

9.16 Philippine Scripts

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Tagalog: U+1700–U+171F

Hanunóo: U+1720–U+173F

Buhid: U+1740–U+175F

Tagbanwa: U+1760–U+177F

South Indian scripts of the Pallava dynasty made their way to the Philippines, though the exact route by which these were brought to there is not certain. It seems that they may have been transported by way of the Kavi scripts of Western Java between the 10th and 14th centuries CE. Written accounts of the Tagalog script by Spanish missionaries, and documents in Tagalog, are known from the period of initial Spanish incursion in the mid-1500s. While the Tagalog script had been used to write the Tagalog, Bisaya, Ilocano, and other languages, it had fallen out of normal use by the mid-1700s; the Tagalog language now utilizes the Latin script. The Tagalog script has three living relatives (they may or may not be descendants): the Hanunóo, Buhid, and Tagbanwa scripts. All four of these scripts are encoded separately in the Unicode Standard. The Hanunóo and the Buhid live in Mindoro and the Tagbanwa live in Palawan. Tagbanwa is the least vigorous of the three living Philippine scripts. Hanunóo enjoys the most popular use.

Principles of the Scripts

Consonant Letters. As with other related scripts, Philippine scripts have consonants containing an inherent *-a* vowel, which may be modified by the addition of vowel signs, or, in some instances, “killed” by the use of a virama-type mark.

Independent Vowel Letters. As with other related scripts, Philippine scripts have null consonants which are used to write syllables that start with a vowel.

Dependent Vowel Signs. The vowel *-i* is written with a mark above, and the vowel *-u* with an identical mark below, the associated consonant. The mark is known in Tagalog as *kudlit* ‘diacritic’, *tuldik* ‘accent’, or *tildok* ‘dot’, and *ulitan* ‘diacritic’ in Tagbanwa. The Philippine scripts employ only the two vowel signs *i* and *u*, which are also used respectively to stand for the vowels *e* and *o*.

Virama. Though all languages normally written with the Philippine scripts have syllables possessing final consonants, not all of the scripts have a mechanism for expressing the “killed” *-a*. Francisco Lopez introduced a cross-shaped *virama* in his 1520 catechism in the Ilocano language, but this innovation did not seem to find favour with native users, who seem to have considered the script adequate without it (they preferred 𑄆𑄆𑄃 *kakapi* to 𑄆𑄆𑄃𑄆 *kakampi*). A similar reform for the Hanunóo script seems to have been better received. The Hanunóo *pamudpod* was devised by Antoon Postma, who went to the Philippines from the Netherlands in the mid-1950s. In traditional orthography, 𑄆𑄃 𑄆𑄃 𑄆 𑄆𑄃 𑄆 *si apu*

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Tagalog, Hanunóo, Buhid and Tagbanwa Scripts

| | 170 | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | |
| A | | | | | | | | |
| B | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | |
| F | | | | | | | | |

