

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR TIGRINYA

BGN/PCGN System 2007

The BGN/PCGN system for Tigrinya is designed for use in romanizing geographical names written in Tigrinya (Ge'ez) characters. The Roman letters and letter combinations shown as equivalents to the Tigrinya characters reflect modern Tigrinya pronunciation, while taking into account some conscious archaisms based on Ge'ez and liturgical practices.

It should also be noted that an orthographic reform was apparently promulgated in Eritrea in 1991, but as yet these are unassessed.

TIGRINYA BASIC CHARACTERS

	<i>1st order</i>	<i>2nd order</i>	<i>3rd order</i>	<i>4th order</i>	<i>5th order</i>	<i>6th order¹</i>	<i>7th order</i>
1	ሀ he	ሁ hu	ሂ hi	ሃ ha	ሄ hie	ህ h / hĩ	ሆ ho
2	ለ le	ሉ lu	ሊ li	ላ la	ሌ lie	ል l / lĩ	ሎ lo
3	ሐ ሐe	ሑ ሐu	ሒ ሐi	ሓ ሐa	ሔ ሐie	ሕ ሐ / ሐĩ	ሖ ሐo
4	መ me	ሙ mu	ሚ mi	ማ ma	ሚ mie	ም m / mĩ	ሞ mo
5 ²	ሠ se	ሡ su	ሢ si	ሣ sa	ሤ sie	ሥ s / sĩ	ሦ so
6	ረ re	ሩ ru	ሪ ri	ራ ra	ሪ rie	ር r / rĩ	ሮ ro
7	ሰ se	ሱ su	ሲ si	ሳ sa	ሴ sie	ስ s / sĩ	ሶ so
8	ሸ she	ሹ shu	ሺ shi	ሻ sha	ሼ shie	ሽ sh / shĩ	ሾ sho
9	ቀ k'e	ቁ k'u	ቂ k'i	ቃ k'a	ቄ k'ie	ቅ k' / k'ĩ	ቆ k'o
10	ቆ kh'e	ቇ kh'u	ቈ kh'i	቉ kh'a	ቊ kh'ie	ቋ kh' / kh'ĩ	ቌ kh'o
11	በ be	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቤ bie	ብ b / bĩ	ቦ bo
12	ተ te	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቲ tie	ት t / tĩ	ቶ to
13	ቸ che	ቹ chu	ቺ chi	ቻ cha	ቼ chie	ች ch / chĩ	ቾ cho
14	ኀ ሐe	ኁ ሐu	ኂ ሐi	ኃ ሐa	ኄ ሐie	ኅ ሐ / ሐĩ	ኆ ሐo
15	ነ ne	ኑ nu	ኒ ni	ና na	ኔ nie	ን n / nĩ	ኖ no
16	ኘ nye	ኙ nyu	ኚ nyi	ኛ nya	ኜ nyie	ኝ ny / nyĩ	ኞ nyo

¹ The 6th-order characters should be romanized either with or without the letter ĩ, depending on pronunciation.

² Forms of the consonant character ሠ are understood to be becoming obsolete in Tigrinya.

