

Sinhalese

No information has been received on whether there 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	5 ඉ i	9 සා ṛ	13 ට්ච් ai ^A
2 අඞ ā	6 ඊ ī	10 සාඞ ṝ	14 ඔ ǒ
3 අඤ æ ^A	7 උ u	11 ඵ ඛ̣	15 ඔ් o
4 අඤ æ ^A	8 උඞ ū	12 ඵ් e	16 ඔඞ au

^A The character අඤ was romanized as *āi* and the character අඤ as *ai* in Sharma's table, but there was no romanization for the character ට්ච් 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 (• stands for any consonant character)

1 • a	5 ො i	9 •a ṛ	13 ට්ච්• ai	17 ට් m̄
2 •ඞ ā	6 ො̄ ī	10 •aa ṝ	14 ට්• ඛ̣	18 ඞ ḥ
3 •ඤ æ ^A	7 ො u ^B	11 ට්• ඛ̣	15 ට්• ො o	19 • ො ^(D)
4 •ඤ æ ^A	8 ොඞ ū ^C	12 ට්• e	16 ට්•ඞ au	

^A Exceptions: රූ ræ, රූ ræ.

^B Exceptions: කු ku, ගු gu, තු tu, භු bhū, රු ru, ශු shu.

^C Exceptions: කූ kū, ගූ gū, තූ tū, භූ bhū, රූ rū, ශූ shū.

^D Marks absence of the inherent vowel. Special forms: ක් kh, ච් ṅ, ච් ch, ට් ṭ, ච් ḍ, ච් dh, බ් b, ම් m, ව් v.

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

III. Consonant characters

1 ක ka	6 ච cha ^A	11 ට ta	16 න ta	21 ප pa	26 ය ya	31 ශ sha ^A
2 ක් kha ^A	7 ඡ chha ^A	12 ඨ tha ^A	17 ට් tha ^A	22 ඵ pha ^A	27 ර ra	32 ෂ sha ^A
3 ග ga	8 ජ ja	13 ඩ da	18 ද da	23 බ ba	28 ල la	33 ස sa
4 ඝ gha ^A	9 ඞ jha ^A	14 ඪ dha ^A	19 ධ dha ^A	24 භ bha ^A	29 ව va	34 හ ha
5 ඞ ña ^A	10 ඣ ña ^A	15 ඣ ña	20 න na	25 ම ma	30 (ආ fa)	35 ල la

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

IV. Consonant ligatures

Examples

◌r- රී rka, රී rṭa, රී rma, රී rva, රී rṣha.

◌r- ක් kra, ග් gra, ඝ් ghra, ජ් jra, ට් tra, ඨ් dra, ට් tra, ද් dra, ධ් dhra, ප් pra, බ් bra, භ් bhra, ශ් shra.

◌y- ක් kya, ත් tya, ව් vya.

Prenasalized sounds: භ් ñga, ඡ් ñja, ඩ් ñda, ද් nda, ඔ mba.

Other ligatures: ක් kṣha, ඣ jña, ව් dva, ඣ nda.