

## Glyph error in U+A93D REJANG LETTER RA

To : Unicode Technical Committee / Script Encoding Working Group  
 From : Ariq Syauqi (intern at SEI, UC Berkeley)  
 Sarwit Sarwono (Professor of Philology, University of Bengkulu)  
 Subject : Review on the Rejang Unicode Range A930–A95F  
 Date : May 2025

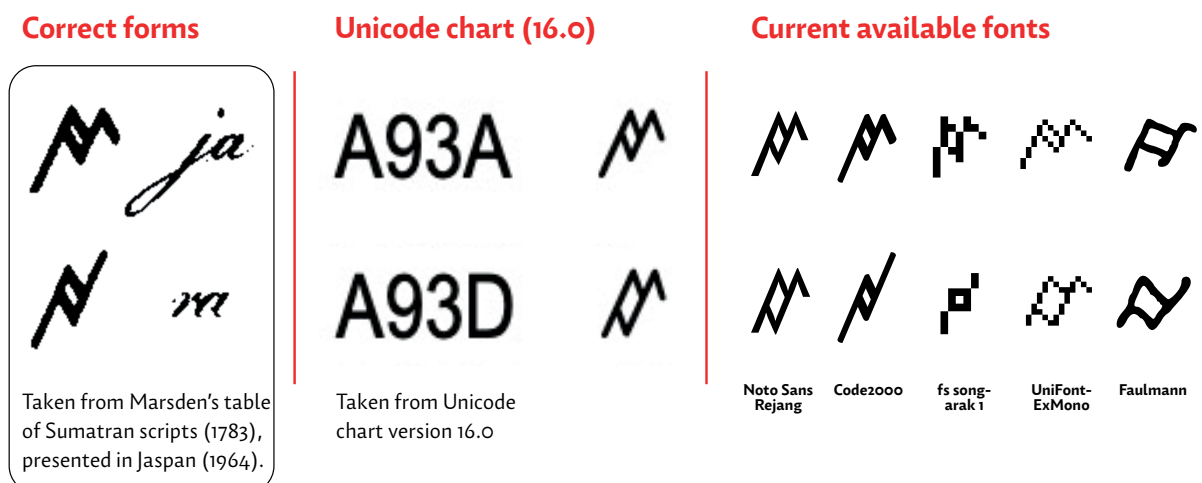
An error has been identified in the glyph representation of U+A93D REJANG LETTER RA in the current Unicode code charts (16.0). A correction to the reference glyph is hereby requested.

While the angle, curvature, and length of strokes can vary, the number and placement of strokes is the key distinguishing feature between characters in Rejang. The current glyph for A93D REJANG LETTER RA mistakenly includes an extra stroke (𐄢), making it visually identical to A93A REJANG LETTER JA, rather than representing the intended ‘ra’ (𐄣). As a result, the current Unicode chart unintentionally includes two glyphs for ‘ja’ (𐄢 and 𐄢), and none that accurately represent ‘ra’ (𐄣).

Letter variants involving stroke additions or removals do appear in historical Rejang manuscripts, but the current glyph for A93D REJANG LETTER RA is not among them. It appears to be an error rather than a recognized variant.

Evidence supporting this can be found in the original encoding proposal itself (L2/06-139), where the reference glyph for A93D REJANG LETTER RA contradicts the forms shown in Figure 01 and Figure 02 of that document. None of the cited references in L2/06-139 depict A93D REJANG LETTER RA using the currently represented glyph (𐄢). This strongly suggests that the current reference glyph is simply an error and should be corrected.

While the glyphs shown in the Unicode document should only act as a reference, many people rely on those as accepted forms and unconsciously reproduce the error in the font layer. From 5 fonts that properly use Rejang code points, 2 reproduced the error made in the Unicode document. Thus, we urgently request the change of the reference glyph.



**Fig01.** Comparison between the correct forms, the current reference glyphs in the Unicode, and the impact on the available fonts for A93A REJANG LETTER JA and A93D REJANG LETTER RA. The table containing the correct forms is cited in the original proposal to encode Rejang in the Unicode. (Unicode document L2/06-139)

The erratum text and a corrected reference glyph for A93D REJANG LETTER RA—matching the style of the current font in the Unicode document—are provided (𐄣). Additional examples from various publications are included in the appendix.

