

Sinhalese

There does not seem to exist any national systems of romanization for Sinhalese (Sinhala) in Sri Lanka.

In 1972, D. N. Sharma prepared a romanization table for Sinhalese (Sinhala) which was published in vol. II of the conference report together with the other languages of the Indian group¹.

Sinhalese uses an alphasyllabic script whereby each character represents a syllable rather than one sound. Vowels and diphthongs are marked in two ways: as independent characters (used syllable-initially) and in an abbreviated form, to denote vowels after consonants.

System of romanization

Character variants and a list of ligatures have been added to the table prepared by D. N. Sharma.

I. Independent vowel characters

1 අ a	7 උ u	13 ඛ ai ^A
2 ආ ā	8 උආ ū	14 ඞ ǒ
3 ඇ æ ^A	9 ඞ ɾ	15 ඟ o
4 ඈ æ ^A	10 ඞඞ ɾ̄	16 ඟආ au
5 ඉ i	11 ඞ ɛ	
6 ඊ ī	12 ඞ e	

^A The character ඇ was romanized as *āi* and the character ඈ as *ai* in Sharma's table, but there was no romanization for the character ඛ which, though rarely used, represents the *ai* proper of the Indian languages; here the romanization of these characters is given in accordance with the pronunciation.

II. Abbreviated vowel characters and other symbols

1 a	8 ු ū ^C	15 ඞඞ o
2 ඞ ā	9 ඞ ɾ	16 ඞආ au
3 ඞ æ ^A	10 ඞඞ ɾ̄	17 ඞ m̄
4 ඞ æ ^A	11 ඞ ɛ	18 ඞ h̄
5 ඞ i	12 ඞ e	19 ඞ (D)
6 ඞ ī	13 ඞඞ ai	
7 ු u ^B	14 ඞඞ ǒ	

^A Exceptions: රෑ, රෑ.

^B Exceptions: කු, ගු, තු, භු, රු, ශු.

^C Exceptions: කූ, ගූ, තූ, භූ, රූ, ශූ.

^D Marks absence of the inherent vowel. Special forms: ක්, ඛ්, ච්, ඡ්, ට්, ධ්, ධ්, බ්, ම්, ව්.

III. Consonant characters

1	ක	ka	13	ඳ	ḍa	25	ම	ma
2	ඛ	kha ^A	14	ඞ	ḍha ^A	26	ය	ya
3	ග	ga	15	ණ	ṇa	27	ර	ra
4	ඝ	gha ^A	16	ත	ta	28	ල	la
5	ඛ්	ṅa ^A	17	ථ	ṭha ^A	29	ව	va
6	ච	cha ^A	18	ද	da	30	(භ)	fa)
7	ඡ	chha ^A	19	ධ	dha ^A	31	ශ	sha ^A
8	ජ	ja	20	න	na	32	ෂ	ṣha ^A
9	ඤ	jha ^A	21	ප	pa	33	ස	sa
10	ඞ	ṅha ^A	22	ඵ	ṭha ^A	34	හ	ha
11	ට	ṭa	23	බ	ba	35	ළ	ḷa
12	ඵ	ṭha ^A	24	භ	bha ^A			

^A These consonants are used only in Sanskrit and Pali loanwords.

IV. Consonant ligatures

Examples

- r- ක් රෑ, ච් රෑ, ම් රෑ, ව් රෑ, ෂ් රෑ.
- ච් -r ක් kra, ග් gra, ඝ් ghra, ජ් jra, ඡ් ṭra, ඞ් ḍra, ඵ් tra, ද් dra, ධ් dhra, ප් pra, බ් bra, භ් bhra, ශ් shra.
- ච් -y ක් kya, ත් ty, ව් vya.

Prenasalized sounds: භ් ṅga, ඡ් ṅja, ඞ් ṅda, ද් nda, ම් mba.

Other ligatures: ක් kṣha, ඞ් ṅṅa, ඡ් ṅṅa.

Reference

1. *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.* London, 10-31 May 1972. Vol. II. Technical papers, pp. 151-152.