

COMMENTS

1. NAME FOR LAMPUNG VOWEL SIGN EA

In the proposal, the name LAMPUNG VOWEL SIGN EA for vowel sign /ə/ is used to distinguish it from the vowel sign /e/ (LAMPUNG VOWEL SIGN E).

Unfortunately, this naming concept makes readers from Indonesia confused because grapheme ⟨EA⟩ **has never been used** to write phoneme /ə/ in Indonesia. In Indonesia, this phoneme is usually written using grapheme ⟨ê⟩.

Je.pang /jêpang/

→ Tesaurus

1. *n* negara yang terletak di Asia Timur, beribu kota Tokyo
2. *n* bahasa yang dituturkan di Jepang

Figure 1. The word "Jepang" /dʒə.pɑŋ/ (Japan) in [Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia](#). Note that the phoneme /ə/ is written as ⟨ê⟩.

The naming of vowel sign /ə/ and /e/ in Unicode—especially Indonesian scripts—is also inconsistent and has the potential to make the reader use the vowel signs mistakenly.











	KAWI	BATAK	BUGIS	SUNDANESE	
/e/					
	VOWEL SIGN E	VOWEL SIGN EE U+1BE9	VOWEL SIGN E U+1A19	VOWEL SIGN PANAE LA ENG U+1BA6	LETTER AE U+1B86
/ə/					
	VOWEL SIGN EU	VOWEL SIGN E U+1BE7	VOWEL SIGN AE U+1A1B	VOWEL SIGN PAME P ET U+1BA8	LETTER E U+1B88

Figure 2. Names for vowel sign /e/ and /ə/ in several Indonesian script blocks ([L2/20-284R](#)).

To prevent misreading and confusion/ambiguity, I suggest changing the name to LAMPUNG VOWEL SIGN E BICEK for vowel sign /ə/ and LAMPUNG VOWEL SIGN E for vowel sign /e/.

2. PUNCTUATION SIGNS AND DIGITS
















2.1. Punctuation signs

In 1985, a group of traditional Lampung leaders gathered to "standardize" the Lampung script. One of their decisions was to make 4 fictitious punctuation marks adapted from Latin






punctuation marks: full stop, comma, exclamation sign, and question sign. **There's no quotation mark.**


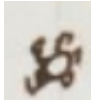



These four punctuation marks are always present in government books until now. These new punctuation marks are also widely taught in schools in Lampung province. In the [Lampung language syllabus and lesson plan for 5th grade](#), for example, one of the learning objectives is "Skilled in writing Lampung script (consonants, vowels and punctuation marks) correctly."

- **I suggest encoding 4 new punctuation marks:** LAMPUNG FULL STOP, LAMPUNG COMMA, LAMPUNG EXCLAMATION MARK and LAMPUNG QUESTION MARK together with 2 traditional LAMPUNG START OF TEXT SIGN and LAMPUNG END OF TEXT SIGN. The four punctuation marks have been well *Lampungified* and stable in the last 37 years ago.
- **I suggest changing the representative glyphs** of five punctuation marks to better suit the textual/actual form. Below is my correction:

NEW PUNCTUATION MARKS				
government published books ¹			Revised proposal	Correction
Aksara dan Naskah Kuno Lampung Dalam Pandangan Masyarakat Lampung Kini (1996)	Tata Bahasa Bahasa Lampung Dialek Pesisir (1992)	Kamus Dwi Bahasa Indonesia—Lampung Dialek Way Kanan Edisi Revisi (2015)		
			 <i>beradu</i>	
			 <i>kuma</i>	
	 (broken)		 <i>seru</i>	


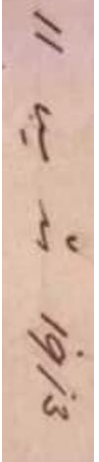
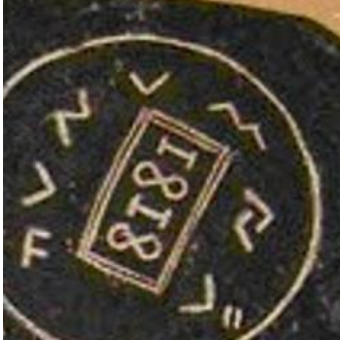
¹ Because these are new fictitious characters, I used government books as the primary source.

