Proposal to encode one ideograph for Korean place names to UAX #45

Jiseop LEE
Individual contribution
September 6, 2023

This document proposes to add one ideograph for Korean place names to UAX #45: that is, 魚 (⿺九未)\(^1\).

This ideograph is regional and used only for several place names in Myŏnggyo-myŏn (Myŏnggyo-myŏn after 1939), Munchŏn, Hamgyŏngnam-do, Korea\(^2\) (Now Munchon, Kangwon, North Korea). Despite this being used for a few governmental documents and private publications, this little-known character has never been covered by any Korean or Japanese national standards. This character not being recognized causes problems in digitizing (e.g. Figure 1). I hereby propose to include this character 魚 to UAX #45.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>R-S</th>
<th>IDS</th>
<th>TS</th>
<th>FS</th>
<th>kKorean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>魚</td>
<td>乙 5.6</td>
<td>⿺九未</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>KWUMI MI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The attached single-glyph font file u2ffa-u4e5d-u672a.ttf is generated from GlyphWiki (https://glyphwiki.org/wiki/u2ffa-u4e5d-u672a).

Detailed information

The character 魚 is first observed in the village name stabilization announcement in 1916 (Figure 2) and used for names of eight villages, two of which being abolished due to the merger. The names are: 青魚里, 柳裡, 方裡, 魚隱裡, 地富里, 楸裡, 皮馬裡, and 北裡 (the latter two are the abolished ones). Around the same year, the land survey was being executed in Hamgyŏngnam-do. As the result the cadastral maps (e.g. Figure 3) and topographic maps (Figure 4) were made and printed, and 魚 is used in those publications. In the documents published before 1916, there is no known occurrences of 魚; instead two characters like 九味 had been used for those place names (see Figure 5).

After the independence of Korea, the Republic of Korea had been publishing Administrative Division Brochure 지방행정구역요람 every few years until 2012. As the South Korean government claims the northern half of Korean peninsula as its territory, the village names in the unrecovered area are listed as an appendix for the brochure. Until the 1983 edition (Figure 6), the place names containing 魚 (rendered as ⿺九未) were listed as-is. However, in the 1990 edition

\(^1\)There is another representation of this ideograph, ⿺九未; but this is rarer than 魚, and can be unifiable with.

\(^2\)Korean: 함경남도 문천군 명효면(명구면) / 咸鏡南道 文川郡 明孝面(明龜面)
Proposal to encode one ideograph for Korean place names to UAX #45

(Figure 7), 九 is rendered as separate characters 九 and 未. This tendency can also be observed in the latest 2012 edition. The country occupying the places in discussion, North Korea, reformed their administrative division hierarchy in 1952. During the reform, the remaining six villages from 1916 were all merged with others, and the traditional village names were not reused in the new ones. Thus, there is no use of 九 in practice nowadays, both in the South and in the North.

Reading

It is uncommon that a Han Ideograph has a multisyllabic Korean reading. The character 九 is one having this property: Its reading is 구미 (RR gumi, Yale kwumi), originating from a native Korean dialectal word. The word 구미 means a curved place around capes, according to the Korean dictionary UrimaSaem 우리말샘.

In the given topographic map (Figure 4), all place names are written in Kanji or Hanja, and the majority of them have Korean-reading katakana annotations. For example, 魚隠九里 has furigana オ・ウン・グミ・リー and 楸九里 has カレ・グミ・リ, which can be reconstructed in hangul as 어은구미리 and 가래구미리 respectively. Encyclopedia of North Korean Geography and Cultures also reads 九 (written as 九里) as 구미, like 어은구미리 (魚隠九末里) and 추구미리 (楸九未里).

Yet there also exists a single-syllable reading for 九. The example cadastral map is listed as 함경남도 문천군 명효면 어은미 in the National Archives of Korea (see Figure 8), and from this it can be concluded that 九 simply reads as 미 when there is a need for a single-syllable reading. That is the reason why ‘MI’ as well as ‘KWUMI’ is suggested as the value for kKorean.

Related Figures

The figures mentioned above are placed below, beginning from the next page.
Proposal to encode one ideograph for Korean place names to UAX #45

Figure 1: The character 〓 being replaced by ▣ in digital text.

