

Proposal to encode the Devanagari Vowel Length Mark in Unicode

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This is a proposal to encode a new character in the Devanagari Extended-A block of the Unicode standard:
a DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK.

GLYPH	CODE	CHARACTER NAME
	U+11B0D	DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK

Sunuwar language is written in both Devanagari and Sunuwar scripts. Devanagari is used widely in Nepal along with Sunuwar script. It recognized as one of the co-official languages of Indian State Sikkim. Sunuwar (Mukhiya) taught in India in 24 different government Schools in Sunuwar (Koitch) script. Government of Nepal publishing the textbooks of Sunuwar in Devanagari script. This Textbooks showing a character ॐ for prolongation mark [ː] like खीँँ /kʰiː/ 'house' and चौँँ /tʃāː/ 'hair'. But in some books, it replaces by ' and combined letters e.g, खीँँ<'खिँँ /kʰiː/ 'house' and तोँँलो<तोँँलो /t̪oːlo/ 'bamboo basket'. There are full sets of textbooks of elementary used this letter in Nepal. This sign is called *Kisa* किस in Sunuwar language.

Wambule language is one of the Kiranti languages also using this sign for lengthen the vowel sound. E.g, ठेँँचाम /tʰeːcam/ 'locked', बाँँम /baːm/ '[he] is/was', दुँँचाम /duːcam/ 'to shake/move', etc.

vowel /aː/. Phonetic and phonological vowel length in Wambule is frequently indicated in the spelling by means of (ः), which is transliterated here by means of the symbol (:), e.g. पाँँम *pāːm* 'I will do it' or खाँँमा *khāːmā* 'alone'.

Fig. 1. Use of ॐ and phonetic value in Wambule language. [Opgenort, 2004: xxiv]

Name

The proposed character is assigned the name DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK. This name seems more appropriate than DEVANAGARI SIGN SUNUWAR KISA.

Glyph Shape

The proposed glyph shape is based upon from various books. The slightly similar to ऽ U+093D DEVANAGARI SIGN AVAGRAHA.

Collation

The proposed character should be sorted after ॐ U+11B0C DEVANAGARI SIGN UPADHMANIYA because SEWG L2/26-010 assigned 2 code points for Jihvamaliya and Upadhmaniya.

Character Data

Character Properties: UnicodeData.txt

11B0D; DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;

Linebreaking Properties: LineBreak.txt

11B0D; AL # Mc DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK

Syllabic Categories: IndicSyllabicCategory.txt

Indic_Syllabic_Category=Vowel_Dependent

11B0D; Vowel_Dependent # Mc DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK

Positional Categories: IndicPositionalCategory.txt

Indic_Positional_Category=Right

11B0D; Left # Mc DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK

References

- [1] Opgenort, Jean Robert. 2004. A grammar Of Wambule: Grammar, Lexicon, Texts and Cultural Survey of a Kiranti Tribe of Eastern Nepal. *Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden*, The Netherlands. ISBN 90-04-13831-5. https://books.google.co.in/books?id=qCMezwEACAAJ&printsec=copyright&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false
- [2] Schulze, Marlene.2022. कौइच-नेपाली-अंग्रेजी शाब्दकोश [Sunuwar-Nepali-English Dictionary]. EKTA Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd. Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal. SIL International.
- [3] नेपाल सरकार. २०६४. इयिँ ल्वो: कौइच ल्वो (सुनुवार भाषा) थँका-१. शिक्षा तथा खेलकुद मन्त्रालय पाठ्यक्रम विकास केन्द्र. सानोठिमी, भक्तपुर.
- .२०६५. इयिँ ल्वो: कौइच् (सुनुवार) भाषा थँका (कक्षा) -२. शिक्षा तथा खेलकुद मन्त्रालय पाठ्यक्रम विकास केन्द्र. सानोठिमी, भक्तपुर.

In literary sources, phonetic and phonemic vowel length is sometimes indicated by means of the orthographic symbol (ऽ). The following words are given by Avināth Rāi (VS 2057).

