Title: A Roadmap for Scripts of the Landa Family

Source: Script Encoding Initiative (SEI)

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1 Introduction

Landa is a writing system of South Asia that was used in the regions of Punjab and Sindh. It is a Brahmi-based script that is descended from Sharada and related to the Takri script (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The name 'Landa' (laṇḍā) means 'clipped' and refers to certain characteristics of the script, such as the absence of vowel signs, the use of a single letter for representing an aspirated and unaspirated consonant pair, the absence of word spacing and punctuation, and other shorthand practices. There is no standard form of Landa and given its large geographic distribution, the script became regionally differentiated through its use by various merchant communities and administrative bodies. These varieties of Landa may be grouped into the two regional typological sub-classes of 'Punjabi' and 'Sindhi'. Although Landa is considered an 'incomplete' mercantile script, some varieties were reformed into literary and administrative scripts in order to meet the requirements of religious and social communities in Punjab and Sindh.

In the *Linguistic Survey of India*, George Grierson called Landa the "true alphabet of the Punjab". As the popular script of Punjab, Landa served as the model for the Gurmukhi script, which was designed in the 16th century by Angad, the second Sikh Guru, for the purpose of recording the teachings of Guru Nanak. Similarly, the forms of Landa used in Multan were adapted for printing by the Baptist Missionary Press, who developed metal types for Multani in order to produce Christian literature in the Siraiki language. Writing in 1916, Grierson noted that Landa was "current all over the Punjab, and is especially used by shop-keepers". Now, nearly a century later, Landa is present in Punjab only through its Gurmukhi descendent; the Multani form of Landa is now written in the Arabic script. However, it is possible that Landa is still maintained informally for mercantile purposes in the region.

In Sindh, the Landa script is known as "Baniyā" or "Wāṇikō", 3 names which allude to the mercantile nature of the script. By the 16th century, the Lohanaki variety of Landa was reformed to create an ecclesiastical script known as Khojki. Believed to have been introduced by Pir Sadruddin, an Ismaili missionary working with the Lohana merchant community, Khojki was used to record the ginān literature of the Nizari Ismaili sect. Khojki is still used by Ismailis in South Asia and was exported to east Africa, Canada, and other areas where the South Asian Ismaili diaspora settled. The Khojki script has been proposed for encoding in the UCS. 4 In the administrative sphere, the British government of Sindh developed a standard Sindhi script in 1868 that was called 'Hindu Sindhi'. 5 This Standard Sindhi was used in education, book printing, and in courts. Sindhi is now written in the Arabic and Devanagari scripts; however, attempts have been made to revive haṭa-vāṇikā "merchant's alphabet", 6 and it is possible that the Landa-based scripts are used informally by Sindhi speakers.

¹ Grierson 1916: 624. ² Grierson 1916: 624. ³ Grierson 1919: 14. ⁴ Pandey 2009. ⁵ Grierson 1919: 18. ⁶ Jetley 1985.

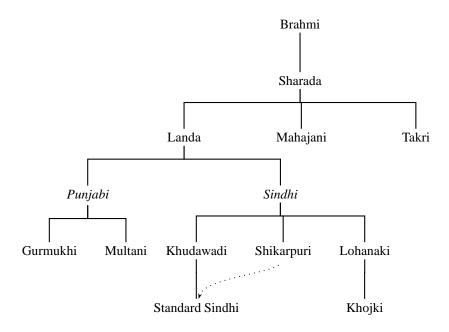


Figure 1: Family tree of Landa and related scripts

2 Analysis

Based upon typological differences that correlate with regional distribution, Landa may be divided into the 'Punjabi' and 'Sindhi' sub-classes. The primary differences between the Punjabi and Sindhi forms are character repertoire, glyph shapes, collation patterns, and orthographic practices. Additionally, local forms within the Punjabi and Sindhi sub-classes also exhibit differences from other members within their respective regional sub-classes.