Proposal to encode one ideograph for Korean place names to UAX #45

Figure 2: Announcement of stabilization of village names in Munchŏn (ila highlighted). 〈大正五年〉朝鮮總督府咸鏡南道告示第三十一號〉. 1916-06-07. from 朝鮮總督府官報, vol. 1175, 1916-07-04.

Figure 3: Front page of the cadastral map of 魚隱里, c. 1916.
Copied from National Archives of Korea. Management Number BJCA712226.
Figure 4: 1:50000 Topographic Map of Korea by Japanese government. 朝鮮總督府., 陸地測量部. 《五万分之一地形圖》, 〈咸興十二號・壇興里〉 (top half) and 〈元山九號・元山北部〉. 1920–1921.
Figure 5: Administrative Division Name List of Korea.
朝鮮總督府. 《地方行政區域名稱一覽》. 1912.
Side note: In addition to that 九味 is used instead of 〓, 魚隱里 is written as 於隱九味里 here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>朝鮮總督府</th>
<th>明孝面</th>
<th>草甸面</th>
<th>朝鮮總督府</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>於隱九味里</td>
<td>於隱九味里</td>
<td>於隱九味里</td>
<td>於隱九味里</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>皮馬九味里</td>
<td>地富九味里</td>
<td>海浪里</td>
<td>皮馬九味里</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>鴨署洞</td>
<td>陽里</td>
<td>鳳梧里</td>
<td>鴨署洞</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>豐興里</td>
<td>友興里</td>
<td>新興里</td>
<td>豐興里</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>豐興里</td>
<td>青魚九味里</td>
<td>長興里</td>
<td>豐興里</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>舟石白啓村</td>
<td>於大興</td>
<td>長文陵</td>
<td>三大洞</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>鶴洞</td>
<td>南九味里</td>
<td>豐deen</td>
<td>上鶴徐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>松田里</td>
<td>北九味里</td>
<td>豐deen</td>
<td>劉文石</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>松田里</td>
<td>北九味里</td>
<td>豐deen</td>
<td>劉文石</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>鶴洞</td>
<td>南九味里</td>
<td>豐deen</td>
<td>上鶴徐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 6: Administrative Division Brochure (九 highlighted).
Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Korea. 《지방행정구역요람》, 1983.
Proposal to encode one ideograph for Korean place names to UAX #45

Figure 7: Administrative Division Brochure (九未 highlighted).
Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Korea. 《지방행정구역요람》, 1990.
Side note: In addition to the substitutions, typographical errors like 鷹 being replaced by 鷹 and 鷹(≡鷹) by 鷹 can also be observed, in comparison to the 1983 version.

豊下面 (23個里)
法洞里 元山里 汝海里 栗洞里 石泉里 長安里 古蓮里 從浦里 魚遊池里 金龜里 蘆灘里 清溪里 凤凰山里 內白日里 外白日里 內古邑里 外古邑里 山底里 東化里 屏岩里 白岸里 上鷺岩里 下鷺岩里

明龜面 (63個里)
豊田里 新栗里 長興里 大德里 明友里 新豊里 白山里 圖龍里 於柳里 元塘里 石田里 無憂實里 青魚九未里 柳九未里 方古介里 逓村里 魚項里 方九未里 魚隠九未里 地富九未里 豊武里 閻松里 磐佐里 檔九未里 松田里 鷺富岸里 五山里 秀峙里 龍岩里 內陽里 上坪里 塘北里 歸宗里 生甫里 班岩里 新興里 新川里 新安里 長發里 鵟雛里 錦湖里 德峙里 城底里 主山里 黃竹里 歸浦里 松田里 牙致串里 堂峙里 王湖里 坪方里 安興里 論錦里 鄉校板里 陽地里 馬山里 新陽里 橋陽里 書院里 石興里 青魚浦里 洛祠里 蟠湖里

北城面 (18個里)
文平里 龍坪里 松瀧里 玉井里 黃石里 沙屹川里 龍津里 新興里 新安里 新成里 庫岩里 雲城里 持厚里 柯坪里 監中里 野太里 秀達里
Figure 8: Search result of the cadastral maps from the website of the National Archives of Korea. Each name corresponds to 魚隱里 (Figure 3), 靑魚里, 方屢里, 地富里, 柳屢里, and 楸屢里, from above.