Erratum text

In the published code charts for Versions 5.1 through 16.0 of the Unicode Standard, the representative glyph for U+A93D is incorrect. The incorrect and correct glyphs are shown in the images below. The incorrect glyph is identical to that of U+A93A. The glyph for U+A93D will be updated in a future version of the standard.








































Incorrect	 U+A93D
Correct	 U+A93D

Fig02. Table of incorrect an correct forms of A93D REJANG LETTER RA.

A930

Rejang

A95F

	A93	A94	A95
0	 A930	 A940	 A950
1	 A931	 A941	 A951
2	 A932	 A942	 A952
3	 A933	 A943	 A953
4	 A934	 A944	
5	 A935	 A945	
6	 A936	 A946	
7	 A937	 A947	
8	 A938	 A948	
9	 A939	 A949	
A	 A93A	 A94A	
B	 A93B	 A94B	
C	 A93C	 A94C	
D	 A93D	 A94D	
E	 A93E	 A94E	
F	 A93F	 A94F	 A95F

Consonants

- A930 ʌ REJANG LETTER KA
- A931 ʌ REJANG LETTER GA
- A932 ʌ REJANG LETTER NGA
- A933 ʌ REJANG LETTER TA
- A934 ʌ REJANG LETTER DA
- A935 ʌ REJANG LETTER NA
- A936 ʌ REJANG LETTER PA
- A937 ʌ REJANG LETTER BA
- A938 ʌ REJANG LETTER MA
- A939 ʌ REJANG LETTER CA
- A93A ʌ REJANG LETTER JA
- A93B ʌ REJANG LETTER NYA
- A93C ʌ REJANG LETTER SA
- A93D ʌ REJANG LETTER RA
- A93E ʌ REJANG LETTER LA
- A93F ʌ REJANG LETTER YA
- A940 ʌ REJANG LETTER WA
- A941 ʌ REJANG LETTER HA
- A942 ʌ REJANG LETTER MBA
- A943 ʌ REJANG LETTER NGGA
- A944 ʌ REJANG LETTER NDA
- A945 ʌ REJANG LETTER NYJA
- A946 ʌ REJANG LETTER A

Vowel signs

Shown here is the nominal position of the vowel signs relative to the dotted circle before taking account of the oblique nature of the script.

- A947 ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN I  
= kaluan
- A948 ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN U  
= kamitan
- A949 ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN E  
= kamica
- A94A ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN AI  
= katiling
- A94B ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN O
- A94C ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN AU  
= katulung
- A94D ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN EU
- A94E ˙ REJANG VOWEL SIGN EA  
= kajina

Consonant signs

Shown here is the nominal position of the consonant signs relative to the dotted circle before taking account of the oblique nature of the script.

- A94F ˙ REJANG CONSONANT SIGN NG  
= katulang
- A950 ˙ REJANG CONSONANT SIGN N  
= duo deatas
- A951 ˙ REJANG CONSONANT SIGN R  
= kajunjung
- A952 ˙ REJANG CONSONANT SIGN H

Virama

- A953 ˙ REJANG VIRAMA  
• does not form conjuncts

Punctuation

- A95F ʘ REJANG SECTION MARK

Fig03. Current version (16.0) of Rejang Unicode block. The color coding for the box used here will be used on the following appendices.

## REJANG ALPHABET.

ka	ga	nga	ta	da	na	pa	ba	ma	cha	ja	nia
sa	ra	la	cea	ooa	hha	mha	ngga	nda	inja	a	

§ Mark of Commencement.

o Mark of Pause.

The Letters of these Alphabets are governed by a variety of Signs the application of which considerably alters the terminating sound. Those which belong peculiarly to the Rejang are as follows.

\* Duo deatas which changes the Termination from..... a to an  
 \* Cajena or Duo debona changes a to ah  
 \* Cajoonjoong..... to ar  
 \* Calonan..... to ee  
 \* Cameecha..... to ay  
 | Catoolang changes..... a to ang  
 | Cameetan..... to oo  
 | Cateding..... to i  
 | Catooloong..... to on

ka kan kah kar kee kay kang koo ki kon

The Letters are never joined in writing, each for the most part representing a syllable  
 The Writing is from the left hand to the right.

