

To: Script Ad Hoc / UTC
From: Prof. Endo Orié (via Debbie Anderson, SEI, UC Berkeley)
Date: 15 August 2022
RE: Nüshu feedback on L2/22-138 (Proposal to update the reference glyphs in the Nüshu block and the Ideographic Symbols and Punctuation block)

L2/22-264

To Dr. Deborah Anderson,

1. Nüshu was originally handed down from individual to individual, rather than in a normative place such as a school. As such, there are many character variants due to the difference in the number of strokes, the difference in the slope of lines, and the presence or absence of line crossings. Therefore, it is meaningless for the person proposing this revision to point out that the characters in other texts are different from the UNICODE characters.
2. The characters in the proposed revision are correctly written and are indeed possible.
3. The proposer's characters are not wrong, and the lines and size of the dots are neat and well-written.
4. However, these characters were artificially created with an organized font based on certain standards.
5. If you replace only these characters in the UNICODE list, the list itself would become disordered.
6. If you changed all the characters to the proposed font and revised the entire list, it would be a clean, orderly list.
7. However, it would cease to be nüshu. It would just be a symbol created by a machine.
8. To use an analogy, if the original nüshu characters were written in Mincho font, the proposed revision is attempting to convert them to Gothic font. The meaning of the words written in each font is the same whether they are written in Mincho or Gothic. However, the impression one gets from the letters is completely different. In the case of nüshu, these characters have completed their historical mission, which was for women to communicate their pain and sadness among each other. That function of the characters has disappeared, but the impression one receives from the characters is a major factor in the recognition of the letters.
9. The characters in the new proposal may have value as designs or symbols, but they are essentially different from nüshu, which was written by hand by individual women.
10. I spoke with the transmitters, He Yanxin and Hu Xin, and they say that the old form is better.

For these reasons, I do not believe it is necessary to accept this proposal.