

Lisu / LI SU Li su

romanization: *pinyin*

I. Main characters

1	B	bb	11	C	zh,j ^D	21	ʁ	ss	31	A	a
2	P	b	12	ɔ	ch,q ^D	22	ʌ	ng	32	ʋ	ai
3	d	p	13	Z	zz	23	v	h ^A	33	E	ei
4	D	dd	14	F	z	24	H	h	34	ɜ	ëi ^A
5	T	d	15	ɟ	c	25	ə	h' ^A	35	l	i
6	ɹ	t	16	M	m	26	r	f	36	o	o
7	G	gg	17	N	n	27	w	w,v,u ^B	37	u	u
8	K	g	18	L	l	28	x	sh,x ^D	38	ɲ	ü,i ^A
9	ʁ	k	19	S	s	29	Y	y,i ^C	39	ɿ	e
10	J	rr,jj ^D	20	R	r	30	ʁ	ě ^{AE}	40	ɔ	ě ^A

^A Modifications to ensure reversibility, normally they are *h, h, e, ei, u/i, e*.

^B After a consonant, *u* is used, e.g. KW: → *guat*.

^C After a consonant, *i* is used, e.g. NY₋ → *nià*.

^D The second equivalent is used if *i* or *y(a)* follows in Lisu: CI. ɔY: → *jil qait*.

^E The character denotes either a vowel or a consonant, e.g. ʁ. CI ʁU: A. ʁ. → *ěal ji kut al ěal*.

II. Tone marks, etc. (A stands for any consonant or vowel)

1	A	a	4	A..	ā ^A	7	A:	at	10	-.	comma
2	A.	al	5	A.,	ax	8	A'	ang ^B	11	=	dot
3	A,	aq	6	A;	ar	9	A_	à ^{AC}			

^A In normal spelling without diacritics.

^B The apostrophe denotes nasalization, it may be combined with tone marks. The equivalent in *pinyin* is not certain.

^C Denotes a glide with *a*, without an intervening glottal stop, e.g. NU JE,- ʌO., → *nu jjeiax ngox*.

Pronunciation

a [a], **ai** [ɛ], **b** [p], **bb** [b], **c** [ts^h], **ch** [tʃ^h], **d** [t], **dd** [d], **e** [ɯ], **ë** [ɔ], **ě** [ɤ], **ei** [e], **ëi** [ø], **g** [k], **gg** [k], **h** [x], **ĥ** [ĥ], **h'** [h̃], **i** [y], **j** [tɕ], **jj** [dz], **k** [k^h], **ng** [ŋ], **o** [ʊ], **p** [p^h], **q** [tɕ^h], **r** [ʒ], **rr** [dʒ], **sh** [ʃ], **ss** [z], **t** [t^h], **ü** [y], **x** [ç], **y** [ʒ], **z** [ts], **zh** [tʃ], **zz** [dz]. Tone marks: **a** [ā], **à** [ā̂], **ā** [ā̃, 1] /44/, **al** [á, 1] /55/, **ang** [ã], **aq** [ǎ, 1] /35/, **ar** [â, 1] /42/, **at** [â, 1] /31/, **ax** [ā̃, 1] /33, creaky tone/.

Words beginning with vowel characters, excl. *e* and *ë*, are pronounced with a glottal stop.

Notes

1. In Lisu script space is left between syllables. If a syllable consists only of a consonant character, it is pronounced with an inherent *a*, e.g. ᄁ → *ma*, ᄁᄁ, ᄁᄁᄁ → *gogchada*. The inherent vowel may also be *ai*. In romanization also space is used between syllables; if it is necessary to indicate belonging together, hyphens may be used instead. In the *pinyin* variant, syllables are often written together into one word.
2. There is often no one-to-one correspondence between Lisu in Lisu script and in *pinyin*; tone marks are sometimes omitted in Lisu script. Some examples: ᄁᄁ. ᄁᄁ: → *zheqcet* (not *zheqcait*), ᄁᄁ ᄁᄁ → *coshit* (not *coshü*), ᄁᄁᄁ → *got* (not *guë*), ᄁᄁᄁ. → *zaiq* (ᄁᄁ. would yield the same romanization).
3. If only Lisu script variant is at hand, KNAB table is used, otherwise the *pinyin* variant is preferred.

Sources

1. *Lisu writing*. — Florian Coulmas, *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Writing Systems*. Blackwell Publishing 1999, p. 301–303.
2. *Fraser alphabet*. — Omniglot, <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/fraser.htm>, 2012-10-16.
3. *Fraser alphabet*. — Wikipedia, en.wikipedia.org, 2012-10-16.
4. Peter D. Daniels, *The Invention of Writing*. — *The World's Writing Systems*. Oxford University Press 1996, p. 581–582.
5. Proposal for encoding the Old Lisu script in the BMP of the UCS. <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3317.pdf>, 2012-10-16.
6. David Bradley, *Issues in orthography development and reform*. 2003, http://www.sil.org/asia/ldc/plenary_papers/david_bradley.pdf, 2012-10-17.