Proposal to Encode the Tirhuta Script in ISO/IEC 10646

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May 5, 2011

1   Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the Tirhuta script in the Universal Character Set (UCS). The recommendations made here are based upon the following documents:

- L2/06-226 "Request to Allocate the Maithili Script in the Unicode Roadmap"
- N3765 L2/09-329 "Towards an Encoding for the Maithili Script in ISO/IEC 10646"

Tirhuta was called the 'Maithili' script in previous documents. A discussion of the names used for the script and the rationale for the change of name is offered in Section 3.1.

2   Background

Tirhuta is the traditional writing system for the Maithili language (ISO 639: mai), which is spoken in the state of Bihar in India and in the Narayani and Janakpur zones of Nepal by more than 35 million people. Maithili is a scheduled language of India and the second most spoken language in Nepal. Tirhuta is a Brahmi-based script derived from Gauḍī, or 'Proto-Bengali', which evolved from the Kuṭila branch of Brahmi by the 10th century CE. It is related to the Bengali, Newari, and Oriya scripts, which are also descended from Gauḍī, and became differentiated from them by the 14th century.[1] Tirhuta remained the primary writing system for Maithili until the 20th century, at which time it was replaced by Devanagari.

The Tirhuta script forms the basis of scholarly and religious scribal traditions associated with the Maithili and Sanskrit languages since the 14th century CE. The earliest records in Tirhuta are inscriptional records found on temples in Bihar and Nepal that are dated to the 13th century. The Maithil Brahmin and Kayasth communities have used the script for maintaining *pañjī* (genealogical records) from at least the 14th century to the present. Tirhuta continues to be used for writing manuscripts of religious and literary texts, as well as for personal correspondence. Printing in Tirhuta began in the 1920s with the production of metal fonts in Calcutta. Since the 1950s, various literary societies, such as the Maithili Akademi and Chetna Samiti, have been publishing literary, educational, and linguistic materials in Tirhuta (see figures 2 and 3). The script is

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[1]   Salomon 1998: 41.

also used for other purposes, such as in signage in Darbhanga and other districts of north Bihar and as an optional script for writing the civil services examination in Bihar.

In the past two decades, Maithili speakers have adapted Tirhuta for use with digital technologies. Beginning in the 1990s, users developed basic support for Tirhuta on computers by creating the first digitized fonts for the script. Today, several books and periodicals are produced in Tirhuta using desktop publishing software. These documents are available in printed and electronic formats. One such periodical is *Videha*, which is published bi-weekly in Tirhuta in Portable Document Format (PDF) (see Figure 11). However, there is an obstacle to complete support for Tirhuta in digital media: the absence of a character-encoding standard for the script. Maithili speakers have managed to overcome this barrier by developing Tirhuta fonts that are based upon legacy encodings or that are mapped to Unicode blocks such as Devanagari. But, these solutions do not allow for the representation of Tirhuta in plain text. The lack of a Unicode standard for Tirhuta impedes its use for basic activities, such as writing e-mails, creating websites, and publishing blogs; in digital typesetting; and in larger projects, such as establishing a Maithili Wikipedia.

The Government of India recognized Maithili as a scheduled language in 2004, a status that provides official support for the development of the language. The granting of scheduled status to Maithili has resulted in increased interest in Tirhuta and has revived its usage. In a presentation to the Unicode Technical Committee in 2005, Dr. Om Vikas of the Department of Information Technology, Government of India noted the historical importance of Tirhuta and expressed the Department's interest in including the script in the Unicode standard (see L2/05-063). More recently, an article in the *Times of India* (2010) featured the present author's efforts to develop a Unicode standard for Tirhuta. Such reports are evidence of the growing interest in and usage of the script. An encoding for Tirhuta in the UCS will permit its representation in plain text, will provide a standard for supporting and expanding current usage of the script, and will facilitate the development of new resources in the Maithili language.

3 Proposal Details

3.1 Script Name

The name of the script is 'Tirhuta'. It is also known as 'Mithilakshar' and 'Maithili'. The names 'Tirhuta' and 'Mithilakshar' are attested in historical sources, while 'Maithili' is a more modern designation. 'Tirhuta' is the traditional and most commonly used name for the script and is recognized as such by speakers of Maithili. It is derived from 'Tirhut' or 'Tirabhukti', which means the "land of river banks". The name Tirhut refers to the region of Bihar north of the Ganges river that is congruous with the Maithili-speaking area. Tirhuta is known in Bengal as *tiruṭe*, meaning the script "of the Tirhut region."[2] An older name for Tirhut is 'Mithila', which is the basis for the name 'Mithilakshar' (*mithilā + akṣara* 'letter') or the 'script of Mithila'. The name 'Maithili' appears in several modern sources and its usage is based upon the practice of linking writing systems to languages. However, as the Maithili language has historically been written in Tirhuta, Kaithi, Newari, and Devanagari, each of these might be considered 'Maithili' scripts. Of these names, 'Tirhuta' is uniquely associated with the proposed script and is recognized by Maithili speakers.

3.2 Character Repertoire

The 82 characters in this proposal comprise the core set of Tirhuta letters and signs. The script is currently allocated in the Supplementary Multilingual Plane at the range U+11480..U+114DF. The proposed code chart and names list is provided in Figure 1.

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[2] Chatterji 1926: 225.

3.3 Encoding Considerations

Although Tirhuta is an independent script, several of its characters bear resemblance to those of Bengali (see discussion in N3765 L2/09-329). These include the shapes of some consonants, vowels, and vowel signs (see tables 3–7 and Section 4.21). These similarities, however, are superficial. The actual differences are visible in the behaviors of characters in certain environments, such as consonant-vowel combinations and in consonant conjuncts, that are common in standard Tirhuta orthography. Despite the similarities between the two scripts, Tirhuta cannot be unified with Bengali. In fact, some orthographic features of Tirhuta prevent mutual intelligibility with Bengali. Proper representation of Tirhuta in plain-text requires the preservation of its distinct rendering behaviors. This can only be accomplished at the character level, through character content that is independent of font changes, alterations to text styles, or other formatting.