	 (broken)		 <i>tanya</i>	
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TRADITIONAL PUNCTUATION MARKS				
Van der Tuuk 1868: 142 (revised proposal, p. 32)	Inked text on paper, British Library Mss Malay 4	<u>Aksara dan Naskah Kuno Lampung Dalam Pandangan Masyarakat Lampung Kini</u> (1996)	Revised proposal	Correction
			 start of text sign	

2.2. Digits

Since the first, Lampung script does not have its own digits. It is very common for us to find Lampung script written together with Arabic numerals.

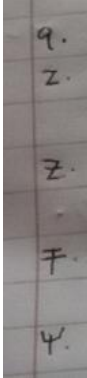
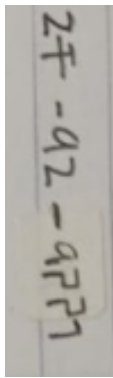
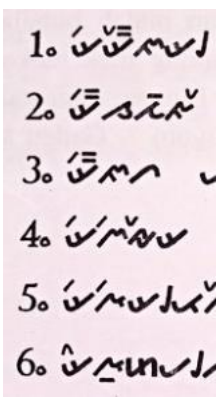



		
Western Arabic numeral on <i>Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti</i> , 19 th century	Inked date on announcement letter: 11 Yuni 1913 (11 June 1913).	<i>Bandar Dewa</i> bronze inscription, 19 th century.

In 1985, a group of traditional Lampung leaders gathered to "standardize" the Lampung script. Until the gathering ended, there was no decision regarding new Lampung numerals. They just decided to make four new punctuation marks. Government books also only contain new punctuation marks, not numerals.

Suddenly someone created Lampung numerals and inscribed it on stone inscriptions then placed it next to the main stone inscription at the Lampung Museum. The obscurity of Lampung numeral's origins causes schools to have different policies. There are schools that teach Lampung numerals, but many also don't teach Lampung numerals.

There is indeed the existence of Lampung numbers. But its use is very little.

Even educators and the government itself still use Arabic numerals.

Lampung Numerals				
	Homework ²	Homework ³		
Arabic Numerals				
	Schoolpaper ⁴	Homework ⁵	Stone inscription ⁶	building sign ⁷

² <https://twitter.com/ohncdjeno/status/1416328677332197383?t=SYiWfH-yCXQkugWARqIWkG&s=19>

³ https://twitter.com/petitawl/status/1483818524149952513?t=hc7_cUtp2iqnTfNfl9ekbw&s=19

⁴ <https://twitter.com/keliackreman/status/1486509365045579778?t=gjlQS27Jg5W5rxi9vEcp1A&s=19>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/nakayupi/status/1491256974847377408?t=EmCNLzIlo24SWZGGsg5DQ&s=19>

⁶ <https://web.facebook.com/aksaralampung/photos/a.509816842397265/2686954274683500>


⁷ <https://web.facebook.com/aksaralampung/photos/a.509816842397265/272773373727220/>

Therefore, I suggest providing 10 reserved codepoints for future Lampung numerals encoding (not encoding them for now). Further socialization and discussions need to be carried out by local governments, philologists, educators, and local related parties to resolve this issue.

3. REPRESENTATIVE GLYPHS

3.1. Core letters

Just like the Lampung language, the Lampung script also evolved. The current form of the Lampung script is the form commonly used in the early 20th century when the Dutch East Indies government often used this script for official use. Official usage makes the use of variations of the Lampung script begin to decline and move towards a standard form. Below is a table of examples of the evolution of the forms of some consonants.

Letter	18 th century		19 th century		Current Form
	Bandar Dewa manuscript	Holle's chart	1913 Announcement	1932 Appointment	
Sa					
Wa					
Ta					
Da					
Ma					
Ja					

Etc.

Since the evolution is quite sequential, **the representative glyphs for core letters do not need to be changed.**

3.2. Signs

My attention is drawn to 3 consonant signs: *rejunjung*, *datas*, and *keleniah*.

