

GUIDE TO TRANSLITERATION

Words from Sanskrit, Ardhamāgadhī, other Prakrits including Apabhraṃśa, etc., may be diacritized if rendered in Roman script. (Quotations can also be in the Nāgarī script).

Here, we suggest transliteration styles and diacritic use for Sanskrit (classical), Prakrit, Apabhraṃśa, and the Dravidic languages. For other languages, namely, Arabic, Persian and the modern European languages, the current international conventions for transliteration of their rendering may be followed.

1. Sanskritic Characters		<i>Hard aspirates</i>	
<i>Vowels</i>		<i>visarga</i>	
आ	ä	(:)	ḥ
इ	ī	<i>Consonants</i>	
ऊ	ū	<i>palatals</i>	
ए, ऐ	ē } (long)	च	ca and not cha
ओ	ō } (N.B. long ē and ō are for particular syllables in Dravidic languages.)	छ	cha and not chha
ऋ	ṛ and not ri; (long ऋ, which rarely figures, may be rendered as ṛ)	<i>linguals</i>	
<i>Nasals</i>		ट	ta
<i>anusvāra</i>		ठ	tha
(.)	ṁ and not m	ड	ḍa
<i>anunāsikas</i>		ढ	ḍha and not ḷha
ङ्	ṅ	<i>sibilants</i>	
ञ्	ñ	श	śa
ण्	ṇ (or ṇa as the case may be)	ष	ṣa
		स	sa

unclassified

ळ	ḷa
क्ष	kṣa and not ksha
ज्ञ	jñā and not djñā
लृ	ḷṛ and not ḷṛi

Examples

kṣamā and not *kshamā*

jñāna and not *djñāna*

Kṛṣṇa and not *KṛIshṇa*

sucāru chatra and not *suchāru chhatra*

gaḍha and not *gaḷha* or *garha* (except in Hindi)

2. Dravidic (conjuncts and specific) characters

ᳵ	ᳵ
ᳶ	ᳶ
᳷	᳷
᳸	᳸

Examples

ᳵaṅ-Gautaman, Cōᳶa (and not Chola),
Munnurᳶuvamaṅgalam, Māraṅ, etc.

3. Miscellaneous

Where the second vowel in juxtaposition is clearly pronounced:

e.g. *jānaī* and not *jāṇai*
Seūṇa and not *Seuṇa*

For Sinhalese, except where the words are in Sanskrit, conventions of rendering Sinhalese in Roman are to be followed:

e.g., *dāgaba* and not *dagaba*
veve or *véve* and not *vev*

Quotations from old Indian sources involving long passages, complete verses etc., may be rendered in Nāgari script or Roman transliteration. Sanskrit quotations rendered in Roman are to be transliterated with *sandhiviccheda* (disjoining), following the conventions of the *Epigraphia Indica*, but the signs for *laghu-guru* of the syllables in a meter (when the citation is in verse) are not to be used.

Place Names

Ancient place names may be diacritized, except modern places:

Examples: Mathurā, Kauśambī, Valabhī, Kāñcī, Uraiyūr, Tiḷevalli etc., but Allahabad (not Allāhābād), Kolkata/Calcutta (not Calcaṭṭā), Chennai/Madras (and not Madrāsa).



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