Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: **Working Group Document**
Title: **Proposal for encoding the Rejang script in the BMP of the UCS**
Source: **UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)**
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Action: **For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**
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Rejang is spoken by about 200,000 people living in Indonesia on the island of Sumatra in the southwest highlands, north Bengkulu Province, around Argamakmur, Muaraaman, Curup, and Kepahiang, and also in the Rawas area of South Sumatra Province, near Muara Kulam. There are five major dialects of Rejang: Lebong, Musi, Kebanagung, Pesisir (all in Bengkulu Province), and Rawas (in South Sumatra Province). Most of its users live in fairly remote rural areas, of whom slightly less than half are literate. The traditional Rejang corpus consists chiefly of ritual texts, medical incantations, and poetry.

Origin
The Rejang script is of the Brahmic type, and is related to other scripts of the region, like Batak, Buginese, and Kerinci. The script was in use prior to the introduction of Islam to the Rejang area; the earliest attested document appears to date from the mid-18th century CE.

Structure
Vowel signs are used in a manner similar to that employed by other Brahmi-derived scripts. Consonants have an inherent /a/ vowel sound. Consonant conjuncts are not formed. Syllable structure is C(V)(F) consonant followed by optional vowel sign and/or optional final consonant or virama.

Ordering
The arrangement of the consonants is basically Brahmic and turns up in numerous sources. No strong evidence has been found for any strong preference with regard to the relative order of the vowel signs and of the final consonants; indeed most secondary sources give contradictory evidence in their charts. A generic Brahmic relative ordering for these characters is used in the code chart, with the vowel signs following the consonants, and the final consonant signs following the vowel signs.

Naming
Character names use the usual UCS conventions for Brahmic scripts.

Digits and punctuation
Unique Rejang digits are unknown; Jaspan presents a letter written to him in Rejang by Ali Akbar which uses both Roman numerals in an ordered list and European digits in a date. Ali Akbar uses comma, full stop, and colon, as well as the unique REJANG SECTION MARK which he uses both at the beginning and end of paragraphs.

Linebreaking

Traditional texts tend not to use spacing, but Ali Akbar's letter to Jaspan does; NON-BREAKING SPACE can be used in *scriptio continua* and SPACE otherwise. Hyphenation has not been observed, but could only occur after an orthographic syllable.

