# **Final Proposal for Encoding the Mwangwego Script in the UCS**

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#### To: Script Encoding Working Group (SEWG) / Unicode Technical Committee (UTC)

From: Oreen Yousuf; Daniel Yacob

Subject: Mwangwego

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#### General Overview:

This is a revised proposal to encode the Mwangwego script into the Unicode Standard. It supersedes the following documents:

- <u>L2/12-251</u>: "Preliminary proposal to encode the Mwangwego script in the UCS"
- <u>L2/12-311</u>: "Proposal to encode the Mwangwego script in the UCS"
- <u>L2/24-241</u>: "Proposal for Encoding the Mwangwego Script in the UCS"
- <u>L2/25-039</u>: "Revised Proposal for Encoding the Mwangwego Script in the UCS"

This version differs from the most recent version, L2/25-039, due to the following reasons and updates:

- ISO 15924 code for the Mwangwego script.
- More images showing evidence of use of the script. A <u>Google Drive link</u> holds more than 100 images showing evidence of use, and PDFs compiling selected works.
- New formatting of images for SEWG convenience.
- Letter of endorsement to encode the Mwangwego script from a Malawian linguist is included in Section VIII.

#### I Background

The Mwangwego script was first devised in 1979 by Nolence Moses Mwangwego of Malawi, and is designed for writing the languages of Malawi. Some of these languages include the following, along with their *ISO 639 code* and speaker count: Chewa (*nya*, 2 million), Lomwe (*ngl*, 2.5 million), Sena (*swk* in Malawi, *seh* in Mozambican, *bwg* for the divergent Barwe dialect; 2.9 million), Tonga (*tog*, 170,000), Tumbuka (*tum*, 2.3 million), Yao (*yao*, 3.1 million), Nyakyusa (*nyy*, 1.4 million). The majority of these languages are also spoken in parts of nearby countries such as Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia.

Additional letters were created up until April 7, 1997 and launched to the public. The script has not changed significantly over time and is not related to any other script. In 2003 the script received notable publicity, including an audience with Minister Kamangadzai Kingsley Chambalo, the Malawian Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture at the time.

The users of the community are students of the script, some of which are school-aged children. There was an initial community of 200-300 adherents of Mwangwego script in 2001 (Dobrovolny 2010). The number of people who have learned the script since 2001 is between 2,500-3,000 and has been regarded positively by paleographers as "reach[ing] the rank of a small movement" (Kostelnik 2023). Many are training to be teachers themselves. The script has been continuously learned and taught since 2001 in all 3 regions of Malawi: Northern, Central and Southern Regions. The script has been taught informally since 2001. The distribution of January 2023 cohort of students is broken down as follows:

10 in Karonga, 15 in Mzuzu, 10 in the Malawian capital of Lilongwe, and 5 in Blantyre. The script is also included in primers and learning exercise materials for students. As of mid-2024, another cohort of teachers are being trained.

While there has only been 1 full book officially printed and published in the script, by the creator, as cost is a major obstacle for the majority of past and current learners, the script has taken on a life beyond the script creator and his social circle. Individuals regularly correspond in the Mwangwego script, producing letters, grocery lists, journal entries, business memos, manifestos, and more, in languages like Chichewa and Tumbuka. Script users own mobile phones and are keen to use the script in digital environments. The proposal authors have even introduced previously unknown script users to the creator. Every image of handwritten text in Section IX showing evidence of use comes from users other than the script creator. Language policy in Malawi has the government applying a limited topdown approach. Mwangwego persists and has grown instead by grassroots efforts where it has spread beyond the creator's home city and native language. Many of the images found in Section IX and the Google Drive come from Mzuzu, Lilongwe, and Blantyre. There are at least 4 fonts: one made by Tapiwanashe Sebastian Garikayi; one by Andrij Rovenchak; one by Enzo Bicudo Pepi (MetrikEnzyme); and one by Jana Reddemann and Jenna Leich, the latter of which is used in this proposal. Under consultation with the script community, the authors have developed a keyboard that applies the character model described in this proposal. The keyboard has been developed with the well-known "Keyman" software and a Microsoft Windows executable is available here: https://bit.ly/4e11h3D.

While the Malawian government endorses the Latin script for the languages mentioned above, there are no other scripts in competition among the Mwangwego script community, and the character repertoire has been stable for decades. There is also a current project to digitize Nolence Mwangwego's Chichewa language book "ዝ ፍናଇ ኔና ፈኒ?" (Latin transliteration: "A Malawi Tili Pati?"; English translation: "Malawians, where are we?"), which was written in the Mwangwego script.

#### II Script Name

The proposed script name is "**MWANGWEGO**", which is named after the creator, Nolence Mwangwego. This is the name used by the script community. The proposed ISO 15924 code for the Mwangwego script is "Mwgo".

On 3 April 2024, Nolence Mwangwego stated on Facebook that the script "in Malawian languages is called '**musitu wa Mwangwego'**. The word 'musitu' comes from three parts of the script: musisi, siri, mutuyo. Mwangwego script was invented in April 1979 and was inaugurated on April 7, 1997. These are dates to remember" (see Reference 6 in Section VII).

#### **III Structure**

The Mwangwego script is an abugida written left-to-right in horizontal lines, from the top to the bottom of a page. The basic grapheme inventory accounts for 31 consonants and 5 vowels – /a/, / $\epsilon$ /, /i/, /  $\sigma$ /, and /u/. Each basic grapheme represents a syllable composed of a consonant and a vowel (CV), or a vowel (V) by itself. Students first learn the graphemes that have an inherent /a/ vowel (e.g., /a/, /ba/, /tʃa/, etc.). These inherent /a/ vowel graphemes, as shown in the chart below under the column labeled "/a/". Any single one of these graphemes is called a **Musisi**. All Musisi (i.e., the plural) is collectively called **Misisi**. Misisi can be slightly altered in 1 of 4 graphically consistent ways to change the grapheme's vowel from an inherent /a/ to / $\epsilon$ /, /i/, /  $\sigma$ /, or /u/. Any single one of these 4 vowel modifiers is called a **Siri**. All Siri (i.e., the plural) is collectively called **Masiri**. Attaching Masiri to Misisi will yield a total of 160 basic V or CV syllabic graphemes. Any single one of these new graphemes with a vocalic value of / $\epsilon$ /, /i/, /  $\sigma$ /, or /u/ is called a **Musiri**. All Musiri (i.e., the plural) is collectively called **Masiri**.

IPA	/a/	/ε/	/i/	/ɔ/	/u/
/vowel/	Я	Я	.	况	迅
/b/	U	Ľ	Ц	ហ	ህ
/ʧ/	9	٤	يلا	ম	٦
/d/	З	E	Зı	మె	Зı
/f/	2	l	J	Ⴠ	ጉ
/g/	D	D	Ū	ſ	ው
/ɣ/	Н	К	Ю	Ю	Ю
/h/	8	ደ	கி	సి	ፚ
/ʤ/	ម	Æ	Ю	ዊ	භ
/3/	Ь	٤	Ю	ዊ	භ
/k/	۲	2	ප	උ	ይ
/١/	ſ	Ĺ	ប	ъ	ъ
/m/	Q	Q	<u></u> д	ව	ਨੁ
/n/	Ц	Ц	Ц	Ъ	Ъ
/ɲ/	У	Y	У	У	۲
/p/	ď	٩	વા	မ	ų
/r/	A	A	പ	ሌ	
/s/	6	ð	ବ୍ର	бī	бı
/ʃ/	ę	ę	ର୍	රු	ণ্য
/t/	5	٤	٤	১	۲
/ts/	ſ	l	ىل	ى	પ
/p'/	ĥ	ĥ	ĥ	ſv	ſv
/v/	A	A	£	ß	fr
/w/	Е	£	Б	പ്ര	ഷ
/j/	ð	<u>ک</u>	<u>ک</u>	రు	ų
/z/	ſ	Ĺ	Ĺ	б	ប
/dz/	f	£	ťı	£	f
/d+/	ե		ப	പ	ት
/+/	ې	ð	ঠ	ঠ	ŷ
/  /	S	٤	S	ნა	ſŗ
/!/	Ŷ	Q	<u>ک</u>	<u>گ</u>	ۍ
/ð/	ſ	2	Û	ß	G

Table 1. Inventory of the basic V and CV syllabic graphemes in the Mwangwego script.

To change the inherent /a/ vowel of Misisi to  $\epsilon$ /, /i/, /ɔ/, or /u/, you fuse Masiri (vowel modifiers) to the bottom-right of Misisi:

Emwa: ୍ର	Example: ೮ (ba) + ္ (-ɛ) = ೮ (be)
lma: ്വ_	Example: ប (ba) + ា (-i) = ៤ (bi)
Ota: ാ	Example: ((ba) + ာ (-၁) = ပြ (b၁)
Uyu: ா	Example: ੯(ba) + ਾ (-u) = ੯r (bu)

#### Mutuyo & Mituyo:

In addition to these vowel modifiers, some consonant (or tone) modifiers appear to the left (spacing) of the basic grapheme, or above or below (non-spacing) the basic grapheme. These can also be used in combination with one another to further extend the repertoire of consonant onsets or, in one case, to mark high-tone to distinguish between homographs. Not all of these modifiers can be used with all basic graphemes. Section X show which marks are possible for the Misisi. All valid possibilities are possible for the Misiri counterparts.

