

Reading and writing Kman



Kman tasay tapuri pit

Kman Language Development Committee

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A book of letters

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Introduction

This book is to help speakers of the Kman [Miju] language write it down so that others can read it. Kman is a difficult language with many sounds that are not in English or Hindi. So we have tried to develop a practical system that can be used by anyone familiar with the Roman alphabet.

Each sound has its own page, and we have given examples of words including that sound. The linguistic version of the word is given in column 2 and the practical writing in column 1. To help people familiar with Devanagari, Hindi letters are given where there is an exact equivalent. However, many Kman letters are not found in the Hindi alphabet. Kman is a language with many tones, and we will need to write some, so that people do not make mistakes in

reading. However, we do not want to have so many tone-marks that reading is confusing. The illustrations try to help you visualise the items you are spelling.

This is a trial version, and readers who find mistakes or words they are puzzled as to the spelling should contact the Kman Language Development Committee, Tezu, with their queries.

p=ᵑ

pang	p̄aŋ	first
pit	p̄it	book
peng	p̄eŋ	smear, paint
popra	p̄ōpra	pumpkin

popra pumpkin



ph=p^h=ᵑ

phephe	p ^h ēp ^h è	quickly
phawk	p ^h awk	nest
phun	p ^h un	door
tapha'	tāp ^h àʔ	wall
chawpha	tʃāwp ^h ā	king, ruler
phacung	p ^h ācùŋ	butterfly

phacung butterfly



py=p^y

pyaa	pyāā	spreading
pyam	pyām	fertiliser
pyās	pyās	onion
pyo	pyō	smearing

pyās onion



phy = p^{hy}

phyit	p ^{hy} it	whistling
phyudu	p ^{hy} ūdū	brinjal, eggplant
phyung	p ^{hy} ūŋ	fly
taphyo'	tāp ^{hy} ò?	arrowhead

phyudu brinjal



pr

rül kəpra	rül kēprā	cobra
praʼ	prāʔ	sharing
prəm	prēm	soaking
pray	prāy	discussion
pring	prīŋ	restriction
pronk nəy	prōŋk nəy	thanking

rül kəpra cobra



pl

ploʼ	plōʔ	cutting
pla	plâ	foot, leg
plong	plōŋ	appearance

pla foot, leg



phr = p^hr

phra'	p ^h rā?	separation
phral	p ^h rāl	burning
phrat	p ^h rāt	tear (cord)
phrut	p ^h rùt	meeting, receiving

phrat tear



phl = p^hl

phlɔŋ	p ^h lɔŋ	filling
phlu'	p ^h lū?	jumping
kamphlung	kāmp ^h lūŋ	white
tamphlo'	tām p ^h lō?	evening
phla'	p ^h lā?	lightening

phla' lightening



b=ब

bang	bàŋ	large cloth
bay	báy	big spoon
bichi	bīcí	chili
bül	bül	feather
bo	bō	maize

bo maize



by

kambyat	kāmbyāt	sympathy
tambya	tāmbyà	tobacco
byo	byō	always
byup	byüp	hoof
hambyung	hāmbyūŋ	banana, plantain

byup hoof



br

brat	br̄at	pebble
brim	br̄im	rib
brüp	br̄üp	cheek
brəng	br̄əŋ	rope

brəng rope



bl

blay	bl̄ay	tongue
blüŋ	bl̄üŋ	similar
blong	bl̄oŋ	road
mambley	māmblēy	pea

blong road



t=त

tayap	tāyāp	fan
tenga	tèṅā	orange
tiləm	tīlēm	hot water
təpuw	tēpūw	tiger
təmawng	tēmàwṅ	hearth, fireplace
tun	tūn	need, want

tenga orange



th = t^h=थ

thəm	t ^h ēm	to eat anything hard
thanat	t ^h ānāt	resting place
that	t ^h āt	grazing field
thaw	t ^h āw	prick
thawng	t ^h āwṅ	waterfall
tho'	t ^h ò?	loom
thun	t ^h ùn	bundle

tho' loom



thy = t^{hy}

thyüp	t ^{hy} ûp	folding
məthyam	mət ^{hy} ām	a little

thyüp folding



ty

kətyung	kətyùŋ	wild cat
tyəng	tyəŋ	very
rawk hətyəp	rāwk hətyèp	fist

kətyung wild cat



d=द

da	dā	telephone
dawk	dāwk	join, connect
də'ow	də'ōw	squirrel
do	dō	say, speak
dong	dōŋ	stump of tree
dum	dūm	piece of wood etc.

