

# ROMANIZATION OF SHAN

## BGN/PCGN 2011 SYSTEM

This BGN/PCGN system for Shan has been developed for use in romanizing names written in the Shan script. Shan, a Tai language spoken in Burma, has an estimated 3.2 million speakers in Shan State, and its writing system is derived from Burmese.<sup>1</sup> Modern Shan orthography consists of the characters laid out below, though not all Shan dialects use the full inventory of sounds. There are also 5 tones, which are not captured by this transliteration system.

## CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Shan	Romanization
1.	ၵ	ka, k <sup>Note 3</sup>
2.	ၶ	k'a, k'
3.	ၷ	nga, ng <sup>Note 3</sup>
4.	ၸ	tsa, ts
5.	ၹ	sa, s
6.	ၺ	ña, ñ <sup>Note 3</sup>
7.	ၻ	ta, t <sup>Note 3</sup>
8.	ၼ	t'a, t'
9.	ၽ	na, n <sup>Note 3</sup>
10.	ၾ	pa, p <sup>Note 3</sup>

	Shan	Romanization
11.	ၿ	p'a, p'
12.	ၺ	fa, f
13.	ၻ	ma, m <sup>Note 3</sup>
14.	ၼ	ya, y
15.	ၽ	ra, r
16.	ၾ	la, l
17.	ၿ	wa, w <sup>Note 3</sup>
18.	ၺ	tha, th
19.	ၻ	ha, h
20.	ၼ	a

<sup>1</sup> Lewis, M. Paul (ed.), 2009. Shan. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. <[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=shn](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=shn)>. 02 June 2011.

# CONSONANT CHARACTER COMBINATIONS

(The symbol ○ represents any general consonant)

	Shan	Romanization
1.	ꨀꨂ	ꨀy
2.	ꨀꨃ	ꨀr
3.	ꨀꨄ	ꨀw

# VOWEL CHARACTERS

	Alone, or Consonant + Vowel (CV)	Vowel + Consonant (VC), or Consonant + Vowel + Consonant (CVC)	Romanization
1.	○	○ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	a
2.	ꨀꨂ	ꨀꨂ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	ā
3.	ꨀꨃ	ꨀꨃ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	i
4.	ꨀꨄ	ꨀꨄ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	e
5.	ꨀꨅ	ꨀꨅ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	ě
6.	ꨀꨆ	ꨀꨆ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	u
7.	ꨀꨇ	ꨀꨇ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	o
8.	ꨀꨈ	ꨀꨈ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	ō
9.	ꨀꨉ	ꨀꨉ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	ü
10.	ꨀꨊ	ꨀꨊ <sup>ꨀ</sup>	ö
11.	ꨀꨋ		aü

## VOWEL CHARACTERS WITH ‘W’

(Combinations with ‘w’, i.e. + ၵ)

	Alone, or Consonant + Vowel (CV)	Vowel + Consonant (VC), or Consonant + Vowel + Consonant (CVC)	Romanization
12.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	aw
13.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	āw
14.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	iw
15.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	ew
16.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	ěw

## VOWEL CHARACTERS WITH ‘Y’

(Combinations with ‘y’, i.e. + ၵ, ◌, or ◌)

	Alone, or Consonant + Vowel (CV)	Vowel + Consonant (VC), or Consonant + Vowel + Consonant (CVC)	Romanization
17.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	ay
18.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	āy
19.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	uy
20.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	öy
21.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	öy
22.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	üy
23.	◌◌◌	◌◌◌	öy

## NUMERALS

၀	၁	၂	၃	၄	၅	၆	၇	၈	၉
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

## Notes

1. Shan is written from left to right.
2. In the consonant chart, the romanization column includes two options for each Shan character. The first romanization contains the intrinsic vowel which should be shown in the absence of any alternative vowel marking in the script. The second represents the consonant without the intrinsic vowel which most commonly, though not exclusively, occurs at the end of words.
3. These eight consonants are the only ones found at the end of Shan words.
4. Shan has two punctuation marks (၊) which is the equivalent to a comma (,) in English and (။) which is the equivalent to a full stop (.) in English.
5. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations, with their Unicode encoding, in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:

Ñ (U+00D1)	ñ (U+00F1)
Ā (U+0100)	ā (U+0101)
Ě (U+0114)	ě (U+0115)
Ǫ (U+014E)	ǫ (U+014F)
Ü (U+00DC)	ü (U+00FC)
Ö (U+00D6)	ö (U+00F6)

6. The Roman-script columns show only lowercase forms but, when applying the table, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.