Any one of these marks is called **Mutuyo**. You can attach multiple Mutuyo onto a single basic grapheme. The plural of Mutuyo is *Mituyo*. Some Mituyo configurations produce more complex spacing characters.

The script's previous proposal (Section 4, <u>L2/12-311</u>) proposed to encode all spacing Mituyo configurations due to the constraints of ligation at the time. For compound consonant modifiers one could use the 'rlig' or 'ccmp' OpenType features to replace a sequent of modifiers with a precomposed stacked version. 'ccmp' would be the most reliable across platforms. Therefore, we propose to only encode the standalone modifiers (i.e., Mutuyo). The set of combinations (i.e., Mituyo) is finite, as is the order in which combinations are combined. It is never correct (i.e., legible) to string them horizontally, and making them "ligatures" may easily fail in many rendering environments, which is unnecessary and undesirable. Readers do not parse the stacks per se, but read the whole cluster as a whole.

#### 1. MUTUYO (spacing):

1.1 WAYA. - labializes consonants. There is a unique, non-spacing counterpart of Waya that appears under a letter instead of to the left; see Mutuyo 2.1 below.

Examples of use: - (waya) + U (ba) = -U (bwa) - (waya) + Q (ma) = -Q (mwa)

Example words: -ഗ്യ (bwato) -ଦ୍ରୀ (mwala)

**1.2** NI. " is primarily used for homorganic palatalization (which may not be reflected in the transliterated romanization).

#### Examples of use:

" (ni) +  $\Im$  (da) = " $\Im$  (nda) – tip of the tongue touches the front part of the palate " (ni) +  $\Im$  (ta) = " $\oiint$  (nta) " (ni) +  $\oiint$  (tsa) = " $\oiint$  (ntsa) " (ni) +  $\oiint$  (dza) = " $\oiint$  (ndza) " (ni) +  $\oiint$  (a) = " $\oiint$  (ndza) – rear of the tongue touches the palate " (ni) +  $\oiint$  (ga) = " $\oiint$  (nga) " (ni) +  $\Im$  (cha) = " $\Im$  (ncha) – middle of the tongue touches the palate " (ni) +  $\oiint$  (cha) = " $\Im$  (ncha) – middle of the tongue touches the palate " (ni) +  $\oiint$  (ja) = " $\oiint$  (nja) " (ni) +  $\mathfrak{G}$  (sa) = " $\mathfrak{G}$  (nsa) – tongue slightly touches the palate " (ni) +  $\mathfrak{G}$  (sha) = " $\mathfrak{G}$  (nsha) " (ni) +  $\mathfrak{I}$  (fa) = " $\mathfrak{I}$  (mfa) – labiodentalization " (ni) +  $\mathfrak{I}$  (va) = " $\mathfrak{I}$  (mva) Example words: " $\mathfrak{I}\mathfrak{U}$  (ndati) , " $\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{U}$  (ng'ona) , " $\mathfrak{G}\mathfrak{U}$  (nsapato) , " $\mathfrak{H}\mathfrak{U}$  (nchalo)

1.3 HI. - aspirates consonants. Its use may be limited to only a few consonants.

Examples of use: " (hi) +  $\vartheta$  (cha) = " $\vartheta$  (tcha) , " (hi) + 2 (ka) = "2 (kha) , " (hi) + 4 (pa) = "4 (pha) " (hi) +  $\vartheta$  (ta) = " $\vartheta$  (tha) " (hi) +  $\int$  (tsa) = " $\int$  (tsha) Example words:

"ዮፍ (khasu) "ዮቅ (khama) "ፊና (phala) "ይህ (thobwa) "ይዲ (tchimo)

1.4 MI. " pre-nasalizes labial consonants. It is described as "used when both lips meet heavily." It is used with 2 Misisi (and of course their corresponding Misiri): U (/ba/) and d (/pa/).

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Examples of use:
" (mi) + ሆ (ba) = "ሆ (mba)   " (mi) + ፊ (pa) = "ፊ (mpa)
```

- 1.5 MYU. ' pre-nasalizes non-labial consonants. It is described as "used when pronouncing a word which involves a slight meeting of both lips." Myu occurs with many Misisi.

Examples of use: ' (myu) + 9 (cha) = '9 (mcha) ' (myu) + 7 (ka) = '7 (mka) ' (myu) + 9 (ma) = '9 (m'ma) ' (myu) + 5 (ta) = 5 (mta) ' (myu) + f (dza) = 'f (mdza)

Example words: \_ / (mkaka) ፡ ን (mkanda) ፡ ቴይ (m'dziko) ፡ ውቴ (m'mudzi)

1.6 SISA. ' prefixes 's-' to consonants. Very few words use Sisa as it is mainly used for foreign loan words (e.g., English; see 7:16 of reference 3 in Section VII below).

Examples of use: '(sisa) + ? (ka) = '? (ska) '(sisa) + Q (ma) = 'Q (sma) '(sisa) + S (ta) = 'S (sta) Example words:

່ມຈີ (stima) ີ ເວັນ (sketi)

1.7 TUMBU. ' causes prenasalization. It is only used for Yao and Nyakyusa/Ngonde.

Examples of use: '(tumbu) + 3 (da) = '3 (n'da) '(tumbu) + Y (nya) = 'Y (n'nya) '(tumbu) + & (ya) = % (n'ya) - in Yao '(tumbu) + ε(wa) = ö(n'wa)

2. MUTUYO (non-spacing):

2.1 WAYA-BELOW. \_ adds a following y-glide (palatalization) to consonants. This is the non-spacing counterpart of WAYA in 1.1 above.

Examples of use: 3 (da) + ੁ (waya) = 길 (dya) 오 (ma) + ੁ (waya) = 오 (mya)

Example words: <u>አኒፈ</u>ፈ , <u>3</u>ና, ንድ<u>3</u>

2.2 MURA. i adds a following r-glide to consonants. This Mutuyo is also used for foreign words (e.g., English).

