

Proposal to Unencode KAWI VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L

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In the Kawi proposal, the authors decided to encode the dependent form of KAWI LETTER VOCALIC L as an atomic vowel sign¹. However, this brings more questions such as “how the cojoined form looked like?” and “if ‘pa cerek’ have a cojoined form that still resembles the main letter, by that logic, ‘nga lelet’ should too!”² due to the fact that KAWI VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L still resembles the shape of KAWI LETTER VOCALIC L. Unfortunately, the problem are becoming much more apparent and worse when the user community are already embracing the unreleased Kawi encoding, making fonts out of said encoding, and using them in the wild. One of the popular Kawi font used by the community, “Pandita Sekti” by Waskita Kinanthi, demonstrating the big problem by making the cojoined KAWI LETTER VOCALIC L having the same glyph with KAWI VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L (see attachment). One of the solution is to prevent the cojoining of KAWI SIGN COJOINER + KAWI LETTER VOCALIC L, however this brings questions like the above instead of solving the problem. Therefore, **I propose to unencode KAWI VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L and empty the U+11F3C codepoint**, not only because this will clear the confusion, also this will make the Kawi encoding model neatly aligned with its sibling and descendants (see attachment).

Thank you.

1 Aditya Bayu Perdana and Ilham Nurwansah, "Proposal to encode Kawi," (December 2020): 4, <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2020/20284r-kawi.pdf>.

2 “Pa cerek” and “nga lelet” is the modern Javanese colloquial terminology of LETTER VOCALIC R and LETTER VOCALIC L.

Attachment: Comparison of vocalic l behavior.

	VOCALIC L	COJOINER + VOCALIC L	VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L
Javanese	ꦭ	ꦭꦶ	No
Balinese	ꦭ	ꦭꦶ	ꦭꦶꦠꦺꦴ
Khmer	ល	ល្ា	No
Kawi	ꦭ	ꦭ	ꦭꦶ