4 Writing System

4.1 Structure

The general structure (phonetic order, *mātrā* reordering, use of *virāma*, etc.) of Tirhuta is similar to that of other Indic scripts based upon the Brahmi model. The script is written from left-to-right.

4.2 Virāma

The Tirhuta ◌ VIRAMA is identical in function to the corresponding character in other Indic scripts.

4.3 Vowels

There are 14 vowel letters:

থ	A	ঙঁ	U	নৃ	VOCALIC L	ও	O
থা	AA	ঙঁ	UU	নৄ	VOCALIC LL	ঔ	AU
জ	I	ঋ	VOCALIC R	এ	E		
জা	II	ৠ	VOCALIC RR	ঐ	AI		

4.4 Vowel Signs

There are 15 combining vowel signs:

◌া	SIGN AA	◌ু	SIGN UU	◌ৢ	SIGN VOCALIC LL	ে◌া	SIGN O
ি◌	SIGN I	◌ৃ	SIGN VOCALIC R	ে◌	SIGN E	◌ৗ	SIGN O
◌ী	SIGN II	◌ৄ	SIGN VOCALIC RR	◌	SIGN SHORT E	ে◌া	SIGN AU
◌ু	SIGN U	◌ৢ	SIGN VOCALIC L	ৈ◌	SIGN AI		

There are 3 two-part vowel signs: ৈ◌ SIGN AI, ে◌া SIGN O, ে◌া SIGN AU. Note the method of writing ৈ◌ SIGN AI: The first element is written before the consonant and the other attaches above the letter (compare Bengali ৈ◌ SIGN AI).

The signs ◌ SHORT E and ◌া SHORT O do not have independent forms because the sounds they represents do not occur word initially.

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Certain vowel signs have special rendering behaviors when they occur in consonant-vowel combinations with certain consonants (see Section 4.7).

4.5   Representation of Vowel Letters and Signs

Some atomic vowel letters may be represented using a sequence of a base vowel letter and a vowel sign. Also, some atomic vowel signs may be represented using a sequence of two vowel signs. This practice is not recommended. The atomic character for the vowel letter and sign should always be used. The characters in question are specified below:

RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED
থা AA	থ A + ◌া SIGN AA
ঋ VOCALIC RR	ঋ VOCALIC R + ◌ৄ SIGN VOCALIC R
ৡ VOCALIC L	ন LA + ◌ৃ SIGN VOCALIC R
ৡ VOCALIC LL	ন LA + ◌ৄ SIGN VOCALIC RR
ঐ AI	এ E + ◌ SIGN SHORT E
ঔ AU	ও O + ◌ SIGN SHORT E
৫ SIGN AI	৫ SIGN E + ◌ SIGN SHORT E
৫া SIGN O	৫ SIGN E + ◌া SIGN AA
◌া SIGN SHORT O	◌া SIGN AA + ◌ SIGN SHORT E
৫া SIGN AU	৫ SIGN E + ◌া SIGN SHORT O

4.6   Consonants

There are 33 consonant letters:

ক	KA	ঞ	NYA	ধ	DHA	ন	LA
খ	KHA	ঠ	TTA	ন	NA	র	VA
গ	GA	ঠ	TTHA	প	PA	শ	SHA
ঘ	GHA	ড	DDA	ফ	PHA	ষ	SSA
ও	NGA	ঢ	DDHA	র	BA	স	SA
চ	CA	ণ	NNA	ভ	BHA	হ	HA
ছ	CHA	ত	TA	ম	MA		
জ	JA	থ	THA	য	YA		
ঝ	JHA	দ	DA	ব	RA		

Each consonant letter bears an inherent vowel, represented by /a/. This inherent vowel is silenced using the ◌ VIRAMA. Certain consonants have special rendering behaviors when they occur in conjuncts (see Section 4.8) or in word-final position (see Section 4.9).

4.7   Consonant-Vowel Combinations

Combinations of consonants and vowels are written using combining vowel signs. Certain CV combinations have special rendering behaviors. These are described below:

- **Contextual form of VOWEL SIGN U**   The vowel sign ◌ৢ U has the contextual form ◌, which is used with certain consonants and is written with these letters as a ligature.

	gu	*ju*	*ṇu*	*du*	*nu*	*pu*	*mu*	*lu*	*śu*	*su*
Tirhuta	থ	জ্ব	গু	দ্ব	ব	প্ব	ম	ধ	শ্ব	স্ব
Bengali	ও	জূ	গু	দু	নু	পু	মু	লু	শু	সু

In Bengali, the element ◌ represents *ba-phala*, or the subjoined form of ব BA and is used in the creation of conjuncts. For example, স্ব represents Tirhuta *su*, but Bengali *sva*; in Tirhuta, *sva* is written as স্ব.