```
Examples of use:
Ư (ba) + ံ (mura) = Ů (bra)
우 (ka) + ံ (mura) = 친 (kra)
১ (ta) + ံ (mura) = 뉯 (tra)
```

Example words: பிட்பி, பிட்ட

2.3 MULA. `adds a following l-glide to consonants. This Mutuyo is also used for foreign words (e.g., English).

Examples of use:

U (ba) + ` (mula) = Ù (bla) P (ka) + ` (mula) = P (kla) S (ta) + ` (mula) = Š (tla)

Example word:

2.4 PEWA. <sup>1</sup> serves a variety of purposes, indicating affrication and other consonant modifications. It is particularly used a lot in Tumbuka, Kyangonde (a dialect of Nyakyusa; possibly other Nyakyusa dialects as well), and Yao.

Examples of use:

U (ba) +  $\hat{U}$  (pewa) =  $\hat{U}$  (Chichewa Latin transliteration is  $\hat{w}a$ ;

Tumbuka Latin transliteration is ba; IPA: /βa/)

 $\hat{H}$  (va) +  $\hat{i}$  (pewa) =  $\hat{H}$  (bva)

- $f(za) + \hat{f}(pewa) = \hat{f}(bza)$
- ב (fa) + (pewa) = ב (pfa)

 $\Gamma$  (tha) +  $\hat{i}$  (pewa) =  $\hat{\Gamma}$  (IPA:  $/\theta a/)$  – in Lomwe

Example words: <u>ፈ</u>ብን, <u>2</u>ህን

very important in Chichewa because there are 2 tones (in contrast to a language like Tumbuka having no tones).

Examples of use: 크 (di) + ဴ (kwanthu) = 크 (ndi)

#### Example words:

 $\Sigma^{T}$  (mtengo; translation: tree) to distinguish from  $\Sigma^{T}$  (mtengo; translation: price)

#### 3. MITUYO "stacks":

As Mituyo is the plural of Mutuyo, any combination of 2 individual Mutuyo on a single grapheme can be considered a Mituyo combination. For example, "¥ and -U both combine a spacing Mutuyo (NI " and WAYA -, respectively) with a non-spacing Mutuyo (WAYA-BELOW ့ and PEWA , respectively). These are considered Mituyo combinations. However, it is worth specifically highlighting how the spacing Mutuyo (described in 1.1-1.7 above) can create spacing Mituyo "stacks" that are written on the left of a grapheme. There are 16 possible Mituvo stacks:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
C	ť	C	"	"				)		C	C	"		>	C
Ů	• •	÷	i i	<b>—</b>				Ů	-	Ú	<u> </u>			Ú	Ů
												_			•••
MYU	MYU	MYU	MI	MI	NI	NI	HI	SISA	TUMBU	MYU	MYU	MI	NI	SISA	MYU
NI	HI	WAYA	HI	WAYA	HI	WAYA	WAYA	NI	WAYA	NI	HI	HI	HI	NI	NI
										HI	WAYA	WAYA	WAYA	HI	HI
															WAYA

Table 2. Inventory of the 16 spacing Mituyo "stacks".

Similar to the (individual) Mutuyo, not all Mituyo are used for all languages. For example, the Mituyo stack TUMBU+WAYA (numbered 10 in Table 2) is only used in Nyakyusa/Ngonde.

3.1. MYU-NI.

Examples of use: <sup>4</sup> MYU-NI + 3 (da) = <sup>4</sup>3 (mnda) <sup>4</sup> MYU-NI + 2 (ka) = <sup>4</sup>2 (mnka)

Example words: £"£", 6"6"£"

3.2. MYU-HI. <sup>4</sup>

Examples of use:  $^{\circ}$  MYU-HI +  $^{\circ}$  (cha) =  $^{\circ}$  (mchha)  $^{\circ}$  MYU-HI +  $^{\circ}$  (ka) =  $^{\circ}$  (mkha)

Example words: D"b", 3b"

3.3. MYU-WAYA. <sup>4</sup>	
Examples of use: <u>'</u> MYU-WAYA + ሆ (ba) = <del>'</del> ሆ (mbwa)	<sup>•</sup> MYU-WAYA +  ን (cha) = <sup>•</sup> ን (mchwa)
Example words: ት, ፲፬፲, ትይ	
3.4. MI-HI. "	
Examples of use: " MI-HI + ɗ (pa) = "ɗ (mpha)	
Example words: "ፈΣ , "ፈቸቢ	
3.5. MI-WAYA. "	
Examples of use: " MI-WAYA + ሆ (ba) = "ሆ (mbwa)	۳ MI-WAYA + d (pa) = ۴ (mpwa)
Example words: "ሆ'ን , ና''ሀ , ("ሀ	
3.6. HI-WAYA. <del>-</del>	
Examples of use: = HI-WAYA + ʔ (ka) = ɬʔ (khwa)	- HI-WAYA + ∫ (ta) = -∮ (thwa)
Example words: =d՜ , =dչ	
3.7. NI-HI."	
Examples of use: " NI-HI +	" NI-HI +
Example words: "ፖጌ, "ዮኄ , "እጌ	
3.8. NI-WAYA. "	
Examples of use: <sup></sup> NI-WAYA +	<u>"</u> NI-WAYA + 3 (da) = <del>"</del> 3 (ndwa)
Example words: "ቢህ', ፒፓ", ፒፓ	
3.9. SISA-NI. <sup>"</sup>	
Examples of use: <sup>&amp;</sup> HI-WAYA + 3 (da) = <sup>&amp;</sup> 3 (snda)	<sup>،</sup> HI-WAYA + ር (ga) = <sup>،</sup> ር (snga)

Example words: ଜୁମ
3.10. TUMBU-WAYA. <sup>1</sup>
Examples of use: $\frac{1}{2}$ TUMBU-WAYA + ff (gha) = ff (n'ghwa) $\frac{1}{2}$ TUMBU-WAYA + $\frac{1}{2}$ (ha) = $\frac{1}{2}$ (n'hwa)
Example words: ୍ୟୁତୁ
3.11. MYU-NI-HI. <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Examples of use:
Example words: ବ୍ଞଳ୍ପ
3.12. MYU-HI-WAYA. <sup><u>k</u></sup>
Example of use: ≟ MYU-HI-WAYA + ን (cha) = ፥ን (mchhwa)
Example words: <sup>ዿ</sup> ሃኄ
3.13. MI-HI-WAYA. <sup>#</sup>
Examples of use: <sup>#</sup> MI-HI-WAYA + d (pa) = <sup>#</sup> d (mphwa)
Example words: <sup>မို</sup> d <sup>4</sup> ာ
3.14. NI-HI-WAYA. <sup>#</sup>
Examples of use: ≝ NI-HI-WAYA + 9 (cha) = ≝9 (nchhwa)
Example words: ምታታ ወደት
3.15. SISA-NI-HI. ⅔
Examples of use:
Example words: ଜୁମ

#### 3.16. MYU-NI-HI-WAYA.

Examples of use: 监MYU-NI-HI-WAYA + 수 (ka) = 护 (mnkhwa)

ీ MYU-NI-HI-WAYA + δ (ta) = íδ (mnthwa)

Example words: ା୍ରିମ ାର୍ଜ୍ମିଧ୍ୟ

In summary, there are 32 Misisi (inherent /a/ vowel graphemes), 4 Masiri (vowel modifiers), 12 Mutuyo (11 consonant modifiers; 1 tone modifier), and 16 Mituyo ("stacks") to encode.

• It is worth mentioning that the WAYA Mutuyo and the WAYA-BELOW Mutuyo *must* be encoded as two symbols and not only one. This is because if one were to process plain text (e.g., transliteration) one needs to be able to interpret the bytes as being "wa" (from WAYA) and "ya" (from WAYA-BELOW), which one couldn't do with a single character point as position information is lost in plain text.

#### Punctuation and Numerals/Digits:

There are no script-specific digits in the script; Hindu-Arabic digits (i.e., 0123456789) are used. There are no script-specific punctuation marks. Words are separated using U+0020 SPACE.

#### IV Character Repertoire

Table 3 presents the character names for the 32 Mwanwego Misisi (singular Musisi; inherent -/a/ graphemes/letters), 4 Masiri (singular Siri; vowel marks), 12 Mutuyo (consonant/tone modifiers), and 16 Mituyo (complex Mutuyo combinations). The Chichewa language terms for the orthographic elements have been employed to clearly and distinctly identify the characters by their encoded names.

U+16E00 MWANGWEGO MUSISI A
U+16E01 MWANGWEGO MUSISI BA
U+16E02 MWANGWEGO MUSISI CHA
U+16E03 MWANGWEGO MUSISI DA
U+16E04 MWANGWEGO MUSISI FA
U+16E05 MWANGWEGO MUSISI GA
U+16E06 MWANGWEGO MUSISI GHA
U+16E07 MWANGWEGO MUSISI HA
U+16E08 MWANGWEGO MUSISI JA
U+16E09 MWANGWEGO MUSISI ZHA
U+16E0A MWANGWEGO MUSISI KA
U+16E0B MWANGWEGO MUSISI LA
U+16E0C MWANGWEGO MUSISI MA
U+16E0D MWANGWEGO MUSISI NA

У	U+16E0E MWANGWEGO MUSISI NYA
ď	U+16E0F MWANGWEGO MUSISI PA
ิล	U+16E10 MWANGWEGO MUSISI RA
6	U+16E11 MWANGWEGO MUSISI SA
Ģ	U+16E12 MWANGWEGO MUSISI SHA
S	U+16E13 MWANGWEGO MUSISI TA
ſ	U+16E14 MWANGWEGO MUSISI TSA
ĥ	U+16E15 MWANGWEGO MUSISI PSA
ß	U+16E16 MWANGWEGO MUSISI VA
٤	U+16E17 MWANGWEGO MUSISI WA
ð	U+16E18 MWANGWEGO MUSISI YA
ſ	U+16E19 MWANGWEGO MUSISI ZA
f	U+16E1A MWANGWEGO MUSISI DZA
ሆ	U+16E1B MWANGWEGO MUSISI DHLA
þ	U+16E1C MWANGWEGO MUSISI HLA
ና	U+16E1D MWANGWEGO MUSISI XA
Ŷ	U+16E1E MWANGWEGO MUSISI QA
ſ	U+16E1F MWANGWEGO MUSISI THA
୍ର	U+16E20 MWANGWEGO SIRI EMWA
୍ୱ	U+16E21 MWANGWEGO SIRI IMA
ാ	U+16E22 MWANGWEGO SIRI OTA
্য	U+16E23 MWANGWEGO SIRI UYU
t	U+16E24 MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MYU
"	U+16E25 MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MI
u	U+16E26 MWANGWEGO MUTUYO NI
	U+16E27 MWANGWEGO MUTUYO HI
-	U+16E28 MWANGWEGO MUTUYO WAYA
ା	U+16E29 MWANGWEGO MUTUYO WAYA BELOW
3	U+16E2A MWANGWEGO MUTUYO SISA
ै	U+16E2B MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MURA
৽	U+16E2C MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MULA
৾	U+16E2D MWANGWEGO MUTUYO PEWA
I	U+16E2E MWANGWEGO MUTUYO TUMBU
ं	U+16E2F MWANGWEGO MUTUYO KWANTHU
ů	U+16E30 MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-NI
L	

<u>.</u>	U+16E31 MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-HI
<u>•</u>	U+16E32 MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-WAYA