The division of Landa into regional sub-classes is supported by primary and secondary sources. In *Grammar of the Sindhi Language* (1849), George Stack presented twelve sub-regional varieties of Landa used in Sindh and one form used in Punjab. George Grierson (1916) shows two different forms of Landa used in Punjab, of which one is the form used in Multan. William Leitner (1882) shows specimens and comparative tables of at least six forms of Landa used in Punjab and numerous local varieties used in Sindh. The nomenclature used to classify these forms of Landa is not uniform. Some scripts are named after the languages and dialects they are used for writing and others are given names of the regions or communities with which they are associated. Based on the above and other sources, an attempt is made below to classify various names given to Landa-based scripts according to their regional affiliation:

- *Punjabi*: Bhawalpuri, Gurmukhi, Landa, Lamawasi, Multani (Karikki, Lahnda, Ochiki Punjabi, Southern Lahnda), Thul (Dehrajat), Sarika (Dehrajat)
- *Sindhi*: Arora, Baniya, Bhatia, Haidarabadi, Karadi, Khudawadi, Khwaja (Khojki), Hatvanika, Landa, Larai, Lohanaki (Lohana), Maimon, Rajai, Sakkar, Shikarpuri, Sewhani Bhabhira, Thatta (Thattai), Vaniya, Wangai, Waniko

The differences between Punjabi and Sindhi forms of Landa is exemplified in Figure 3. This figure depicts written specimens of Standard Sindhi and a form of Landa used for writing Multani (Siraiki), a language spoken in Punjab. Figure 4 shows the differences between printed forms of Sindhi and Multani. The shapes of characters and style of writing are entirely different. Another comparison of the Punjabi and Sindhi forms

is made in Figure 5. In Figure 6, 'Landa' and 'Multani' are shown separately and 'Landa' is shown as the class name for 'Khudawadi' and 'Sindhi-Schrift' scripts. The variety of Landa forms used in Punjab is shown in Figure 10.

The regional forms are strongly influenced by the phonemic repertoire of local languages and, therefore, the Sindhi forms possess characters not found in the Punjabi varieties. General differences between the two sub-classes are:

- Character repertoire: Character repertoire is a major distinguishing factor between Punjabi and Sindhi forms of Landa. The Sindhi forms have characters for the Sindhi implosives (corresponding to the Devanagari letters GGA, JJA, DDDA, and BBA), which are not found in Punjabi or other Indo-Aryan languages.
- *Glyph shapes:* Based upon analysis of common letters such as A and KA it is possible to determine by glyph shape whether a script belongs to the Punjabi or Sindhi sub-class.
- *Orthography:* Vowel signs were introduced into Sindhi forms of Landa as part of standardization. The Punjabi forms of Landa do not use vowel signs; the vowel letter is often written with a consonant letter to indicate the composition of a syllable, eg. *ki* would be written as LETTER KA + LETTER I.
- *Collation order:* The collation order for the Punjabi and Sindhi forms are different; Punjabi Landa follows the sort order for Gurmukhi, which places sA and HA at the head of the consonants, while Sindhi Landa follows the Devanagari order.

3 Recommendation

For the purposes of encoding Landa in the UCS, it is recommended that the Punjabi and Sindhi sub-classes be encoded separately. Encoding a unified Landa block that may be used for both Punjabi and Sindhi regional forms is impractical because such an approach requires identifying a form of Landa that could adequately represent the character repertoires and glyph shapes used in Punjab as well as in Sindh. Furthermore, such a unified encoding for Landa would result in the unification of at least twenty different scripts.

Encoding the Punjabi and Sindhi forms separately offers a more effective means for managing the various regional forms of Landa on a model that adheres to the structural differences between the two sub-classes. Thus, a block to be named 'Sindhi' will serve to unify local Sindhi scripts such as Khudawadi, Shikarpuri, etc. The characters will be based upon the Standard Sindhi script. As Landa is considered by Grierson to be the "true alphabet of the Punjab", it is recommended that the name 'Landa' be retained as the name of the block that will unify the regional Landa forms of Punjab.

The 'Landa' and 'Sindhi' blocks will provide an effective means for managing the Landa family of scripts through unification. However, some of the scripts belonging to these sub-classes may be encoded as independent scripts, depending upon user requirements and other factors. Khojki is one such example; Multani may prove to be another. The following proposals have been submitted in support of this recommendation:

- L2/10-012 "Preliminary Proposal to Encode the Sindhi Script in ISO/IEC 10646"
- L2/10-013 "Preliminary Proposal to Encode the Landa Script in ISO/IEC 10646"

The present document is intended to accompany the above proposals. The individual proposals for encoding the Landa and Sindhi scripts provide additional details and specimens, including code charts and nameslists.

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Figure 2: Comparison of Gurmukhi, Landa, Takri, and Sharada letters (from Grierson 1916: 625).

