# Preliminary Proposal for Encoding the N'ti Script in the UCS

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**To: Script Encoding Working Group (SEWG) / Unicode Technical Committee (UTC)**
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We propose the addition of the N'ti script (Ȿ ɅꞴ) into the Unicode Standard. Since its invention in 1966 the script has been used to write the Soninke language of West Africa.

## I Background

The Soninke language (ISO 639-3: *snk*) is a Mande language spoken by the Soninke people of West Africa and by around 2.3 million people in Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea. It is an official or national language in Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia. In 1966, Adama Konte, a man from Nioro du Sahel, Mali, created the N'ti script to write the Soninke language. The script has been taught and in continuous daily use since its creation. It continues to be used and taught in Mali, Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), and Ivory Coast by several thousand people (though exact estimates are hard to calculate). Konte now lives in Ivory Coast and is in his 90s. After Konte taught the script to his children and grandchildren, they in turn taught it to Soninke communities in other countries after which it spread far and wide.

The community developed a computer font in February 2018 and has used it ever since to write documents and create digital content in online videos. The script is included in books, primers, digital media, text shared on social media, art, and clothing.

A Keyman keyboard with 600+ downloads, created by one of the proposal authors in May 2025, can be found at: https://keyman.com/keyboards/soninke_n_ti. Prior to the previously mentioned Keyman keyboard, a hacked mobile keyboard was created by the community.

Three official Letters of Request to encode the N'ti script written by Malian officials are on pages 14-16.

The proposal authors are aware of three other, unrelated scripts for Soninke – "Oti Safandé Lassili" created in 2024 by Malian Sekou Bine Sy; a second (without a distinct name) created in 2015 by Malian Médi Diakité; and a third (without a distinct name) created (in an unknown year by the proposal authors) by NAHA-ONG. The proposal authors believe none of these scripts are used as widely as N'ti, but estimates are unknown and assumed to be low.

## II Script Name

The proposed Unicode name for the script is "Nti". The user community refers to the script as "Ȿ ɅꞴ" (Soninke Latin-orthography: "N'ti"). "N'ti" means "*I said*" or "*I say*" in Soninke, similar to the meaning behind the NKo script's name. As Unicode does not allow an apostrophe in a script's Unicode name for technical purposes, the Unicode name for the script will therefore simply be "Nti".

## III Structure

The N'ti script is a unicameral alphabet with 27 letters (5 vowels and 22 consonants). The script is written left-to-right horizontally across a page, from the top of a page to the bottom of a page. All letters in a given word **always** join at the bottom similar to the NKo and Adlam script. The letters do **not** have different positional shapes depending on where in the word they appear as is the case in the Arabic script. Most letters have outward-facing curves on the bottom-left and bottom-right, alluding to the fact that letters connect to surrounding letters.

Below is the basic character inventory of the N'ti script:

| N'ti Letter Name | N'ti Letter | IPA | Latin Soninke Letter | N'ti Letter Name | N'ti Letter | IPA | Latin Soninke Letter |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AN | ꓹ | /a/ | A a | GA | ꓔ | /g/ | G g |
| UN | ꓱ | /u/ | U u | NYA | ꟽ | /ɲ/ | Ñ ñ |
| IN | ꓘ | /i/ | I i | DA | ꟿ | /d/ | D d |
| EN | ꓹ | /e/ | E e | KA | ꓮ | /k/ | K k |
| ON | ꓹ | /o/ | O o | TA | ꟿ | /t/ | T t |
| NM | ꓹ | /m̩/ | NM nm | YA | ꓼ | /j/ | Y y |
| XA | ꓶ | /x ~ χ/ | X x | FA | ꟽ | /f/ | F f |
| MA | ꟽ | /m/ | M m | WA | ⊡ | /w/ | W w |
| LA | ꓡ | /l/ | L l | NGA | ꓥ | /ŋ/ | Ŋ ŋ |
| HA | ꓧ | /h/ | H h | JA | ꟿ | /d͡ʒ/ | J j |
| RA | ꓶ | /r/ | R r | NA | ꟿ | /n/ | N n |
| CHA | ꓺ | /t͡ʃ/ | C c | BA | ꟿ | /b/ | B b |
| QA | ꟿ | /χ/ | X x | SA | ꟽ | /s/ | S s |
| PA | ꟿ | /p/ | P p | | | | |

Table 1. Basic character inventory of the N'ti script.

## Diacritics

There are 8 (non-spacing) diacritics in the N'ti script and they are listed in the table below. All except the last diacritic listed can only be attached to vowels. The last diacritic listed attaches to specific consonants to change the consonant value to a foreign phoneme, or it attaches to numbers to create ordinal numbers.

| Name | Diacritic | All uses | Affect |
|---|---|---|---|
| XAN SEGEYE | ◌̄ | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Adds a short, high tone |
| XAN YANQAYE | ◌̇ | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Adds a short, low tone |
| XAN XOTTE | ◌̃ | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Adds a short, aspirated tone |
| YIN DURO FUTIYE | ◌̂ | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Turns vowels into long vowels (long regular tone) |
| XAN SEGEYE FUTIYE | ◌̄ → | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Adds a long, high tone |
| XAN YANQAYE FUTIYE | ◌̌ | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Adds a long, low tone |
| XAN XOTTE FUTIYE | ◌̃ | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Adds a long, aspirated tone |
| YILLA | ◌̀ | 𝼥 𝼦 𝼧 𝼨 𝼩 | Changes a Soninke consonant sound to a foreign consonant sound |

Table 2. N'ti diacritics.

YIN DURO FUTIYE ◌̂ can only be used on vowels. It turns the vowel into a long vowel.

| N'ti | IPA | Latin Orthography |
|---|---|---|
| 𝼥→𝼥̂ | /a/→/a:/ | a→aa |
| 𝼦→𝼦̂ | /u/→/u:/ | u→uu |
| 𝼧→𝼧̂ | /i/→/i:/ | i→ii |
| 𝼨→𝼨̂ | /e/→/e:/ | e→ee |
| 𝼩→𝼩̂ | /o/→/o:/ | o→oo |

Table 3. How the Yin Duro Futiye diacritic changes vowels.

YILLA ◌̀ is placed on top of select consonants. It changes the sound of a consonant to a foreign consonant sound (likely Arabic and/or French).

| N'ti | IPA | Approximating: |
|---|---|---|
| Ꟍ→Ꟍ̀ | /t/→/tˤ/ | Arabic ط |
| 𐌀→𐌀̀ | /p/→/pʰ/ | - |
| Ɱ→Ɱ̀ | /s/→/ʃ/ | Arabic ش |
| ᴧᴧ→ᴧᴧ̀ | /d/→/dˤ/ | Arabic ض |
| ᵾ→ᵾ̀ | /f/→/v/ | French v |
| ᴨ→ᴨ̀ | /ħ/→/h/ | Arabic ه |
| ꙅ→ꙅ̀ | /d͡ʒ/→/z/ | Arabic ز |
| ꙅ→ꙅ̀ | /d͡ʒ/→/ðˤ/ | Arabic ظ |
| ꙇ→ꙇ̀ | /x~χ/→/q/ | Arabic ق |
| ᴨ→ᴨ̀ | /t͡ʃ/→/sˤ/ | Arabic ص |

Table 4. How the Yilla diacritic changes the value of specific N'ti consonantal letters.

Using the vowel A (ꙇ) as an example, below shows a ranking of the most frequent vowel diacritics (1) to the least frequent pair (8):

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ꙇ | ꙇ̄ | ꙇ̇ | ꙇ̃ | ꙇ̂ | ꙇ̀ | ꙇ́ | ꙇ̃ |

Table 5. Diacritic frequency in the N'ti script.

## Punctuation and Numerals/Digits:

There are N'ti-specific characters for punctuation and numerals (0-9).

Xupu (ꙆꙅꙇꙆꙋꙇ): ʌ    This punctuation mark is used in various ways (e.g., comma, full-stop, etc.).

Numerals/Digits (0-9): ● ꟊ ⊔ ꙅ ꞇ ꙏ Ɛ Ꙑ ꙇ ꙟ

The YILLA diacritic $\overset{\text{`}}{\odot}$ is also placed on top of N'ti numerals to create ordinal numbers. Below are some examples.

| Soninke | | English |
|---|---|---|
| ै | first | 1st |
| ै | second | 2nd |
| ै | third | 3rd |
| ै. | tenth | 4th |
| ै.. | hundredth | 100th |
| ै... | thousandth | 1,000th |

Table 6. Ordinal numbering in Soninke written in the N'ti script and English equivalents.