**	U+16E33 MWANGWEGO MITUYO MI-HI
<u></u>	U+16E34 MWANGWEGO MITUYO MI-WAYA
"	U+16E35 MWANGWEGO MITUYO NI-HI
Ľ	U+16E36 MWANGWEGO MITUYO NI-WAYA
:	U+16E37 MWANGWEGO MITUYO HI-WAYA
ł	U+16E38 MWANGWEGO MITUYO SISA-NI
ī	U+16E39 MWANGWEGO MITUYO TUMBU-WAYA
ť.	U+16E3A MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-NI-HI
÷	U+16E3B MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-HI-WAYA
<u>ii</u>	U+16E3C MWANGWEGO MITUYO MI-HI-WAYA
Ë	U+16E3D MWANGWEGO MITUYO NI-HI-WAYA
1	U+16E3E MWANGWEGO MITUYO SISA-NI-HI
¢	U+16E3F MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-NI-HI-WAYA
<b>T</b> 1 1 4	

Table 3. Character Names of the Mwangwego Orthography

# 16E00

# Mwangwego

The Mwangwego script is used for the languages of Malawi, which include Chewa (nya), Lomwe (ngl), Sena (swk in Malawi, seh in Mozambican, bwg for the divergent Barwe dialect), Tonga (tog), Tumbuka (tum), Yao (yao), Nyakyusa (nyy).

	16E0	16E1	16E2	16E3
	IJ	9		Ç
0	16E00	16E10	16E20	16E30
	U	9		<u>.</u>
1	16E01	16E11	16E21	16E31
	9	ę		<u>2</u>
2	16E02	16E12	16E22	16E32
	3	۶	្ម	çç
3	16E03	16E13	16E23	16E33
	ſ	1	c	<u>2</u>
4	16E04	16E14	16E24	16E34
	۵	ĥ	cc	!!
5	16E05	16E15	16E25	16E35
	H	A		Ľ
6	16E06	16E16	16E26	16E36
	8	3	••	
7	16E07	16E17	16E27	16E37
	IJ	Ծ	-	2
8	16E08	16E18	16E28	16E38
	6	ſ		Ţ
9	16E09	16E19	16E29	16E39
	2	f	2	C !!
А	16E0A	16E1A	16E2A	16E3A
	6	9		<u>.</u>
В	16E0B	16E1B	16E2B	16E3B
	9	ę		<u></u>
С	16E0C	16E1C	16E2C	16E3C
_	ប	ና		<u>!!</u>
D	16E0D	16E1D	16E2D	16E3D
_	۶	Q		) !!
Е	16E0E	16E1E	16E2E	16E3E
F				
Г	16E0F	16E1F	16E2F	16E3F

#### Musisi

16E00 H 16E01 U 16E02 $>$ 16E02 $>$ 16E03 $=$ 16E05 $=$ 16E05 $=$ 16E06 H 16E07 $$$ 16E08 $=$ 16E08 $=$ 16E08 $=$ 16E08 $=$ 16E00 $=$ 16E11 $=$ 16E12 $=$ 16E13 $>$ 16E13 $>$ 16E14 $=$ 16E15 $=$ 16E16 $=$ 16E17 $=$ 16E18 $=$ 16E18 $=$ 16E18 $=$ 16E10	MWANGWEGO MUSISI A MWANGWEGO MUSISI BA MWANGWEGO MUSISI CHA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DA MWANGWEGO MUSISI FA MWANGWEGO MUSISI FA MWANGWEGO MUSISI GA MWANGWEGO MUSISI GHA MWANGWEGO MUSISI JA MWANGWEGO MUSISI JA MWANGWEGO MUSISI LA MWANGWEGO MUSISI NA MWANGWEGO MUSISI NA MWANGWEGO MUSISI NA MWANGWEGO MUSISI PA MWANGWEGO MUSISI PA MWANGWEGO MUSISI SA MWANGWEGO MUSISI VA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DZA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DZA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DZA MWANGWEGO MUSISI JA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DA MWANGWEGO MUSISI DA MWANGWEGO MUSISI JA
Siri 16E20 o. 16E21 o. 16E22 o. 16E23 o.	MWANGWEGO SIRI EMWA MWANGWEGO SIRI ITA MWANGWEGO SIRI OTA MWANGWEGO SIRI UYU
Mutuyo 16E25 ° 16E25 ° 16E26 ° 16E28 - 16E28 - 16E28 ∘ 16E2C ∘ 16E2C ∘ 16E2C ∘ 16E2C ∘ 16E2E ·	MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MYU MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MI MWANGWEGO MUTUYO NI MWANGWEGO MUTUYO HI MWANGWEGO MUTUYO WAYA BELOW MWANGWEGO MUTUYO WAYA BELOW MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MURA MWANGWEGO MUTUYO MULA MWANGWEGO MUTUYO PEWA MWANGWEGO MUTUYO TUMBU MWANGWEGO MUTUYO KWANTHU
Mituyo 16E30 4 16E31 4 16E32 4 16E33 4 16E35 4 16E35 4 16E36 1 16E36 1 16E38 1 16E38 1 16E38 1 16E38 1 16E3C 1 16E3C 4 16E32 4 16E32 4 16E32 4 16E32 1 16E32 1 16E33 1 16E32 1 16E33 1 16E34 1 16E3	MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-NI MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-WAYA MWANGWEGO MITUYO MI-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO MI-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO NI-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO NI-WAYA MWANGWEGO MITUYO NI-WAYA MWANGWEGO MITUYO SISA-NI MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-NI-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO MYU-NI-HI-WAYA MWANGWEGO MITUYO MI-HI-WAYA MWANGWEGO MITUYO NI-HI-WAYA MWANGWEGO MITUYO SISA-NI-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO SISA-NI-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO SISA-NI-HI MWANGWEGO MITUYO SISA-NI-HI

# Additional information on characters *Phonetic value*

The Mutuyo TUMBU' is only used for Yao, and Nyakyusa/Ngonde. The Mutuyo PEWA is mostly used in Tumbuka, Kyangonde (a dialect of Nyakyusa; possibly other Nyakyusa dialects as well), and Yao.

#### Joining information

Masiri (e.g., Vowel modifiers; singular: Siri) are attached to base letters as described above, but letters themselves do not join at all like they do in Arabic.

For the MUSISI BA ( $\mathcal{U}$ ), and the Misiri counterparts ( $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}$ ), placement of the Mutuyo PEWA  $\hat{}$  should be above the right-side vertical line ( $\hat{\mathcal{U}} \ \hat{\mathcal{U}} \ \hat{\mathcal{U}} \ \hat{\mathcal{U}}$ ), instead of directly above the grapheme as it is for all other graphemes (e.g.,  $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{l}}$ ). See line 3 of Figure 10.1 in the Google Drive in Section IX.

**Note for typographers/font designers:** the placement of the Mutuyo/Mituyo in relation to the graphemes (Misisi/Misiri) should be done the same as in Figures 3.1-3.22 and 10.1-10.9 in the Google Drive. These images should be the reference when making basic letterforms and relative position of most Mutuyo/Mituyo to the graphemes. The following are exceptions to this based on input by the user community:

- When Mutuyo/Mituyo that appear on the left of MUSISI PA d, MUSISI TA S, MUSISI TSA J, and MUSISI DHLA d, and their Musiri counterparts (), should make use of the empty space available for these graphemes. They should "fill up"/utilize the empty space. Again, this logic extends to the Misiri counterparts for these 4 graphemes.
  - o See Figure 10.5 in the Google Drive for MUSISI PA d. Same for Misiri d, d, d, d.
  - o See Figures 10.6-10.7 in the Google Drive for MUSISI TA δ. Same for Misiri ٤, ៦, δ.
  - o See Figure 10.7 in the Google Drive for MUSISI TSA J. Same for Misiri J, أب ل , أب ل .
  - ் See Figure 10.8 in the Google Drive for MUSISI DHLA ப். Same for Misiri ப், ப், ப், ப்,
- The stacked Mituyo combinations on the left of graphemes should be perfectly symmetrical as requested by the user community:

  - The font used in Figures 10.1-10.9 in the Google Drive doesn't have some aspects of a

<u>!</u>

Mituyo stack centered, such as Mutuyo MYU<sup>4</sup>. The examples above should be the reference for this aspect of the script/future fonts.

#### Punctuation

There are no script-specific punctuation marks. Latin punctuation is used.

#### Numbers

There are no script-specific numerals/digits. Hindu-Arabic numerals/digits (0123456789) are used.

## Mutuyo glyph uniqueness:

Many Mutuyo glyphs are visually similar to existing diacritical marks presently in the Unicode inventory. The authors have considered utilization of the graphically similar marks with the Mwangwego letters and determined that doing so is not in the best interests of the user community. While the marks are graphically similar, the abstract characters that the graphs are referents for are distinctly different; which in turn would lead to cognition difficulties in their Mwangwego utilization. A discussion and comparison of the diacritic and Mutuyo marks is given in the following.

The Chichewa and other languages of Malawi use a Latin-based orthography that includes " $\hat{w}$ " to denote the voiced bilabial fricative / $\beta$ /. Accordingly, the user community is already familiar with the shape of the mark and its phonetical augmentation to /w/. Circumflex applied to letters of the Mwangwego script would *not* signal the *same* phonetic change. Not only might this inconsistency in the use of the symbol be confusing to users, but visually the Latin circumflex is not optimal for publishing in Mwangwego script. The visual difference between the symbols is depicted in the following tables:

