

Title: Introducing a Script for Writing Dhimal
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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to bring to the attention of the Unicode Technical Committee (UTC) the Dhimal script. Research on the script is ongoing. This document provides a preliminary list of characters and some specimens. Additional information will be provided as it is obtained.

This script is associated with Dhimal (ISO 639-3: dhi), a Tibeto-Burman language spoken by nearly 18,000 persons in the Mechi and Koshi zones of Nepal, as well as across the border in West Bengal, India. Dhimal is typically written in Devanagari in Nepal.

The Dhimal script described here appears to be a newly-devised script. The creator is Daya Ram Dhimal, who also authored a book, titled “Newly Discovered Dhimal Script” (see figure 1). The cover refers to a script called ‘Dham’. It is unknown if this is the formal name for the Dhimal script. Information about usage of the script is unknown.

Structurally, Dhimal is an alphasyllabic script. It is based upon the Brahmi model. The available sources indicate that Dhimal would require a minimum of 54 code-points. It has independent vowel letters and a full set of consonant letters (see figures 2), as well as combining vowel signs and a VIRAMA 3). It is unknown if there are script-specific digits. The character glyphs exhibit influence from writing systems used throughout the region, such as Limbu and Lepcha.

2 Tentative Character Repertoire and Properties

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xx00;DHIMAL LETTER A;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx01;DHIMAL LETTER AA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx02;DHIMAL LETTER I;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx03;DHIMAL LETTER II;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx04;DHIMAL LETTER U;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx05;DHIMAL LETTER UU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx06;DHIMAL LETTER E;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx07;DHIMAL LETTER AI;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx08;DHIMAL LETTER O;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx09;DHIMAL LETTER AU;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx0A;DHIMAL LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx0B;DHIMAL LETTER KHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx0C;DHIMAL LETTER GA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx0D;DHIMAL LETTER GHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx0E;DHIMAL LETTER NGA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx0F;DHIMAL LETTER CA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx10;DHIMAL LETTER CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx11;DHIMAL LETTER JA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
xx12;DHIMAL LETTER JHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;

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xx13;DHIMAL LETTER NYA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx14;DHIMAL LETTER TTA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx15;DHIMAL LETTER TTHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx16;DHIMAL LETTER DDA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx17;DHIMAL LETTER DDHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx18;DHIMAL LETTER NNA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx19;DHIMAL LETTER TA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1A;DHIMAL LETTER THA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1B;DHIMAL LETTER DA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1C;DHIMAL LETTER DHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1D;DHIMAL LETTER NA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1E;DHIMAL LETTER PA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1F;DHIMAL LETTER PHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx20;DHIMAL LETTER BA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx21;DHIMAL LETTER BHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx22;DHIMAL LETTER MA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx23;DHIMAL LETTER YA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx24;DHIMAL LETTER RA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx25;DHIMAL LETTER LA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx26;DHIMAL LETTER VA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx27;DHIMAL LETTER SHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx28;DHIMAL LETTER SSA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx29;DHIMAL LETTER SA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx2A;DHIMAL LETTER HA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx2B;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN AA;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx2C;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN I;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx2D;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN II;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx2E;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN U;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
xx2F;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN UU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
xx30;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN E;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx31;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN AI;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx32;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN O;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx33;DHIMAL VOWEL SIGN AU;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx34;DHIMAL SIGN ANUSVARA;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
xx35;DHIMAL SIGN VISARGA;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
xx36;DHIMAL SIGN VIRAMA;Mn;9;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;

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3 References

Dhimal, Som Bahadur. 2008. "Dhimal Jati of Nepal: Dhimal Script". <http://dhimaljatiofnepal.blogspot.com/2008/12/dhimal-script.html>

**Newly Discovered Dhimal Script
by Daya Ram Dhimal "Lengbang"**

१०-६१५३३

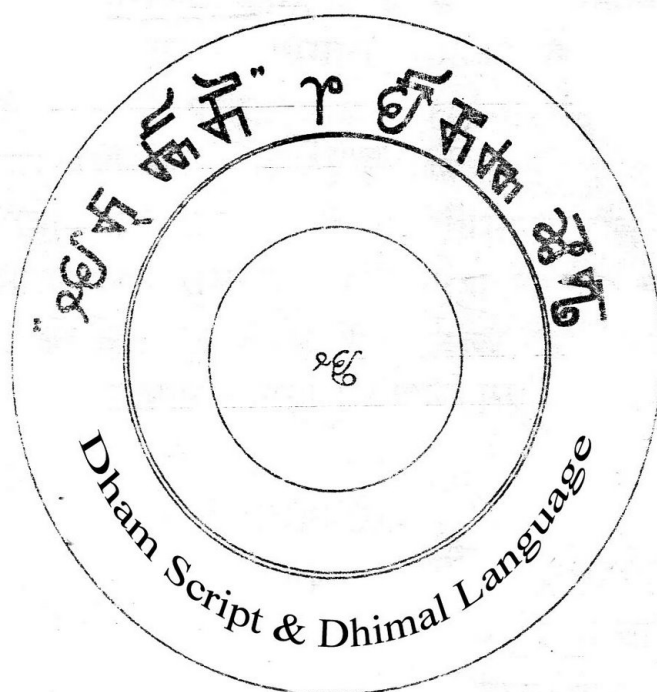


Figure 1: Cover of a book about the Dhimal script (from Dhimal 2008).