## IV Character Repertoire

| Character | Unicode Codepoint & Name |
|---|---|
| ꒐ | U+1X000 NTI LETTER AH |
| ꒑ | U+1X001 NTI LETTER OOH |
| ꒒ | U+1X002 NTI LETTER EE |
| ꒓ | U+1X003 NTI LETTER EH |
| ꒔ | U+1X004 NTI LETTER OH |
| ꒕ | U+1X005 NTI LETTER NM |
| ꒖ | U+1X006 NTI LETTER XA |
| ꒗ | U+1X007 NTI LETTER MA |
| ꒘ | U+1X008 NTI LETTER LA |
| ꒙ | U+1X009 NTI LETTER HA |
| ꒚ | U+1X00A NTI LETTER RA |
| ꒛ | U+1X00B NTI LETTER CHA |

| | |
|---|---|
| ろ | U+1X00C NTI LETTER QA |
| 凡 | U+1X00D NTI LETTER PA |
| ℎ | U+1X00E NTI LETTER GA |
| 𝔐 | U+1X00F NTI LETTER NYA |
| ⋀ | U+1X010 NTI LETTER DA |
| 𝔞 | U+1X011 NTI LETTER KA |
| 𝔐 | U+1X012 NTI LETTER TA |
| 𝔅 | U+1X013 NTI LETTER YA |
| 𝕀 | U+1X014 NTI LETTER FA |
| 𝘅 | U+1X015 NTI LETTER WA |
| ⋊ | U+1X016 NTI LETTER NGA |
| ⋂ | U+1X017 NTI LETTER JA |
| ⋍ | U+1X018 NTI LETTER NA |
| 𝕏 | U+1X019 NTI LETTER BA |
| 𝔪 | U+1X01A NTI LETTER SA |
| • | U+1X01B NTI DIGIT ZERO |
| ⸶ | U+1X01C NTI DIGIT ONE |
| ⊔ | U+1X01D NTI DIGIT TWO |
| Ɛ | U+1X01E NTI DIGIT THREE |

| | |
|---|---|
| ꝗ | U+1X01F NTI DIGIT FOUR |
| 人 | U+1X020 NTI DIGIT FIVE |
| Ɛ | U+1X021 NTI DIGIT SIX |
| ꝑ | U+1X022 NTI DIGIT SEVEN |
| ꝑ | U+1X023 NTI DIGIT EIGHT |
| ꝑ | U+1X024 NTI DIGIT NINE |
| Ō | U+1X025 NTI XAN SEGEYE |
| Ȯ | U+1X026 NTI XAN YANQAYE |
| Õ | U+1X027 NTI XAN XOTTE |
| Ô | U+1X028 NTI YIN DURO FUTIYE |
| Ő | U+1X029 NTI XAN SEGEYE FUTIYE |
| Ő | U+1X02A NTI XAN YANQAYE FUTIYE |
| Ő | U+1X02B NTI XAN XOTTE FUTIYE |
| Ò | U+1X02C NTI YILLA |
| ^ | U+1X02D NTI XUPU |

Table 5. N'ti script characters to encode.

## Chart

| | U+1X00 | U+1X01 | U+1X02 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | | | |
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | ◌̄ |
| 6 | | | ◌̇ |
| 7 | | | ◌̃ |
| 8 | | | ◌̂ |
| 9 | | | ◌̄ |
| A | | | ◌̄ |
| B | | ● | ◌̃ |
| C | | | ◌̀ |
| D | | | ˄ |
| E | | | |
| F | | | |

### Additional information on characters

*Joining information*

Multi-letter words join/fuse at the bottom similar to the NKo, Adlam ,and Arabic scripts. Except for the letter BA ꤥ, all N'ti letters have very apparent, little lines on the bottom-right and bottom-left of their shapes alluding to the fact that they are to be joined in writing. The N'ti script is ___not___ scriptio continua ('continuous script') like the Thai or Javanese scripts; spaces are used in the script – therefore, letters are only joined at the bottom of individual words. **All** letters in a single word **always** join.

*Punctuation*

There is 1 script-specific punctuation marks in the N'ti script: Xupu, as explained above at the end of Section III.

Non-N'ti punctuation marks are used when writing Soninke: *single-quotation mark/apostrophe ' , colon : , question mark ? , double quotation mark " , period/full-stop . , exclamation mark ¡* .

> While the exclamation mark used in N'ti is similar to that used in Spanish, it only appears at the end of sentences and not at the beginning (i.e., in Spanish).

Other punctuation marks may appear with the script, most likely coming from the Latin script.

*Numbers*

There are script specific numerals in the N'ti script, as shown above at the end of Section III. The language/script uses a decimal system (i.e., base-10).

## V Properties

### General Category and other properties

```
U+1X000;NTI LETTER AH;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X001;NTI LETTER OOH;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X002;NTI LETTER EE;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X003;NTI LETTER EH;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X004;NTI LETTER OH;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X005;NTI LETTER NM;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X006;NTI LETTER XA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X007;NTI LETTER MA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X008;NTI LETTER LA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X009;NTI LETTER HA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X00A;NTI LETTER RA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X00B;NTI LETTER CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X00C;NTI LETTER QA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X00D;NTI LETTER PA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X00E;NTI LETTER GA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X00F;NTI LETTER NYA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X010;NTI LETTER DA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X011;NTI LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X012;NTI LETTER TA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X013;NTI LETTER YA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X014;NTI LETTER FA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X015;NTI LETTER WA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X016;NTI LETTER NGA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X017;NTI LETTER JA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X018;NTI LETTER NA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X019;NTI LETTER BA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X01A;NTI LETTER SA;Lo;0;L;;;;;;N;;;;;
```

```
U+1X01B;NTI DIGIT ZERO;Nd;0;L;;0;0;0;N;;;;;
U+1X01C;NTI DIGIT ONE;Nd;0;L;;1;1;1;N;;;;;
U+1X01D;NTI DIGIT TWO;Nd;0;L;;2;2;2;N;;;;;
U+1X01E;NTI DIGIT THREE;Nd;0;L;;3;3;3;N;;;;;
U+1X01F;NTI DIGIT FOUR;Nd;0;L;;4;4;4;N;;;;;
U+1X020;NTI DIGIT FIVE;Nd;0;L;;5;5;5;N;;;;;
U+1X021;NTI DIGIT SIX;Nd;0;L;;6;6;6;N;;;;;
U+1X022;NTI DIGIT SEVEN;Nd;0;L;;7;7;7;N;;;;;
U+1X023;NTI DIGIT EIGHT;Nd;0;L;;8;8;8;N;;;;;
U+1X024;NTI DIGIT NINE;Nd;0;L;;9;9;9;N;;;;;
U+1X025;NTI XAN SEGEYE;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X026;NTI XAN YANQAYE;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X027;NTI XAN XOTTE;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X028;NTI XAN YIN DURO FUTIYE;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X029;NTI XAN SEGEYE FUTIYE;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X02A;NTI XAN YANQAYE FUTIYE;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X02B;NTI XAN XOTTE FUTIYE;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X02C;NTI YILLA;Mn;230;L;;;;;N;;;;;
U+1X02D;NTI XUPU;Po;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
```

## Line breaking information

- Words are separated with a space (i.e., U+0020 SPACE ).
- Line breaks only occur at word boundaries; a line cannot break in the middle of a word.
- Special modes like hyphenation are not used to allow line breaks within words (e.g., like in English).
- Line breaks cannot occur within numbers.
- Line breaks cannot occur before punctuation characters (e.g., lines cannot break before the Xupu, a full-stop, etc.).

The N'ti script is most likely to occur alongside the Arabic script and/or the Latin script. There is (a lower) chance the N'ti script appears alongside the NKo script.

## VI Collation

The collation/alphabetic order for the basic N'ti letters is as follows (which is also given above in Table 1 in Section III (order in Table is given column by column, not row by row):

ꓕ < ꓲ < ꓫ < ꓮ < ꓯ < ꓰ < ꓱ < ꓲ < ꓳ < ꓴ < ꓵ < ꓶ < ꓷ < ꓸ < ꓹ < ꓺ < ꓻ < ꓼ < ꓽ < ꓾ < ꓿ < ꓸ < ꓸ < ꓸ < ꓸ

*(basic letter forms)*

The 7 *vowel* diacritics affect the collation/alphabetic order in the following way:

base vowel without diacritics < ◌̄ XAN SEGEYE < ◌̇ XAN YANQAYE < ◌̃ XAN XOTTE < ◌̂ YIN DURO FUTIYE < ◌⃗ XAN SEGEYE FUTIYE > ◌̅ XAN YANQAYE FUTIYE < ◌̰ XAN XOTTE FUTIYE.

*(table of vowel-diacritic combinations)*

When a letter has the YILLA ◌̀ diacritic it is ordered after the same letter without the YILLA. Therefore, the full collation order is as follows:

*(full collation order with diacritics)*

Numbers, punctuation, and standalone diacritics affect the collation of the above letters as such:
Punctuation < Numbers < Letters < Standalone diacritics

Punctuation collation order: Xupu ⌄

Numbers collation order: ⋅𐠅ⵏ𐠏ⵝ𐠤𐠋ⵣ𐠃 (0123456789)
Letters: see above

Standalone diacritics: ◌̄ ◌̇ ◌̃ ◌̂ ◌̗ ◌́ ◌̖

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## VIII   Acknowledgements

République du Mali

*Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi*

August 26, 2024

## LETTER OF REQUEST

To whom it may concern

I, the undersigned, Dr Adama Diokolo COULIBALY, General Director of the Malian Academy of Languages (AMALAN), hereby officially request that the Masaba and N'ti scripts be encoded in Unicode.

These endogenous scripts are used in the Kayes region of Mali to write the Bamanankan and Soninke languages. Masaba is used to write Bamanankan (Bambara) and N'ti is used to write Soninke.

Yours sincerely,

The Director General

Dr Adama Diokolo COULIBALY

*Knight of the National Order*

MINISTERE DE L'EDUCATION NATIONALE
REPUBLIQUE DU MALI

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Académie Malienne des Langues

(AMALAN)

République du Mali

*Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi*

August 26, 2024

## LETTER OF REQUEST

To whom it may concern

I, the undersigned, Seydou TRAORE, Acting Secretary General of the Malian Academy of Languages (AMALAN), hereby officially request that the Masaba and N'ti scripts be encoded in Unicode.

These endogenous scripts are used in the Kayes region of Mali to write the Bamanankan and Soninke languages. Masaba is used to write Bamanankan (Bambara) and N'ti is used to write Soninke.

Yours sincerely,

The Acting Secretary General

Seydou TRAORE
Associate Researcher

The Director General

Dr Adama Diokolo Coulibaly
Knight of the National Order

Dr Mahamadou KONTA

**President of The Malian National Languages Friends' Club (CALAN – Mali)**

**Republic of Mali**

*One People – One Goal – One Faith*

*August 26, 2024*

## LETTER OF REQUEST

To whom it may concern

I, the undersigned; Dr Mahamadou KONTA, **President of The Malian National Languages Friends' Club (CALAN – Mali),** hereby officially request that the Masaba and N'ti scripts be encoded in Unicode.