Reference Typeface	Ŵŵ	<b>î î</b>	
Sans Serif Typeface	Ŵŵ	Λ Λ Λ	

Table 4. Comparison of Chichewa Latin Circumflex on  $\hat{W}$  to Mutuyo Pewa.

Reference Typeface	ÛÂ	R Û	
Sans Serif Typeface	ÛÂ	Û	

Table 5. Comparison of Circumflex to Mutuyo Pewa applied to similarly shaped base letters.

Visible differences between the shapes of Circumflex and Pewa in the above examples include: stroke weight, stroke taper, inner angle, top angle, and mark positioning.

It can be expected that materials, particularly educational, will be produced that render Malawi languages in both orthographies. For these readers we believe that not conflating Circumflex and Pewa, for example, would better facilitate reading comprehension and the visual quality of publications. Maintaining the visual distinction between the symbols is also advantageous in any pain text context.

Unlike the practice with Latin diacritic, the combining Mutuyo do not change the phonetic value of a consonant letter (e.g.  $n + \tilde{o} \rightarrow \tilde{n}$ , phonetically  $/n / \rightarrow / n /$ ). Rather, they either append or prefix a phoneme to the consonant (note that with a single exception, the *non*-combining Mutuyo will prefix a phoneme).

For example:

- 3 (da) *vs* 3 (dya)
- U (ba) vs V (bra)
- í (za) vs í (bza)

A noteworthy distinction between the application of the combining Mutuyo, that is unprecedented for the diacritical marks, appears in the last example above. The Mutuyo mark is the third glyph in the composition sequence. In keeping with the handwritten practices, the Mutuyo is written *after* the Masiri vowel mark while it visually appears above the consonant glyph -no different than when a Masiri is not present. Thus, the combining Mutuyo may be either the  $2^{nd}$  or  $3^{rd}$  codepoint in composed character (e.g. <C><M> or <C><V><M>). This is believed to be a different combining behavior than that exhibited by comparable diacritical marks which will always be the  $2^{nd}$  codepoint in a composition sequence (unless combining with another combinable mark).

This last point helps highlight that Latin based combining marks may be inherently unsuitable for Mwangwego script which, being an Abugida script, is not sufficiently *Latin-like*. Review of the Unicode Character Database's "NormalizationTest.txt" finds the comparable marks applied only to the more closely related scripts Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic. Applying the marks outside of this family may also be problematic for existing text processors that make the assumption that the marks are erroneously applied when found elsewhere.

A degree of internal similarity to the Mutuyo mark is readily observed. For example: <sup>c</sup> (MYU) with <sup>cc</sup> (MI), '(TUMBU) with "(NI), and `(MULA) with `(MURA). Discussion with the user community and educators we find that users embody a phonological understanding of the glyphs and do not apply the visual similarity in any practical way. For example, MI (<sup>cc</sup>) is not perceived as a "Double MYU" (<sup>c</sup>) which is not logical phonetically. Education of the marks also does not follow what would logically be the "stroke order" of the glyphs ("NI precedes 'TUMBU, `MURA precedes `MULA). Thus, we have proposed encoding the marks distinctly in keeping with the user community's perception and practices. Doing so also avoids entirely the inevitable problem of text editing where during a "copy & paste" operation, one mark is selected and pasted but not the other, or a deletion is incomplete, or a second keystroke missed in their composition.

# **V** Properties

# General Category and other properties

The Mwangwego inventory in this proposal includes the Misisi syllable bases as type Letter Other, their combining Masiri and Mutuyo diacritic marks.

16E00;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E01;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	BA;Lo;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
16E02;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
16E03;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	DA;Lo;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
16E04; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	FA;Lo;0;L;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;
16E05; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E06; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E07; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E08; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E09; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E0A; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E0B; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E0C; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E0D; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E0E;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E0F;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E10; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E11; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E12; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E13; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E14; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E15;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E16;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E17; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E18;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E19;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E1A; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E1B;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E1C;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E1D; MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E1E;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E1F;MWANGWEGO MUSISI	
16E20; MWANGWEGO SIRI EN	
16E21;MWANGWEGO SIRI IN	
16E22; MWANGWEGO SIRI O	
16E23; MWANGWEGO SIRI UN	
16E24; MWANGWEGO MUTUYO	
16E25; MWANGWEGO MUTUYO	
16E26; MWANGWEGO MUTUYO	
16E27; MWANGWEGO MUTUYO	
16E28; MWANGWEGO MUTUYO	
-	WAYA BELOW; Mn; 220; NSM; ; ; ; ; ; N; ; ; ; ;
16E2A; MWANGWEGO MUTUYO	
	MURA;Mn;230;NSM;;;;;N;;;;
	MULA;Mn;230;NSM;;;;;;N;;;;;
-	PEWA;Mn;230;NSM;;;;;;N;;;;;
-	TUMBU;Lm;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
TOLZE JEWANGWEGO MOTOTO	

Ī	16E2F;MWANGWEGO	MUTUYO	KWANTHU; <sup>M</sup> n;230;NSM;;;;; <mark>N</mark> ;;;;;
	16E30;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MYU-NI;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E31;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MYU-HI;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E32;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MYU-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;;N;;;;
	16E33;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MI-HI;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E34;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MI-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E35;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	NI-HI;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E36;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	NI-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E37;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	HI-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E38;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	SISA-NI;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E39;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	TUMBU-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E3A;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MYU-NI-HI;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E3B;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MYU-HI-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