In Lampung script towards the 20th century, there is a common pattern: when *datas* is written horizontally, then *keleniah* is also written horizontally, and vice versa. The consonant sign

rejunjung is always a small version of LAMPUNG LETTER LA. Here's the evidence:

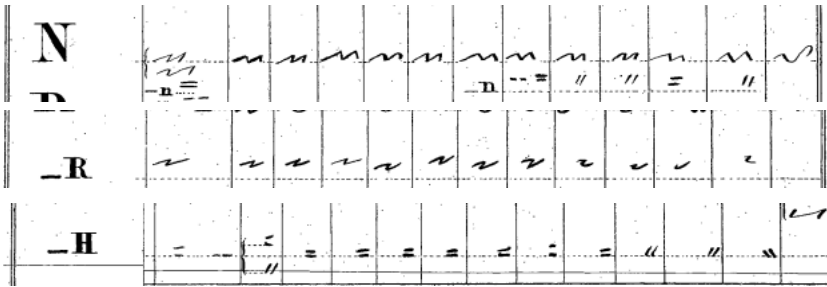

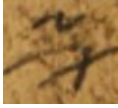




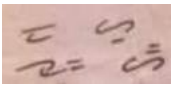
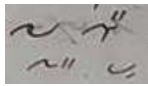
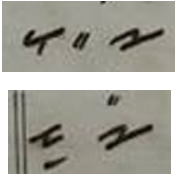







Figure 3. Chart from Holle 1882: 19, 20.

Examples of the <i>rejunjung</i> form in manuscripts					
					
British Library Mss Malay 4	British Library Or. 16936	1913 Announcement	Bandar Dewa	Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, 1907:43	British Library Or 12986

Examples of the <i>datas</i> and <i>keleniah</i> forms in manuscripts		
1913 Announcement	Kitab Kuntara Raja Niti	1932 Appointment
		
TA HU RAH HAN	LA NGAN LAH PU	BAH WA TU WAN

I suggest changing representative glyphs:

- *Keleniah* (LAMPUNG FINAL CONSONANT SIGN H) from  to  because of the proposal uses horizontal *datas* ().
- *Rejunjung* (LAMPUNG FINAL CONSONANT SIGN R) from  to .

4. ORTHOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS OF CVC

The revised proposal overemphasizes the reader that the diacritics should be stacked horizontally and sequentially (CVC).

When a multiple signs with the same position attach to a base, the graphical positioning of signs follows the logical input order: vowel signs, then final consonants to the right. In the same of two vowel signs, the logical order is preserved in the graphical display.

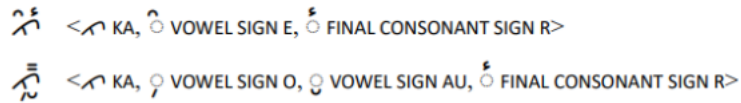









Figure 4. Description regarding horizontal alignment of multiple diacritics.

In fact, Lampung script have variations in how to stack and sort diacritics.

						
British Library Mss. Malay 4	Joh. Enschede en Zonen. 1907:43	1932 Appointment	British Library, Or. 16936	1913 Announcement	Bandar Dewa	Van der Tuuk 1868: 141 (revised proposal, p. 31)

Most manuscripts from the past have instead used a horizontal stacking order of CCV. **The author needs to add this fact to his proposal.**

5. DIFFERENCES WITH REJANG SCRIPT

What makes Rejang and Lampung script different is not the difference in letterform (angularity vs roundedness). We need to remember that from the past, Lampung script has Angular and Rounded shapes.

