

Limbu Romanization Table

1997 version

Limbu

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Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 1)

ᱠ	a	ᱡᱟ	ai
ᱡ	ā	ᱢᱟ	o
ᱣᱟ	i	ᱣᱟ	au
ᱤ	u	ᱥ	ō
ᱦ	e	ᱦ	ē

Consonants (see Note 2)

Gutturals		Palatals		Dentals			
꠵	ka	꠶	ca	꠼	ta		
꠷	kha	꠷	cha	꠽	tha		
꠸	ga	꠸	ja	꠾	da		
꠹	gha	꠹	jha	꠿	dha		
꠺	ṇa	꠺	ṇa	꠻	na		
Labials		Semivowels		Sibilants		Aspirate	
꠼	pa	꠻	ya	꠼	śa	꠻	ha
꠽	pha	꠼	ra	꠾	sa		
꠾	ba	꠾	la				
꠿	bha	꠿	va				
꠻	ma						

Notes

- Only the vowel forms that appear at the beginning of a syllable are listed; the forms used for vowels following a consonant exclude ᱠ. No distinction between the two is made in romanization.

ᱚ kā ᱚᱠ ki

- The vowel *a* is implicit after all consonants and consonant clusters and is supplied in romanization, with the following exceptions:
 - when another vowel is indicated by its appropriate sign; and
 - when the absence of any vowel is indicated by the subscript sign (₋) called *sa-i*.

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RULES OF APPLICATION

1. ^ṽ (*mukphreñ*) is used to indicate a slight breathing after a vowel. It is romanized *ḥ*.

Z, ^ṽ	kaḥyo	ṽ, ^ṽ	piḥrē
^ṽ	tāḥmā	^ṽ	muḥlā
2. ^ː (*kemphreñ*) is used to make a vowel slightly longer than usual. It is romanized *ː*.

^ː	yu'mā	^ː	thā'bē
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3. When Z, ^ṽ, ^ː, Z, ^ː, ^ṽ, ^ː, and ^ṽ are used in the final position (i.e., preceded by a vowel but not followed by one), they assume different shapes and are used as superscripts above the preceding syllables.

Z ^ː	kak	Z ^ː	kap
Z ^ː	kañ	Z ^ː	kam
^ṽ	kat	^ṽ	kar
^ṽ	kan	^ṽ	kal
4. When ^ṽ is added to another consonant or consonants in a cluster (i.e., without any intervening vowel), it assumes the shape ^ṽ and is added to the preceding consonant or consonants.

Z^ṽ kya
5. When ^ṽ is added to another consonant or consonant in a cluster (i.e., without any intervening vowel), it assumes the shape ^ṽ and is added to the preceding consonant or consonants.

^ṽ kra
6. When ^ṽ is added to another consonant or consonants in a cluster (i.e., without any intervening vowel) it assumes the shape ^ṽ and is added to the preceding consonant or consonants.

Z^ṽ kva

SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

Special Characters	Name	USMARC hexadecimal code
'	apostrophe	27
Character Modifiers	Name	USMARC hexadecimal code
á	acute	E2
ñ	tilde	E4
ā	macron	E5
ḥ	breve	E6
ˆ	dot above	E7
̣	dot below	F2