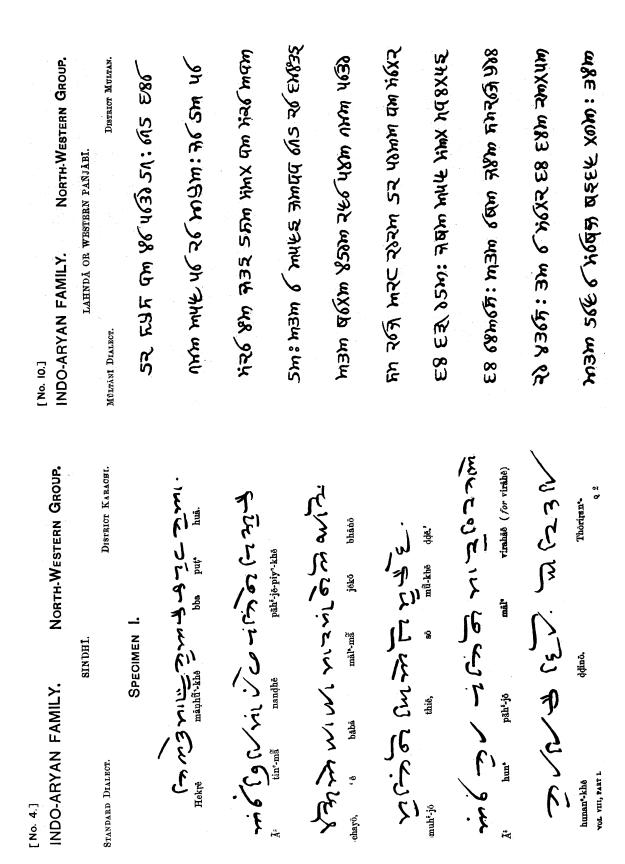


Figure 3: Specimens of Standard Sindhi and Multani Landa (from Grierson 1919: 115, 315).

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Figure 4: Specimens of Printed Sindhi and Multani Landa (from Taylor 1883: 338-339).

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Sindhi or Khudawadi Alphabet.

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Figure 5: Comparison of Sindhi and Multani forms of Landa with Marwari (from Prinsep 1837: 352).

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Figure 6: A chart showing the scripts of the Sharada family (from Jensen 1969: 366). The 'Khudawadi' and 'Sindhi-Schrift' are shown as forms of 'Landa', while 'Multani' is classified separately. Here, the 'Landa' scripts refer to those used in Sindh; the 'Multani' represents the Punjabi style.

SINDH- UND MULTANSCHRIFT.

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Die auffallenden Abweichungen der beiden Schriften von Sindh und Multan beweisen, dass von einer einfachen Entlehnung keine Rede sein kann, denn wir finden Sindh & tša als Multan & ra, Sindh \(\mathbf{u}\) tha als Multan \(\mathbf{u}\) tha in Übereinstimmung mit Sindh \(\mathbf{t}\) tša.

Mit Rücksicht auf die Einwanderung der arischen Stämme von Norden liegt die Vermuthung nahe, dass die vorstehenden Schriften des nördlichen Indiens den Grundstock der vedischen Schrift abgaben. Durch die Herrschaft der magadhischen Schrift während der Zeit, wo in ganz Vorderindien der Buddhismus herrschte, wurde die heimische Schrift in den Schatten gestellt. Man zog die fremde Schrift wegen ihres Reichthums an Zeichen und wegen ihrer festen Schreibregeln vor. So kam es, dass die heimische Schrift, welche sich trotzdem im Volke erhielt, zu den gelehrten Werken nicht verwendet und diesfalls die Devanagarischrift vorgezogen wurde.

Figure 7: A comparison of standard forms of Landa as found in Sindh and Multan (from Faulmann 1880: 121).

121

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B	6	i (' iṛī ')	હ	ર	dha
8	6	u ('ūṛā')	ट	٤	ņa
G	6	ō	3	3	ta
म	う	sa	B	व	tha
3	5	ha	9	Y	da
ਕ੍	a	ka	प	9	dho
A	לל	kha	っろ	٨	na
ח	11	ga	ч	ч	pa
વ્ય	4	gha	3	6	phu
হ	১	ňα	В	<u>E</u>	ba
8	2	cha	ब	3	bha
EQ	40	chha	મ	76	ma
ֆ	7	ja	ય	21	ya
%	*	jha	δ	3	ra
ટ્	А	ña	ਲ ਲ	ത	la
5	4	ţa.	3	2	va
8	68	tha	3	3	ra

Figure 8: Form of Landa used to write the Lahnda language of Punjab (from Grierson 1919: 248).