- **Ligatures formed with VOWEL SIGN U**   Combinations of certain consonants and the vowel sign ◌ৢ U are written as special ligatures:

	ku	*tu*	*dhu*	*bhu*	*ẏu*	*yu*	*ru*	*ṣu*	*hu*
Tirhuta	রু	তু	ধ	ভ	ম	ম	রু	ষ	হ্ল
Bengali	কু	তু	ধু	ভু	যু	যু	রু	ষু	হু

- **Ligatures formed with VOWEL SIGN UU**   Combinations of certain consonants and the vowel sign ◌ UU are written as special ligatures:

	kū	*dhū*	*rū*	*hū*
Tirhuta	রু	ধ	রু	হূ
Bengali	কূ	ধূ	রূ	হূ

- **Ligatures formed with VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC R**   Combinations of certain consonants and the vowel sign ◌ VOCALIC R are written as special ligatures:

	kṛ	*tṛ*	*bṛ*	*bhṛ*	*hṛ*
Tirhuta	রু	ত	র্ব	ভ	হ
Bengali	কৃ	তৃ	বৃ	ভৃ	হৃ

4.8   Consonant Conjuncts

Consonant clusters are generally represented as complex ligatures (see Table 7). Certain consonants have other special rendering behaviors when they occur in clusters. These are described below:

1. **Letter TA**   The representation of ত TA as C_1 is determined by C_2. If C_2 is ত TA, য YA, ব RA, or র VA, the conjunct is written as a ligature or with subjoined forms of C_2. With all other consonants, TA takes the two-part form ে◌. For example, *tka* is written as কে, eg. সবকোন *saratkāla*. This behavior of TA resembles Bengali ৎ KHANDA TA, eg. সরৎকাল *saratkāla*. However, unlike KHANDA TA, it is

unnecessary to encode ে◌ as an independent character because the context for its use are predictable. A variant form of ে◌ attested in recent printed materials is ত, eg. সবত্কান *saratkāla*.

2. **Letter NA**   When ন NA is C_2 in conjuncts with certain consonants, it takes the subjoined form ◌. This form is used when the following consonants are C_1: KHA (খ্ *khna*); PHA (ফ্ *phna*); SA (স্ *sna*).

3. **Letter BA**   The letter র BA has the following contextual forms when it appears in the following environments:

   (a) *Consonant-vowel combinations*   The letter BA take the conjunct contextual form when it is written with ◌ SIGN VOCALIC R. This combination is written not as *র়, but as ই়.

   (b) *Conjunct onset*   When BA is C_1 in certain clusters it takes the shape ই, eg. ইদ *bda*.

   (c) *Conjunct final*   When BA is C_2 it has the form ◌, eg. ম্ব *mba*; compare ম *mu* and ম্ব *mva*.

4. **Letter YA**   When য YA is C_2, its representation in a conjunct is dependent upon C_1:

   (a) *Atomic ligature*   If C_1 is TA, it combines with YA to form a ligature: য *tya* (Bengali ত্য).

   (b) *Post-base form*   In conjuncts with other letters, YA takes the form ◌য and is written sequentially after C_1: থ্য *tya*. With some consonants, the post-base form joins with the base consonant to form a distinct ligature:

	dya	*nya*	*bhya*	*śya*	*sya*	*hya*
Tirhuta	দ্য	ন্য	ভ্য	শ্য	স্য	হ্য
Bengali	দ্য	ন্য	ভ্য	শ্য	স্য	হ্য

5. **Letter RA**   The shape of RA as C_1 is dependent upon C_2:

   (a) *Repha*   With the majority of consonants, RA as C_1 is written as ◌ *repha*, eg. র্প *rpa*.

   (b) *Ligature*   In some cases, RA forms a ligature with C_2. This is the common representation when GA is C_2: র্গ *rga* (Bengali র্গ).

6. **Letter LA**   When LA is C_2, it takes the subjoined form ◌: ক্ল *kla* (Bengali ক্ল), ফ্ল *phla* (Bengali ফ্ল), শ্ল *śla* (Bengali শ্ল).

7. **Letter VA**   When VA is C_2, it takes the subjoined form ◌, eg. স্ব *sva*.

4.9   Contextual Forms of Consonants

Certain consonants have special forms when they appear in word-final positions:

1. **Letter TA**   The sequence <TA, VIRAMA> is written as ৩ (not ত্) at word-final position.

2. **Letter MA**   the sequence <MA, VIRAMA> is written as ম (not ম্) at word-final position.

4.10   Nasalization

Nasalization is indicated by ̐ candrabindu and ̊ anusvara. These signs are written centered above the base. If written with an above-base sign or a letter with a graphical element that extends past the headstroke, they placed to the right of such these signs and elements.

4.11   Characters for Representing Sanskrit

The following characters are attested in Vedic and classical Sanskrit manuscripts written in Tirhuta:

1. ◌ः visarga   This sign represents an allophone of व ra or स sa at word-final position in Sanskrit orthography.

2. ẁ gvang   This sign represents nasalization. It belongs to the same class of characters as ꣩ u+1CE9 vedic sign anusvara antargomukha, ꣪ u+1CEA vedic sign anusvara bahirgomukha, etc.

3. ⚹ *ardhavisarga*   Represents /x/ *jihvāmūlīya* and /ɸ/ *upadhmānīya*. This character is not proposed for independent encoding and should be unified with ⚹ u+1CF2 vedic sign ardhavisarga.

4.12   Nukta

The ◌ nukta is used for writing sounds that are not represented by a unique character, such as allophonic variants and sounds that occur in local dialects or in loanwords. The following combinations of consonant letter + nukta are attested in Tirhuta:

<div align="center">

/ɽ/	ড়	dda + nukta
/ɽh/	ঢ়	ddha + nukta
/ɭ/	ল়	la + nukta
/j/	য়	ya + nukta

</div>

The nukta may be written with any vowel or consonant letter. If other combining marks, such as a vowel sign or anusvara, also appear with the base character, then the nukta is written first, eg. ল়া <lla, nukta, sign aa>.

The graphical structures of বঁ ba and ব va possess a dot; however this dot is semantically not equivalent to nukta. These letters do not decompose to nukta and are treated as atomic characters.

4.13   Punctuation

Tirhuta uses । danda and ॥ double danda. These should be unified with the Devanagari characters । u+0964 devanagari danda and ॥ u+0965 devanagari double danda.

4.14   Abbreviation

The ∘ abbreviation sign is used for marking abbreviations.

4.15   Digits

Tirhuta has a full set of decimal digits: ০ ZERO, ১ ONE, ২ TWO, ৩ THREE, ৪ FOUR, ৫ FIVE, ৬ SIX, ৭ SEVEN, ৮ EIGHT, ৯ NINE.

