebook group, album: Kirat Rai Script Language literature <u>https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=raicommunitySikkimDarjeeling&set=a.1057370271345399</u>
- https://khamburaicultralsocaity.blogspot.com/?fbclid=IwAR0zpeHhXs0gpy2901nqZ2_GBIlVod6Z8-Fv1LUKZjgmwzFafAYvGfWGTk4

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