Unicode Character Properties

```
A930;REJANG LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A931;REJANG LETTER GA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A932;REJANG LETTER NGA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A933;REJANG LETTER TA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A934;REJANG LETTER DA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A935;REJANG LETTER NA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A936;REJANG LETTER PA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A937;REJANG LETTER BA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A938;REJANG LETTER MA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A939;REJANG LETTER CA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A93A;REJANG LETTER JA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A93B;REJANG LETTER NYA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A93C;REJANG LETTER SA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A93D;REJANG LETTER RA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A93E;REJANG LETTER LA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A93F;REJANG LETTER YA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A940;REJANG LETTER WA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A941;REJANG LETTER HA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A942;REJANG LETTER MBA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A943;REJANG LETTER NGGA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A944;REJANG LETTER NDA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A945;REJANG LETTER NYJA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A946;REJANG LETTER A;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A947;REJANG VOWEL SIGN I;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;kaluan;;;
A948;REJANG VOWEL SIGN U;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;kamitan;;;
A949;REJANG VOWEL SIGN E;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;kamica;;;
A94A;REJANG VOWEL SIGN AI;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;katiling;;;
A94B;REJANG VOWEL SIGN O;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
A94C;REJANG VOWEL SIGN AU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;katulung;;;
A94D;REJANG VOWEL SIGN EU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
A94E;REJANG VOWEL SIGN EA;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;kajina;;;
A94F;REJANG CONSONANT SIGN NG;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;katulang;;;
A950;REJANG CONSONANT SIGN N;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;duo deatas;;;
A951;REJANG CONSONANT SIGN R;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;kajunjung;;;
A952;REJANG CONSONANT SIGN H;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A953;REJANG CONSONANT SIGN VIRAMA;Mc;9;L;;;;;N;;;;;
A95F;REJANG SECTION MARK;Po;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
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Bibliography

Jaspan, M. A. 1964. *Folk literature of South Sumatra: Redjang Ka-Ga-Nga texts*. Canberra: Australian National University.

Acknowledgements

REJANG ALPHABET.

ka	ga	nga	ta	da	na	pa	ba	ma	cha	ja	nia

sa	ra	la	ea	oa	hha	mba	ngga	nda	nja	a	o

⅌ Mark of Commencement.   o Mark of Pause.

The Letters of these Alphabets are governed by a variety of Signs the application of which considerably alters the terminating sound. Those which belong peculiarly to the Rejang are as follows.

Duo deatas which changes the Termination from .... a to an
Cajeena or Duo debowa changes a to ah   ı Catoolang changes..............a to ang
Cajoonjoong...............................to ar   ı Cameetan.........................to oo
Calowan.......................................to ee   c Cateeling..........................to i
Camecha ....to ay   L Catooloong.......................to ow

ka   kan   kah   kar   kee   kay   kang   koo   ki   kow

The Letters are never joined in writing, each for the most part representing a syllable.
The Writing is from the left-hand to the right.

BATTA

a	ha	na	ma	ra	ta	ba	wa	sa	ga

la	pa	gna	ja	da	nya	e	eea	oo

LAMPOON

ka	ga	gna	pa	ba	ma	ta	da	na	cha

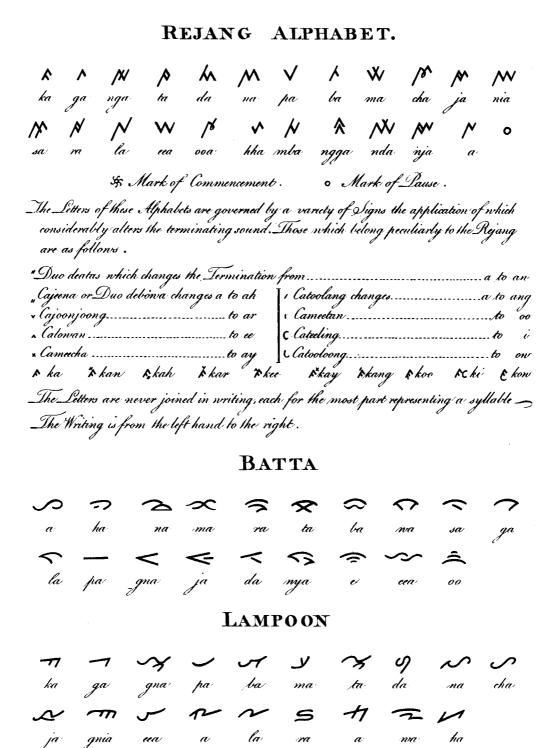| ja	gnia	eea	a	la	ra	a	wa	ha

Plate 2 - Marsden's 1783 'Sumatran Alphabets'

Figure 1. Table of Rejang characters from Marsden's 1783 book *Sumatran alphabets*, as presented in Jaspan 1964. Marsden gives traditional names for the vowel signs, which Jaspan notes are no longer current with modern users of Rejang.

