1 Introduction

The Pau Cin Hau writing systems are the ecclesiastical scripts of the Laipian religious community. The scripts and the Laipian tradition were developed by Pau Cin Hau (1859–1948) at the turn of the 20th century in what is now Chin State, Myanmar. The scripts were originally intended for representing Tedim, a language that belongs to the northern group of the Kuki-Chin subfamily of Tibeto-Burman. But, they also contain characters used for representing sounds found in other languages of this group.

There are two distinct scripts associated with Pau Cin Hau: one logosyllabic and the other alphasyllabic. The logosyllabic form is the original script created by Pau Cin Hau in 1902. It is reported that this script consists of 1,050 characters. In 1931, the logosyllabic script was modified into an alphasyllabic system consisting of 57 characters. Some glyphs of both scripts resemble those found in Burmese, Latin, Indic scripts, and other writing systems. These occurances are coincidental. Neither the logosyllabic nor the alphasyllabic script has a genetic relationship with any other script.

Although practice of the Laipian tradition and usage of the Pau Cin Hau scripts have declined, they are still maintained by the Laipian community in Chin State. The scripts are used in recitation texts and dictionaries.

2 Recommendations

The two Pau Cin Hau scripts should be allocated in the Supplemental Multilingual Plane (SMP) using the following names and number of code points:

- *Pau Cin Hau Logographs*: The logosyllabic script may require nearly 1,050 code points. This number is based upon a traditional count of the characters used in a Laipian recitation text, whose authorship is attributed to Pau Cin Hau himself. The text is said to contain every character in the script, including tone marks and digits. Punctuation marks resemble Latin forms. The script is written from left-to-right. Several characters appear to be composite forms of base character and a diacritic tone mark. Thus, it is possible that the actual number of atomic characters to be encoded may be fewer than estimated.

- *Pau Cin Hau Syllabary*: The alphasyllabic script will require at minimum 57 code points. As specified in "Preliminary Proposal to Encode the Pau Cin Hau Script in ISO/IEC 10646" (N3781 L2/10-080), this number consists of 21 consonant letters, 9 final-consonant letters, 7 vowel letters, and 20 tone marks. Digits specific to the script are not attested; Latin digits are found in texts. Punctuation is inherent in some tone marks; however, marks resembling Latin punctuation characters are also attested. The script is written from left-to-right. In N3781 L2/10-080, the name of the script was given as 'Pau Cin Hau', which has been changed to 'Pau Cin Hau Syllabary' in order to distinguish it from the logosyllabic writing system.

A preliminary proposal for Pau Cin Hau Logographs is being authored. A formal proposal for the Pau Cin Hau Syllabary will be submitted shortly.