4.16   Number Forms and Unit Marks

Number forms and unit marks are found in Tirhuta documents (see Figure 9). The most common characters are signs for writing fractions: eg. ꠱ U+A831 NORTH INDIC FRACTION ONE HALF, ꠲ U+A832 NORTH INDIC FRACTION THREE QUARTERS, etc.; and currency marks: eg. ꠸ U+A838 NORTH INDIC RUPEE MARK. These characters may be represented using those encoded in the 'Common Indic Number Forms' block (U+A830..U+A83F), which are described in N3367 L2/07-354. Also used are Bengali 'currency numerators', eg. ৴ U+09F4 BENGALI CURRENCY NUMERATOR ONE.

4.17   Special Signs

There are two script-specific special signs in Tirhuta:

1. 𑓐 ANJI   This symbol is an important and uniquely Tirhuta character that is used in the invocations of letters, manuscripts, books, and charts of the script. The sign *āñjī* is said to represent the tusk of the deity Gaṇeśa, patron of learning.

2. ওঁ OM   This symbol is a unique character in Tirhuta. In Bengali, the sign is represented as ওঁ, which is a simple combination of O and CANDRABINDU.

4.17.1   Variant Characters

Tirhuta has variant forms for several letters, character elements, and conjuncts:

- The letter ব RA has two variant forms: (a) ২ and (b) ব. These variants produce consonant-vowel ligatures: (a) রু *ru* and রূ *rū*; and (b) রু *ru* and রূ *rū*.

- The character ঋ VOCALIC R has the variant form ঋ

- The character ৠ VOCALIC RR has the variant form ৠ,

- The conjunct-onset form of ত TA is represented as both ে◌ and ে◌.

All variant forms should be managed at the font level.

4.18   Collation

The basic collating order for Tirhuta is as follows:

𑓐 ANJI < অ A < আ AA < ই I < ঈ II < উ U < ঊ UU < ঋ VOCALIC R <
ৠ VOCALIC RR < ঌ VOCALIC L < ৡ VOCALIC LL < এ E < ঐ AI < ও O < ঔ AU <
ক KA < খ KHA < গ GA < ঘ GHA < ঙ NGA < চ CA < ছ CHA < জ JA < ঝ JHA <
ঞ NYA < ট TTA < ঠ TTHA < ড DDA < ঢ DDHA < ণ NNA < ত TA < থ THA <
দ DA < ধ DHA < ন NA < প PA < ফ PHA < ব BA < ভ BHA < ম MA < য YA <
ব RA < ল LA < ব VA < শ SHA < ষ SSA < স SA < হ HA < া SIGN AA <

◌ SIGN I < ◌ SIGN II < ◌ SIGN U < ◌ SIGN UU < ◌ SIGN VOCALIC R <
◌ SIGN VOCALIC RR < ◌ SIGN VOCALIC L < ◌ SIGN VOCALIC LL < ◌ SIGN SHORT E <
◌ SIGN E < ◌ SIGN AI < ◌ SIGN SHORT O < ◌ SIGN O < ◌ SIGN AU <
◌ CANDRABINDU < ◌ ANUSVARA < ◌ VISARGA < ◌ VIRAMA

Combinations of consonant letter + NUKTA are sorted with the base letter.

The symbol ◌ GVANG has the same collation weight as ◌ ANUSVARA.

4.19   Linebreaking

Letters, vowel signs, and digits behave as in Bengali.