These endogenous scripts are used in the Kayes region of Mali to write the Bamanankan and Soninke languages. Masaba is used to write Bamanankan (Bambara) and N'ti is used to write Soninke.

Yours sincerely,

The President

Dr Mahamadou KONTA

## IX Examples



Figure 1. Printed copies of a book titled "*N'ti Fedde Khacha Nkitabe Hana*" by Ibrahim Drame Saama Yara Guille.
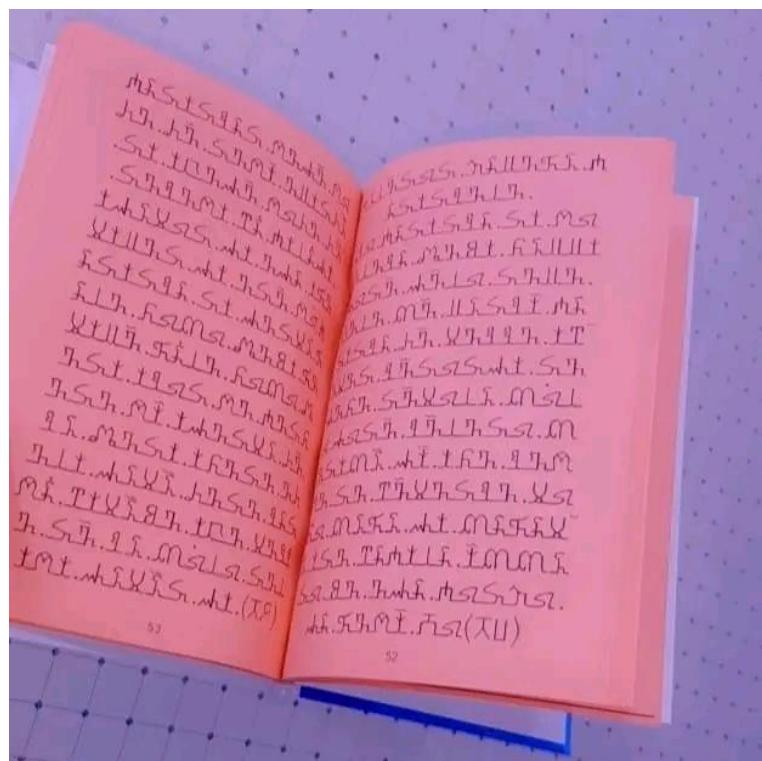


Figure 2. Printed book by Abdu Rahamani Sukina in Mali.
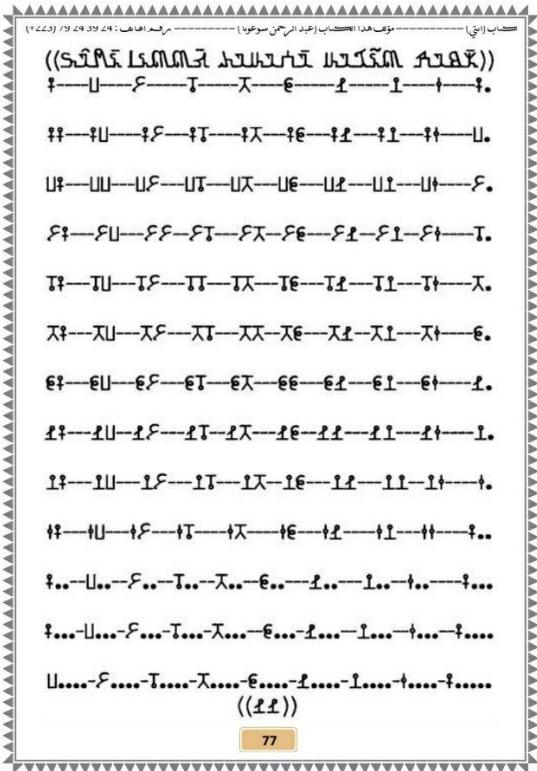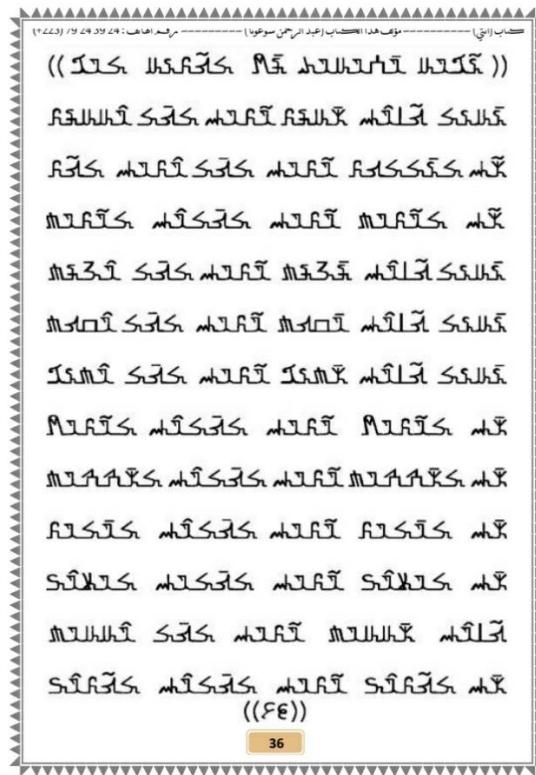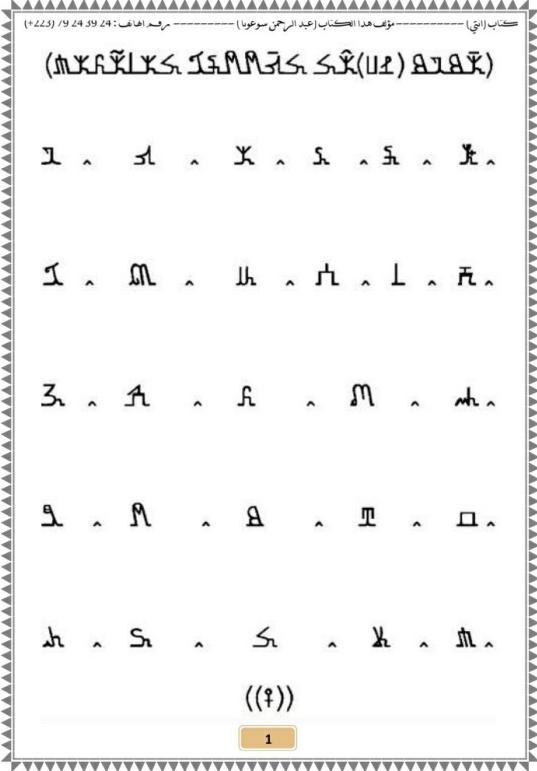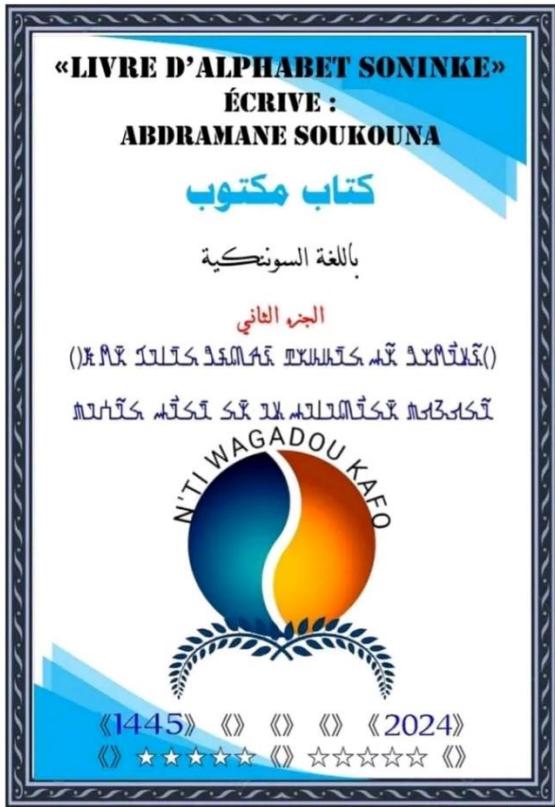
Figure 3. "*Livre d'Alphabet Soninke Écrive*" a book written in N'ti by Abdu Rahamani Sukina in Mali.

Figure 4. Printed book by Ibrahim Drame Saama Yara Guille.
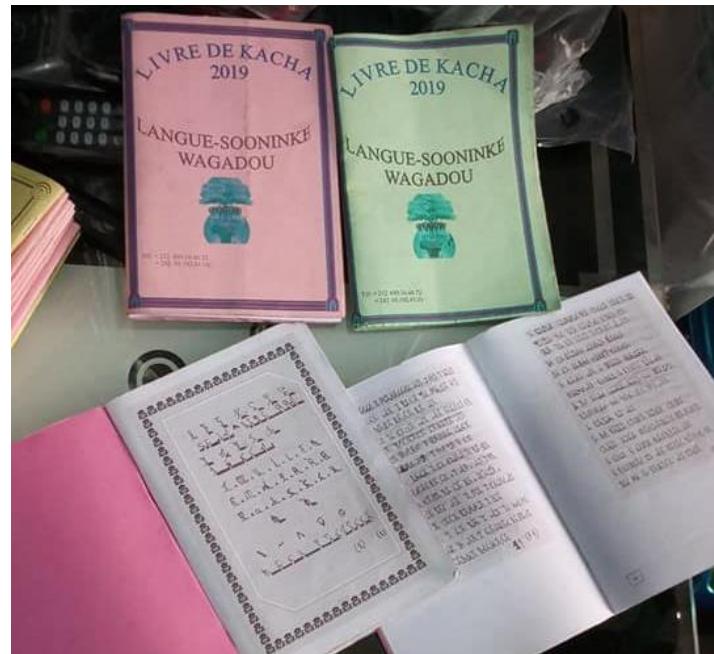


Figure 5.1. "Livre de Kacha 2019, Langue-Sooninke Wagadou" - a printed book by Ibrahim Drame Saama Yara Guille that compiles scans of written documents.