किऽचाम <i>ki:cām</i>	/ki:cAm/	'to pull, stretch'
क्लिऽचाम <i>kli:cām</i>	/kli:cAm/	'to hide oneself'
सिऽचाम <i>si:cām</i>	/si:cAm/	'to thread, bind'
क्लेऽचाम <i>kle:cām</i>	/klecAm/	'to spread out'
क्लेऽता <i>kle:tā</i>	/kletA/	'flat slippery stone'
ठेऽचाम <i>the:cam</i>	/the:cAm/	'to be shut, locked'
बाऽम <i>bā:m</i>	/ba:m/	'[he] is, [he] was'
गाऽली <i>gā:li</i>	/ga:li/	'sweat'
चाऽचाम <i>cā:cām</i>	/ca:cAm/	'to climb, mount'
हाऽचाम <i>hā:cām</i>	/ha:cAm/	'to joke, jest'

Fig.2. Use of ऽ in Wambule words. [Opgenort, 2004: 63]

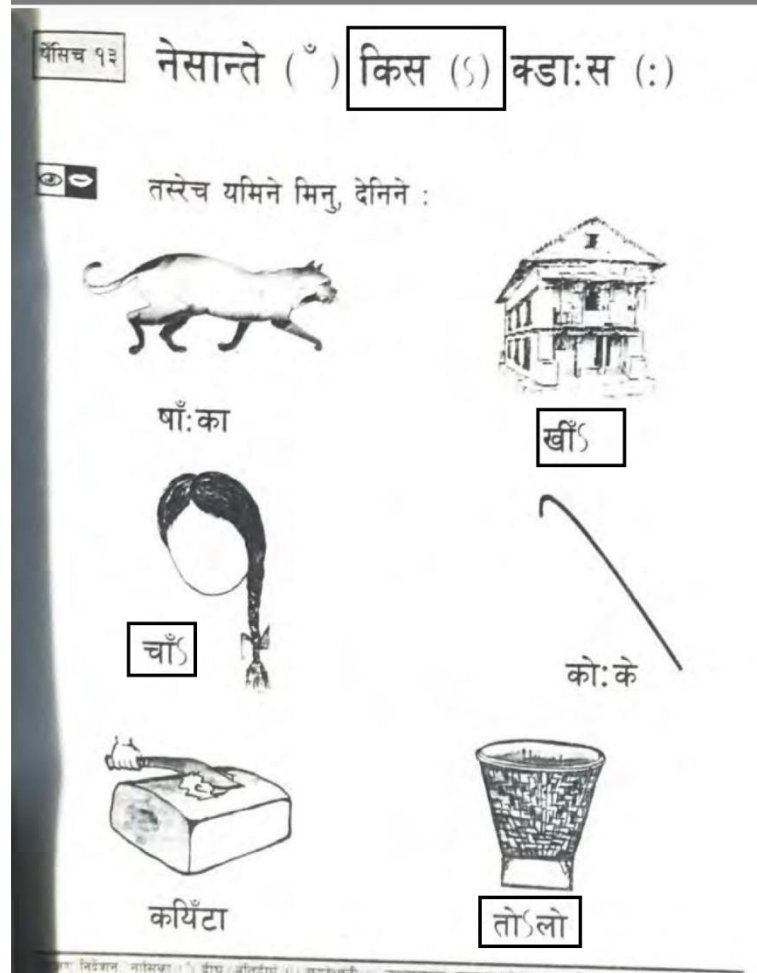


Fig.3. Name of the sign and use in Sunuwar. [Class-1, 2064:40]

४. सेल्लने मुनु बडे:तने :

कड़ रड़ फड़ बड़ ड्य छ्य ड्य र
इय ट्य द्य

कड़ा:चा रड़ा:चा फड़ा:चा बड़ा:चा क्य:चा
ख्ये:ख्ये ग्याऽम्चा घ्याऽम्चा ब्याफो मेप्य
क्या:र्षे ष्याऽरा फ्याक्यो गिड़क्यो थ्याप्यू
ष्यपुल

फ्या:क्यो वोबिसि ।
फ्या:क्यो फेल्खा:इ ।
ग्यो:क बु:ष्या
यो:षा चिष्णा जइ ।



५. तस्रेच को:षा ने बडे:तने :

.....इमेइले



Fig.4. Use in various words. [Class-1, 2064:60]

५. ओत्थ एर दुम्पो आप्सि योऽपा दुर्दा सेलिने :