4.20   Character Properties

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11480;TIRHUTA ANJI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11481;TIRHUTA LETTER A;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11482;TIRHUTA LETTER AA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11483;TIRHUTA LETTER I;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11484;TIRHUTA LETTER II;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11485;TIRHUTA LETTER U;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11486;TIRHUTA LETTER UU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11487;TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC R;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11488;TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC RR;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11489;TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC L;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1148A;TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC LL;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1148B;TIRHUTA LETTER E;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1148C;TIRHUTA LETTER AI;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1148D;TIRHUTA LETTER O;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1148E;TIRHUTA LETTER AU;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1148F;TIRHUTA LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11490;TIRHUTA LETTER KHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11491;TIRHUTA LETTER GA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11492;TIRHUTA LETTER GHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11493;TIRHUTA LETTER NGA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11494;TIRHUTA LETTER CA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11495;TIRHUTA LETTER CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11496;TIRHUTA LETTER JA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11497;TIRHUTA LETTER JHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11498;TIRHUTA LETTER NYA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
11499;TIRHUTA LETTER TTA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1149A;TIRHUTA LETTER TTHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1149B;TIRHUTA LETTER DDA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1149C;TIRHUTA LETTER DDHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1149D;TIRHUTA LETTER NNA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1149E;TIRHUTA LETTER TA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1149F;TIRHUTA LETTER THA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A0;TIRHUTA LETTER DA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A1;TIRHUTA LETTER DHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A2;TIRHUTA LETTER NA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A3;TIRHUTA LETTER PA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A4;TIRHUTA LETTER PHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A5;TIRHUTA LETTER BA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A6;TIRHUTA LETTER BHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A7;TIRHUTA LETTER MA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A8;TIRHUTA LETTER YA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114A9;TIRHUTA LETTER RA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
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114AA;TIRHUTA LETTER LA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114AB;TIRHUTA LETTER VA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114AC;TIRHUTA LETTER SHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114AD;TIRHUTA LETTER SSA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114AE;TIRHUTA LETTER SA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114AF;TIRHUTA LETTER HA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114B0;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AA;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114B1;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN I;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114B2;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN II;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114B3;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN U;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114B4;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN UU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114B5;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC R;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114B6;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC RR;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114B7;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114B8;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC LL;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114B9;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN E;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114BA;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN SHORT E;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114BB;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AI;Mc;0;L;114B9 114BA;;;;N;;;;;
114BC;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN O;Mc;0;L;114B9 114B0;;;;N;;;;;
114BD;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN SHORT O;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114BE;TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AU;Mc;0;L;114B9 114BD;;;;N;;;;;
114BF;TIRHUTA SIGN CANDRABINDU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114C0;TIRHUTA SIGN ANUSVARA;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114C1;TIRHUTA SIGN VISARGA;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114C2;TIRHUTA SIGN VIRAMA;Mn;9;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114C3;TIRHUTA SIGN NUKTA;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
114C4;TIRHUTA SIGN AVAGRAHA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114C5;TIRHUTA GVANG;Mc;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114C6;TIRHUTA ABBREVIATION SIGN;Po;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114C7;TIRHUTA OM;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
114D0;TIRHUTA DIGIT ZERO;Nd;0;L;;0;0;0;N;;;;;
114D1;TIRHUTA DIGIT ONE;Nd;0;L;;1;1;1;N;;;;;
114D2;TIRHUTA DIGIT TWO;Nd;0;L;;2;2;2;N;;;;;
114D3;TIRHUTA DIGIT THREE;Nd;0;L;;3;3;3;N;;;;;
114D4;TIRHUTA DIGIT FOUR;Nd;0;L;;4;4;4;N;;;;;
114D5;TIRHUTA DIGIT FIVE;Nd;0;L;;5;5;5;N;;;;;
114D6;TIRHUTA DIGIT SIX;Nd;0;L;;6;6;6;N;;;;;
114D7;TIRHUTA DIGIT SEVEN;Nd;0;L;;7;7;7;N;;;;;
114D8;TIRHUTA DIGIT EIGHT;Nd;0;L;;8;8;8;N;;;;;
114D9;TIRHUTA DIGIT NINE;Nd;0;L;;9;9;9;N;;;;;
```

4.21   'Confusable' Characters

Several Tirhuta characters resemble those of Bengali. Some of these are 'confusable' homoglyphs:

- The glyph র represents VA in Tirhuta, but র RA in Bengali.
- The glyph ব represents RA in Tirhuta, but ব BA in Bengali.
- The glyph ণ represents LA in Tirhuta, but ণ NNA in Bengali.
- The glyph ল represents NNA in Tirhuta, but ল LA in Bengali.

Below is a list of Tirhuta characters that may be 'confusable' with those encoded in other blocks of the UCS:

```
1148B TIRHUTA LETTER E           ; 098F BENGALI LETTER E
1148C TIRHUTA LETTER AI          ; 0990 BENGALI LETTER AI
1148D TIRHUTA LETTER O           ; 0993 BENGALI LETTER O
1148E TIRHUTA LETTER AU          ; 0994 BENGALI LETTER AU
1148F TIRHUTA LETTER KA          ; 0995 BENGALI LETTER KA
11490 TIRHUTA LETTER KHA         ; 0996 BENGALI LETTER KHA
11491 TIRHUTA LETTER GA          ; 0997 BENGALI LETTER GA
```