Figure 5.2. Scan of handwritten document included in a printed book.

Figure 6. Soninke text in the N'ti script being shared on Facebook.
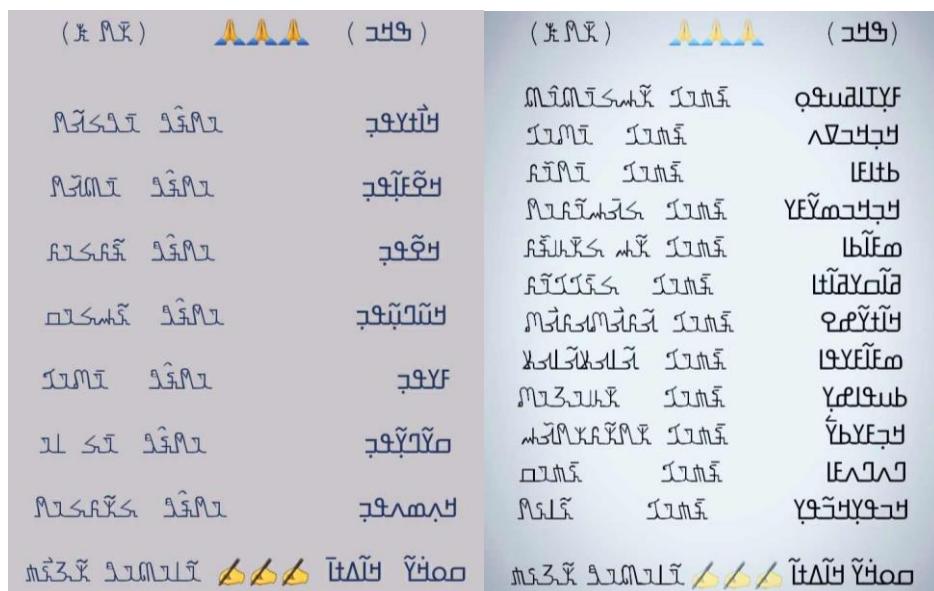


Figure 7. Text being shared digitally (Facebook/WhatsApp). **Left image** shows the days of the week in Soninke (left) and NKo (right). **Right image** shows the months of the year in Soninke (left) and NKo (right).
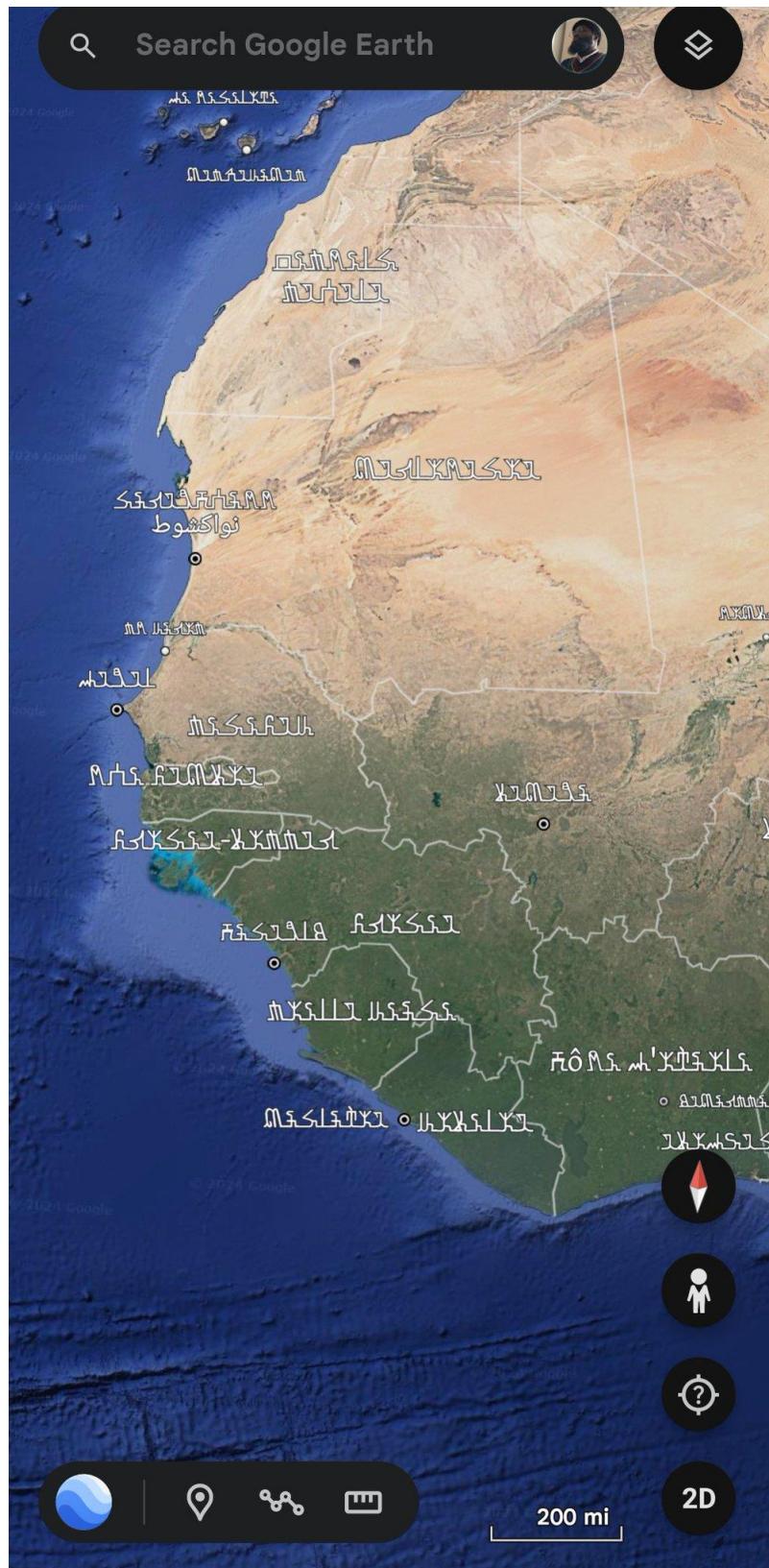
Figure 8. N'ti script user using Google Maps app with N'ti font (created using *Zfont*).
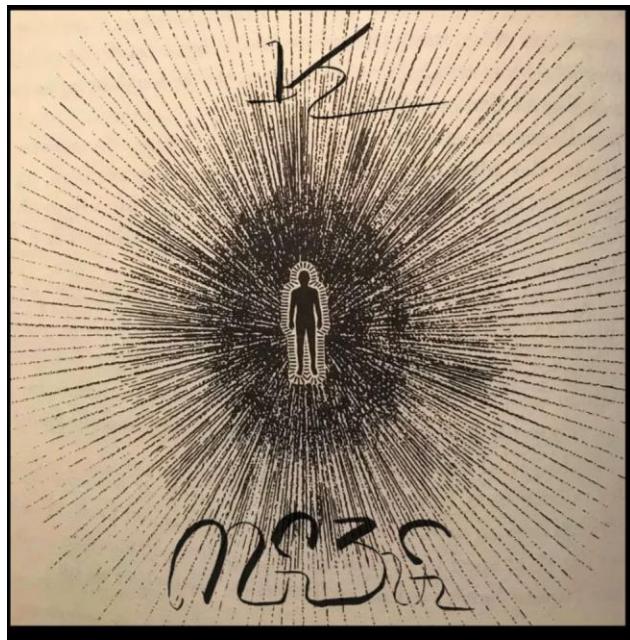
Figure 9. Music playlist cover with N'ti-script text
(https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4Z1sJp0rqUN3pDY7nerkcz?si=54dedfccd2ca4c62)
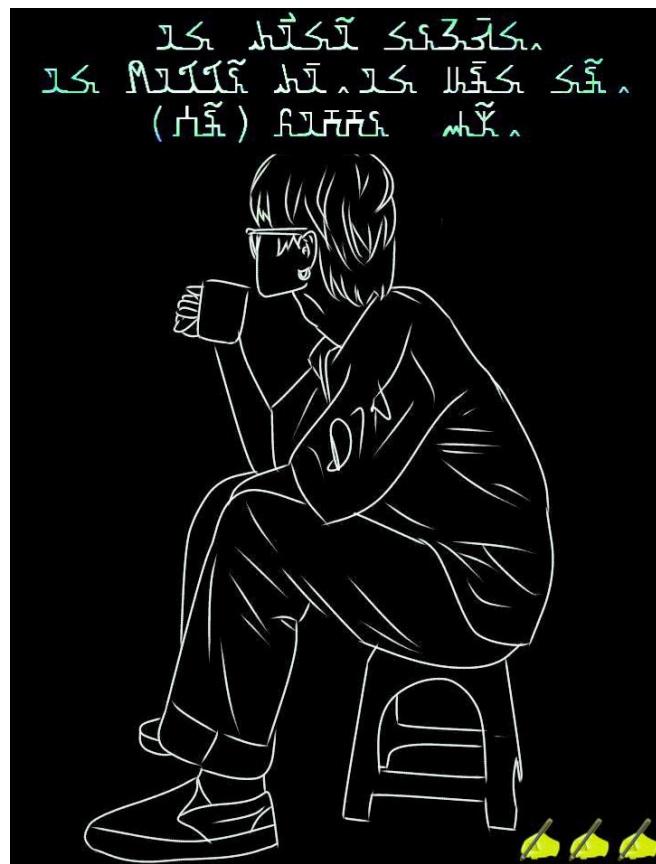


