

Instruction manual for the Burmese L^AT_EX-package

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This package provides basic support for writing Burmese. All it can do is produce the correct characters out of an quite intuitive translation scheme. The Burmese tones are transcribed: with no sign for the first tone, with a doubled vowel for the second tone, with an “h” for the third tone, and with an ’-sign for the fourth one. You need **Perl** and **dvips** in order to use it, as the package consists of a preprocessor written in Perl and uses Type1-fonts — with `pdflatex` it works, too, however: edit the `texmf/pdftex/config/psfonts.map`-file.

Installation is easy. You put the preprocessor script into a directory where you can find it, e. g. into your working directory, and run `perl birm.pl <FILE>` (without extension) on it. Files to be input into the preprocessor *must* have the extension `*.bir`; the preprocessor then produces a T_EX-file (`*.tex`), leaving everything outside a Burmese environment untouched, and inserting the right input for the Burmese script. A Burmese environment is surrounded by `{\birm ...}`. The T_EX-file can be run through L^AT_EX and `dvips`. The other files provided are `birm.sty`, `ubirm.fd`, which according to TDS are due into the `texmf/tex/latex/-` directory, `burm.pfb` into the `texmf/fonts/type1-` directory, `burm.tfm` into the `texmf/fonts/tfm-` directory (perhaps a `texhash` run will be necessary). You will have to change your `psfonts.map`: Add the following line:

```
burm Burma <burm.pfb
```

Currently not all Burmese characters are available, but (almost) all needed for producing native Burmese words. The work is in progress yet, and I’m not a master in Burmese script yet. I took the fonts from a `*.tff`-font freely available on the Internet, and converted them into Type1 by using the `tff2pt1` program provided by Mark Heath.

Burmese script can be divided into syllables. Any syllable has got a consonantic onset and a vocalic coda; sometimes a semivowel intervenes between the two. When writing Burmese in L^AT_EX, we should stick to this scheme and separate the syllables by a space (unless, I can’t guarantee for anything). Some of the vowels are written before the consonant character, though, of course, pronounced after them. In this implementation for Burmese, we need not bother with this problem. Vowel characters are produced with the “consonant” for

syllables without an onset, which is `ə`. This “consonant” will be substituted during parsing by the correct consonant character if the syllable has got an onset. The package provides punctuation signs for “.” (`u`) and “,” (`l`), which can be inserted by their Latin equivalent just given.

Only scriptsize can be changed at this time; no different script styles like bold are supported; trying to use them will yield incorrect results. Don't use commands with arguments either inside a Burmese environment.

The vowels and semivowels are inserted like this:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------------|-------|------------------|--------|
| <code>aaN</code> | အမ် | <code>ai´</code> | အိုက် | <code>ou</code> | အိုဝ |
| <code>ahN</code> | အမ်း | <code>ei´</code> | အိုင် | <code>oou</code> | အိုဝး |
| <code>aN</code> | အမ် | <code>ou´</code> | အုပ် | <code>ouh</code> | အိုး |
| <code>aaIN</code> | အိုင် | <code>au´</code> | အောက် | <code>o</code> | အော |
| <code>aihN</code> | အိုင်း | <code>eei</code> | အေ | <code>uu</code> | အူ |
| <code>aiN</code> | အိုင် | <code>eih</code> | အေး | <code>uh</code> | အူး |
| <code>eeiN</code> | အိမ် | <code>ei</code> | အေ့ | <code>u´</code> | အွပ် |
| <code>eihN</code> | အိမ်း | <code>ee</code> | အယ် | <code>u</code> | အု |
| <code>eiN</code> | အိမ် | <code>eh</code> | အဲ | <code>I</code> | အိ |
| <code>iiN</code> | အိုင် | <code>e´</code> | အက် | <code>I2</code> | အိး |
| <code>ihN</code> | အင်း | <code>ii</code> | အီ | <code>II</code> | အိး |
| <code>iN</code> | အိုင် | <code>ih</code> | အီး | <code>EI´</code> | အိး |
| <code>oouN</code> | အုပ် | <code>i´</code> | အစ် | <code>OO</code> | အိုဝ် |
| <code>ouhN</code> | အုပ်း | <code>i</code> | အိ | <code>Oh</code> | အိုဝ်း |
| <code>ouN</code> | အုပ် | <code>e</code> | အဲ့ | <code>O</code> | အိုဝ် |
| <code>aaun</code> | အောင် | <code>aa</code> | အာ | <code>UU</code> | အူး |
| <code>auhN</code> | အောင်း | <code>ah</code> | အား | <code>Uh</code> | အူးး |
| <code>auN</code> | အောင် | <code>a´</code> | အပ် | <code>U</code> | အုး |
| <code>uuN</code> | အွမ် | <code>a</code> | အ | <code>w</code> | အွ |
| <code>uhN</code> | အွမ်း | <code>oo</code> | အေ | <code>y</code> | အျ |
| <code>uN</code> | အွမ | <code>oh</code> | အေ | | |

The consonants are inserted like this:

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|
| y | ယ | th | ထ | ch | ချ |
| w | ဝ | t | တ | c | ကျ |
| hw | ယု | d | ဓ | j | ဂျ |
| hl | လှ | kh | ခ | m | မ |
| hng | ငှ | k | က | ny | ည |
| hny | ညှ | g | ဂ | ng | င |
| hn | န | T | သ | n | န |
| hm | မှ | sh | ဆ | l | လ |
| h | ဟ | s | စ | g2 | ဃ |
| ph | ဖ | z | ဇ | n2 | ဏ |
| p | ပ | Sw | ရွ | ny2 | ဥ |
| b | ဗ | S | ရ | | |

Happy T_EX-ing! Bug-reports or other comments to reese@linguist.de