	<i>1st order</i>		<i>2nd order</i>		<i>3rd order</i>		<i>4th order</i>		<i>5th order</i>		<i>6th order¹</i>		<i>7th order</i>	
17 ³	አ ⁴	e / 'e	ኡ	u / 'u	ኢ	i / 'i	ኣ	a / 'a	ኤ	ie / 'ie	እ	ĩ / 'ĩ	ኦ	o / 'o
18	ከ	ke	ኩ	ku	ኪ	ki	ካ	ka	ካ	kie	ከ	k / kĩ	ኮ	ko
19	ኸ	khe	ኹ	khu	ኺ	khi	ኻ	kha	ኼ	khie	ኸ	kh / khĩ	ኾ	kho
20	ወ	we	ዉ	wu	ዊ	wi	ዋ	wa	ዌ	wie	ወ	w / wĩ	ዐ	wo
21	ዐ	'e	ዑ	'u	ዒ	'i	ዓ	'a	ዔ	'ie	ዐ	' / 'ĩ	ዑ	'o
22	ዘ	ze	ዙ	zu	ዚ	zi	ዛ	za	ዞ	zie	ዘ	z / zĩ	ዠ	zo
23	ዠ	zhe	ዡ	zhu	ዢ	zhi	ዣ	zha	ዤ	zhie	ዠ	zh / zhĩ	ዡ	zho
24	የ	ye	ዩ	yu	ይ	yi	ያ	ya	ዬ	yie	የ	y / yĩ	ዮ	yo
25	ደ	de	ዱ	du	ዲ	di	ዳ	da	ደ	die	ደ	d / dĩ	ዶ	do
26	ጅ	je	ጅ	ju	ጅ	ji	ጅ	ja	ጅ	jie	ጅ	j / jĩ	ጆ	jo
27	ገ	ge	ገ	gu	ገ	gi	ገ	ga	ገ	gie	ገ	g / gĩ	ጉ	go
28	ጠ	t'e	ጡ	t'u	ጢ	t'i	ጣ	t'a	ጤ	t'ie	ጠ	t' / t'ĩ	ጡ	t'o
29	ጨ	ch'e	ጨ	ch'u	ጨ	ch'i	ጨ	ch'a	ጨ	ch'ie	ጨ	ch' / chĩ	ጨ	ch'o
30	ጰ	p'e	ጱ	p'u	ጲ	p'i	ጳ	p'a	ጴ	p'ie	ጰ	p' / p'ĩ	ጱ	p'o
31	ጸ	ts'e	ጹ	ts'u	ጺ	ts'i	ጻ	ts'a	ጼ	ts'ie	ጸ	ts' / ts'ĩ	ጹ	ts'o
32	ፀ	ts'e	ፁ	ts'u	፲	ts'i	፳	ts'a	፴	ts'ie	ፀ	ts' / ts'ĩ	ፁ	ts'o
33	ፈ	fe	ፉ	fu	ፊ	fi	ፋ	fa	ፎ	fie	ፈ	f / fi	ፇ	fo
34	ፐ	pe	ፑ	pu	ፒ	pi	ፓ	pa	ፔ	pie	ፐ	p / pi	ፑ	po
35	ፕ	ve	ፖ	vu	ፙ	vi	ፚ	va	፛	vie	ፕ	v / vi	ፖ	vo

COMBINATIONS WITH W (Labialized Consonants)

<i>1st order</i>		<i>3rd order</i>		<i>4th order</i>		<i>5th order</i>		<i>6th order</i>	
ከዐ	kwe	ከዑ	kwi	ከፓ	kwa	ከፔ	kwie	ከፕ	kwĩ
ኸዐ	khwe	ኸዑ	khwi	ኸፓ	khwa	ኸፔ	khwie	ኸፕ	khwĩ
ቁ	k'we	ቁዑ	k'wi	ቁፓ	k'wa	ቁፔ	k'wie	ቁፕ	k'wĩ
ቁፈ	kh'we	ቁፉ	kh'wi	ቁፓፈ	kh'wa	ቁፔፈ	kh'wie	ቁፕፈ	kh'wĩ
ገዐ	gwe	ገዑ	gwi	ገፓ	gwa	ገፔ	gwie	ገፕ	gwĩ
ገዐ	ḥwe	ገዑ	ḥwi	ገፓ	ḥwa	ገፔ	ḥwie	ገፕ	ḥwĩ
				ጠ	lwa				
				ጢ	mwa				

³ The vowel characters in row 17 should be romanized with the apostrophe unless appearing as a word-initial.

⁴ Forms of the character አ are understood to be falling into disuse in Tigrinya.

COMBINATIONS WITH W (Labialized Consonants) *continued*

1 st order		3 rd order		4 th order		5 th order		6 th order	
				ꞑ	rwa				
				Ꞓ	swa				
				ꞓ	shwa				
				ꞔ	bwa				
				ꞕ	twa				
				Ꞗ	chwa				
				ꞗ	nwa				
				Ꞙ	nywa				
				ꞙ	zwa				
				Ꞛ	zhwa				
				ꞛ	dwa				
				Ꞝ	jwa				
				ꞝ	t'wa				
				Ꞟ	ch'wa				
				ꞟ	ts'wa				
				Ꞡ	fwa				

NUMERALS

ꞡ	Ꞣ	ꞣ	Ꞥ	ꞥ	Ꞧ	ꞧ	Ꞩ	ꞩ	Ɦ	Ɜ	Ɡ	Ɬ	Ɪ	ꞯ	Ʞ	Ʇ	Ʝ	Ꭓ	Ꞵ	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	20	21	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

PUNCTUATION

Word Break (space)	:
Comma	ꞵ
Semicolon	Ꞷ
Period	ꞷ

NOTES

Where consonant character sequences give rise to the romanizations k-h, n-y, z-h and s-h, a hyphen may be added between them to differentiate those romanizations from the digraphs kh, ny, zh and sh.