```
11492 TIRHUTA LETTER GHA        ; 0998 BENGALI LETTER GHA
11494 TIRHUTA LETTER CA         ; 099A BENGALI LETTER CA
11496 TIRHUTA LETTER JA         ; 099C BENGALI LETTER JA
11498 TIRHUTA LETTER NYA        ; 099E BENGALI LETTER NYA
11499 TIRHUTA LETTER TTA        ; 099F BENGALI LETTER TTA
1149B TIRHUTA LETTER DDA        ; 09A1 BENGALI LETTER DDA
1149D TIRHUTA LETTER NNA        ; 09B2 BENGALI LETTER LA
1149E TIRHUTA LETTER TA         ; 09A4 BENGALI LETTER TA
1149F TIRHUTA LETTER THA        ; 09A5 BENGALI LETTER THA
114A0 TIRHUTA LETTER DA         ; 09A6 BENGALI LETTER DA
114A1 TIRHUTA LETTER DHA        ; 09A7 BENGALI LETTER DHA
114A2 TIRHUTA LETTER NA         ; 09A8 BENGALI LETTER NA
114A3 TIRHUTA LETTER PA         ; 09AA BENGALI LETTER PA
114A7 TIRHUTA LETTER MA         ; 09AE BENGALI LETTER MA
114A8 TIRHUTA LETTER YA         ; 09AF BENGALI LETTER YA
114A9 TIRHUTA LETTER RA         ; 09AC BENGALI LETTER BA
114AA TIRHUTA LETTER LA         ; 09A3 BENGALI LETTER NNA
114AB TIRHUTA LETTER VA         ; 09B0 BENGALI LETTER RA
114AD TIRHUTA LETTER SSA        ; 09B7 BENGALI LETTER SSA
114AE TIRHUTA LETTER SA         ; 09B8 BENGALI LETTER SA
114B0 TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AA     ; 09BE BENGALI VOWEL SIGN AA
114B1 TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN I      ; 09BF BENGALI VOWEL SIGN I
114B9 TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN E      ; 09C7 BENGALI VOWEL SIGN E
114BC TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN O      ; 09CB BENGALI VOWEL SIGN O
114BD TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN SHORT O ; 09D7 BENGALI VOWEL SIGN LENGTH MARK
114BE TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AU     ; 09CC BENGALI VOWEL SIGN AU
114BF TIRHUTA SIGN CANDRABINDU  ; 0981 BENGALI SIGN CANDRABINDU
114C1 TIRHUTA SIGN VISARGA      ; 0983 BENGALI SIGN VISARGA
114C2 TIRHUTA SIGN VIRAMA       ; 09CD BENGALI SIGN VIRAMA
114C3 TIRHUTA SIGN NUKTA        ; 09BC BENGALI SIGN NUKTA
114C4 TIRHUTA SIGN AVAGRAHA     ; 09BD BENGALI SIGN AVAGRAHA
114C5 TIRHUTA GVANG             ; 0057 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER W
114D0 TIRHUTA DIGIT ZERO        ; 09E6 BENGALI DIGIT ZERO
114D1 TIRHUTA DIGIT ONE         ; 09E7 BENGALI DIGIT ONE
114D2 TIRHUTA DIGIT TWO         ; 09E8 BENGALI DIGIT TWO
114D6 TIRHUTA DIGIT SIX         ; 09EC BENGALI DIGIT SIX
```

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6   Acknowledgments

Gajendra Thakur of New Delhi graciously met with me and corresponded at length about Maithili and Tirhuta, offered valuable specimens of Maithili manuscripts, printed books, and other records, and provided feedback regarding requirements for the encoding of Tirhuta in the UCS.

	1148	1149	114A	114B	114C	114D
0	ৎ 11480	খ 11490	দ 114A0	াে 114B0	ঁ 114C0	০ 114D0
1	থ 11481	গ 11491	ধ 114A1	িে 114B1	ঁ 114C1	১ 114D1
2	থা 11482	ঘ 11492	ন 114A2	ৗ 114B2	্ 114C2	২ 114D2
3	জ 11483	ও 11493	প 114A3	ু 114B3	ঁ 114C3	৩ 114D3
4	ভ 11484	চ 11494	ফ 114A4	ূ 114B4	ই 114C4	৪ 114D4
5	ঙ 11485	চু 11495	র 114A5	ৃ 114B5	ঁ 114C5	৫ 114D5
6	ঙ 11486	জ 11496	ভ 114A6	ৄ 114B6	০ 114C6	৬ 114D6
7	ক্ষ 11487	ন 11497	ম 114A7	ৢ 114B7	�ঁ 114C7	৭ 114D7
8	ক্ষ 11488	এ 11498	য 114A8	ৣ 114B8		৮ 114D8
9	ণ 11489	ঙ 11499	ব 114A9	ে 114B9		৯ 114D9
A	ণ 1148A	ঠ 1149A	ন 114AA	ৗ 114BA		
B	এ 1148B	ড 1149B	র 114AB	ৈ 114BB		
C	ঐ 1148C	ট 1149C	শ 114AC	ো 114BC		
D	ও 1148D	ল 1149D	ষ 114AD	ৌ 114BD		
E	ঔ 1148E	ত 1149E	স 114AE	ৌ 114BE		
F	ক 1148F	থ 1149F	হ 114AF	ঁ 114BF		

Table 1: Proposed code chart for Tirhuta.

The Tirhuta script is also known by the names 'Mithilakshar' and 'Maithili'.

Sign

11480   TIRHUTA ANJI

Independent vowels

11481   TIRHUTA LETTER A
11482   TIRHUTA LETTER AA
11483   TIRHUTA LETTER I
11484   TIRHUTA LETTER II
11485   TIRHUTA LETTER U
11486   TIRHUTA LETTER UU
11487   TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC R
11488   TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC RR
11489   TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC L
1148A   TIRHUTA LETTER VOCALIC LL
1148B   TIRHUTA LETTER E
1148C   TIRHUTA LETTER AI
1148D   TIRHUTA LETTER O
1148E   TIRHUTA LETTER AU

Consonants

1148F   TIRHUTA LETTER KA
11490   TIRHUTA LETTER KHA