	16E3C;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MI-HI-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E3D;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	NI-HI-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E3E;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	SISA-NI-HI;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;
	16E3F;MWANGWEGO	MITUYO	MYU-NI-HI-WAYA;Lm;0;L;;;;; <mark>N;</mark> ;;;;

#### Line breaking information

Line Breaking rules for the Mwangwego script are as follows:

- Words are separated with U+0020 SPACE. There are no other word separators in historical documents.
- Line breaks only occur at word boundaries.
- There is not a special mode found that allows line breaks within words at select positions, such as using a hyphen sign (U+002D HYPEHN-MINUS) that other scripts apply.
- Line breaks cannot occur within numbers. Numbers must always be kept together.
- There are no restrictions explicitly stated on line breaking before or after certain punctuation characters.

The Mwangwego script is likely to occur with the Latin script.

#### **VI** Collation

#### Misisi/Musiri

However, attaching Mutuyo/Mituyo to Misisi/Musiri significantly influences the ordering of said Misisi/Musiri; see directly below.

#### Mutuyo

When Mutuyo (i.e., a single modifying mark as defined in Section III) are attached to Misisi/Musiri the collation adheres to the following order:

MYUʻ< MI" < NI" < HI·· < WAYA - < WAYA BELOW ႍ < SISA ʾ < MURA ُ < MULA ` < PEWA ̂ < TUMBU ' < KWANTHU ʿ.

As previously mentioned, not all Mutuyo/Mituyo attach to all Misisi/Musiri as some letter+modifier combinations are not linguistically attested. For example, the valid Mutuyo for the Musisi ? /ka/ are MYU ', NI ", HI ", WAYA -, WAYA BELOW  $_{\circ}$ , SISA ', and KWANTHU  $\hat{_{\circ}}$ . See Section X for all valid Misisi and Mutuyo/Mituyo combinations.

As an example, if one is given the Musisi 2/ka/and the Musiri  $2/k\epsilon/and$  all valid Mutuyo attachments for 2, which are -2, -7, -

The basic Musisi  $2 / ka / is ordered first, then each base 2 letter is ordered according to the Mutuyo order mentioned above. Only after all letters of the same base (2 in this example) are ordered, can the next vocalized letter (i.e., <math>2 / k\epsilon / be ordered$ .

To provide another example: if one is given the Musisi U' /ba/ and the Misiri U' /bɛ/, U' /bi/, U' /bɔ/, and U' /bu/. The valid Mutuyo for U' /ba/ (which are also *always* valid for the Misiri counterparts) are MYU ', MI ", WAYA -, WAYA BELOW Q, MURA  $\hat{O}$ , MULA  $\hat{O}$ , and PEWA  $\hat{O}$  (see Section X). If you attach all Mutuyo to Musisi U' /ba/ and all Misiri, the ordering of all of these characters, including the base Musisi and Misiri, would be as follows:

#### Mituyo

Graphemes with only one Mutuyo are ordered before any instances of a grapheme with Mituyo (i.e., multiple Mutuyo).

There are only three ways to configure a Mituyo combination around a Musisi/letter:

- 1. **Left** and Bottom (example: "()
- 2. Top and Left (example: أُ
- 3. **Top** and Bottom (example:  $\hat{()}$ )

You cannot have a Mituyo configuration where all three positions (top, left, and bottom) are occupied by a Mutuyo (i.e., it is linguistically impossible for these languages). The Mutuyo that is written first, and therefore considered first when ordering is in **bold** above for each of the three configurations.

Furthermore, if there are multiple Mutuyo stacked on the left of a grapheme (e.g.,  $\frac{4}{7}$ ,  $\frac{4}{7}$ ) ordering of the left stack is decided by reading the individual Mutuyo from the top of the stack (first) to the bottom of the stack(second), and adhering to the general ordering of individual Mutuyo

## 2-part Mituyo

Below are all 19 linguistically possible 2-part Mituyo combinations. This is also their order (from left to right):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
t II		<u>.</u>	ੰ	ä	ü	ំ	!!	Ľ	<b>-</b>	::	ਂ	) II	<b>"</b>	ं	्।	Ţ	<b>_</b>	<b>"</b>

Table 6. Order of all 2-part Mituyo.

For convenience, the order of individual Mutuyo is: MYU ' < MI " < NI " < HI · < WAYA - < WAYA BELOW ႍ < SISA ' < MURA ُ < PEWA ̂ < TUMBU ' < KWANTHU ́.

Therefore, we can see in Table 6 that all 2-part Mituyo that contain a MYU ' are ordered first before 2-part Mituyo that "start with" a MI ", etc.

Furthermore, as we can see in Table 6, the 2-part Mituyo combinations that are labeled as 1, 2, and 3 are all "stacks" that would appear on the left side of a grapheme. Stacks 1, 2, and 3 all have a MYU ' at the top of their stacks. The ordering of these 3 stacks is determined by parsing the stacks' Mutuyo components from top to bottom. They each start with MYU ', which can be ignored. The second Mutuyo in stacks 1, 2, and 3 are NI ", HI ", and WAYA -, respectively. As NI " comes before HI " and WAYA - in the Mutuyo ordering, <sup>4</sup> is ordered before <sup>4</sup>. Then, as HI " comes before WAYA - in the Mutuyo ordering, <sup>4</sup> is ordered before <sup>4</sup>.

Another example are the 2-part Mituyo combinations labeled under 14, 15, and 16 in Table 6 ( " $\hat{}$ , - $\hat{}$ , and  $\hat{}$ ). They have top-left, top-left, and top-bottom configurations around a grapheme, respectively. They each begin with a PEWA  $\hat{}$ . Their order is also determined by looking at the second Mutuyo in the Mityuo combination. Combination 14 has a NI", 15 has a WAYA -, and 16 has a WAYA BELOW  $\hat{}$  as their second Mutuyo (according to the order of reading their respective configurations). As NI " comes before WAYA - in the Mutuyo ordering, and WAYA - comes before WAYA BELOW  $\hat{}$ , their order as " $\hat{}$  < - $\hat{}$  <  $\hat{}$ .

# 3-part Mituyo

Below are the 7 linguistically possible 3-part Mituyo combinations. This is also their order (from left to right):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
¢ !!	<u>t</u>	<u>«</u>	<b>"</b>	:: ::	ਾਂ	<b>)</b> !!

Table 7. Order of all 3-part Mituyo

The exact same logic applies to 3-part Mituyo.

#### 4-part Mituyo

There is only one linguistically possible 4-part Mituyo combination. It is ordered after 3-part Mituyo combinations.



Table 8. The sole 4-part Mituyo combination.

The exact same logic applies to 4-part Mituyo.

#### Complete collation example

- 1. A basic grapheme (Misisi) is ordered first.
  - a. Example:  $\frac{2}{ka}$
- 2. Then all valid Mutuyo for that basic grapheme are ordered.
  - a. Example: ን ን ን ን ን ን ን ን
- 3. Then all valid 2-part Mutuyo for that basic grapheme are ordered.
- 4. Then all valid 3-part Mituyo for that basic grapheme are ordered.
  - a. Example: ኯ፝ኯ፟ኯ፝ዀ፟
- 5. Then all valid 4-part Mituo for that basic grapheme are ordered.
  - a. Example: 🖗
- 6. Then the next vocalization for that basic grapheme is ordered.
  - a. Example: 2 /ke/
- 7. Then the ordering continues for all the same Mutuyo, and 2/3/4-part Mituyo for that new vocalized grapheme.
- 8. Then the next basic grapheme (Misisi) continues the entire cycle.

Section X shows every possible Mutuyo/Mituyo combination attached to the Misisi (i.e., all inherent /a/ syllabic graphemes).

# VII References

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# VIII Acknowledgements

We would like to humbly thank Nolence Mwangwego and the Mwangwego script user community that have immensely helped us understand the nuances of this script.