Figure 10. Art with N'ti-script text shared online.
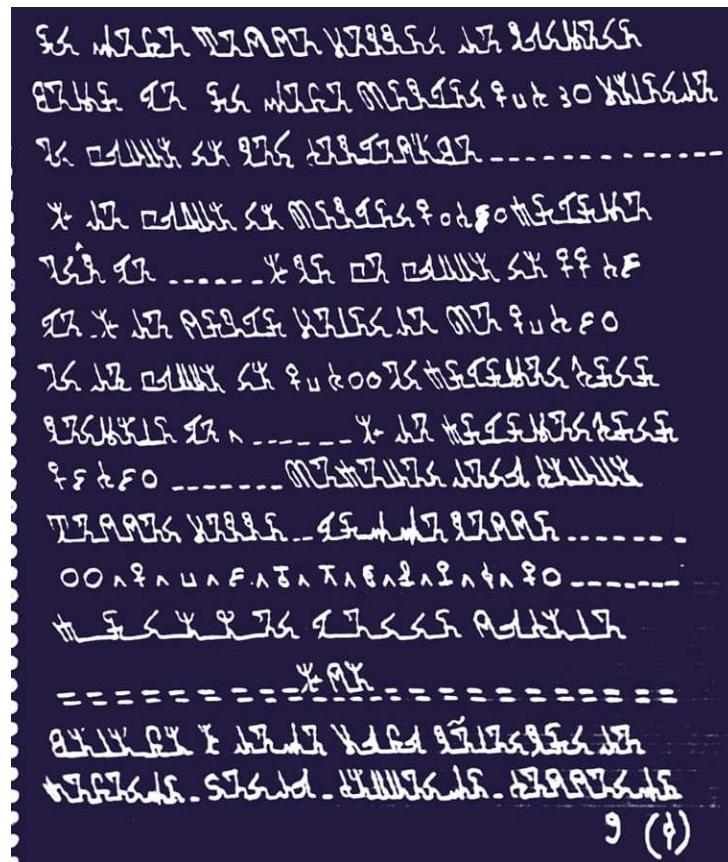
Figure 11. Scan of handwritten text.



Figure 12. Pedagogical material shared on Facebook.

Figure 13. Sample Soninke words in the N'ti script with Latin transliterations shared on YouTube.
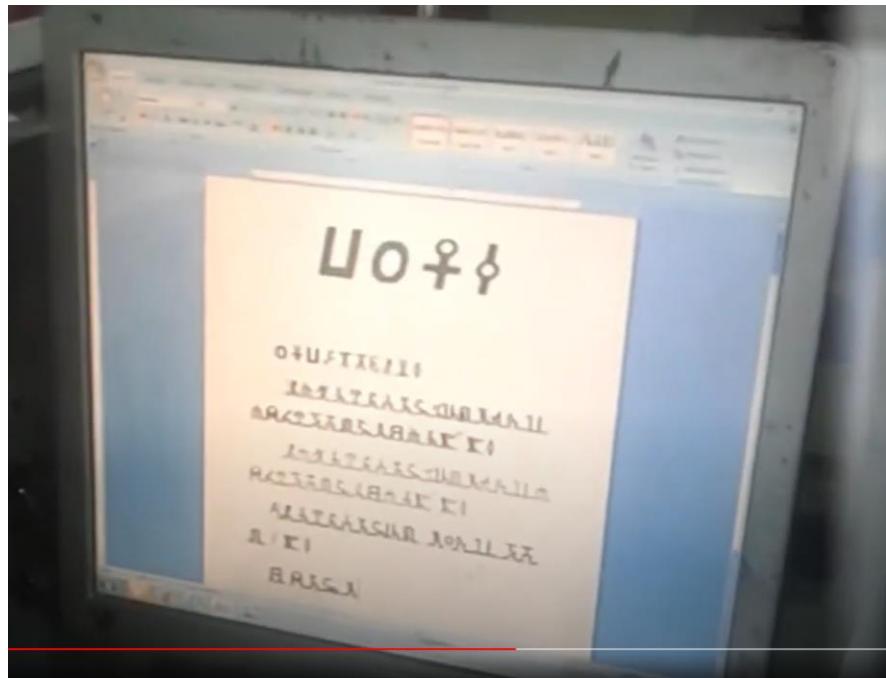


Figure 14. A book being typed. The second character from the left on the top is an old glyph for digit zero.
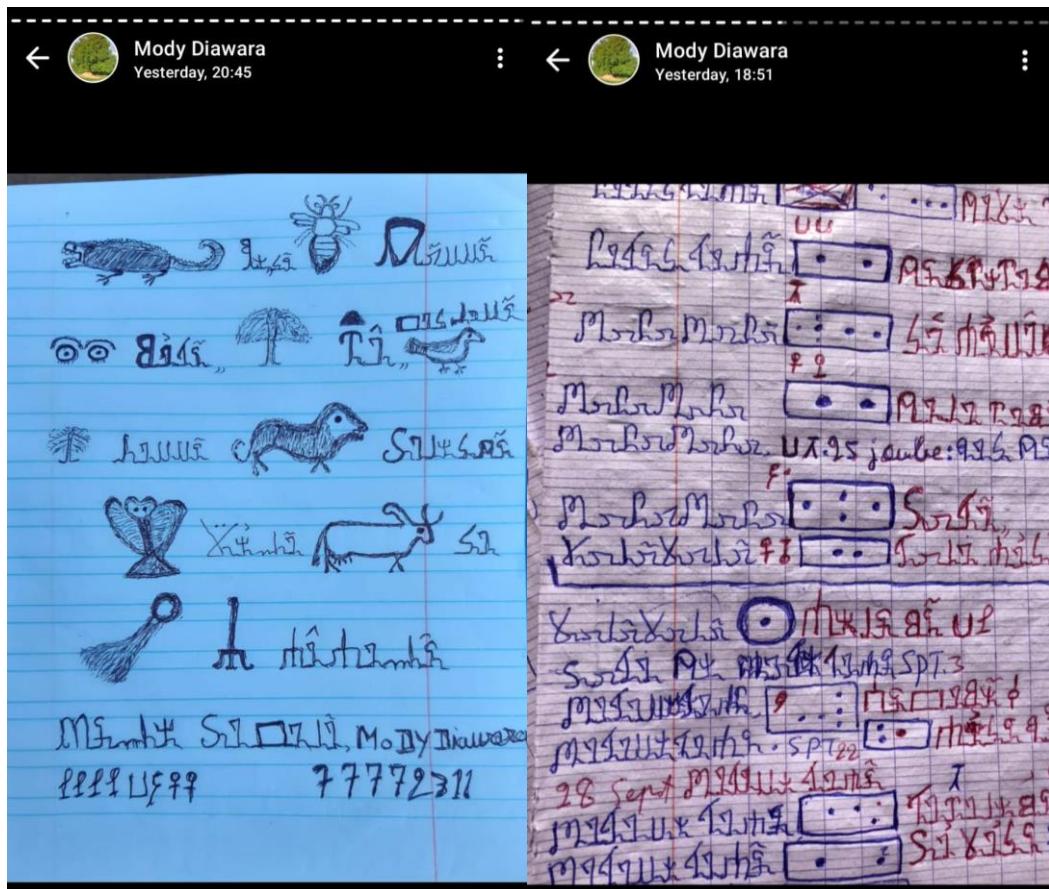
Figure 15. Images with N'ti-text shared on WhatsApp.
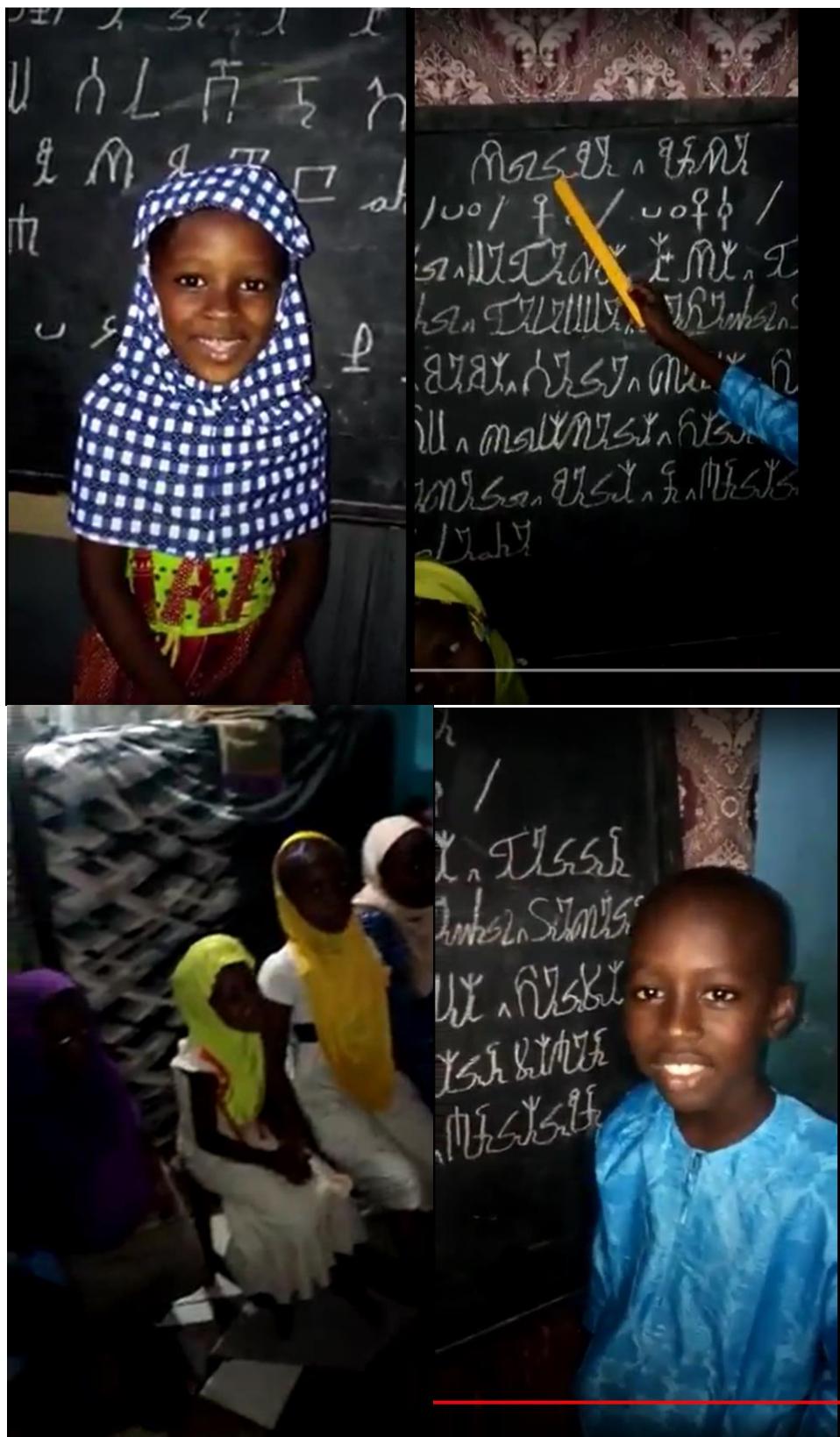
Figure 16. N'ti-script classroom.
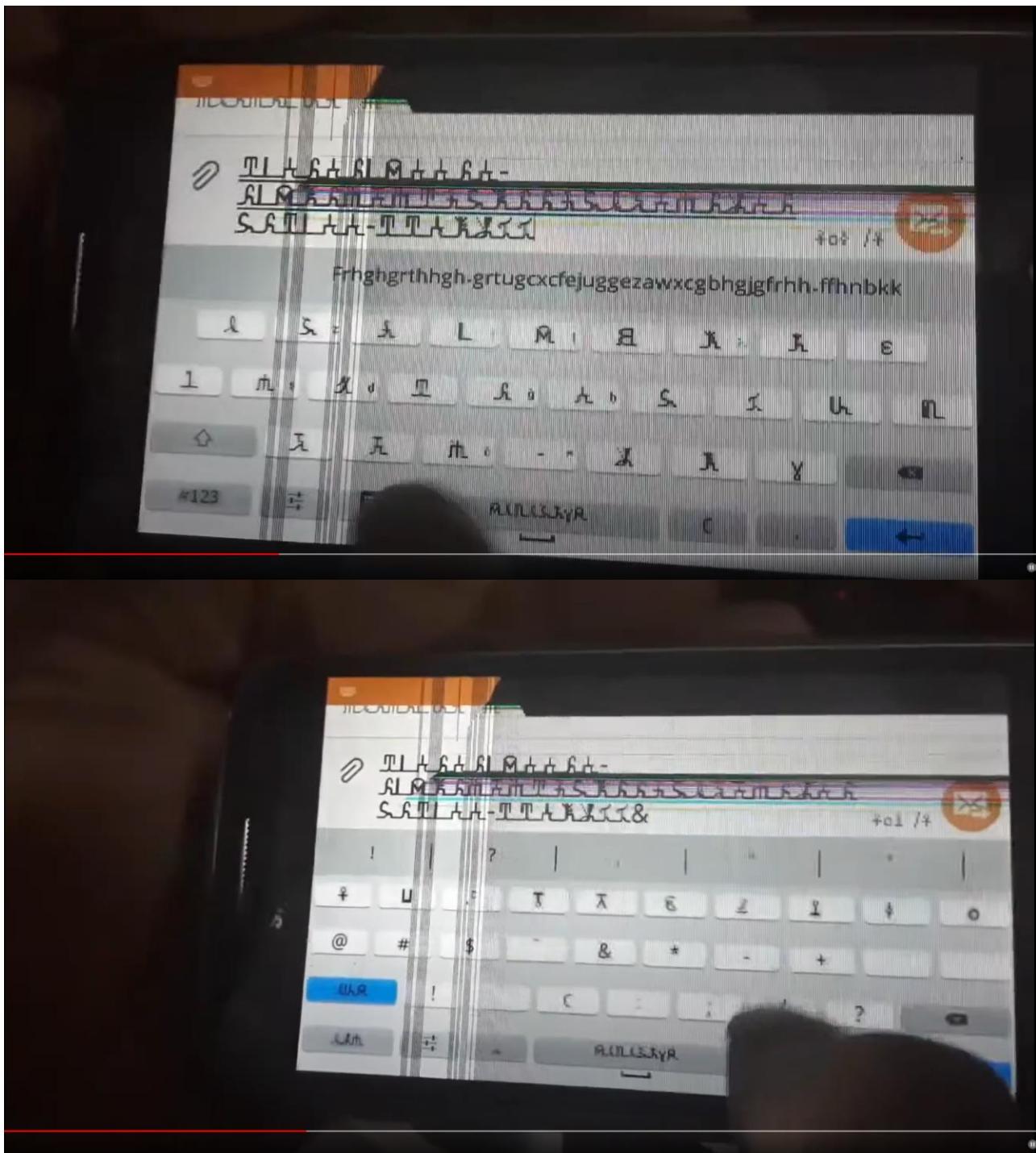
Figure 17. Hacked N'ti mobile keyboard. The Shift key brings up the N'ti script numerals.