## BATTA

a	ha	na	ma	ra	ta	ba	wa	sa	ga
la	pa	gna	ja	da	mya	e	cea	oo	

## LAMPOON

ka	ga	gna	pa	ba	ma	ta	da	na	cha
ja	gnia	ea	a	la	ra	a	na	ha	

Fig04. Figure 1 in L2/06-139, "Table of Rejang characters from Marsden's 1783 book Sumatran alphabets, as presented in Jaspan 1964". Here, Marsden uses English spelling and pronunciation.



to face page 202.

ka ga nga ta da na pa ba ma

cha ja nia sa ra la ya wa ha mba nja nda nja a.

" Duo de-atas changes	ka to	𐌑 kaan	1 Ka-tulang	to	𐌑 kang
" Ka-jma	to	𐌑 kaah	𐌑 Ka-mitan	to	𐌑 kai
✓ Ka-jungung	to	𐌑 kaar	𐌑 Ka-tiling	to	𐌑 kai.hē
^ Ka-lawan	to	𐌑 lai	𐌑 Ka-tulang	to	𐌑 kau.kou
x Ka-miha	to	𐌑 lai loi loi	o Mati or banuh-an	to	𐌑 k:

which last, like the *jezma* of the Arabians, serves to cut off or deaden the vocal utterance as the term expresses. Of these signs more than one may be applied to the same character as 𐌑 *lin*, 𐌑 *lin*, 𐌑 *nuh*, 𐌑 *gung*, 𐌑 *baun*, 𐌑 *pur*. 𐌑 marks the Commencement of the writing, which proceeds horizontally, from the left hand to the right, the series of lines descending, most usually, from the top of the page; but not unfrequently the bottom line is the first written, and the others in succession towards the top. This practice (common to other tribes) appears to have given rise to the idea (noticed at p. 363) that the Buttas are accustomed to write perpendicularly "from the bottom to the top of the line."

a ha na ma ta da ba pa wa ya sa ga la n nga ja nia i u  
The Signs which govern the terminating sounds of these letters are, -e, +o, oi.  
7 ang. and 7 u or ung; as x te. x+ to. xo ti. x tang. and x tu or tung. The final 7 ha takes the sound of k. With the exception of the first two letters, it does not appear that any determinate order is observed in the arrangement of the Alphabet, which is found to vary more or less in every specimen.

ka ga nga pa ba ma ta da na  
 cha ja nua ya a lu nu su wa ha  
 To these letters the Signs are applied in the following manner:  
 or ku, kan, kar, kã or kô, kau or kou, kã, kô, kah  
 kar, kã, mati, as yel jêl tempat.

W. Menden scrip 5

Sixtine j<sup>o</sup><sup>l</sup>

**Fig05.** Marsden own revision (1811) of his previous table of characters (1783) displaying the letters of Rejang and Lampung scripts. Taken from William Marsden's *The History of Sumatra* (1811), one of the earliest Western studies on Sumatra's writing systems. Here, Marsden uses Indonesian spelling and pronunciation.

1 \* f h° h h h° ra ja \*

2 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

3 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

4 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

5 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

6 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

7 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

8 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

9 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

10 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

11 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

12 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

13 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

14 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

15 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

16 h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h° h h h°

1 Gusti adat Redjang.

2 Adapun tijap<sup>2</sup> gerak utu

3 datang daripada Allah waris

4 itu datang dari nabi, halipah

5 itu daripada radja -

6 Adat lembaga itu turun

7 daripada nabi Adam.

8 Berdirilah adat duwa perkara jaitu:

9 Pertama adat Djahilijah.

10 Keduwa adat Salamijah.

11 Adat Djahilijah matjamnja

12 ada merendah ada menggunung, ada

13 meléréng ada mendaki.

14 Adat Salamijah, datar harus

15 dipakai, batal dibuang.