An endorsement letter for the encoding of the Mwangwego script written by a University of Malawi linguist is attached/included on the next page.

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Mellon Foundation to the Script Encoding Initiative at the University of California, Berkeley.

### Endorsement/Recommendation for the Mwangwego script

I, the undersigned, would like to recommend the Mangwego script to be included into the Unicode and eventually be displayed on all digital devices.

When the Mwangwego script was launched in the late 90s, I happened to be one of its first learners.

The script is so easy to learn and to use and I wholeheartedly endorse its inclusion in the Unicode.

M.Chimasula

Mazunzo Prince Chimasula

Lecturer of French at University of Malawi princechimasula@gmail.com

The views expressed herein do not represent my employer. They are expressed in personal capacity as a student of the script.

#### <u> ይየገን የ ምር የ ምር የ ምር የ</u>

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Figure 1. Excerpt of Genesis 1 from a Tumbuka Bible. A Latin orthography transliteration can be found in the Google Drive.

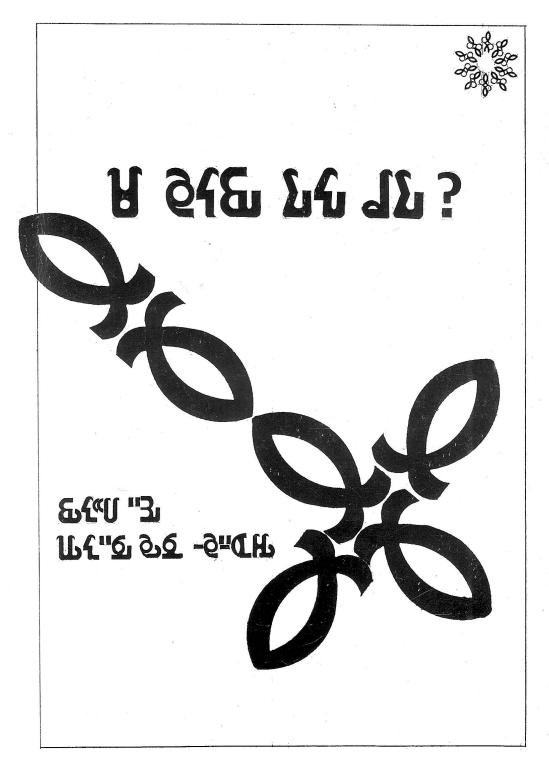


Figure 2.1. Cover page of the Chichewa language book "ዧ ዒጓይ ኒኄ ፊኒ?" (transliteration: "*A Malawi Tili Pati*"; translation: "*Malawians, where are we?*"). Mwangwego, Nolence. 2011. ዧ ዒጓይ ኒኁ ፊኒ? ይኁ"ሀ "ጔ ሁኁ"ው ው -ሮግርዡሪ (A Malawi tili pati? Wolemba ndi Nolensi Mose Mwangwegho). Blantyre: [self-published; printed by Blantyre Print and Packaging]. 25000 27

-2-20-2020 2016 2-2-25 2020 2124 5-65228 2120-3 20"2-24 21262", 6212 -245 65228 2120-3 20"2-24 21262", 6220-2-25 -7-22 6 5-22 6 5-22 212-2-25 25 215-5 215-5 215-652"25 25" 216 25 215-5 215-5 215-25

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iv

Figure 2.3. Table of contents of "ዝ ହናഖ ነብ ፈን?", page iv.

# 927 RQ«A



Figure 2.4. Page 1 of "ዧ ቅናຍ ኔኅ ፊኒ?"

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Figure 3. Handwritten Chichewa letter from 2012. The author was from Blantyre; the recipient was in Lilongwe. The topic is on agricultural practices.

11 32 ALCC, 10 rs-g HLA19 B''T "ILL TLER RI 9 164"5, र्ष उन्हर ይሆሮንፈጥፓ 120 UT 3 9, 0,0 a 19 Eð 29 460 CD 11

Figure 4. A letter from 2002. Written from someone in Blantyre to another person in Blantyre. The topic is on literacy.

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Figure 5. Page from a very long diary that was mailed from the author (in Malawi) to other user(s) (in South Africa) for interpersonal communication/text interchange. A 40-page excerpt of the longer text is in the Google Drive.

X "3X "3"3 22 X 92"626 Y 25 925 258 Digs" 127 202 G 25375 -113 9.755 E75 9 DI 9. 75 2,1 . 00 995 :: 3,5 On 1)0 911s 4 2 P 9'd 575,0 4"x 852583 Sec are 720 5 10 J.F.O. 225019 7 3" 11

Figure 6 Handwritten journal entry from a user in Mzuzu.

2.12 74"> 768 44141 49 1016 REIT 347 7:2,2 E A.17 89X EANT 近了 ~ 25 25 25 25 24~ "3 子毛孔" 4 74~ 1-37, 3-6 "3 -2 to -2 y -2 " UA 22-7 "3.76 76 - 64 64 84 50 " 50 "3.76 2" "> 162-1627 22-7 -32"0 L "UL J".92 V224 t2 4"2-4. 3"74 H"12 1642767 "3. 1"5. 16341-3-3 ">E 6"5 828 876 0 +2 12 "312. of 27 "3,3,3 E SPER SKIR BAIR 1,3" P.S. A.F. 7.1. 174 (26 67267 3 5"4) X -8"4th, 3+th27 +t2 4"5 227 » 24"3 H-U7 2+262 5 4>8 XI KG 7.15 . 242, 297 294 T-7 , 42 272 14272 . Firs HEIE GIGLE GIGLE GIGLE GIGLE GIGLE GIGLE GIGLE, 近+4月 2°L1 & -2°L1 孔· 光+4 孔+4 "31 日名 ">& 47+~>. ") 年 和 化 是 化 化 经 长 + " 7 4 16 5 " 4 4 4 . 2 3 16 46 2-74 48481 40-10404 -348, 3-9762484 2737 122 124, 2.743 926, 64"240 125 "3. Lo"50 t2 426. - 22625 1 己七品 经"多 43"多 "3 4 开九子 召之 死保 退化了 13 2-3 9.7.11 2. 412 414 416 22 2 2 2 - 2 31671J T24 57 874. 11726 22 1322 2"67 4348 252 211 475 A.7 3A. R D54 53R5 A # AP. 747741 62"4 3 F. I. H. J. C. " 4. " 4. H. J. H. H. " 4. 3"4 272 972 975 7 757 7 759 7657 F F676 JE222 876 & F127, 196 3 JE > JE74 HJG K-8 13H88468-3 8-17 8-1> B ¥2222.

Figure 7. Chichewa text on literacy, what it means to be literate, etc. Written around 2015.

\$3 23 Memo No. 2 Date Rug 119 Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 12019 A"CH

Figure 8. August 19, 2019 Tumbuka-language journal entry from a Malawian user in Mzuzu.

Please note, the last word on this image, كَبْع), has the Mituyo stack deconstructed, with the Tumbu Mutuyo incorrectly written on the left of the Waya Mutuyo, instead of properly placing it on top of the latter. This is an error the student made, which is part of the learning curve. There are several instances of the user *correctly* constructing this same Mituyo in these journal entries in Figure 4.6 (twice in paragraph 3; again in paragraph 4).

29.12 39716-3 20.5 274 41/2 2322 W"45 E 3. 747 2524 42"A 2224 -2 HELELE &"A "37, H. P. 2 HILE F. B. C-3' RETT 色9421, 是江 出"公室 出·24 出县4"是4 年公 上」"3 2 tE &' & Enter EB484 2785 "> Lot AL 出海过416-3 "31 23 319 4354, 712 3"上 27° 994"3, 25"441 3"4 "LEGL & ETEZ. 23 2874 22767 126 13 # 84 01-3 82 124 22-3 - 310th. HE4E HA-L'L4 ALW -32 12 Jav 2- 0121 "220, 22 10- 2 Un 25" 2585341 22 2011/24 7402-3 7 228. BB42 BB4 7137676 37 (10 24 10 Jal 10) 品》"为年人 品之, 一色了。 开口、子儿口茶-3 子化 ETTG C, 27+24 9+ XE4. 200 92247 22) "3 25"> 6" 2 62 -22 2. L. L. 2 2 5245. H4+841 9. 7. 1970 A5 -512 Rt. 64 9-1172 ECZ-45 E THI BETH BETH 12 8204 FE 20"20 52"> -6 Sare 5.51 Borns 1)711 19224 28 222 53. -U"H ..

Figure 9. Chichewa text about changing mindsets of Malawians. Written in early February 2025. Page **35** of **53** 

Os CAMPARIELES PERU 8 -FIRE-2120 699 G 6 322 36 32132 - 293 Lamp d Dare !! 20) Wa 20

Figure 10. List in Chichewa.

DE ONTOBRO 202 r 2 20 20 52 61 112 "31 ... 2 1836 226 "312 2 Serviço & acrolinhas 16-2 7.07661 gabrete 8 Lod 26 & Rura "31"74 "34 & Nanfei & 26 - 8 Semana 48271 B. J. "GA T 87 "3 1 -3 ? Serviço 621 212-URA BRUSS, 217.72 13, 257326 822262A. 85.18 x -2 21.74" go 826, 210r 27 ED. Ph VES & REDASSE Doming 400-244. シンパレイレッショーる近 とういしらった るらいになる そにんえ 62-2117 212 2131 2131 245" 62 504 dis 5:12 Borre: mudança & Casa 2207 & zaisogen Laws ; E-J'E- 5 ; L-J'E- & K65 131A13 gatule locais; & X "3 1 & Investmentos 265182 June 1 24"02 "31 251" > -? X"C E, 226"652 Cartine 810216 25 Liters 25 21628 8-2 28-6" 3" 67 F" 2-8 2250 2"2 -5 512125 5225 0305 - 25 E-15 - 5052 3 25"2 mg

Figure 11. 2023 Chichewa-language handwriting by a Malawian user. This image showcases some intralinear Portuguese words in the Latin script (important to typographers) as the user is a businessman that conducts international business in Portuguese. The topic is business.

ELE ? " ALE VE 2" & L K I L L L L & "Z 9 7 L PEN, VG 8 H "3, 826, HG" G-E & " 6 275 "22"3 - 41 H !! 7 H 23 3 H 2 " 288 "und dE, H L) VE 2 t3 4 HE 2 ? H 12 1 8-246-3 2-072662202"38 22 H !! 2- E 9 "24" 37 2ELA, 220 HVE " ¢ HIS 1? I" UR HG "GE HISSO ZE-and) 23 " 26 8 H? 26, 2V? HV-UEA-162 32 23-UJ "3 22, 25V22">& X82)E, V-UA" & HZ"? 2+4E25 +2 HZ.HV9 -UA H. ?, HSZ H. LH2-3 & HZ? H H 2-3 " 26 HG 42:434

Figure 12. A journal entry from a user in Blantyre.

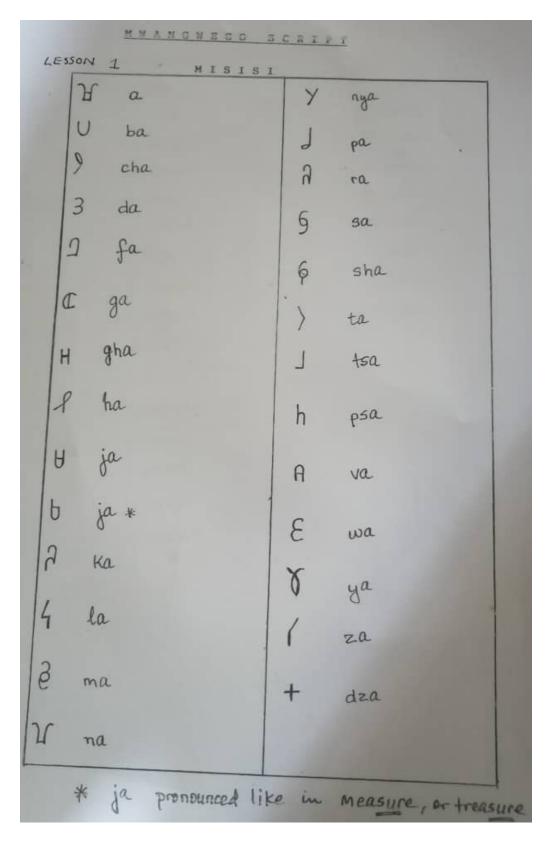


Figure 13. Educational material for Misisi (lesson 1).

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Figure 14. Educational material for Misiri (lesson 2).

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-	WAYA	bwato -U2 mwala -21 myala 24 kudya 2-3
	Ni	Ndati "32 ng'ona "26U
4	NI	nsapato "512 Nchalo "94
	Hi	khasu "795 khama "78 phala "14
		thobwa "2-U tchimo "LE
	Mi	mbala "U4 mbiri "W2
cc		mbatata (U)) mpaka (J?
	Myu	mkaka \$2 mkanda \$3 \$2
¢		m'dziko <b>43</b> -m'mudzi <b>65</b>
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4	Mura	bra Ů kra Ž tra Š
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	Pewa	ba (Tumbuka) ŵa 🐧 (Chichewa)
^		bva  bza î pfa î tha î
,	Tumbu	n'da '3 n'nya 'Y n'ya '3 n'wa 'E
,	Kwantha	mtengo (2"G (tree); mtengo (2"G (price)