Figure 18. Clothing with N'ti-script text in Gogui, Mali.
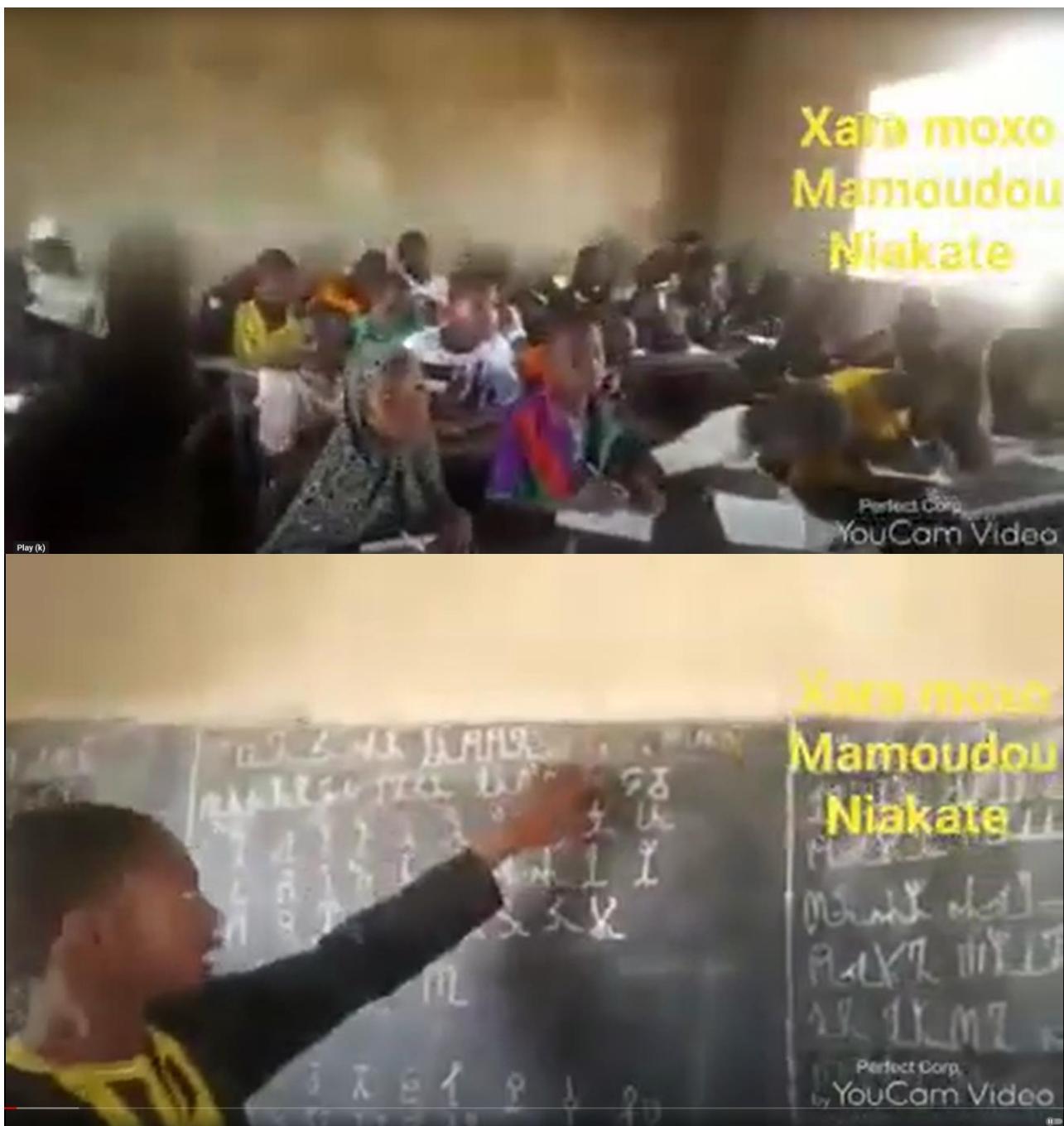
Figure 19. Teacher in front of a blackboard teaching the N'ti script to a classroom of students.
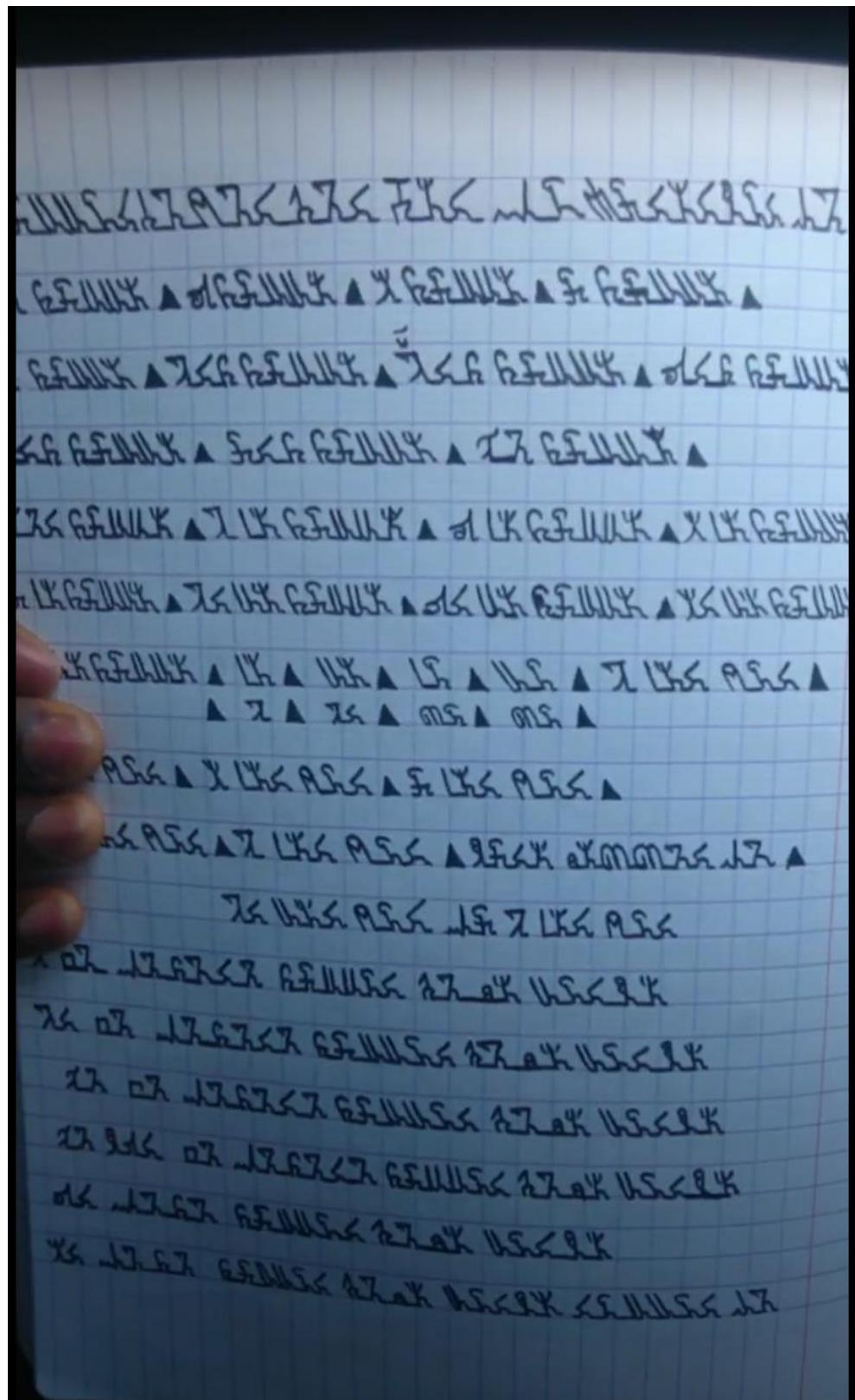
Figure 20. Handwritten notebook.
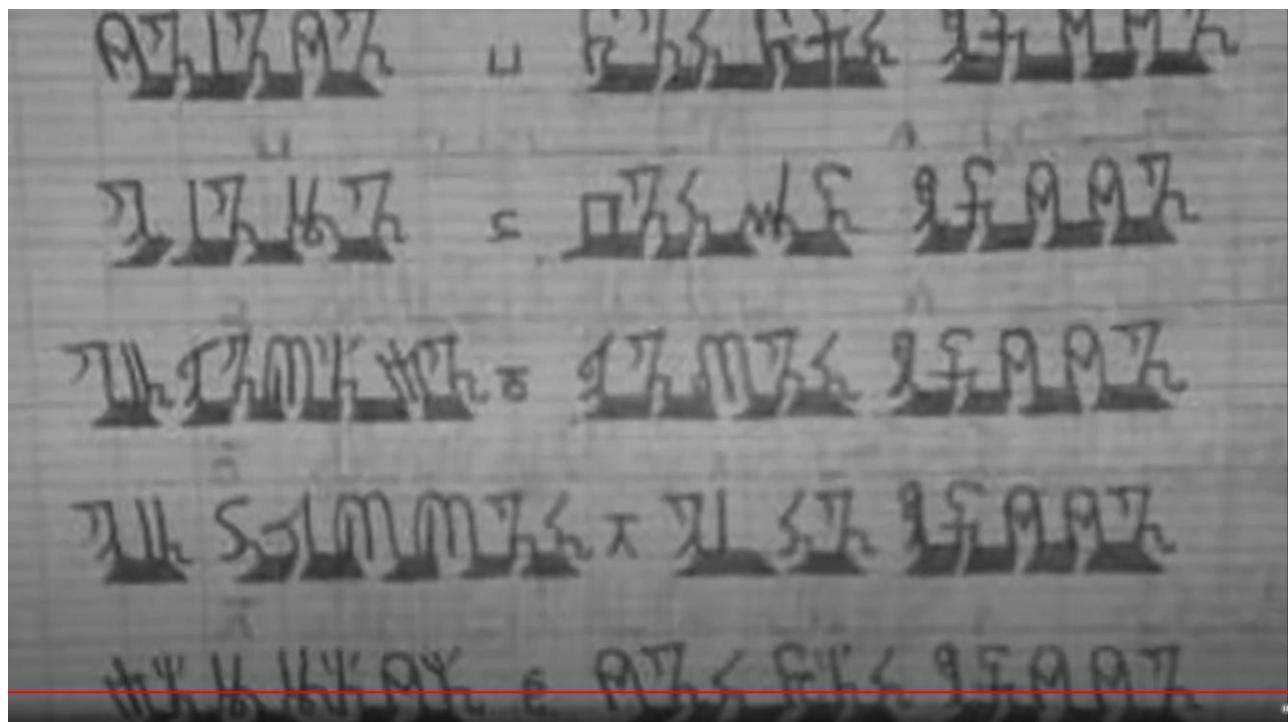
Figure 21. YouTube video showing N'ti text with a unique handwritten style for the baseline connecting letters.
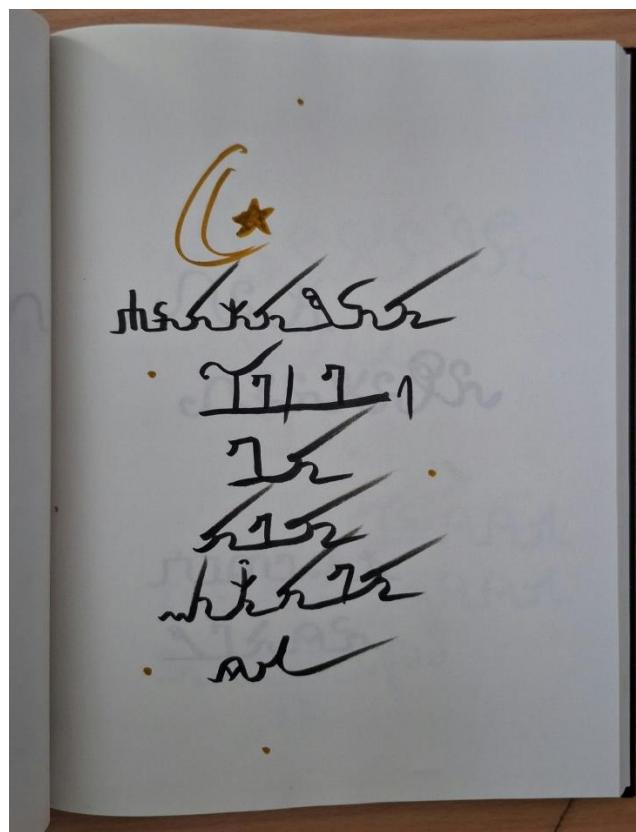