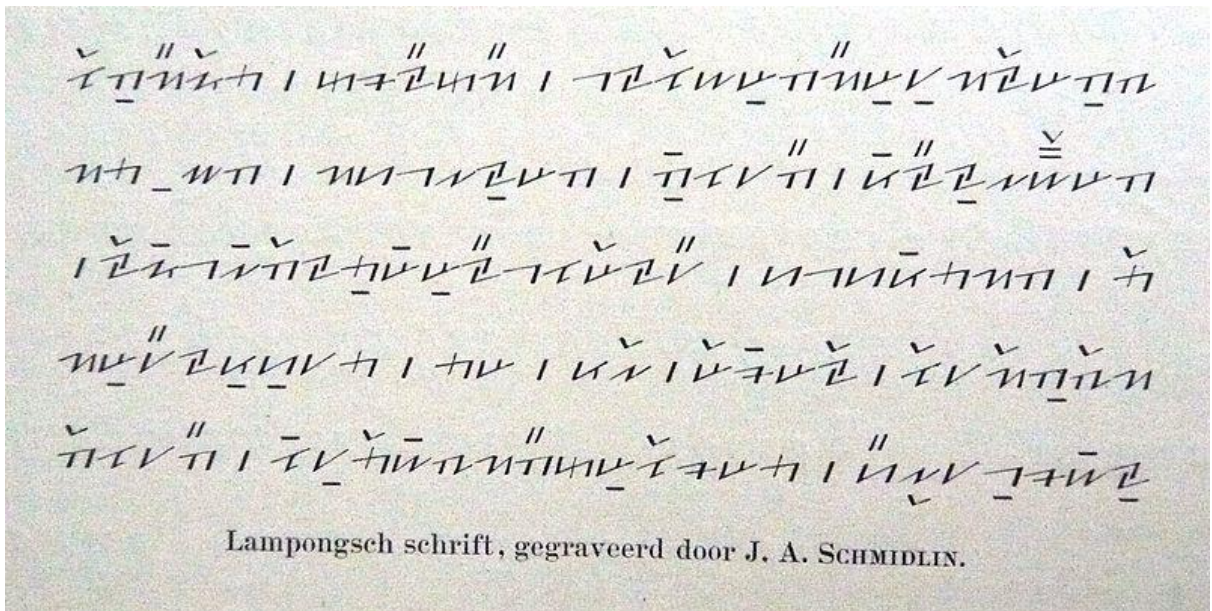


Figure 5. Angular Lampung. Illustration from Haarlem printing company Joh. Enschedé anniversary publication, produced on their 150th anniversary in 1893. Lampung letters by JA Schmidlin.

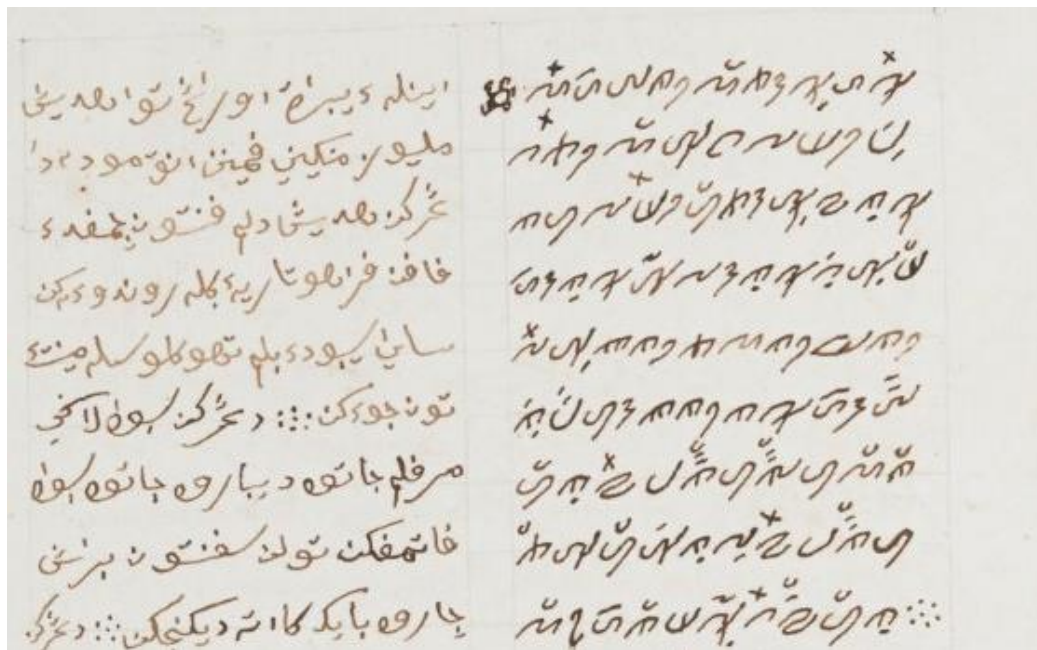


Figure 6. Rounded Lampung. A manuscript titled “Inilah surat pantun cara Lampung” containing Arabic Malay and Lampung script, dated 1812. (British Library, Mss Malay 4).