G = 00
P = 00

Tagalog, Hanunóo, Buhid and Tagbanwa Scripts

| hex | Name |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 00 | TAGALOG LETTER A |
| 01 | TAGALOG LETTER I |
| 02 | TAGALOG LETTER U |
| 03 | TAGALOG LETTER KA |
| 04 | TAGALOG LETTER GA |
| 05 | TAGALOG LETTER NGA |
| 06 | TAGALOG LETTER TA |
| 07 | TAGALOG LETTER DA |
| 08 | TAGALOG LETTER NA |
| 09 | TAGALOG LETTER PA |
| 0A | TAGALOG LETTER BA |
| 0B | TAGALOG LETTER MA |
| 0C | TAGALOG LETTER YA |
| 0D | (This position shall not be used) |
| 0E | TAGALOG LETTER LA |
| 0F | TAGALOG LETTER WA |
| 10 | TAGALOG LETTER SA |
| 11 | TAGALOG LETTER HA |
| 12 | TAGALOG VOWEL SIGN I |
| 13 | TAGALOG VOWEL SIGN U |
| 14 | TAGALOG SIGN VIRAMA |
| 15 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 16 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 17 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 18 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 19 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 1A | (This position shall not be used) |
| 1B | (This position shall not be used) |
| 1C | (This position shall not be used) |
| 1D | (This position shall not be used) |
| 1E | (This position shall not be used) |
| 1F | (This position shall not be used) |
| 20 | HANUNOO LETTER A |
| 21 | HANUNOO LETTER I |
| 22 | HANUNOO LETTER U |
| 23 | HANUNOO LETTER KA |
| 24 | HANUNOO LETTER GA |
| 25 | HANUNOO LETTER NGA |
| 26 | HANUNOO LETTER TA |
| 27 | HANUNOO LETTER DA |
| 28 | HANUNOO LETTER NA |
| 29 | HANUNOO LETTER PA |
| 2A | HANUNOO LETTER BA |
| 2B | HANUNOO LETTER MA |
| 2C | HANUNOO LETTER YA |
| 2D | HANUNOO LETTER RA |
| 2E | HANUNOO LETTER LA |
| 2F | HANUNOO LETTER WA |
| 30 | HANUNOO LETTER SA |
| 31 | HANUNOO LETTER HA |
| 32 | HANUNOO VOWEL SIGN I |
| 33 | HANUNOO VOWEL SIGN U |
| 34 | HANUNOO SIGN PAMUDPOD |
| 35 | PHILIPPINE SINGLE PUNCTUATION |
| 36 | PHILIPPINE DOUBLE PUNCTUATION |
| 37 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 38 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 39 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 3A | (This position shall not be used) |
| 3B | (This position shall not be used) |
| 3C | (This position shall not be used) |
| 3D | (This position shall not be used) |
| 3E | (This position shall not be used) |
| 3F | (This position shall not be used) |
| 40 | BUHID LETTER A |
| 41 | BUHID LETTER I |
| 42 | BUHID LETTER U |
| 43 | BUHID LETTER KA |
| 44 | BUHID LETTER GA |
| 45 | BUHID LETTER NGA |
| 46 | BUHID LETTER TA |
| 47 | BUHID LETTER DA |
| 48 | BUHID LETTER NA |
| 49 | BUHID LETTER PA |
| 4A | BUHID LETTER BA |
| 4B | BUHID LETTER MA |
| 4C | BUHID LETTER YA |
| 4D | BUHID LETTER RA |
| 4E | BUHID LETTER LA |
| 4F | BUHID LETTER WA |
| 50 | BUHID LETTER SA |
| 51 | BUHID LETTER HA |
| 52 | BUHID VOWEL SIGN I |
| 53 | BUHID VOWEL SIGN U |
| 54 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 55 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 56 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 57 | (This position shall not be used) |
| 58 | (This position shall not be used) |

| dec | hex | Name |
|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| | 59 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 5A | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 5B | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 5C | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 5D | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 5E | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 5F | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 60 | TAGBANWA LETTER A |
| | 61 | TAGBANWA LETTER I |
| | 62 | TAGBANWA LETTER U |
| | 63 | TAGBANWA LETTER KA |
| | 64 | TAGBANWA LETTER GA |
| | 65 | TAGBANWA LETTER NGA |
| | 66 | TAGBANWA LETTER TA |
| | 67 | TAGBANWA LETTER DA |
| | 68 | TAGBANWA LETTER NA |
| | 69 | TAGBANWA LETTER PA |
| | 6A | TAGBANWA LETTER BA |
| | 6B | TAGBANWA LETTER MA |
| | 6C | TAGBANWA LETTER YA |
| | 6D | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 6E | TAGBANWA LETTER LA |
| | 6F | TAGBANWA LETTER WA |
| | 70 | TAGBANWA LETTER SA |
| | 71 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 72 | TAGBANWA VOWEL SIGN I |
| | 73 | TAGBANWA VOWEL SIGN U |
| | 74 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 75 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 76 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 77 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 78 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 79 | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 7A | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 7B | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 7C | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 7D | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 7E | (This position shall not be used) |
| | 7F | (This position shall not be used) |