11491   TIRHUTA LETTER GA
11492   TIRHUTA LETTER GHA
11493   TIRHUTA LETTER NGA
11494   TIRHUTA LETTER CA
11495   TIRHUTA LETTER CHA
11496   TIRHUTA LETTER JA
11497   TIRHUTA LETTER JHA
11498   TIRHUTA LETTER NYA
11499   TIRHUTA LETTER TTA
1149A   TIRHUTA LETTER TTHA
1149B   TIRHUTA LETTER DDA
1149C   TIRHUTA LETTER DDHA
1149D   TIRHUTA LETTER NNA
1149E   TIRHUTA LETTER TA
1149F   TIRHUTA LETTER THA
114A0   TIRHUTA LETTER DA
114A1   TIRHUTA LETTER DHA
114A2   TIRHUTA LETTER NA
114A3   TIRHUTA LETTER PA
114A4   TIRHUTA LETTER PHA
114A5   TIRHUTA LETTER BA
114A6   TIRHUTA LETTER BHA
114A7   TIRHUTA LETTER MA
114A8   TIRHUTA LETTER YA
114A9   TIRHUTA LETTER RA
114AA   TIRHUTA LETTER LA
114AB   TIRHUTA LETTER VA
114AC   TIRHUTA LETTER SHA
114AD   TIRHUTA LETTER SSA
114AE   TIRHUTA LETTER SA
114AF   TIRHUTA LETTER HA

Dependent vowel signs

114B0   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AA
114B1   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN I
114B2   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN II
114B3   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN U
114B4   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN UU
114B5   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC R
114B6   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC RR
114B7   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L
114B8   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC LL
114B9   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN E
114BA   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN SHORT E

114BB   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AI
114BC   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN O
114BD   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN SHORT O
114BE   TIRHUTA VOWEL SIGN AU

Various signs

114BF   TIRHUTA SIGN CANDRABINDU
114C0   TIRHUTA SIGN ANUSVARA
114C1   TIRHUTA SIGN VISARGA
114C2   TIRHUTA SIGN VIRAMA
         = halant
114C3   TIRHUTA SIGN NUKTA
114C4   TIRHUTA SIGN AVAGRAHA
114C5   TIRHUTA GVANG
         = vedic anusvara
114C6   TIRHUTA ABBREVIATION SIGN

Sign

114C7   TIRHUTA OM

Digits

114D0   TIRHUTA DIGIT ZERO
114D1   TIRHUTA DIGIT ONE
114D2   TIRHUTA DIGIT TWO
114D3   TIRHUTA DIGIT THREE
114D4   TIRHUTA DIGIT FOUR
114D5   TIRHUTA DIGIT FIVE
114D6   TIRHUTA DIGIT SIX
114D7   TIRHUTA DIGIT SEVEN
114D8   TIRHUTA DIGIT EIGHT
114D9   TIRHUTA DIGIT NINE

Table 2: Proposed names list for Tirhuta.

তিব্ৰহ্তা বৰ্ণমালা তিরহুতা বৰ্ণমালা
TIRHUTA ALPHABET

সিদ্ধিৰস্তু আঁজী সিদ্ধিৰস্তু

ā̃njī siddhirastu

★

স্বৰ বৰ্ণ (স্বর বর্ণ svara varṇa)

অ	আ	ই	ঈ	উ	ঊ	ঋ	৯	এ	ঐ	ও	ঔ	অং	অঃ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛ	lṛ	e	ai	o	au	aṁ	aḥ

মাত্ৰা (মাত্রা mātrā)

া	ি	ী	ু	ূ	ৃ	ে	ৈ	ো	ৌ	ং	ঁ	ঃ			.(৷)
ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛ	e	ai	o	au	aṁ	ã	aḥ	r	r̄	halant · full stop

ব্যঞ্জন বৰ্ণ (ব্যঞ্জন বর্ণ vyañjana varṇa)

ক	খ	গ	ঘ	ঙ	চ	ছ	জ	ঝ	ঞ	ট	ঠ	ড (ড়)	ঢ (ঢ়)	ণ
ka	kha	ga	gha	ṅa	ca	cha	ja	jha	ña	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa (ṛa)	ḍha (ṛha)	ṇa

ত	থ	দ	ধ	ন	প	ফ	ব (র)	ভ	ম	য	ৰ	ল	ব (র)	শ
ta	tha	da	dha	na	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	ya	ra	la	va	śa

ষ	স	হ	ক্ষ	ত্র	জ্ঞ
ṣa	sa	ha	kṣa	tra	jña

মাত্ৰাযুক্ত অক্ষৰ, সংযুক্তাক্ষৰ, অৰ্ধ অক্ষৰ ও আঁকক আখৰ
মাত্রাযুক্ত অক্ষর, সংযুক্তাক্ষর, অর্ধ অক্ষর ও আঁকক আখর
(mātrāyukta akṣara, samyuktākṣara, ardha akṣara o ā̃nkaka ākhara)

ku	kū	kṛ	kta	kra	ṅka	ṅga	cca	ñca	ṇṭa	ṇṭha	ṇḍa	tu	tū	tṛ	tta	tya	tva	ddha	dya	ndha

bhṛ	yu	ru	rū	rga	śu	śra	ṣu	ṣka	ṣṭa	ṣṇa	sta	hu	hū	hṇa	hna	hla	hr	hma

g	j	t	th	n	p	m	y	l	v	ś	ṣ	s

one	two	three	four	five	six	seven	eight	nine	zero

Figure 1: A table of the Tirhuta script printed with metal type (from Mishra 1973: 41).

सरल अपन व्यवहार) *akuṭila—Adj*. Simple, honest, unbent.

स्वकुण्ठ **अकुण्ठ**—वि० । जे कुण्ठित नहि होअए, अप्रतिबन्ध, सर्वत्र प्रसरणशील, उदार । [अ³ + सं० कुण्ठ] लाल० रामा० ७३ *akuṇṭha—Adj*. Unobstructed, not blunted, vigorous, able to work.

स्वकुण्ठित **अकुण्ठित**—वि० । असङ्कुचित, अलज्जित, अनुराण, अखण्डित, निविन्न । [अ³ + सं० कुण्ठित] तु० क० अकुण्ठ । *akuṇṭhita—Adj*. Unblunted, continuous.