da telephone



dy

dyüŋ	dyũŋ	moist, wet
udyu	ùdyū	peacock
ko'dyəŋ	kō'dyèŋ	tree frog

udyu peacock



z = z~dz

za'	dzâ?	claw
zal	dzāl	corpse
zam	dzām	hide
zük	dzük	nail on hand
züp	dzüp	to disappear into

za' claw



ch=ʃ=च

kichin	kīʃin	we two
chal	ʃāl	mithun
chaw	ʃâw	salutation
che'	ʃê?	split
cho'	ʃô?	remove, extract
chu'	ʃû?	throw

chal mithun



chh = tʃʰ = 𑜃𑜂𑜆

chhəl	𑜃𑜂𑜆𑜀	toss (esp baby)
chhəm	𑜃𑜂𑜆𑜇𑜎	making a baby sleep
chhan	𑜃𑜂𑜆𑜀𑜃	bangle
chhong	𑜃𑜂𑜆𑜀𑜇	pea, bean
chhuw	𑜃𑜂𑜆𑜀𑜃𑜂	mouth

chhan bangle



ts

tsawng	tsāwŋ	wealth
tsəham	tsəhəm	shoe
tsong	tsòŋ	person
tso'	tsòʔ	dregs, grounds

tsəham shoes



tsh =ts^h

tshən	ts ^h ən	tremble
tshaw	ts ^h aw	lake
tshun	ts ^h un	weapon
tshüm	ts ^h üm	idea
məntshuw	mənts ^h uw	cow

məntshuw cow



j=dʒ=ꞑ

jal	dʒəl	comb of cock
jum	dʒum	packing
jami	dʒāmī	cat
jun	dʒun	small thing that sticks out
jük	dʒük	mosquito

jami cat



s= स

sa	sà	child
sat	sàt	kill
səp	səp	nest
so'	sòʔ	ice
sui	sūi	cutting with knife

səp nest



sh = श = श

shabrē	ʃabrē	sword
əshin	əʃin	stick for creeper
əshu	əʃu	elder brother
shukrik	ʃukrik	scabies, eczema

shabrē sword



shy = ʃy

shya	ʃyā	pungent, sharp
shyam	ʃyām	hair
kashyang	kāʃyàŋ	straight
kashyəp	kāʃyəp	roof
kə shyok	kə ʃyək	inhabitant

shyam hair



k=क

kap	kāp	shoot
kətəm	kətəm	granary
kənan	kənān	forest
kamphlung	kāmp ^h lūŋ	white
ki	kī	I, me
kwün	kwün	rolling

kətəm granary



kh = k^h = ख

hangkhum	hāŋk ^h ūm	toad
khili	k ^h ilī	nail of metal
khung	k ^h ūŋ	knock
khwüt	k ^h wüt	weeding tool
khum	k ^h ūm	grasshopper
kha	k ^h ā	bitter

khili nail



khy = k^{hy}

khyap	k ^{hy} āp	field hut
khyəm	k ^{hy} ə̄m	Mishmi takin
khyet	k ^{hy} è̄t	trap, metal wire
khyu	k ^{hy} ū	shrinking

khyəm Mishmi takin



kr

kre	krē	chicken
krit	krīt	laugh
krun	krūn	necklace
shukrun	shūkrūn	sweet potato

kre chicken



kl

klam	klām	far away
klawng	klāwŋ	insect, general
chuklit	ʃūklīt	mud
kloʼ	klòʔ	rope-bridge
klong	klông	high
məklung	məklùŋ	firefly

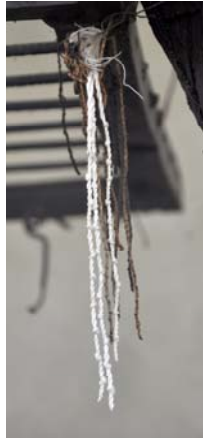
kloʼ rope-bridge



khṛ = kʰr

əkhṛəŋ	ə̄kʰrə̄ŋ	long, tall
khṛən	kʰrən̄	kneel
khṛəp	kʰrə̄p	invitation cord
khruw	kʰrūw	brass pot
khruw	kʰrūw̄	marten

khṛəp invitation cord



khḷ = kʰḷ

khḷap	kʰḷāp	dress
khḷong	kʰḷōŋ	wing
khḷoʼ	kʰḷòʼ	bamboo container

khḷong wing



kw

kwüt	kwüt	sweeping
kwi	kwī	dog

kwi dog



g=ᳵ

gay	gày	jaw, nearby
gəl	gəl	arum, taro
gil	gìl	cucumber
go'rong	gōʔrònᳵ	throat

gəl arum



gr

grap	grâp	wrestling
gra	grâ	knife
grüm	grũm	wrinkle
grün	grũn	eight
grong	gròŋ	chest
grut	grùt	sugar-cane