Figure 22. Journal/diary in N'ti, with some noticeable calligraphic elements.
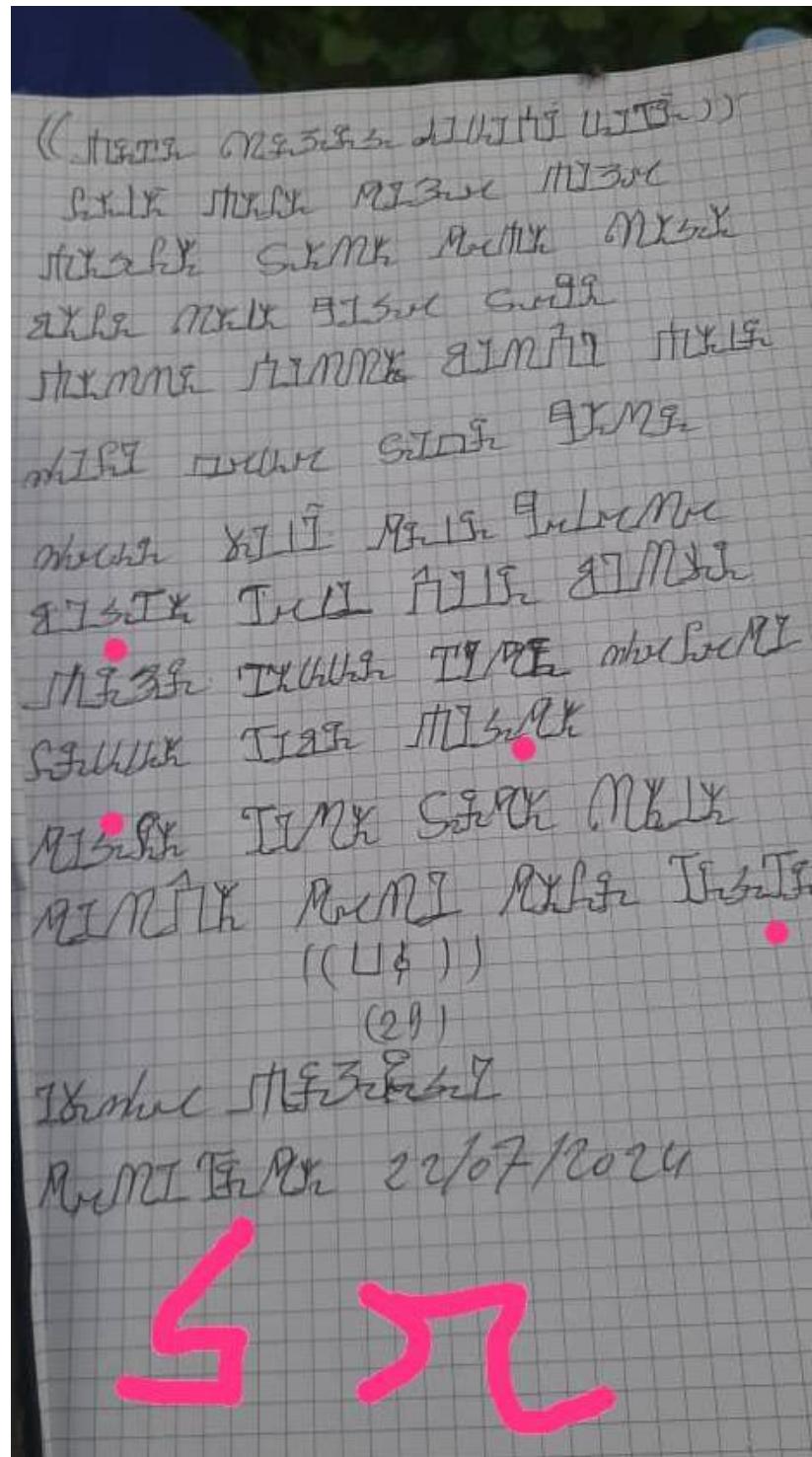
Figure 23. Homework from an N'ti school. A teacher's corrections have been digitally done in pink.
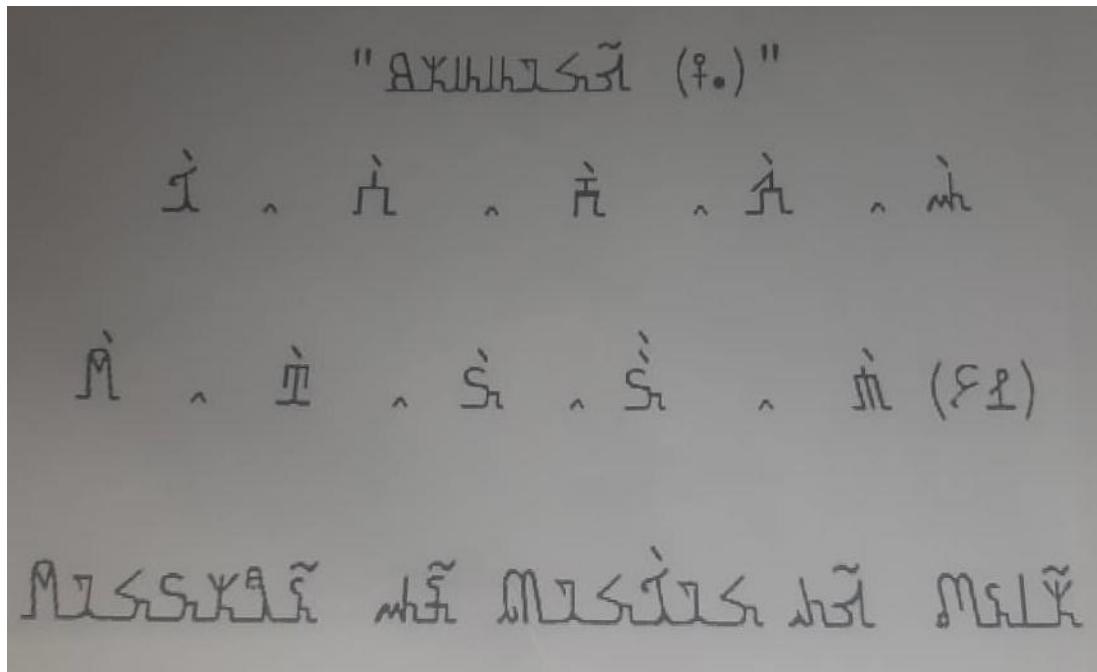
Figure 24. Letters that the Yilla diacritic can be used with.



