

Title: Additional Information on the Eskaya Script of the Philippines
Source: Script Encoding Initiative (SEI)
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1 Background

The Eskaya script used on the island of Bohol, Philippines is mentioned in Unicode Technical Note #35, prepared by Christopher Miller (2011: 14–15), but it is not yet allocated to the Unicode Roadmap and no formal documents have been submitted regarding its encoding in the Universal Character Set (UCS). This document supplements the information provided by Miller with additional specimens.

The Eskaya script is a syllbary that was reportedly created by Mariano Datahan in the early 20th century for writing Eskayan, an artificial auxiliary language used on Bohol. The syllabary consists of a core set of 46 characters known as *abidiha* “alphabet”, which are used for the most common sounds; however, the full syllabary consists roughly of 1,065 characters, a number that varies slightly depending upon the source. There are at least 9 combining marks for representing final consonants; a full set of digits; and distinctive signs for some mathematical operators and punctuation.

The script is in limited usage at present. Numerous books are written in Eskaya and it was taught in schools. There is ongoing scholarly research on the Eskayan language and script, and several secondary sources about the syllabary are available (see Santos 1996, Kelly 2012). Efforts are underway to digitize the script (as shown in figure 6). I have initiated communication with the user and scholarly communities and have begun research for determining the suitability of encoding Eskaya in the UCS.

2 References

- Kelly, Piers. 2012. “Your word against mine: How a rebel language and script of the Philippines was created, suppressed, recovered and contested”. *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*, vol. 23, no. 3: 357–378. <http://www.academia.edu/2588920/>
- Miller, Christopher. 2011. “Unicode Technical Note #35: Indonesian and Philippine Scripts and Extensions”. <http://www.unicode.org/notes/tn35/>
- Santos, Hector. 1996. “The Eskaya Script”. <http://www.bibinka.com/dahon/mystery/eskaya.htm>

Eskaya Alphabet							
Eskaya Names	Eskaya System of Writing	Eskaya Names	Eskaya System of Writing	Eskaya Names	Eskaya System of Writing	Eskaya Names	Eskaya System of Writing
A		Ele		Ekis		Sa	
Be		Me		E		Cod	
Ce		Ne		Pa		Ke	
De		N~		Pre		Gro	
E		O		Pag		Gue	
Efe		Pe		Cion		Boy	
He		Co		Cho		Ngo	
Ache		Ere		Tao		Ngoy	
I		Ece		Uas		Ar	
Ho		Te		Ted		Con	
Ta		U		Kre			
Ca		Ve		Ning			

Figure 1: A chart showing the *abihida* or 46 core characters of the Eskaya syllabary (Source: <http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/ldtc/languages/eskaya/WritingSystem.html>)

A	A	TRA	A ₄₄	DE	ᑕ	ED	ᑕᑕ	GLO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OS	ᑕ
BA	a	WA	a	DRE	ᑕᑕ	EP	ᑕᑕ	GRO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OT	ᑕᑕ
BLA	lell	YA	A	PE	8	EG	ᑕᑕ	JO	ᑕ	ONG	ᑕ
BRA	Re	TA	A	PLE	ᑕᑕ	EL	ᑕᑕ	CHO	leed	OY	ᑕᑕ
KA	Ch	AB	ᑕᑕ	PRE	ᑕᑕᑕ	EM	ᑕᑕ	CHDO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OW	ᑕᑕ
KLA	ᑕᑕ	AK	ᑕᑕ	GE	(-)	EN	ᑕᑕ	LO	E	ᑕ	ᑕᑕ
KRA	ᑕᑕ	AD	ᑕᑕ	GLE	(-)	ER	ᑕᑕ	LLO	ᑕᑕ	1	ᑕᑕ
DA	A	AP	ᑕᑕ	GRE	ᑕᑕ	ES	ᑕᑕ	MO	ᑕᑕ	2	ᑕᑕ
DRA	A ₄₄	AG	ᑕᑕ	JE	8	ET	ᑕᑕ	NO	ᑕᑕ	3	ᑕᑕ
PA	ᑕᑕ	AL	ᑕᑕ	CHE	lell	ING	ᑕᑕ	NO	ᑕᑕ	4	ᑕᑕ
PLA	ᑕᑕ	AM	ᑕᑕ	CHDE	lell	EY	ᑕᑕ	NGO	ᑕᑕ	5	ᑕᑕ
PRA	ᑕᑕᑕ	AN	ᑕᑕ	LE	ᑕᑕ	EW	ᑕᑕᑕ	RO	ᑕᑕ	6	ᑕᑕ
GA	A	AR	ᑕᑕ	LLE	ᑕᑕᑕ	E	ᑕᑕ	SO	ᑕᑕ	7	ᑕᑕ
GLA	ᑕᑕᑕ	AS	ᑕᑕ	ME	ᑕᑕᑕ	O	ᑕᑕ	TO	ᑕᑕ	8	ᑕᑕ
GRA	ᑕᑕᑕ	AT	ᑕᑕ	NE	ᑕᑕᑕ	BO	ᑕᑕ	TRO	ᑕᑕᑕ	9	ᑕᑕ
HA	A	ANG	ᑕᑕ	NE	ᑕᑕᑕ	BLO	ᑕᑕᑕ	WO	ᑕᑕᑕ	10	ᑕᑕ
CHA	lell	AY	ᑕᑕ	NGE	ᑕᑕᑕ	BRO	ᑕᑕᑕ	TO	ᑕᑕᑕ	SA	ᑕᑕ
CHDA	aas	AW	ᑕᑕ	RE	ᑕᑕᑕ	KO	ᑕᑕ	OB	ᑕᑕᑕ	SAD	ᑕᑕᑕ
LA	ᑕᑕ	A	ᑕᑕ	SE	ᑕᑕ	KLO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OK	ᑕᑕ	SAB	ᑕᑕᑕ
LLA	A	E	ᑕᑕ	TE	ᑕᑕ	KRO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OD	ᑕᑕ	SAK	ᑕᑕᑕ
MA	A ₄₄	BE	ᑕᑕ	TRE	ᑕᑕᑕ	DO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OP	ᑕᑕ	SAL	ᑕᑕᑕ
NA	A	BLE	ᑕᑕᑕ	VE	ᑕᑕᑕ	DRO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OG	ᑕᑕᑕ	SAM	ᑕᑕᑕ
NA	lell	BRE	ᑕᑕᑕ	WE	ᑕᑕ	PO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OL	ᑕᑕ	SAN	ᑕᑕᑕ
NGA	iss	CE	ᑕᑕ	YE	ᑕᑕ	PLO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OM	ᑕᑕᑕ	SAR	ᑕᑕᑕ
RA	ᑕᑕ	KE	ᑕᑕᑕ	EB	ᑕᑕᑕ	PRO	ᑕᑕᑕ	ON	ᑕᑕ	SAS	ᑕᑕᑕ
SA	ᑕᑕ	KLE	ᑕᑕᑕ	EK	ᑕᑕᑕ	GO	ᑕᑕᑕ	OR	ᑕᑕ	SAY	ᑕᑕᑕ