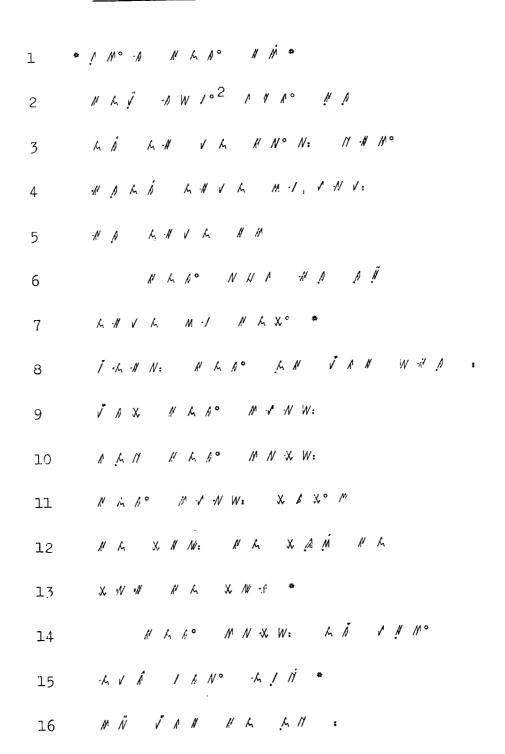Text H – <u>ALI AKBAR'S LETTER TO JASPAN</u> [on paper]

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Figure 2. The beginning of Ali Akbar's letter to Jaspan, typeset and reproduced in Jaspan 1964. The REJANG SECTION MARK can be seen in lines 1, 7, 13, and 15.

TABLE XX - Row A9: REJANG

	A93	A94	A95
0	⋀	⫫	◌̈
1	⋀	√	◌̆
2	⫫	⫽	◌
3	⋀	⋀	◌°
4	⋀	⫫	
5	⋀	⫫	
6	√	⫫	
7	∕	◌	
8	⋀	◌	
9	⋀	◌	
A	⋀	◌̂	
B	⋀	◌	
C	⫽	◌	
D	⫫	◌	
E	⫽	◌	
F	⋁	◌́	卐

G = 00
P = 00

TABLE XX - Row A9: REJANG

hex	Name	hex	Name
30	REJANG LETTER KA		
31	REJANG LETTER GA		
32	REJANG LETTER NGA		
33	REJANG LETTER TA		
34	REJANG LETTER DA		
35	REJANG LETTER NA		
36	REJANG LETTER PA		
37	REJANG LETTER BA		
38	REJANG LETTER MA		
39	REJANG LETTER CA		
3A	REJANG LETTER JA		
3B	REJANG LETTER NYA		
3C	REJANG LETTER SA		
3D	REJANG LETTER RA		
3E	REJANG LETTER LA		
3F	REJANG LETTER YA		
40	REJANG LETTER WA		
41	REJANG LETTER HA		
42	REJANG LETTER MBA		
43	REJANG LETTER NGGA		
44	REJANG LETTER NDA		
45	REJANG LETTER NYJA		
46	REJANG LETTER A		
47	REJANG VOWEL SIGN I (kaluan)		
48	REJANG VOWEL SIGN U (kamitan)		
49	REJANG VOWEL SIGN E (kamica)		
4A	REJANG VOWEL SIGN AI (katiling)		
4B	REJANG VOWEL SIGN O		
4C	REJANG VOWEL SIGN AU (katulung)		
4D	REJANG VOWEL SIGN EU		
4E	REJANG VOWEL SIGN EA (kajina)		
4F	REJANG CONSONANT SIGN NG (katulang)		
50	REJANG CONSONANT SIGN N (duo deatas)		
51	REJANG CONSONANT SIGN R (kajunjung)		
52	REJANG CONSONANT SIGN H		
53	REJANG VIRAMA		
54	(This position shall not be used)		
55	(This position shall not be used)		
56	(This position shall not be used)		
57	(This position shall not be used)		
58	(This position shall not be used)		
59	(This position shall not be used)		
5A	(This position shall not be used)		
5B	(This position shall not be used)		
5C	(This position shall not be used)		
5D	(This position shall not be used)		
5E	(This position shall not be used)		
5F	REJANG SECTION MARK		

A. Administrative

1. Title

Proposal for encoding the Rejang script in the BMP of the UCS.

2. Requester's name

UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Individual contribution.

4. Submission date

2006-04-24

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

Yes.

6b. More information will be provided later

No.

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

Yes.

Proposed name of script

Rejang.

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

No.

1c. Name of the existing block

2. Number of characters in proposal

37

3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)

Category A.

4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3)

Level 2

4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Yes.

4c. If YES, reference

Rejang uses Brahmic vowelsigns.

5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?

Yes.

5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Michael Everson.

6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, Fontographer.

7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes.

7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

8. Special encoding issues: Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

Yes.

9. Additional Information: Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script.

See above.

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

Yes, a preliminary proposal was submitted in N3023.

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

Yes.

2b. If YES, with whom?

Richard McGinn, Associate Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Southeast Asian Studies, Department of Linguistics, Ohio University.

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

Rejang is used on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

Used to write the Rejang language.

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

In Sumatra.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes. Positions A930-A95F are proposed.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

Yes.

6c. If YES, reference

Contemporary use and accordance with the Roadmap.

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Yes.

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?

Yes.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

Yes.

11c. If YES, reference

Vowel signs and consonant signs.

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?