

Miao (A Hmao) / Y⁻ 'ᵛ" Ad Hmaob

romanization: *pinyin*

I. Main characters

1	ᵛ	b	10	ᵛ'	tr	19	ᵛ	gh	28	J	sh,x ^B
2	ᵛ'	p	11	ᵛ	n	20	ᵛ'	kh	29	R	r ^C
3	ᵛ	m	12	'ᵛ	hn	21	ᵛ	ngg	30	†	z
4	'ᵛ	hm	13	L	l	22	'ᵛ	hngg	31	†'	c
5	ᵛ	f	14	ᵛ	hl	23	ᵛ	h	32	S	s
6	V	v	15	Δ	dl	24	l	hx	33	ᵛ	ř ^D
7	T	d	16	Δ'	tl	25	l'	hx' ^A	34	Λ	y
8	T'	t	17	ᵛ	g	26	ᵛ	zh,j ^B	35	U	w ^C
9	ᵛ	dr	18	ᵛ'	k	27	ᵛ'	ch,q ^B	36	Y	, ^E

^A In normal spelling simply *hx*.

^B The second variant is used if followed by *i* (incl. a diphthong with *i*).

^C Used in Chinese borrowings.

^D In normal spelling simply *r*.

^E In normal spelling not romanized.

Note. Included in the alphabet are syllable-initials ᵛ† nz, ᵛ†' nc, ᵛᵛ nzh/nj, ᵛᵛ' nch/nq, ᵛᵛ ng, ᵛᵛ' nk, ᵛT nd, ᵛT' nt, ᵛᵛ ndr, ᵛᵛ' ntr, ᵛl ngh, ᵛl' nkh, ᵛΔ ndl, ᵛΔ' ntl.

II. Syllable-finals (ᵛ stands for any consonant character)

1	ᵛ ⁿ	i	10	ᵛ ^p	yu	19	ᵛ ^ʳ	iang	28	ᵛ ^{ne}	ing ^B
2	ᵛ ⁻	a	11	ᵛ ^{nc}	iê ^A	20	ᵛ ^u	âi ^A	29	ᵛ ^{uo}	uo ^B
3	ᵛ ^o	o	12	ᵛ ⁿ	ia	21	ᵛ ⁱ	ai	30	ᵛ ^{oe}	ong ^B
4	ᵛ ^u	u	13	ᵛ ^{no}	io	22	ᵛ ⁿ	iai	31	ᵛ ^{uo}	ui ^{AB}
5	ᵛ ^p	e	14	ᵛ ^u	iu	23	ᵛ ^u	ao	32	ᵛ ^{u-}	ua ^B
6	ᵛ ^p	w	15	ᵛ ^{np}	iŵ ^A	24	ᵛ ^{nu}	iao	33	ᵛ ^u	ui ^B
7	ᵛ ^ʳ	ang	16	ᵛ ^ʳ	eu	25	ᵛ ⁻	ie			
8	ᵛ ^r	î ^A	17	ᵛ ^{nc}	ieu	26	ᵛ ^ε	en ^B			
9	ᵛ ⁿ	yû ^A	18	ᵛ ^{nb}	iw	27	ᵛ ^z	an ^B			

^A In normal spelling without diacritics: *i, yu, ie, iw, ai, ui*.

^B Used in Chinese borrowings.

Pronunciation

ai [ai], **âi** [ei], **ang** [au], **ao** [au], **b** [p], **c** [ts^h], **ch** [tʃ^h], **d** [t], **dl** [tl], **dr** [tʃ], **e** [ə], **eu** [œj, œy], **g** [k], **gh** [q, ɕ], **hm** [m̥], **hn** [ŋ̥], **hng** [ŋ̊], **hx** [ɣ], **hx'** [χ], **î** [ɣ̃], **ie** [ie], **iê** [iẽ], **j** [tɕ], **k** [k^h], **kh** [q^h], **ngg** [ŋ], **p** [p^h], **q** [tɕ^h], **r** [ʒ], **ř** [z], **sh** [ʃ], **t** [t^h], **tl** [tl^h], **tr** [tʃ^h], **-w** [w], **x** [ɕ], **y** [z]/[j], **-yu** [y], **-yû** [ɿ], **z** [ts], **zh** [tʃ], ' [ʔ].

Tones

In Miao or Pollard script, four tones are marked that are distinguished by relative position of the syllable-final against the main character, cf. the syllable *bi* in different positions: $\overset{\circ}{\text{b}}\text{id}$ /55/, $\text{b}^{\text{a}}\text{id}\sim\text{bit}$ /55,33/, $\text{b}^{\text{b}}\text{ix}$ /35/, $\text{b}^{\text{c}}\text{is}\sim\text{bif}\sim\text{bik}$ /31,11,22/. In the *pinyin* version the tone is marked by a syllable-final consonant: **1.** *-d* /55/, **2.** *-b* /53/, **3.** *-t* /33/, **4.** *-x* /35/, **5.** *-k* /22/, **6.** *-s* /31/, **7.** *-l* /23/, **8.** *-f* /11/. The correspondences between the Miao script and *pinyin* are not straightforward. Tone marking in Miao script has been reformed in 1988 by assigning a certain character for each tone written after a syllable-final (*pinyin* equivalent in parentheses): 3 (=b), T (=x), M (=l), Γ (=t), S (=s), L (=k), t (=f), without tone mark (=d).

Notes

1. Miao languages nowadays are written in several scripts. For A Hmao (Y⁻ 'ᵀ" L_o Ad Hmaob lul, hmd), Miao (Pollard) script is used alongside with *pinyin* version. Miao script has been adapted to write also Nasu (C⁻ S^o ᵀ' Nasupo*, ywq), an Yi language, and Lipo (lp_o), a branch of Lisu. Outside China also Pahawh Hmong is used to write Miao or Hmong languages alongside Roman script.
2. In Miao script space is left between syllables. In Roman script spaces may be preserved, or syllables of one word may be joined by a hyphen.

Sources

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2. Peter T. Daniels, *The Invention of Writing: The Pollard script*. — The World's Writing Systems. Oxford University Press 1996, p. 580–581.
3. *Miao writing system*. — Florian Coulmas, The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Writing Systems. Blackwell Publishing 1999, p. 338–341.
4. *Pollard Miao alphabet*. — Omniglot, <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/pollardmiao.htm>, 2012-10-19.
5. Proposal for encoding the Miao script. <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3669.pdf> (2009), 2012-10-19.
6. John Jenkins, Proposal to add Pollard to Unicode/ISO-IEC 10646. <http://www.unicode.org/pending/proposals/Pollard.pdf> (1997), 2012-10-19.