		MÜLTÄNÎ O	P MULTAN.		311
	Lands	Lands of Multan		Lappa.	Lands of Multan
a ('āiŗā')	m	m	d a	3	8
i (' ēŗī ')	6	ક્	dha E	ર	X
u (' ūŗā ')	6	6	# a	٤	r
8 ***	لدر	m	ta	3	3
8	6	6	tha	व	জ
ક ત	ゝ	か か しゅうしゅ かんしゅう かんしゅ かんしゅう かんしゅう かんしゅう かんしゅ しゅんしゅう かんしゅう かんしゅ しゅんしゅう かんしゅ しゅんしゅ しゅんしゅ しゅんしゅ しゅんしゅ しゅん しゃ	đo	Y	य
Ãø.	- 5	5	dha	9	ᅜ
ka	વ	2	114	٨	η
kha	カ	y	pa	4	ષ
ga	81	ก	pha	6	\$
gka	4	ωį	ba	5	ઘ
#a	ょ	•••	bha	3	カ
cha	2	8	ma	x	カ
chka	49	8	ya	20	• • •
ja	73	33	re	۵	>
jka	7	न	la	m	X
ñ a	k	31	va	4	ε
ţ o	6	-	ŗa	*	9
ţha	88	C	Ţħa	. • • •	59

Figure 9: Form of Landa used to write the Multani (Siraiki) language of Punjab (from Grierson 1919: 248).

		1			1				
pæs,	13	Kraki							,
E jame	6/1-113	Pogri	6	*	b :	A	10	6	×
Theturi	33	Ichri	9	Œ	ġ	72	N	-€	8
with	G.B Urlii voordind	letteres	• •	3	Ś	5	۵	-)	pa .
rafi' K	Grado Deste	s Sarafi	66	ယယ	29	9	"	e	*
ende Sa	15.00 of Suit 12.22.	Linkson	6 60 66	£	9	æ	5	ત	r
ds of Li	فيجيار	Petiale Los	છ	14	6	S	ار	ć	B
SetNg 2 Dyfered Han	1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	Rayne Lan	9	k	(J:	A	٦	Ą.	-X
Sei wik In		Larde II	B	Z	6	z	>	~	3
SetNg 2 Gerenmakki with Differed Kinds of Lande Scrafi K with Thakuri and Dogoi	اي.	Lande I Land II Transe III Payer Inter Patiete Land Sant	Ø	w	(1	5	4	3
11	12 /A	Lande I	6	٤	6	S	5	*	¥
ebets of	1/50 H	Nayri	77	St.	D=	13-62	vs	16	D = D
Comparison of the alphabets of Nagri	on		iora	tira	iri	34960 A-M	haha	Kabka	Klaktola B=TA
1992	G.	Gurmaleu	60	* aire	a	8	P	P	7
Compa	zepanilo s	annao).	.3	8	'w	B	146	-24	kk

Figure 10: Chart comparing different forms of Landa used in Punjab (from Leitner 1882: App. VII, Part A, 6).

The Alphabet.

cters.					ŢĸĸŢ	ŢĀI.					MAIN	OMS.	bhir ia.	inds:
Reman characters.	Dēvanāgarī.	Khudāwāģī.•	Shikarpurt	Sakkar.	Luhanas.	Blațiac.	La _r ti.	Wangal.	Rajjat.	Khwējās.	Thatts.	Haidarābād.	Sowhani Bhabhirae.	Southern Lahyde.
			·											
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å	आ	ഷ	m	m	"N	m	νη.	, ખ	n	-7 } •		つ	חו	₩,
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ī	, ADA	† 6	+6	† 6	50,0	ำค	R	<u>ક</u> ા	0	່ງໍເ	ند	•9	1	6
u	उ	m	741	m	6	۶	6	6	- ا	છ	(6	ઉ	w
ü	3,	m.	לנו	m	6	۶	6	٠ -	٠	5	•	6	ß	~
.	ए	m	m	.771)	ور	4	ے	દ ા	C	Ł	3	ın	6
ai	3	m	m	m	"n	ກາ	mø	189.	në!	74	ינר	٥ د	מי	W
ō	ओ	m	מיי	m	6	6	6	6	-	950	יבר	6	מו	r
au	ओ	m	71)	m	6	6	6	6	6	75	40	76	≀n	m

The Khudawadi is the character used at Haidarabad and by most of the respectable merchants throughout the country. That of the Shikarpur and Sakkar merchants differs but little from it.

