

Proposal for Malayalam Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules – Second Public Comment Proceeding

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Public Comment Proceeding	
Open Date:	7 May 2020
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Section I: General Overview and Next Steps

The Neo-Brahmi Generation Panel (NBGP) was formed by nine communities that use scripts derived from the Brahmi script. NBGP has developed Root Zone Label Generation Rules (LGR) [proposals](#) for Bangla, Devanagari, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu scripts. The Malayalam LGR proposal ([LGR](#) and [supporting documentation](#)) is being updated to address an inconsistency involving the conjunct "nta" and adjust the cross-script variants with Myanmar and Georgian scripts.

As per the [LGR Procedure](#), the updated proposal was posted for Public Comments to allow those who have not participated in the NBGP to make their views known. Based on feedback received, the NBGP will finalize the proposal for its evaluation and re-integration into the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone.

Section II: Contributors

At the time this report was prepared, a total of two (2) community submissions had been posted to the forum. The contributors are listed below with initials noted. To the extent that quotations are used in the foregoing narrative (Section III), such citations will reference the contributor's initials.

Individuals:

Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Initials
Wil Tan		WT
梁海 (Liang Hai)		LH

Section III: Summary of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section intends to summarize broadly and comprehensively the comments submitted to this public comment proceeding but does not address every specific position stated by each contributor. The preparer recommends that readers interested in specific aspects of any of the summarized comments, or the full context of others, refer directly to the specific contributions at the link referenced above (View Comments Submitted).

WT raises a potential cross-script variant relationship between U+0D1F (s) MALAYALAM LETTER TTA and U+0073 (s) LATIN SMALL LETTER S, as well as U+0455 (s) CYRILLIC SMALL LETTER DZE. These are listed in Appendix B as similar code points. The code point U+0D1F may be also combined with another Malayalam code point U+0D20 (o) MALAYALAM LETTER TTHA to produce labels that are identical to Latin labels composed of the letters ‘s’ and ‘o’.

WT suggests that no change required to the Malayalam LGR proposal. However, this should be considered for inclusion in the Latin LGR proposal when it is submitted.

LH raises no objection to the the solution on ‘nta’ and provides following detailed feedback.

LH1 notes that the case of ‘nta’ and Tamil LGR two srī (<0BB8 SA, 0BCD VIRAMA, 0BB0 RA, 0BC0 VOWEL SIGN II> and <0BB6 SHA, 0BCD VIRAMA, 0BB0 RA, 0BC0 VOWEL SIGN II>) are similar. Therefore, the types of variants should be the same, or more explanation is required if they are different.

LH2 suggests that, as the updated proposal attempts to correct the inconsistency in how nta is treated in the published LGR-3, an itemized change log should be provided.

LH3 comments that on page 22, table 9, additional glyph for case 1b should be added to explain the failed shaping case. In addition, the second glyph in the 3b row, Glyph cell, should be removed.

LH4 raises that using the sentence “Microsoft fonts have encoded nta ...” might be misleading as Windows’s text shaping engine does not support the sequence. He refers to Section 5 and Table 1 in L2/19-345R2 (<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2019/19345r2-malayalam-nta.pdf>) for more information on a Windows platform behavior.

Section IV: Analysis of Comments

General Disclaimer: This section intends to provide an analysis and evaluation of the comments submitted along with explanations regarding the basis for any recommendations provided within the analysis.

These comments were submitted to the Neo-Brahmi Generation Panel for their consideration and incorporation (as required) in the final version of the Malaylam RZ-LGR proposal. LH2 will be addressed by the Integration Panel as part of the Malayalam LGR in RZ-LGR-4 release.