- (क) खिँमि फुऽरू ब मिकुन आ ।
- (ख) फुऽपुकि बोइषोनिमि फुऽ रूमि ।
- (ग) सुऽति, तोऽपिल फुऽ निमि फुऽ रूमि ।
- (घ) जिर्बेरपुकि बानिमिनु सुर्बु फुऽ रूमि ।
- (ङ) सुर्बुपुकिमि युप्निमि फुऽपुऽवाक ।
- (च) रोऽब फु मिकुनमि ।
- (छ) कोऽब इकुल आ ग्यो यो ।

शशि लो ६६

शशि च १८

खोते नम्थेर

टकराम सुनुवार



ग्यु याड नम्मात । नाऽदो खोते इप्ने मचब । ग्यूमि साप्पा
खिँडखिँड पाप्तु । मिनु सिनाऽतिडा ल्वो मिम्ताव- “सिनाऽति
यो ग्यु नम्मात । मुलाऽति यो ग्यु पाप्तु । दिसा दाऽ सोप्सिः
कोऽते थुऽनुड । रवा आन बाँऽ खुप्नुड । मिनु डेऽ डुऽ पा
खिँका सेल्लुड । दुकुकु जेषा इप्नुड ।”



आ दिसा दुम्त । खोते नाँऽ थेर्य
गडुत । नाँऽमि जेषा नाऽतरे
नम्थेर पाप्तु । खोतेमि पेत
नेल पडैताऊ ।



शशि लो ६६

Fig.5. Use in various words. [Class-2, 2065:66-67]

गिँब्ला पाप्तु । डा-डा ब्ले-ब्ले पाप्तु । थेबमुर जा:षा साइनिमि दे गिकगिक
दुम्मात ।

मुनु लोवकलि पिंगालो उईन खोल्या वोइतु । आँ च्छिन् केल्पिमि डोइषा
वा:त् । थेबमुर जा:मानु आल बेषो थित्तेमे । तमि मतामे । मल्मेनु केल्पि
रवामि वा:षो ताम्तेमे । गयाइदिमानु बुरं बेर्षा लत् ।

आम्आप्फोमि बेषो ल्वोवकलि केल्पि रवार्पुमि थिम्तेमे । मुनु रेउपोत्
पवानु आ ल्वोव आ रुषखाऽष म्लुषो ताप्तु । मेको रुषखाऽष तवा नु हिमाकेम
पा डामेनु 'तुबिऽऽ तुबिऽऽ' दैषा डा:त ।



Fig.6. multiple use of ः for very long sound words. [Class-2, 2065:77]

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> 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 to Encode the Devanagari Vowel Length Mark in Unicode
2. Requester's name:	<i>Biswajit Mandal (biswajitmandal.bm90@gmail.com)</i>
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<i>Individual Member</i>
4. Submission date:	<i>23/03/2026</i>
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):	
6. Choose one of the following:	
This is a complete proposal:	Yes
(or) More information will be provided later:	No

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:	<i>Devanagari</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:	1	
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):		
A-Contemporary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection) <input type="checkbox"/>
C-Major extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct <input type="checkbox"/>
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic <input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols <input type="checkbox"/>	
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?	<i>Biswajit Mandal (biswajitmandal.bm90@gmail.com)</i>	
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	<i>Biswajit Mandal (biswajitmandal.bm90@gmail.com)</i>	
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	
	<i>See proposal for additional details</i>	

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 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? If YES explain		No
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.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	 <i>Sunuwar and Wambule community of Nepal</i> <i>See citations in text proposal</i>	Yes
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	<i>See text of proposal</i>	Yes
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	<i>See text of proposal</i>	Rare
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	<i>See text of proposal</i>	Yes
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:		No
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?		N/A
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:		No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:		No
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? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	 <i>See text of proposal</i>	Yes Yes
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? 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:		No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)		No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:		No

UnicodeData.txt

1 11B0D; DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;

IndicPositionalCategory.txt

11B0D; Riht # Mc DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK

IndicSyllabicCategory.txt

11B0D; Vowel_Dependent # Mc DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK

LineBreak.txt

1 11B0D; AL # Mc DEVANAGARI VOWEL LENGTH MARK