16 Djalan perkara ada duwa:

**Fig06.** Figure 2 in L2/O6-139 shows an excerpt from Ali Akbar's letter to Jaspan (left page). The full spread from the original source (Jaspan, 1964) is presented here to include the Latin transcription. The last word on line 1 is written 'Redjang', displaying the letters "ra" and "ja" ("dja" in old spelling) side by side to compare.



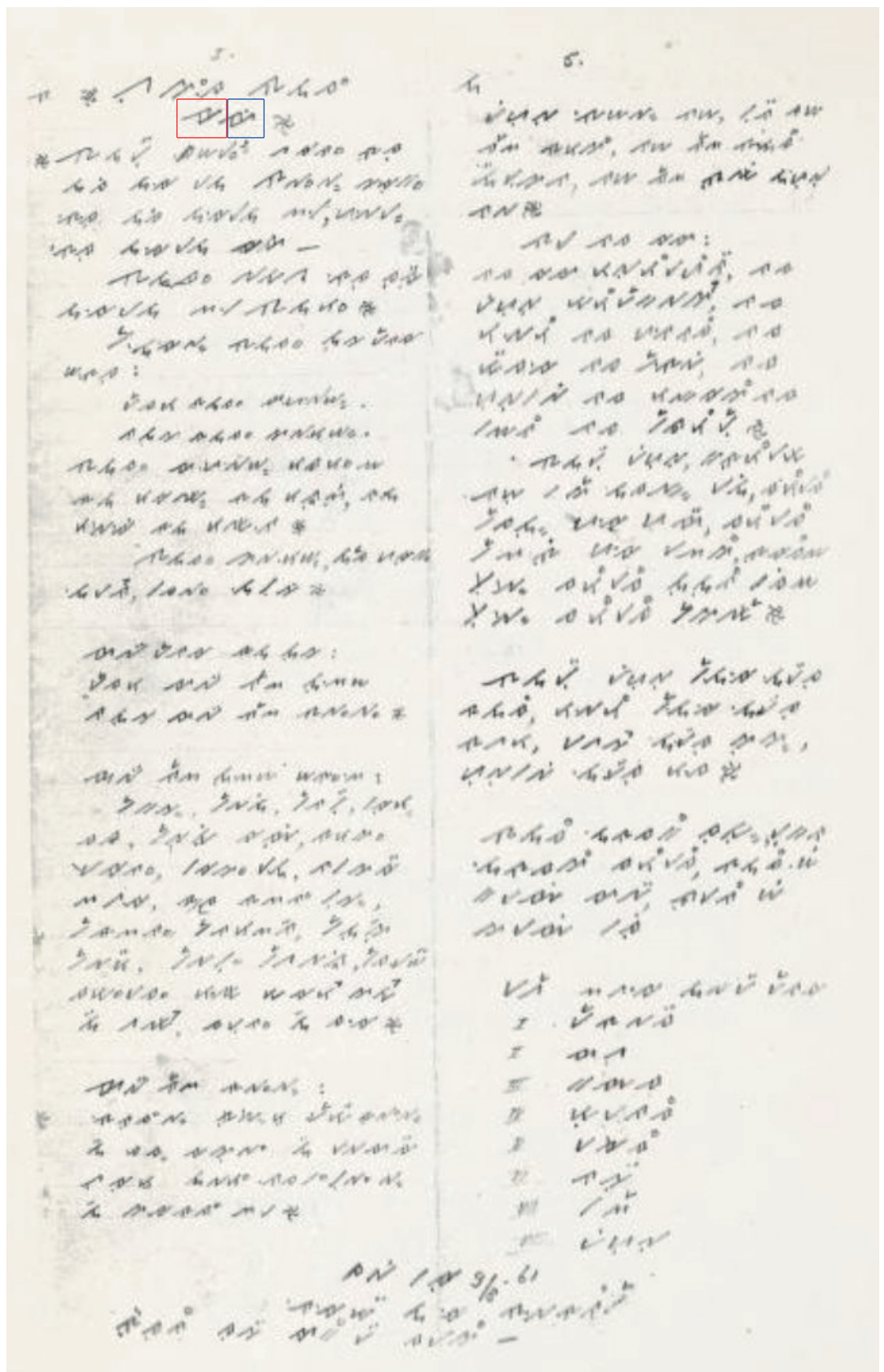
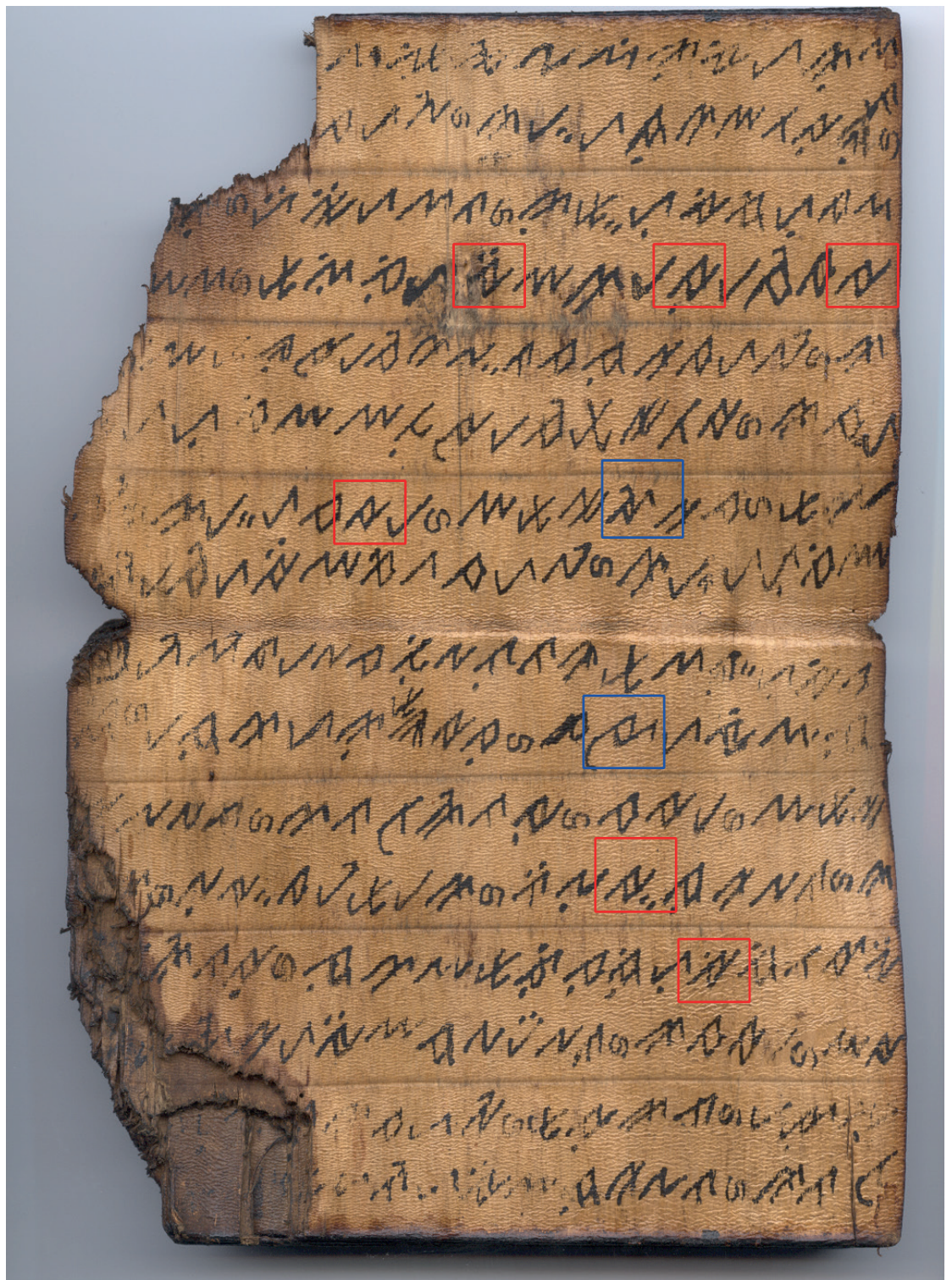


Fig07. Ali Akbar's original letter to Jaspán, handwritten on paper. Image taken from Jaspán, 1964.





**Fig08.** Example of typical Rejang manuscript. (credit: Sarwit Sarwono)