Figure 2: A chart showing a portion of the Eskaya syllabary (Source: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7d/Eskayasripttable.GIF>)

a	ya	ta	da	tra	dra	ga	ha	ang	lla	na
a	wa	bla	bra	gla	gra	cha	chda	la	ka	kla
kra	pa	pla	bra	ma	nga	ra	sa	ab	ak	ad
ap	ag	al	am	an	ar	as	at	ay	aw	a
e	be	ble	bre	ce	ke	kle	de	dre	pe	ple
pre	ge	gle	gre	je	che	chde	le	lle	me	ne
ñe	nge	re	se	te	tre	ve	we	ye	eb	ek
ed	ep	eg	el	em	en	er	es	et	ing	ey
e	o	bo	blo	bro	ko	klo	kro	do	dro	po
plo	pro	go	glo	gro	jo	cho	chdo	lo	llo	mo
no	ño	ngo	ro	so	to	tro	wo	to	ob	ok
od	op	og	ol	om	on	or	os	ot	ong	oy
ow	o									

Figure 3: A chart showing a portion of the Eskaya syllabary in an order that differs from that shown in figure 2 (Source: <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/eskayan.htm>)

Eskaya Numerals								
Hindu Arabic System	Eskaya Name	Eskaya System of Writing	Hindu Arabic System	Eskaya Name	Eskaya System of Writing	Hindu Arabic System	Eskaya Name	Eskaya System of Writing
1	Oy	?	11	Pon oy	??	101	Oytos oy	???
2	Tre	9	20	Kaw	92	200	Kawton	9??
3	Coy	7	30	Krat	72	300	Kraton	7??
4	Pan	4	40	Panse	42	400	Panton	4??
5	Sing	4	50	Singpe	42	500	Sington	4??
6	Nom	7	60	Nompe	72	600	Nomton	7??
7	Pen	H	70	Sit	H2	700	Penton	H??
8	Wal	7	80	Os	72	800	Walton	7??
9	Sim	9	90	Nor	92	900	Simton	9??
10	Pon	??	100	Oytos	???	1000	Oy man	????

Figure 4: Eskaya numbers (Source: <http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/ldtc/languages/eskaya/WritingSystem.html>)

Eskaya Symbols and Punctuation Mark

Hindu Arabic System	Symbol	Eskaya Name	Eskaya Symbol
Addition	+	As	=
Subtraction	-	Ton	Y
Multiplication	x	Bret	%
Division	÷	Pen	/
Question Mark	?	Zon	?
Comma	,	Nyo	,
Quotation mark	" "	Mos	
Period	.	Tik	~
Exclamation point	!	Gre	!
Parenthesis	()	Llo	()
Dash	—	Cap	-
Series of period	...	Chet	...

Figure 5: Eskaya mathematical operators and punctuation (Source: <http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/ldtc/languages/eskaya/WritingSystem.html>)



Figure 6: Glyph designs for a digitized Eskaya font (Source: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.283378991803406.1073741830.166830443458262&type=3>)