ཨུག་ཀྱི་གཞུག་ལུ་ - Vowel Sounds

ཨ	ཨ་	ཨི	ཨེ	ཨུ	ཨོ
A	Aa	I	Ee	U	Oo
ཨེ	ཨེེ	ཨོ	ཨོེ	ཨེུ	ཨོེེ
E	Ai	O	Au	An	Ah

ཨུག་ཀྱི་ཨི་ཨེ་ཨོ་ཨུ་ཨོེ་ཨེུ་ཨོེེ་
 ཨེེེ་ཨོེེེ་ཨོེེེེ་ཨོེེེེེ་
 ཨོེེེེེེ་ཨོེེེེེེེ་ཨོེེེེེེེེ་

ཨུག་ཀྱི་གཞུག་ལུ་ - Consonant Sounds

ཀ	ཀཱ	ཀཱི	ཀཱེ	ཀཱུ	ཀཱོ
Ka	Kha	Ga	Gha	Nga	Cha
ཀཱེ	ཀཱེེ	ཀཱོ	ཀཱོེ	ཀཱེུ	ཀཱོེེ
Chha	Ja	Jha	Na	Ta	Tha
ཀཱེུ	ཀཱེེུ	ཀཱོེ	ཀཱོེེ	ཀཱེེུ	ཀཱོེེེ
Da	Dha	Na	Ta	Tha	Da
ཀཱོེེ	ཀཱོེེེ	ཀཱོེེ	ཀཱོེེེ	ཀཱོེེ	ཀཱོེེེ
Dha	Na	Pa	Pha	Ba	Bha
ཀཱོེེེ	ཀཱོེེེེ	ཀཱོེེ	ཀཱོེེེ	ཀཱོེེ	ཀཱོེེེ
Ma	Ya	Ra	La	Wa	Sha
ཀཱོེེེེ	ཀཱོེེེེེ	ཀཱོེེེ			
Sha	Sa	Ha			

Figure 2: Vowel and consonant letters of Dhimal (from Dhimal 2008).

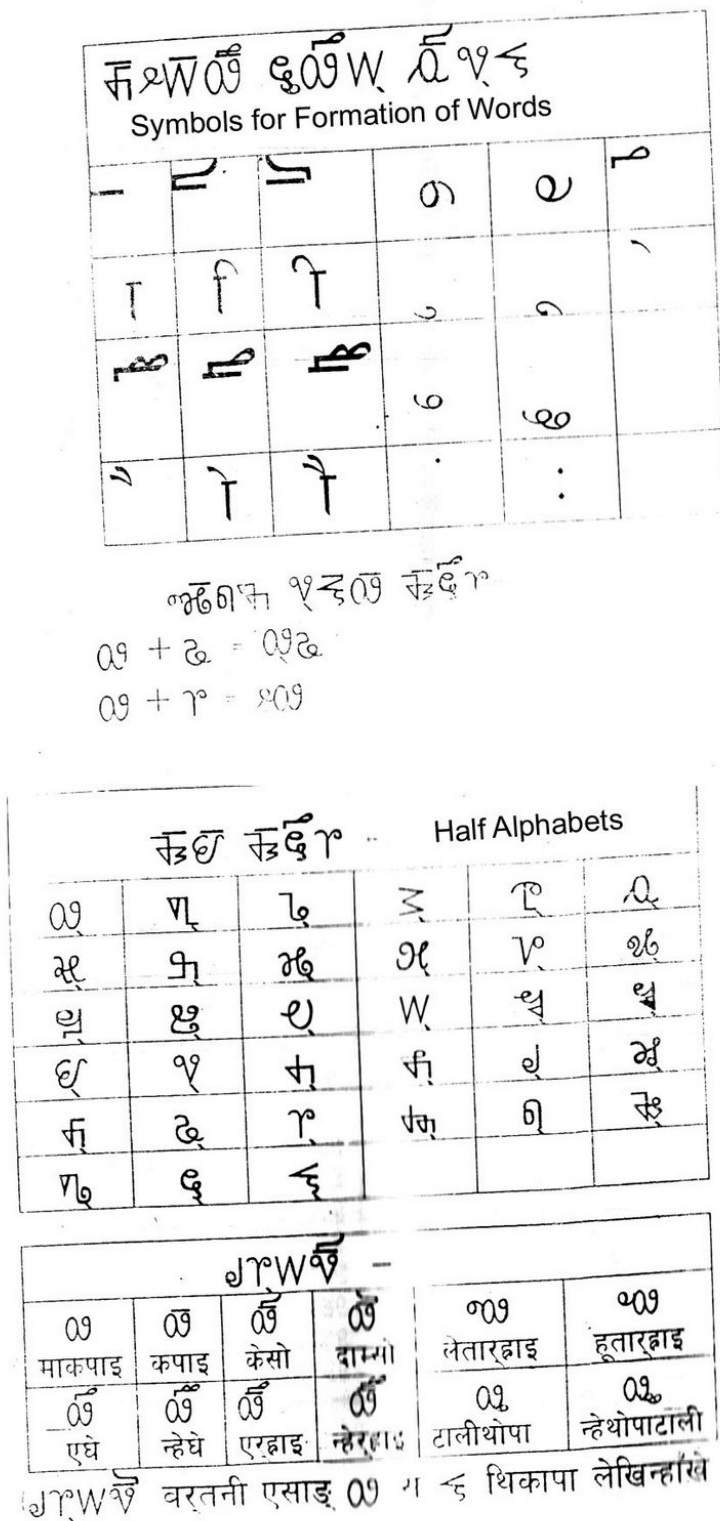


Figure 3: Vowel signs and half-forms of consonants producing using VIRAMA (from Dhimal 2008).