Figure 25.1. Natural symbol that inspired an N'ti letter.

Figure 25.2. Various symbols being shown that inspired certain N'ti letters.

Figure 26.1. Text with pictures of prominent N'ti-script activists named at the top.

Figure 26.2. An interview from *MEDIA SOONINKE TV* with N'ti script activists. The script creator, Adama Konte, is present in the front-center speaking into the microphone. The man on the right is holding up a book written in the N'ti script.
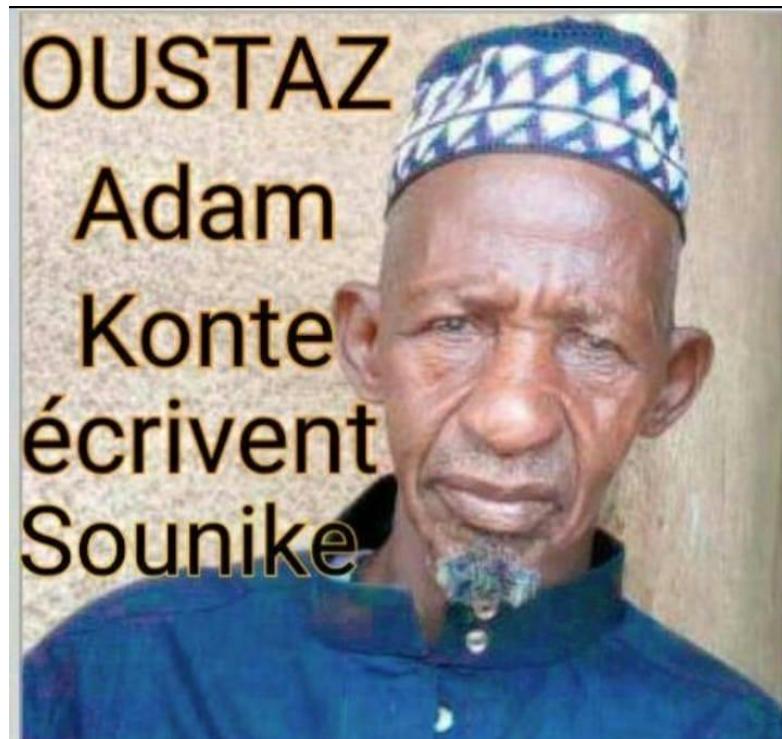


Figure 27. The N'ti script creator, Adama Konte.

# X ISO Proposal Summary Forms

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2"><strong>ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2</strong><br><strong>PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS</strong><br><strong>FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646</strong>[1]<br><strong>Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.</strong><br><strong>Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from</strong> http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html <strong>for guidelines and details before filling this form.</strong><br><strong>Please ensure you are using the latest Form from</strong> http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html<strong>.</strong><br><strong>See also</strong> http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html <strong>for latest</strong> <em>Roadmaps.</em></td></tr>
</table>

**A. Administrative**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. **Title:** | ***Preliminary Proposal for Encoding the N'ti Script in the UCS*** |
| 2. Requester's name: | *Oreen Yousuf* |
| 3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): | *Individual Contribution* |
| 4. Submission date: | *2025-12-5* |
| 5. Requester's reference (if applicable): | *oreen.yousuf@gmail.com* |
| 6. Choose one of the following: | |
|     This is a complete proposal: | *Yes* |
|     (or) More information will be provided 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:     *NTI*
   - b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:     *No*
     - Name of the existing block:
2. Number of characters in proposal:     *35*
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 questionable usage symbols |

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?     *Yes*
   - a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?     *Yes*
   - b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?     *Yes*
5. Fonts related:
   - a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?
     *Ichaka Magassa via Oreen Yousuf (font originally created by Magassa)*
   - b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
     *Oreen Yousuf, oreen.yousuf@gmail.com*
6. References:
   - 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. Special 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. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in

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[1]. 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)

Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information.  See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts.  Also see Unicode Character Database ( http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/ ) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

**C. Technical - Justification**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? | *No* |
| If YES explain | |
| 2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? | *Yes* |
| If YES, with whom? | *Users/teachers of the script* |
| If YES, available relevant documents: | *Enclosed in the proposal.* |
| 3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? | *Yes* |
| Reference: | *Enclosed in the proposal; Section I, page 1.* |
| 4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) | *Rare* |
| Reference: | *Enclosed in the proposal; Section I, page 1.* |
| 5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? | *Yes* |
| If YES, where?  Reference: | *Mali, Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast* |
| 6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? | *No* |
| If YES, is a rationale provided? | |
| If YES, reference: | |
| 7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? | *Yes* |
| 8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? | *No* |
| If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? | |
| If YES, reference: | |
| 9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? | *No* |
| If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? | |
| If YES, reference: | |
| 10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? | *Yes* |
| If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? | *Yes* |
| If YES, reference: | *Enclosed in the proposal; Section IV.* |
| 11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? | *No* |
| If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? | |
| If YES, reference: | |
| Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? | |
| If YES, reference: | |
| 12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? | *No* |
| If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary) | |
| | |
| 13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? | *No* |
| If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? | |
| If YES, reference: | |