Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set International Organization for Standardization

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Two of the changes in IRGN2509 relate to characters used in Vietnam. Item #1 proposes changing the glyphic representation of U+5F50 / V1-5454 and item #3 proposes encoding two new characters with the representative glyphs \exists and \exists .

Background

U+5F50 / V1-5454 is currently heavily overloaded in Vietnamese usage as found in various texts and dictionaries. It is used both as Kangxi radical #58, and as an independent character. As a radical, the shapes \exists and \exists are common, as seen here in Thiêu Chừu's *Hán-Việt Tự-Điển*,

Taber's Dictionarium Anamitico-Latinum, and Tr'ân Văn Chánh's Tự-Điển Hán-Việt Hán ngữ cổ đại và hiện đai.

160Kı = Caput, aper; porcus. 185 185 190 192 7 Idem.

315

As an independent character there are 3 primary usages:

1. The "snow" form, \exists , is typically used for the Vietnamese words *kę* "tiger" and *kệ* "not pay attention", but as the explanation in the dictionary *Gíup Đọc Nôm và Hán Việt* shows below, the character is derived from the Sino-Vietnamese "kí", corresponding to Mandarin "jì", with the sense "head of a boar."

Ke* (Hv kí; kệ) - Con cop - Tiếng doạ trẻ: Ông Kę Thứ người hống hách: Mây ông kẹ - Nhờ (như Ké*): Ăn kẹ

三偈 Kê* (Hv kí; kệ) (khẩu 1/2 kệ) Không đếm xia: Mặc kệ; Thây kệ

2. The form \exists , is is used in Nôm Tày for the word *mµ*, meaning "turn" or "time".

王 MŲ² Lần. ĐN. Vửa. 許 免 盾 双 크 三 크 Hẩu mìn khăn soong mự sam mự (Kh.T.Q.S) (Để cho nó gáy hai lần ba lần).

汪 MÙA¹

Note, the above distinctions are based on our current data. It is possible that both of the above forms are interchangeable in meaning.

3. Finally, the form \exists can also be found defined as a simplification of the character "snow":



Conclusion

Given the situation above, adoption of the changes proposed in IRGN2509 will require a long period for users to migrate to the new codes and shapes. However, we believe that long term separation of U+5F50 / V1-5454 into \exists and \exists is a postive move and support that. However, we consider that U+2E95 is already sufficient to represent the "long hand form" for our usage and will change the glyph in our font for that purpose. In sum, we propose the following changes:

1. Change the representative V-Source glyph of U+5F50 to \exists and make the corresponding changes to the data:

U+5F50 kIRG_VSource VN-05F50 U+5F50 kVietnamese kí, mự

2. Encode a new character, tentatively at U+2B739, with the shape: ∃ *U+2B739 kIRG_VSource V1-5454 *U+2B739 kVietnamese ke, kê

3. Additional data changes in UCD:

NamesList.txt.

2E95 CJK RADICAL SNOUT TWO

* actually a form of the radical for hand, despite its resemblance in shape

to the radical for snout

x 5F50 x 2B739

EquivalentUnifiedIdeograph.txt 2E95 ; 2B739 # CJK RADICAL SNOUT TWO