

**Title:** Preliminary Proposal to Encode Tani Lipi in the UCS  
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**Status:** Individual Contribution  
**Action:** For consideration by UTC and WG2  
**Date:** 2010-04-17

## 1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to bring attention to the Tani Lipi writing system. Very little information about this script is available. Additional research is required to determine the suitability of encoding the script in the Universal Character Set.

## 2 Background

Tani Lipi is an alphabetic script used for representing the Tani sub-family of Tibeto-Burman languages spoken in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, India. It is written from left to right. While letters of Tani Lipi resemble those of Bengali and Latin, it has no genetic relationship to any writing system. The available information suggests that ‘Tani Lipi’ is the formal name for the script.

The script was designed by Tony Koyu of Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. Koyu presented Tani Lipi at a seminar on script development for Tani languages sponsored by the North Eastern Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) at Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh in November 2001.<sup>1</sup>

Further research is required to determine the state of usage of the script. In 2007, it was noted that Tani Lipi was not widely accepted by the target audience.<sup>2</sup> But, the script appears to be in current use. Material in the script is printed in the Sunday edition of the popular newspaper *Echo of Arunachal Pradesh*, and Koyu teaches the script as well.<sup>3</sup> It also appears that Tani Lipi has been studied and approved by linguists at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and the Central Institute for Indian Languages, Mysore.<sup>4</sup>

## 3 Character Repertoire

Tani Lipi consists of 26 letters. A preliminary code chart and names list is given in Figure 1. Punctuation and digits are not attested. The proposed character names are derived from those given in the chart in Figure 2. All names are tentative. Character properties are as follows:

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115E0;TANI LIPI LETTER AA;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
115E1;TANI LIPI LETTER BO;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
115E2;TANI LIPI LETTER O;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
115E3;TANI LIPI LETTER PO;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
115E4;TANI LIPI LETTER KO;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
115E5;TANI LIPI LETTER DO;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
115E6;TANI LIPI LETTER RO;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
115E7;TANI LIPI LETTER LO;Lo;0;L;;;N;;;
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<sup>1</sup> Barbora and Post 2008: 268. <sup>2</sup> Abraham 2007: 194. <sup>3</sup> Barbora and Post 2008: 269. <sup>4</sup> *The Telegraph*, March 21, 2008.

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115E8;TANI LIPI LETTER GO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115E9;TANI LIPI LETTER TO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115EA;TANI LIPI LETTER AE;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115EB;TANI LIPI LETTER SO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115EC;TANI LIPI LETTER NGO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115ED;TANI LIPI LETTER NYO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115EE;TANI LIPI LETTER MO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115EF;TANI LIPI LETTER NA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F0;TANI LIPI LETTER UH;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F1;TANI LIPI LETTER EI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F2;TANI LIPI LETTER HO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F3;TANI LIPI LETTER II;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F4;TANI LIPI LETTER A;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F5;TANI LIPI LETTER VO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F6;TANI LIPI LETTER JO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F7;TANI LIPI LETTER CHO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F8;TANI LIPI LETTER YO;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
115F9;TANI LIPI LETTER ONG;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;

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#### 4 References

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	115E	115F		
0	𑄀 115E0	𑄁 115F0	115E0	𑄀 TANI LIPI LETTER AA
1	𑄂 115E1	𑄃 115F1	115E1	𑄂 TANI LIPI LETTER BO
2	𑄄 115E2	𑄅 115F2	115E2	𑄄 TANI LIPI LETTER O
3	𑄆 115E3	𑄇 115F3	115E3	𑄆 TANI LIPI LETTER PO
4	𑄈 115E4	𑄉 115F4	115E4	𑄈 TANI LIPI LETTER KO
5	𑄊 115E5	𑄋 115F5	115E5	𑄊 TANI LIPI LETTER DO
6	𑄌 115E6	𑄍 115F6	115E6	𑄌 TANI LIPI LETTER RO
7	𑄎 115E7	𑄏 115F7	115E7	𑄎 TANI LIPI LETTER LO
8	𑄐 115E8	𑄑 115F8	115E8	𑄐 TANI LIPI LETTER GO
9	𑄒 115E9	𑄓 115F9	115E9	𑄒 TANI LIPI LETTER TO
A	𑄔 115EA		115EA	𑄔 TANI LIPI LETTER AE
B	𑄖 115EB		115EB	𑄖 TANI LIPI LETTER SO
C	𑄘 115EC		115EC	𑄘 TANI LIPI LETTER NGO
D	𑄚 115ED		115ED	𑄚 TANI LIPI LETTER NYO
E	𑄜 115EE		115EE	𑄜 TANI LIPI LETTER MO
F	𑄞 115EF		115EF	𑄞 TANI LIPI LETTER NA

Figure 1: Proposed code chart and nameslist for Tani Lipi

**HOW TO LEARN TANI LIPI?**

**TANI LIPI ALPHABETS**

							
Aa	Bo	O	Po	Ko	Do		
							
Ro	Lo	Go	To	Ae	So		
							
Ngo	Nyo	Mo	Na	Uh	Ei		
							
Ho	ii	A	Vo	Jo	Cho	Yo	Ong

To learn Tani Lipi, one needs to memorize four sentence formulae.

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. ABO OPO KODO   | 2. ROLO GOTO ESO     |
| 3. NGONYO MONA UI | 4. HOI EWO JOCHOYONG |

Four sentence formulae come from the four rows of tanilipi alphabets. Now segregate the sound of the four sentence formulae. Word formation using tanilipi is very simple.

For example ANI= $\nu + \alpha + \iota = \nu\alpha\iota$ ; BAT= $\beta + e + \tau = \beta e\tau$ ; CROW= $\sigma + \epsilon + o + \phi = \sigma\epsilon o\phi$ ; DOG= $\eta + o + \zeta = \eta o\zeta$ ; PARK= $\rho + \nu + \epsilon + \sigma = \rho\nu\epsilon\sigma$ ; APPLE= $\nu + \rho + e + \psi = \nu\rho e\psi$ ; TANI= $\tau + \nu + \alpha + \iota = \tau\nu\alpha\iota$ ; LIPI= $\lambda + \iota + \rho + \iota = \lambda\iota\rho\iota$  etc.

Figure 2: The Tani Lipi script (from 'likenkoyu').