Scholars since the Dutch East Indies era have identified them separately (revised proposal, p. 27 & 34). This is like the relationship between Javanese and Balinese scripts which are similar but are two different scripts. Also, Rejang's customs, language and culture are separate from those of Lampung. This difference makes Lampung script has its own uniqueness. The pride of the Lampung script also made this script used as an official script by the Dutch East Indies government in Lampung when at the same time the government replaced the Rejang script

with Malay Arabic script in Central Sumatra.

The gap between two scripts has widened after Indonesia's independence. Another thing that currently distinguishes the Lampung script and the Rejang script is the euphoria of its users. Based on the [2010 Population Census](#), 64% of Lampung's population are Javanese, only 13% are Lampung natives.

Even so, the provincial government and the city/regency governments are very concerned about Lampung culture, including the script. Many legal products have been produced to protect Lampung culture, including:

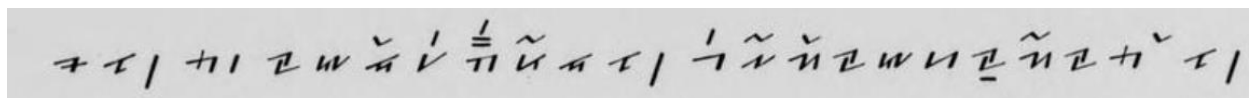
1. Lampung Governor Regulation No. 4 of 2011 on Development, Guidance, Preservation of Lampung Language and Lampung Script
2. Lampung Governor Regulation No. 39 of 2014 on Lampung Language and Script as Compulsory Subjects at Primary and Secondary Education Levels
3. Central Lampung Regent Regulation No. 8 of 2015 on Lampung Culture Preservation and Maintenance, Article 7 (*Lampung language, literature, and script as elements of cultural wealth shall be taught and preserved.*)
4. Metro City Ordinance No. 8 of 2017 on Lampung Culture Preservation and Maintenance, Article 25 (*Lampung language and literature shall be taught at the elementary to junior high school level.*)
5. Bandar Lampung City Ordinance No. 2 of 2019 on Preservation of Lampung Culture and Traditions, Article 12 (*Lampung language, literature, and script as elements of cultural wealth shall be taught and preserved.*)

and many more regulations that may not have been uploaded to the Legal Documentation and Information Network (JDIH). The community is also active in preserving and using this script, even though they are not native Lampung people. We can easily find young people posting Lampung script on SNS, even mocking certain web pages so that the web page is written using Lampung script. This is different from the Rejang script, which is currently stagnant, and even its users continue to decline. The last legal product regarding the Rejang script is Lebong Regency Ordinance No. 4 of 2013 on Ka Ga Nga Script.

6. SOUND VALUE OF LAMPUNG LETTER RA AND GHA

Simply put, the letter indeed represents a proto-Lampungic *r sound. But as noted by Udin (1992)⁸ and Anderbeck (2007:14–15)⁹, there are various phonetic realizations of /r/ within the dialects of Lampungic cluster, usually a velar or uvular fricative (/x/, /ɣ/, /χ/, or /ʁ/). Considering this, the **sound value of LAMPUNG LETTER RA and LAMPUNG FINAL CONSONANT SIGN R should be clarified more accurately as /r/, /x/, /χ/, /ɣ/, /ʁ/.**

This is supported by manuscript evidence. This is one example ([Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, 1907:43](#)):



[Wat saǰ xad̄ʒa di pəkən **Baydat** gəlxni xad̄ʒa Harunarrasit]

“There is a king in the land of **Baghdad**, his name is King Harun ar-Rashid.”