Figure 11: Chart showing the different forms of Landa used in Sindh (from Grierson 1919: 15). The final column shows a Punjabi form. Adapted by Grierson from Stack (1849: 3–8). Chart continued in Figure 12.

[†] These are, however, never written in commencing a word. In lieu of them M' is used.

The Alphabet.

																
	ders.					Ţhaţ	ŢĀI.					Max	Mors.	bhirts.	nd <u>a.</u>	
	Boman characters.	Dēvanāgarī.	Khudā wāģī.	Shikarparī.	Sakkar.	Labinite.	Bhația.	Lapsi	Wahgal.	Raijat.	Khwejie.	Thatts.	Haidarebad.	Sewhäyī Bhābhiris.	Southern Lahnda.	
	ka	· ፋ	ሜ	n	n	ع	n	7	<u></u>	み	رم	22	り着	3	2	
	kha	ख	37,4	ى	ч	'n	À	y	4	, X	女	7	K	5	ړ	
1 .	ga	ग	っろ	70))	اد	21	ા	91	31	21	2:	21	21	nı	
•	gga	श	ວເ	. 21	. 21	22	25	2 7)	7)	22	っン	٦١	カ	71	21	
	gha	व	ッカ	33	מכ	31	21	اد	91	ગ	3	י:	וג	uī	m	
	ňa	.	2921	3.	31	2.	2.	₹*	ર:	२०	ર.	2.	3:	21	ን '	
	cha	च	8	8	39	ગ	3)	~ .	η	n	1	a	þ	か	5	
	chha	ख	જ	દ	чи	સ્ક	લ્હ	w	80	20	u	હ	乏	E.	4	
	ja	ज	9,31	r	31	ש	2	21	Μ	371	ゝ	n	7	. ••	3.01	
	jja	ज़	લ્ડ	k >	4	લ્ડ	ws	uz	43	3	4	w	3:	n	34)	
	jha	झ	9,31	م	ਗ	ス	2	21	n	372	3	1	1	60	જાગ	
	ña	ञ	2:3:	ૠ	n	જ	∞ €	200	٦٠	২ •৯	ર:	3:	3:	67	3:	
	ţa	ट	5	2	2	2	3	2	ح .	4	4, E	9	ح	3	C	
	ļra	Ş	3	3	3	۶	Ն	2	2	2	7,2	A	~	3	9)	
	ţha	ठ	ۍ	Ն	ر	ъ	ઠ	2	2	۷	٦,	۲	7	3	c	
	ra	ड	3,11	3	2	21	3,~	8,=	211	=	m:	=	1)	2	द	
	d da	इ	2	بر	4	ૡ	٤	2	4	20	3,2	3	E	٤.	V	
	dra	ड्	3	3	1	Ն	10	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	2.	70	3	U	33	w	3	ļ.
	ḍha	2	re	ی	7	70	ષ	v	20	29	-0	وي	7,3	N.	บ	
	ņa	ण	ni	m	ot	2.55	~	17,=	111	=	ી ખ:	=	15	jri	111	
								<u> </u>			l			1		

Figure 12: Chart showing the different forms of Landa used in Sindh (from Grierson 1919: 16). The final column shows a Punjabi form. Continued from Figure 11.

The Alphabet.

