To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Debbie Anderson, SEI, UC Berkeley
Subject: Information on Current Usage of Adinkra from Charles Korankye
Date: 6 July 2020

Below is the information from Charles Korankye <charleskorankye@adinkraalphabet.com> sent on January 21, 2020. Charles had earlier sent in a query and a "draft," which the Script Ad Hoc reviewed in January 2020 (see pp. 2-3 of this document). Debbie sent a response from Script Ad Hoc, asking for him to demonstrate its "large usage in Ghana" and if there are materials in the alphabet. Below is info he sent.

I know of private organizations, one in the US and one in Ghana that are currently teaching Adinkra Alphabet to children.
I have been doing presentation on Adinkra Alphabet for Day of Africa at the University of Madison for two consecutive years
@ https://africa.wisc.edu/day-in-africa-2018/

We launched Adinkra Alphabet in Ghana in 2018 and currently working to get governmental support for Adinkra Alphabet in Ghana.

Our website address is https://www.adinkraalphabet.com/. We have plans to print pamphlets in Adinkra Alphabet.
Our Facebook address is https://www.facebook.com/adinkraalphabet/
Our Facebook Ghanaian proverbs address is https://www.facebook.com/adinkraaalphabet/
Twitter address is https://twitter.com/adinkraalphabet
My YouTube Channel
is @ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpac7iZ_xaq5fH6BJMYTVKg?view_as=subscriber

Current available books:
1. Adinkra Alphabet, Third Edition, Subtitle The Adinkra symbols As Alphabets and Their Hidden Meanings.
2. Adinkra Alphabet, Subtitle Akan, Ewe, Ga and Dagbani.
3. Adinkra Alphabet Writing Book, Twi version.
4. Adinkra Alphabet Writing Book, English Version.
5. Adinkra Alphabet Writing Book, Akan, Ewe, Ga and Dagbani.
6. Adinkra Alphabet Children's Activity Book
7. Adinkra Card Game.
8. Adinkra Card Game Booklet.

We have a font for both Mac and Windows that can be downloaded for
free @ https://www.adinkraalphabet.com/downloads/
We have a free android app for Adinkra Alphabet on the Google playstore.

I understand that it takes time to get a script into Uncode and I appreciate your time and help very much. I have been using the Adinkra Alphabet font and it works great. I have written several Ghanaian proverbs in Adinkra Alphabet with the font and people really like them. The difficulty with fonts is that they are easy to use with desktop software. Most Ghanaians are on android smartphones and unfortunately there are several versions of android smartphones made by many different companies and only few support downloaded fonts. I think a keyboard will work better in this case. Please let me know if you find out how I can generate a keyboard input with the fonts as I am yet to figure that out.

DRAFT

Adinkra Alphabet encoding

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Abstract

Adinkra Alphabet is derived from Adinkra symbols. Adinkra Alphabet is a phonetic writing system for the four manager languages in Ghana which are Akan, Ewe, Ga and Dagbani.

Background

Ghana is a sovereign nation in West Africa with a population of about 30 million. English is the language of instruction in Ghana. The four major local languages in Ghana are Akan, Ewe, Ga and Dagbani. These four major languages are spoken by over 90% of the population of Ghana. Ghanaians are familiar with Adinkra symbols however it is difficult to communicate with Adinkra symbols as they are not standardized. The creation of Adinkra Alphabet assigned specific phonetic character to an Adinkra symbol. The Adinkra alphabet still carry the meaning of the Adinkra symbol from which it is derived in addition to a phonetic sound and a numerical value.

Introduction

Adinkra Alphabet is a phonetic Alphabet system that are derived from Adinkra symbols. Adinkra symbols have been in existence in Ghana for many years. Adinkra symbols are a form of graphical imagery used in communication in ancient times. Each Adinkra Alphabet is derived from a unique Adinkra symbol. The Adinkra symbol is simplified for ease of writing in the creation of Adinkra Alphabet. There is a total of 56 Adinkra symbols used in the creation of Adinkra Alphabet. There are standard and simplified Adinkra Alphabet characters. Adinkra Alphabet characters are unique, and they do not share similarity to current Unicode characters. Adinkra Alphabet has large following and usage both in Ghana and around the world and a Unicode encoding will make it easy to transmit it's writing system in an electronic form. Adinkra Alphabet writing system was successfully launched in Ghana on November 6, 2018 at the Teacher's Hall in Accra Ghana.

ADINKRA ALPHABET

(Simplified)

a   b   c   d   e

f   g   h   i   j

k   l   m   n   o

p   q   r   s   t

u   v   w   x   y

z   ɛ   ɔ