gra knife



gl

glang saw	glāŋ sàw	flying squirrel
glàt	glàt	village
glong	glòŋ	mortar
glu'	glũ?	undressing

glang saw flying squirrel



Nasals

n=न

nan	nān	tame (esp. animal)
nanggol	nàngōl	plough
naw	nāw	mother
nem	nèm	method, rule
nung	nūṅ	command, order

nanggol plough



ny = ण=ञ

nya nya	ṅāṅā	whosoever
nyaw	ṅāw	sky
nyu	ṅû	you sg.
nyup	ṅûp	tongs

nyup tongs



ng=ᶇ=ᶑ

ngal	ngəl	night
bawng	bəwᶇ	wind
ngüi	ᶇüi	sleep
ngung	ᶇuᶇ	find
ngui	ᶇui	enter
ngu'peng	ᶇu'pəᶇ	snail

ngu'peng snail



m=ᶄ

mang	māᶇ	paddy
me'	mēʔ	fish hook
mit	mīt	cutting with scissor
mətho'	məthòʔ	owl
mungruw	mūᶇrūw	grave
mung	mūᶇ	foxtail millet

mətho' owl



mung foxtail millet



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r=र

ram	rām	rot
ra'	rāʔ	liking
ring	rīŋ	beautiful, good
rawk	rāwk	hand
rüung	rüūŋ	boat

rüung boat



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l=ल

lay	lāy	moon
lūi'	lūīʔ	pig
lo'	lōʔ	licking
long	lōŋ	standing
rul	rūl	building bridge
yəl	yəl	irrigation

lūi' pig



ly

khrobəlyo	khrōbālyò	stone shape
həlyüm	hālyüm	turmeric (holy)
lyarəl	lyārəl	bicycle
lyanga	lyàŋa	frying pan

lyanga frying pan



Semi-vowels

y=य

yam	yâm	gunpowder
yap	yâp	to fan
yawən	yāwən	which?
təyun	tāyün	decoration
yul	yül	taking revenge
yuw	yüw	wasp

yuw

wasp



w=ᵛ

wa	wâ	bamboo
wan	wān	cup
wəl	wəl	snowfall
wənra kə	wənṛā kə	and

wa bamboo



Glottals

h=ḥ

hari	hārī	vertical flute
hing mu	hīŋ mū	1000
həmək	hēmək	tasty
hənda	həndà	veranda
həpa	həpà	corridor wall

həpa wall of inner corridor



' = ʔ = ʌ:

la'u'	lāʔùʔ	swan
də'ow	dəʔòw	squirrel
də'ing	dəʔìŋ	ginger
'yey	ʔyèy	conflict, quarrel
bo'	bòʔ	bark, skin

də'ow squirrel



Vowels

A, a = ʌ

ara	ārà	here
ara	àrā	saw
əta	ətà	beckon, call with finger
əyaw	əyàw	waist

ara saw



Ã, ã

chãng	ʃãŋ	bed
ãm	ãm	mango
pyãs	pyãs	onion

ãm mango



E, e = Ǝ

ep	èp	tin
be	bè	noise
bela	bèlā	plate
'yey	ʔyēy	quarrel
kyepmo	kyēpmō	ten
køyen	kāyèn	right hand

ep tin



ə

əmik	ə̄mik	sun
ənga	ə̄ŋà	fish
əla	ə̄lā	leaf
əyay	ə̄yà̀y	tree species
ətsüt	ə̄tsüt	to study, count

əmik sun



i = ɿ

in	ìn	select, choose
ing	ìŋ	ear
iphit	ìp ^h it	rainbow
it	ìt	enemy

ing ear



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o = 𑌒

o'nyam	ōʔnyām	burping
olo'	ōlòʔ	palate
olap	ōlàp	burping
potō	pòtō̄	bronze vessel

potō bronze vessel



Kman reading and writing book

U, u = 𑌓

ung	ūŋ	skin, bark
urən	ūrən	long strip or stick
utay	ūtây	big

ung bark



Ü, ü

büi b̄üi house, home
bül b̄ül feather, fur
rül r̄ül snake

büi house



Tones

Kman has three levels of tone, as well as glide tones, i.e. tones that slide between two levels. The three levels can be illustrated by the following words. There seem to be no words which have a high tone in isolation.

High-Low	wâ	bamboo
Mid	wāā	to plait bamboo
Mid-Low	wà	bird



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