

Title: Additional Information on the Eskaya Script of the Philippines
Source: Script Encoding Initiative (SEI)
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Status: Liaison Contribution
Action: For consideration by WG2 and UTC
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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	Aya	DE	☺	ED	oʻ	GLO	☺	OS	ʻ
BA	a	WA	a	DRE	g-	EP	∩	GRO	o°	OT	ex
BLA	lell	YA	A	PE	8	EG	v°	JO	β	ONG	ε
BRA	Re	TA	A	PLE	gs	EL	∩	CHO	leed	OY	oʻ
KA	ch	AB	∩	PRE	Das	EM	∩	CHDO	gnob	OW	21
KLA	ce	AK	∩	GE	(-)	EN	∩	LO	E	o	∩
KRA	k	AD	gk	GLE	(-)	ER	h	LLO	g	1	∩
DA	A	AP	∩	GRE	∩	ES	∩	MO	∩	2	∩
DRA	Ayp	AG	∩	JE	8	ET	∩	NO	oʻ	3	7
PA	ce	AL	∩	CHE	leis	ING	∩	NO	7o	4	4
PLA	ce	AM	∩	CHDE	lel	EY	∩	NGO	vʻ	5	4
PRA	ce	AN	∩	LE	∩	EW	∩	RO	o!	6	∩
GA	A	AR	∩	LLE	∩	E	∩	SO	f.∩	7	H
GLA	va	AS	d	ME	∩	O	∩	TO	∩	8	∩
GRA	aw	AT	f	NE	∩	BO	∩	TRO	∩	9	∩
HA	A	ANG	A	NE	∩	BLO	∩	WO	∩	10	2
CHA	lell	AY	g	NGE	∩	BRO	∩!	TO	∩	SA	∩
CHDA	as	AW	∩	RE	∩	KO	∩	OB	∩	SAD	∩y
LA	a	A	∩	SE	∩	KLO	∩	OK	∩	SAB	∩
LLA	A	E	∩	TE	∩	KRO	∩	OD	∩	SAK	∩b
MA	atr	BE	∩	TRE	∩	DO	∩	OP	∩	SAL	∩
NA	A	BLE	∩	VE	∩	DRO	∩	OG	∩	SAM	∩
NA	ce	BRE	∩	WE	∩	PO	∩	OL	∩	SAN	∩
NGA	ist	CE	∩	YE	∩	PLO	∩	OM	∩	SAR	∩
RA	g	KE	f.	EB	∩	PRO	∩!	ON	∩	SAS	∩g
SA	∩	KLE	∩	EK	∩	GO	∩	OR	∩	SAY	∩\$

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	à		
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		
é	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	ó

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	Oyotos 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	Oyotos	???	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>)