Figure 15. Educational material for Mituyo (lesson 3).

### @ H 248 7"ALG 166

ይ" ት ይህ ዜጊ አሪቆ መ 81 "3 ነይት የፋሌ, ዝራ"ው ዝን" ው ገ ቆደጊ ይገው ይ ዝ ጊ የ, ጀናቆና ይ ግ ጊ ነ - 2 ሃ" ዛ ኛ ዚ አ 4 " ነ ይ " ኔ ኛ ኤ " 3 ኛ ጊ, ዝ ራ" ው ር, ይ " ሮ አ ሆ ት ፕ ሪ ኔ ስ « ሠ ጽ ፍ, ዝ ቢ ው ስ ዝ " ት ዝ ይ 3 ይ ዝ ጊ የ " ይ ር ይ ሌ ነ ሃ" ዛ ኛ ዚ አ 4 " ነ ይ ይ ነ ነ ጊ ው ይ ተ ይ 4 ዝ ደ ሕ የ. ዝ " ት ዝ ይ 3 ደ ዝ " የ ይ ይ ላ ነ ጊ ው ስ ት ይ ላ ዝ ደ ሕ የ. ዝ " ት ዝ ይ 3 ደ ዝ " የ ይ ይ ት መ በ መ ጊ ው ይ ታ ሬ ግ 3 ኛ " ሪ " ቢ " ኔ ኛ " ይ ጊ ኔ ታ - የ ኔ እ ዝ " ት ደ ዓ " የ 4 " ኔ ስ ይ ኒ ስ ሲ ህ ሲ ህ ሲ ነ ት ተ መ ዥ ዝ ራ " ው.

ዝንቅህና ይወደፕ ታይ 4 ዝይት, ዝር"ውደ ሄንታሀ ዜግ ዜጋ ይሳይ ት ዝንድ አይን "ኋ ይታወይት ዝንግ ቅሬ ህጉመው ሥሪያል.

Figure 16. Educational material of paragraphs used for reading practice. The topic is on slavery and colonization.

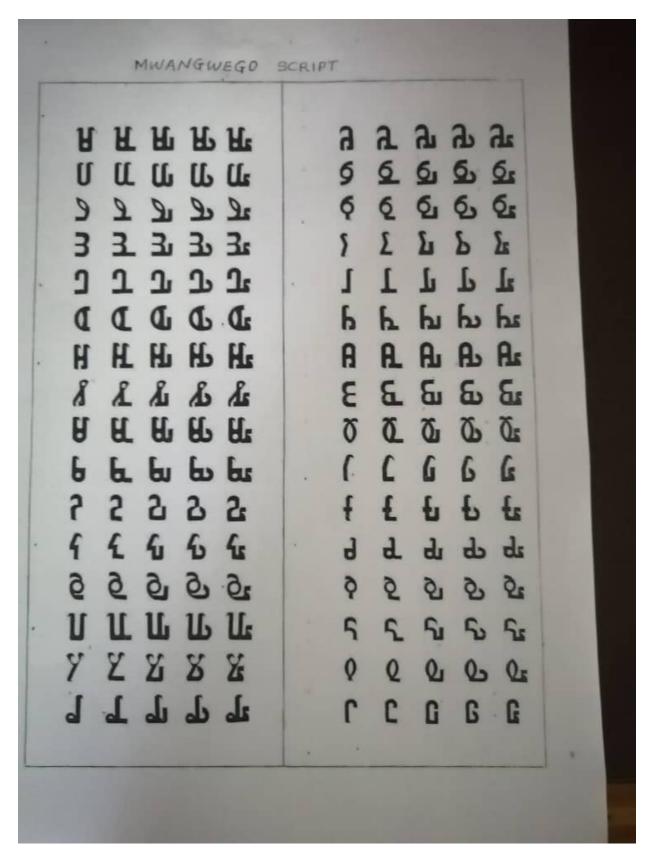


Figure 17. Educational material used to teach the basic syllabic graphemes of the Mwangwego script.



Figure 18. Most of the possible Mutuyo & Mituyo attachments onto Misisi (not according to collation/ordering).

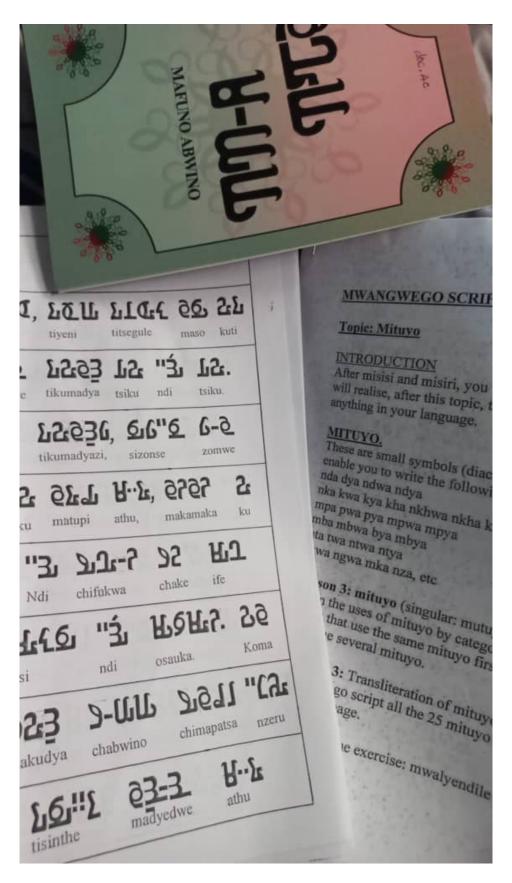


Figure 19. Educational materials used by teachers to teach the Mwangwego script.

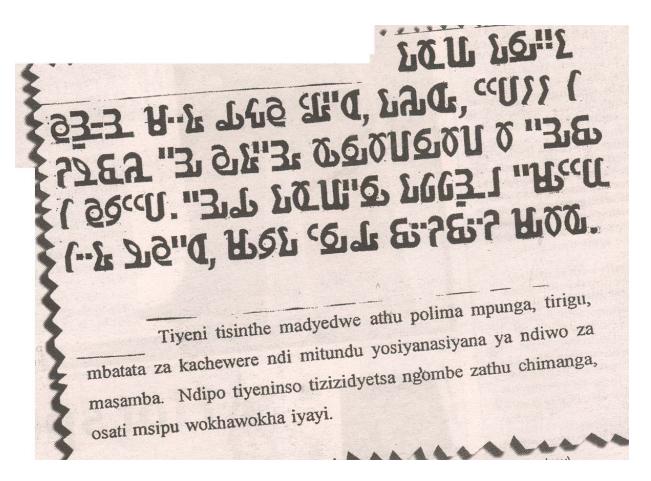


Figure 20. Excerpt from "ዝ ቅናይ ኔና ፈን?" with Latin transliteration below hosted on a news site discussing the script. English translation: "Let's diversify our diet by growing rice, wheat, Irish potatoes and different types of vegetables. Let us feed our cattle with grains as well, not just fodder."

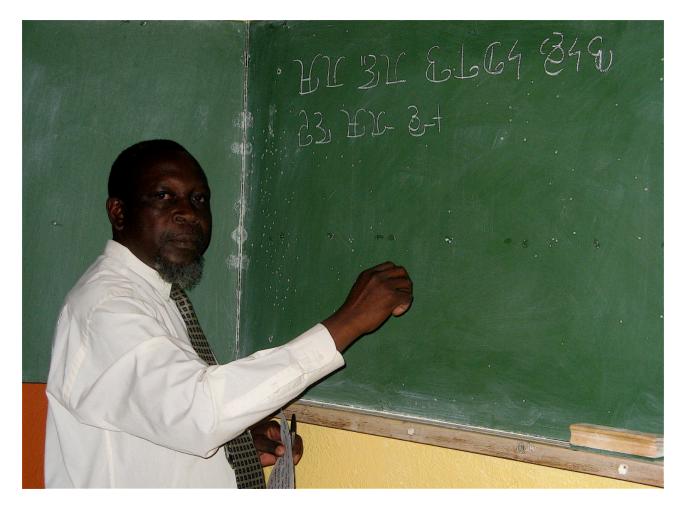


Figure 21. Nolence Mwangwego teaching a classroom the Mwangwego script sometime before late-2010.

## X Linguistically Realized Mutuyo and Mituyo Stack Pairings with Misisi

The following table presents the Mutuyo and Mituyo stack pairings with the Misisi letters as found in the primary languages of Malawi. The table is equally valid when any of the Masiri are present. The table is offered as a reference for developers working on lexical projects such as spelling validation and input methods.

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# XI ISO Proposal Summary Forms

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646.1
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <u>.http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html</u> for guidelines and details before filling this form.
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from _http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html
See also _http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html _ for latest Roadmaps.

#### A. Administrative

1. Title:	Proposal for Encoding the Mwangwego Script in the UCS										
2. Requester's nan	ne:		Oreen	en Yousuf, Daniel Yacob							
3. Requester type	(Membe	er body/Liaison/Ind	ividual contribution):	Individual Cor	ntribution						
4. Submission date	9:			-28							
5. Requester's refe	erence (i	f applicable):									
6. Choose one of t	he follo	wing:									
This is a c	omplete	e proposal:			Yes						
(or) More	e informa	ation will be provide	ed later:								

#### B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:	
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):	Yes
Proposed name of script: Mwangweg	<i></i>
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	
Name of the existing block:	
2. Number of characters in proposal:	64
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):	
A-Contemporary X B.1-Specialized (small collection) B.2-Specialized	(large collection)
C-Major extinct D-Attested extinct E-Minor extinct	
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic G-Obscure or questiona	ble usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	Yes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

	a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines"	
	in Annex L of P&P document?	
	b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	Yes
5. Fo	nts related:	
	a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing t	he standard?
	Athinkra	
	b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-s	site, etc.):
	Athinkra, LLC, yacob@geez.org, https://github.com/athinkra/mwangwego-book	
6. Re	ferences:	
	a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	Yes
	b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)	
	of proposed characters attached? Yes	
7. Sp	ecial encoding issues:	
	Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input,	
	presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?	Yes
	A sorting description is enclosed.	
8. Ad	ditional Information:	
assist prope breal Mark _ <u>http:</u> ( <u>http</u>	hitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) t in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Exerties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour informatics, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the ://www.unicode.org. for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database ://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/ ) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed Inicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard	xamples of such ion such as line viour, relevance in e Unicode standard at

#### C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for a	addition of character	(s) been submitted before?	Yes
If YES explain		Latest proposal <u>L2/12-311</u>	
2. Has contact been mad	le to members of the	e user community (for example: National Body,	
user groups of the	e script or characters	other experts, etc.)?	Yes
If YES, with	n whom?	Script creator, script users	
If YES, avai	lable relevant docun	nents: Enclosed in the proposal	
3. Information on the use	er community for the	e proposed characters (for example:	
size, demographic	s, information techn	ology use, or publishing use) is included?	Yes
Reference:		Enclosed in the proposal	
4. The context of use for	the proposed charac	cters (type of use; common or rare)	Rare
Reference:		Enclosed in the proposal	
5. Are the proposed char	racters in current use	by the user community?	Yes
If YES, where? Ret	ference:	Malawi	
6. After giving due consid	derations to the prin	ciples in the P&P document must the proposed characters be en	ntirely
in the BMP?			No
If YES, is	a rationale provided	!?	
If Y	ES, reference:		
7. Should the proposed o	characters be kept to	gether in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	Yes
8. Can any of the propos	ed characters be cor	isidered a presentation form of an existing	
character or chara	icter sequence?		No
If YES, is	a rationale for its in	clusion provided?	
If Y	ES, reference:		
9. Can any of the propos	ed characters be end	coded using a composed character sequence of either	
existing characters	s or other proposed	characters?	No
If YES, is	a rationale for its in	clusion provided?	
lf Y	ES, reference:		
10. Can any of the propo	osed character(s) be	considered to be similar (in appearance or function)	
to, or could be co	nfused with, an exist	ing character?	Yes
If YES, is	Yes		

If YES, reference:	Enclosed in the proposal	
11. Does the proposal include use of combin	ing characters and/or use of composite sequences?	No
If YES, is a rationale for such use provi	ded?	
If YES, reference:		
Is a list of composite sequences and the	neir corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
If YES, reference:		
12. Does the proposal contain characters wit	h any special properties such as	
control function or similar semantics?		No
If YES, describe in detail (inc	lude attachment if necessary)	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideograph	nic compatibility characters?	No
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding	ng unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference:		