The same is still applied in modern times. People still use LAMPUNG LETTER RA and LAMPUNG FINAL CONSONANT SIGN R for the sound value of /x/ and /ɣ/. An example of its use can be seen in the government heraldries:



That's LETTER RA reads as /xa/.

⁸ Udin, Nazaruddin. 1992. *Tata bahasa-bahasa Lampung dialek Pesisir* [A grammar of the Pesisir dialect of Lampung]. Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa, Departemen Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.

⁹ Anderbeck, Karl Ronald. 2007. "An initial reconstruction of Proto-Lampungic: phonology and basic vocabulary". *Studies in Philippine Languages and Cultures*. SIL International. 16: 41–165

Another example:



https://twitter.com/rara_chantiga/status/1269265412899762178?t=QFW9eUrQQatM0PLv2_HnUg&s=19

Look at the picture above. LAMPUNG LETTER RA and LAMPUNG FINAL CONSONANT SIGN R reads /x/ or /y/.

This leaves the question: what is the essence of LAMPUNG LETTER GHA/GRA's existence?

Documentation from scholars in the Dutch East Indies era did not find the existence of the letter GHA (p. 27—35). The manuscripts made by the colonial government also do not contain this letter. The letter appears for the first time in the Sumatran Almanac (1969). And finally, this letter is included in the 20 main letters of the “standardization” results.

The government says that LAMPUNG LETTER GHA reads /y/.

Huruf Lampung

Huruf *gh* dibaca seperti huruf *ع* dalam bahasa Arab. Dalam kamus ini, huruf *gh* ditandai dengan penanda bunyi /R/, hal ini dilakukan demi kemudahan penulisan, misalnya, *ghedak* /Reda?/.

The first sentence reads, “The letter *gh* is read like the letter ع (IPA: ⟨y⟩) in Arabic.” (*Kamus Lampung—Indonesia* (1985)).


But in practice, the government itself does not provide examples of the application of this script. The people of Lampung are also inconsistent in using this letter (often confused with LAMPUNG LETTER RA and LAMPUNG FINAL CONSONANT SIGN R). The traditional elders also did not indicate which manuscripts this letter came from.

I suggest not encoding LAMPUNG LETTER GHA due to the ambiguity of the primary source and the overlapping use with LAMPUNG LETTER RA and LAMPUNG FINAL CONSONANT SIGN R.

Unless the proposal writer manages to prove that this letter has indeed been used in the past.

CORRECTIONS

Page 1

Another term is  *kaganga*, which is based on the names of the first three letters of the repertoire: *ka*, *ga*, *nga*. This term is not specific to Lampung, but is also used for other Sumatran scripts, such as Rejang.

The term was coined by Mervyn A. Jaspán (1926-1975), an anthropologist at the University of Hull, to refer not only to Surat Ulu, but to all descendants of the Brahmi script (<http://archive.org/details/folkliteratureof00maja>).

Almanak Sumatera Terbitan of 1969

The full name of this book is *Almanak Sumatera Terbitan 1969* (English: Sumatran Almanac 1969 Edition). Please simply write it as *Almanak Sumatera* or Sumatran Almanac (1969).

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Figure 8: The Lampung script as used in 1969, shown in the *Almanak Sumatera Terbitan*. This was the basis for the standard script developed in 1985. Image courtesy of Febri Muhammad.

Correction: *Almanak Sumatera Terbitan 1969* or *Almanak Sumatera*.

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Figure 25: An emblem of Lampung with the phrase “*kagom mafakat*” inscribed in the Lampung script.

Correction:

Figure 25: An emblem of South Lampung Regency with the phrase [xagom mapakat] (actually *ragom mufakat*) inscribed in the Lampung script.

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Figure 26: An emblem of the city of Lampung with the phrase “*ragom gawi*” (actually *ragom gawa*) inscribed in the Lampung script.