vi.					ŢHA'	ĮŢĀI.			l .		Мата	KONS.	rã&.	nd .
Roman character.s.	Dēvanāgarī.	Khudswädī.	Shikarpurî.	Sakkar.	Luhānās.	Bhatise.	Larei.	Wangai.	Rajjaī.	Khwajas.	Thatts.	Haidarabad.	Sewhāņī Bhābhirās.	Southern Lahnda
ta	त	ی	S	و	۲	3	9	א	9	·n	و	9	n	3
tha	थ	ખ	3	ખ	યદ	u	w	ખ	w	w	u	2	ΰζ	4.4
da	द	2	ę	ъ	űo	Q .	ર	્ર	3	3	ત્ર	3	લ્લ	76
dha	ধ	2	2	ブ	40	શ	્વ	2	3	ろ	ત્ર	3	œ	n
na	न	~	~	~	8	6	60	و	67	€~1		3	^	7
pa	प	૫	પ	٦	ک	٦	کی	4	7	٦	٦	4	۷,	کر
pha	फ	と	רל	Ж	ኋ	A	Ŋ	٦	3	كم	74	3	ઋ	3
ba	ब	Y	က	m	33	`	,	Y V .	٤	771	÷	7	か	3
bba	ब्	3	S	બુ	પ	3.	3	46	B	34	ત્ર	3	y	્દ્ય
bha	ਮ	ځ	30	w	ه.	`	٦	n)	>)	0	ን	'n	w
ma	म	'n	n	71	30	က	η	η	n	J.	'n	3	31	N
ya	य	ጺ	37	31	3)	か	21	· m	31	カ	A	^	6	R
ra	₹	าเ	2	2	રા	34	רנ	2-	y	y	~	R	3	*
la	ल	٦	ን	ጘ	೪	ઈ	٥	9	٥	ਮ	Q	4	.n	+
va					مر	~	374	ે પ્	ን	q	•	3	ų	સ
l a	श	74	امحو	14	m	٧٢	jų	m	१५	ارما	ж .	Į,	m	3
sha	ष	1 પ	امر	14	m	بنو	ንሢ	w.	14	المم	12	17	m	3
s a	स	14	14	14	m	12	١٧	w	14	۱۳	14	17	m	32
ha	ह	7	ろ	7	٤٦	٤٦	ゝ	ح .	२	3	2	3	2	5
	Nume	rals		٩	3	رد	- 3	8	٦	٤	G	c	6	90
				1	2	<u>\</u>	3	4	5	6	7	8	.9	10

Figure 13: Chart showing the different forms of Landa used in Sindh (from Grierson 1919: 17). The final column shows a Punjabi form. Continued from Figure 12.

गुरुमुखी	コ	N	D.	(Q)	π,	Ţ	Ю	E	Ŋ	μ·		Д	כו	m	E			
महाजनी	مح	ત્ય	3	٥	۶	3	ઋ	\$	3	2	રુ	\$	w	μ				
लंडा	3	જ	M	(a)	×	5	9	હ	ઝ			٤	'n	₩				
टाकरो	ಸ	૭	~	ര	۲	מ	R	31	৵	ष.	ø	⊭	<u>~</u>	M.	18.			
शारदा	ב	ß	Ø	ю	Ħ	a	۳	te	IT	¤	Þ	¥	น			16	F\$	
ब्राहमो	כ	s	0	۲,	ਜ	ਰ	- -	2	Ø	a .	æ	ಸ	ы			84	7249	
नागरी	д	땅	lø	म	म	ন	۲	Æ	ि	ন	অ	म	hc/	ho.	18	ফ	াফ	 grown and the same

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महाजनी	m	x	28	ಷ	ئ	۲	ක	3	ઝ	8)	১	B	u	ನಿ	S.	۴	نړ	۵	ઝ	ઢ
लंडा	প	ج	ā	2	ለ	æ	3	ĸ	×	*	7	ھہ	Ŋ	ゕ	K	ゅ	¤	>	16	<
टाकरी.	×	ø	F	\$		R	*	ڻ	3		~	8	m	સ	છ	~	Ø	ૠ	а	nr.
शारदा	Ю	臣	F	3	Ŋ	Ħ	Ю	E/	Ð	Ę	ษ	0	ю	ħ	3	м	व्य	н	Þ	ir
ब्राहमी	*	૯	ς	3	r	״ס	-8	ш	2.	ń	U	0	~	ø	ş	ĸ	Φ	∾	0	હ
नागरी	 6	Þ	뉴	छ	hó	ष	is	বা	न्त	ঠ	ю	ю	tvo	ю	Þ	t	৯	w	jar.	it

गुरुमुखी	Æ	Œ	řē	B	দ্র	ন্ত	ল	B 01	101	GD II	וויסו			/DJ	∕ 16	Æ	গার্	8	সাত	垤	সত
महाजनी	*	જે	33	~			೫	૭	൬					8	૯			ر ک	(A		
लंडा	£		a m	ه			a6	P			36							4.410			/
टाकरी	B	æ	X ′	၁	75	છ	گر	9	رهر	1	æu			2	Kı	Z I"	4%	ZI3	\$(3	(EIZ	X#
भारदा	¥	ťω	æ	לז	fe	; -	48	Ŋ	Ю	וניו	畅	H	К	R	⁄ 10	ıΈ	11 8 -	12	£1 8	B	ET#
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नागरी	क	आ	हि	por	æ	468	ঝ	m	ક્લ	ь	Њē	*	160	Þ/	\ 8	æ	A 6	अ	₹	ल	16

Figure 14: Comparison of Landa with other Indic scripts (from Mule 1974: 160-162).