ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR 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 classified language spoken in Burma, has an estimated 3.2 million speakers, and its writing system is derived from Burmese.[1] Modern Shan orthography consists of 20 consonants and 11 vowels, 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	Notes
1.	ၵ	ka, k	Footnote 3
2.	ၶ	k'a, k'	
3.	င	nga, ng	Footnote 3
4.	ၸ	tsa, ts	
5.	သ	sa, s	
6.	ၺ	ña, ñ	Footnote 3
7.	တ	ta, t	Footnote 3
8.	ထ	t'a, t'	
9.	ၼ	na, n	Footnote 3
10.	ပ	pa, p	Footnote 3
11.	ၽ	p'a, p'	
12.	ၾ	fa, f	
13.	မ	ma, m	Footnote 3

[1] 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>. 02 June 2011.

	Shan	Romanization	Notes
14.	ၺ	ya, y	
15.	ရ	ra, r	
16.	လ	la, l	
17.	ဝ	wa, w	Footnote 3
18.	သ	tha, th	
19.	ႁ	ha, h	
20.	ဢ	a	

CONSONANT CHARACTER COMBINATIONS

(The symbol ∵ represents any general consonant)

	Shan	Romanization
1.	ⷮ	∵y
2.	ⷺ	∵r
3.	ⷻ	∵w

VOWEL CHARACTERS

	Alone, or Consonant + Vowel (CV)	Vowel + Consonant (VC), or Consonant + Vowel + Consonant (CVC)	Romanization
1.	○	○ိုၚ်	a
2.	○ႃ	○ႃၚ်	ā
3.	○ိ	○ိၚ်	i
4.	ေ○	ေ○ၚ်	e

	Alone, or Consonant + Vowel (CV)	Vowel + Consonant (VC), or Consonant + Vowel + Consonant (CVC)	Romanization
5.	ɛ○	ɛͼ	ĕ
6.	○	ͼ	u
7.	○ͼ	○ͼ	o
8.	ᏭᎤ	○ͼ	ŏ
9.	○ͼ	○ͼ	ü
10.	○ͼ	○ͼ	ö
11.	ͼ		aü

VOWEL CHARACTERS WITH 'W'

(Combinations with 'w', i.e. + ○)

	Alone, or Consonant + Vowel (CV)	Vowel + Consonant (VC), or Consonant + Vowel + Consonant (CVC)	Romanization
12.	○ͼ	○ͼ	aw
13.	○ıͼ	○ıͼ	āw
14.	○ͼ	○ͼ	iw
15.	○ͼ	○ͼ	ew
16.	○ͼ	○ͼ	ĕw

VOWEL CHARACTERS WITH 'Y'

(Combinations with 'y', i.e. + ၺ, ိ, or ုိ)

	Alone, or Consonant + Vowel (CV)	Vowel + Consonant (VC), or Consonant + Vowel + Consonant (CVC)	Romanization
17.	ိ	ိ	ay
18.	ိၢ	ိၢ	āy
19.	ိ ၺ	ိ ၺ	uy
20.	ို ၺ	ို ၺ	öy
21.	ုိ	ုိ	ŏy
22.	ုိ ၺ	ုိ ၺ	üy
23.	ုို ၺ	ုို ၺ	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 show 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 period (.) in English.