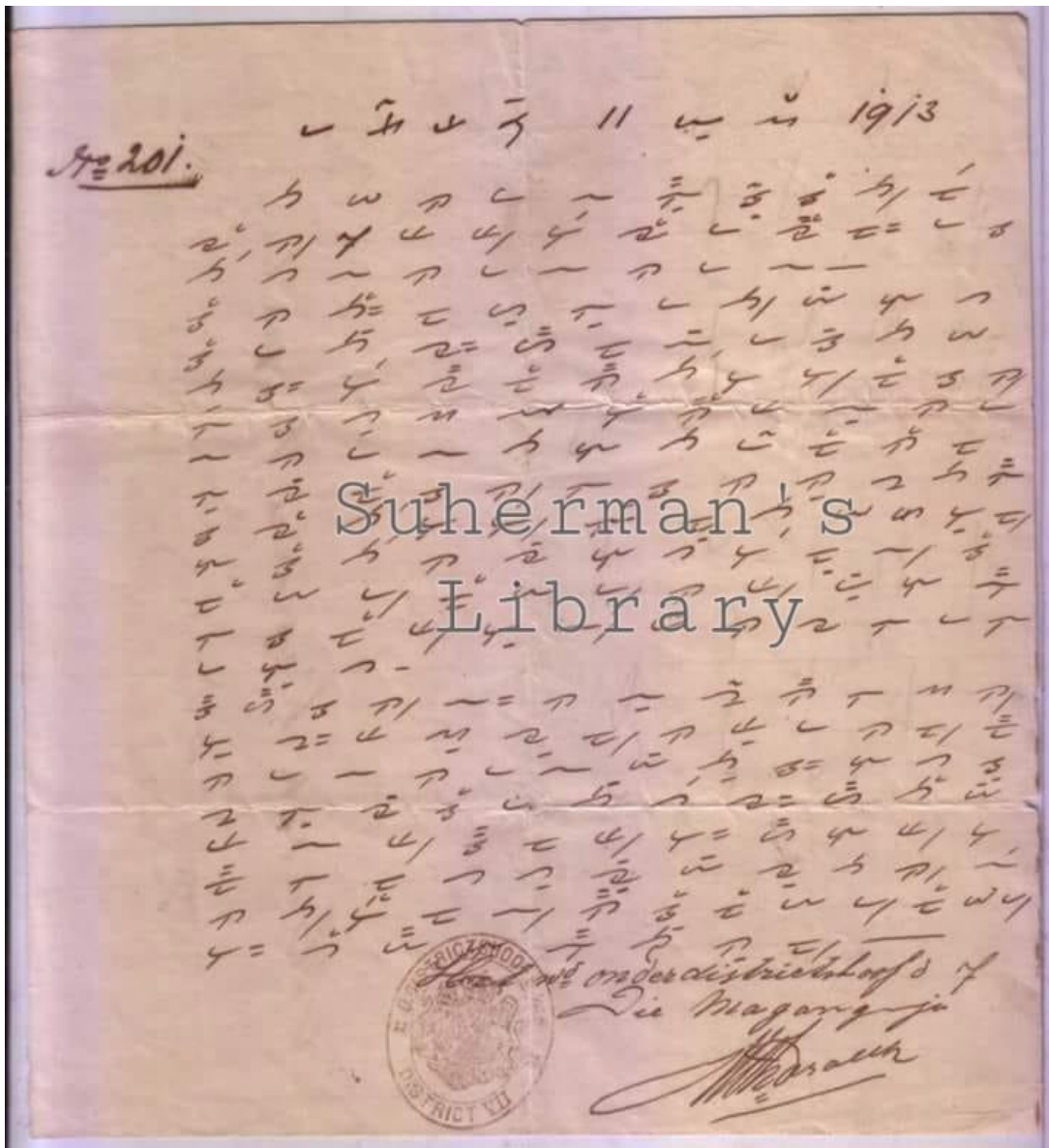
Correction:

Figure 26: An emblem of Bandar Lampung City with the phrase “*ragom gawi*” inscribed in the Lampung script.

Figure 27: An emblem of the metro transport of Lampung with the phrase “*bumi sai wawai*” inscribed in the Lampung script.

Correction:

Figure 27: An emblem of Metro City (one of the cities in Lampung province) with the phrase “*bumi sai wawai*” inscribed in the Lampung script.



An announcement made by the head of the Pasar Madang under-district in Malay and the old Lampung script (11 June 1913).