स्वकुना-मकुना **अकुना-मकुना**—मकुला, छोट एवं स्त्री जाति केर (बिना बहराएल दाँतक) हाथी । [? सं० मकत्+नी (स्त्री० प्र०) शब्दानुकरणेँ अकुना] तु० क० अदना-फदना (दे०) । मै० सा० इ० ३३४ (अकुना-मकुना के बतिआबए चौदह सए दन्तार) *akunā makunā—*Tuskless (female or minor) elephant.

स्वकुपित **अकुपित**—वि० । क्रोधित नहि, शान्त । का० प्र० । [सं०] एका० २६ । *akupita—Adj*. Not angry, normal, P. F.

स्वकुरा **अकुरा**—अँकुरा (दे०)केर विक० रू० । [सं० अङ्कुर] अमर० ३२६ (अकुरा नवीन पत्र) *akurā—*Alt. of *ākurā* (q. v.).

स्वकुल¹ **अकुल¹**—वि० । कुलरहित, अधलाह कुल । [अ³ + कुल] (महादेव अकुल एवं अनादि ब्रह्मि); (कुल, अकुल केर बिनु विचार कए नहि सम्बन्ध स्थिर करब उचित नहि) *akula¹—Adj*. not well known family, belonging to a low family.

स्वकुल² **अकुल²**—वि० । आकुल (दे०)केर लु० का० रू० । वि० मजु० २१० (अकुल अलप वेआकुल लोचन) *akula²-Adj*. Obs. Poet. form of *ākula* (q. v.).

स्वकुला **अकुला**—पू० क्रि० । अकुलाए (दे०)केर संचिप्त रू० । [आकुल + आ] तु० क० अकुल्ला (डा० उ० ना० ति० २५१) *akulā—Part*. Short form of *akulāe* (q. v.).

स्वकुलाए **अकुलाए**—अकुलाएब केर पू० क्रि० एवं क्रि० वि० क रू० । *akulāe—Part*. and Adv. form of *akulaeba*.

स्वकुलाथि **अकुलाथि**—क्रि० । आकुल (दे०)केर मध्यम आद० भू० रू० । का० प्र० । [आकुल + अथि] रामा० १६४ (बिरही जन मन-मन अकुलाथि) *akulāthi—V*. Past. sec. pers. hon. of *ākula* (q. v.).

स्वकुलाबए **अकुलाबए**—क्रि० । आकुल (दे०)केर प्रे० रू० । [आकुल + अब] मन० ८१ (दलमलित धरनी अकुलाबए) *akulābae—V*. Cau. of *ākula* (q. v.).

स्वकुलाय **अकुलाय**—क्रि० वि०, पू० क्रि० । अकुलाए (दे०) केर विक० रू० । [आकुल + आय] रामा० २५७ (कपिदल सकल विकल अकुलाय); मोद १७१-१८ (लोचन समवेदना करथि अकुलाय); एका० (स्ख अकुलाय कुलायमे कनइत गेल समाय) *akulāya—Part. Adv*. Alt. of *akulāe* (q. v.).

स्वकुलिन **अकुलिन**—वि० । अकुलीन (दे०)केर प्रा० लु० का० रू० । वि० ने० १६८ (अकुलिन सम्बो यदि कए सदभाव); वि० मजु० (ताल०) १२५ (अकुलिन बोल नहि ओढ़ घरि निरबह); पु० प० ७२ (अकुलिन पापोत्साह); चन्द्र० ११४ (अकुलिन लोकेँ धरनि परिपूत) *akulina—Adj*. Obs. E. Poet. form of *akulīna* (q. v.).

स्वकुलिनि **अकुलिनि**—वि० । अकुलीन (दे०)केर स्त्री० रू० । [अ³ + कुल + इनि] Grierson. **अकुलिनि विआही कुलक उपहास** = नीच कुलोत्पन्ना स्त्रीसँ विवाह कएलासँ अपनहु अभिजात्य वंशक उपहास होइत छैक । *akulini—Adj*. Fem. of *akulīna* (q. v.).

स्वकुलीन **अकुलीन**—वि० । नीक कुलक नहि, छोट्टा, अधलाह वा नीच वंशक । [अ³ + कुलीन (दे०)]तु० क० १ बं०, ने० अकुलिन; २ अकुलिन (दे०)। । पु० प० ३६ (अकुलीनक संसर्गसँ...); मि० ३७४ (कोनो व्यक्ति अकुलीन मोसाहेब पदपर रहैत...) *akulīna—Adj*. Low-born, of no high descent.

स्वकुलैलहुँ **अकुलैलहुँ**—क्रि० । आकुल (दे०)केर भूत०, उत्त० एवं मध्य० पु०, आद० रू० । [आकुल + अलहुँ (दे०)] तु० क० १ मम अतावील होएब; २ अकुलाए-य (दे०) । सुक्तिसुधा ४३ । *akulailahū—V*. Past. first and second person hon. of *ākula* (q. v.).

स्वकुशल **अकुशल**—वि० । कार्यकुशल नहि, अनिपुण । [सं०] तु० क० बं० हि० उ० ने० अकुशल । कीर्ति० १७ (अकुशल वेविहि एक्क पइ अवर तुम्ह परताप) *akuśala—Adj*. Not expert, not well-versed, not well.

स्वकुसी **अकुसी**—अँकुसी (दे०)केर विक० रू० । वि० मजु० ५७१ (जटा देल अकुसी लगाय) *akusī—*Alt. form of *ākusī* (q. v.).

स्वकृतज्ञ **अकृतज्ञ**—वि० । कृतघ्न, नीच, अधम । [सं०] तु० क० बं० अकृतज्ञ । *akṛtajña—Adj*. Ungrateful.

स्वकृतज्ञता **अकृतज्ञता**—कृतघ्नता, नीचता । [अ³ + सं० कृतज्ञता] मोद ८७, २५ (अकृतज्ञता मैथिल समुदाय केर प्रधान दोष) ए० ६६, १५ (अहाँकेँ अकृतज्ञता लिखब व्यर्थ) *akṛtajñatā—*Ungratefulness, meanness.

स्वकृतार्थ **अकृतार्थ**—क्रि० वि० । कृतार्थ नहि, व्यर्थमनोरथ, असफल । [अ³ + कृतार्थ] तु० क० बं० अकृतार्थ । रा० शि० ४४ *akṛtārtha—Adj*. Unsatisfied.

स्वकृत्य¹ **अकृत्य¹**—वि० । नहि कएल । [अ³ + कृत्य (दे०)] कीर्तिलता ४५ (साहस उत्साह अकृत्य बाधा बलि कएँ दधीचि करो स्पर्धा साथ) *akṛtya¹—Adj*. Not done.

स्वकृत्य **अकृत्य**—वि० । नहि करबा योग्य (कार्य) । [सं०] तु० क० बं० अकृत्य । *akṛtya—Adj*. That which should not be done.

स्वकृत्रिम **अकृत्रिम**—वि० । नैसर्गिक, स्वाभाविक, कृत्रिम नहि, निष्कपट, निश्छल, विना शृङ्गारकेँ । [अ³ + कृत्रिम] तु० क० हि० बं०

Figure 2: An excerpt from the *Bṛhat Maithilī Śabdakośa*, a Maithili-English dictionary (from Mishra 1973: 13).

[Tirhuta/Maithili script text]

Figure 3: An excerpt from the preface to *Bṛhat Maithilī Śabdakoṣa* (from Mishra 1973: 25).

Figure 4: Specimen of Tirhuta from the *Linguistic Survey of India* (from Grierson 1903: 56–58).

Figure 6: An excerpt from *Maithilī Prathama Pustaka* (from Rāya 2003: 30). The passage begins with the symbol *añji*.
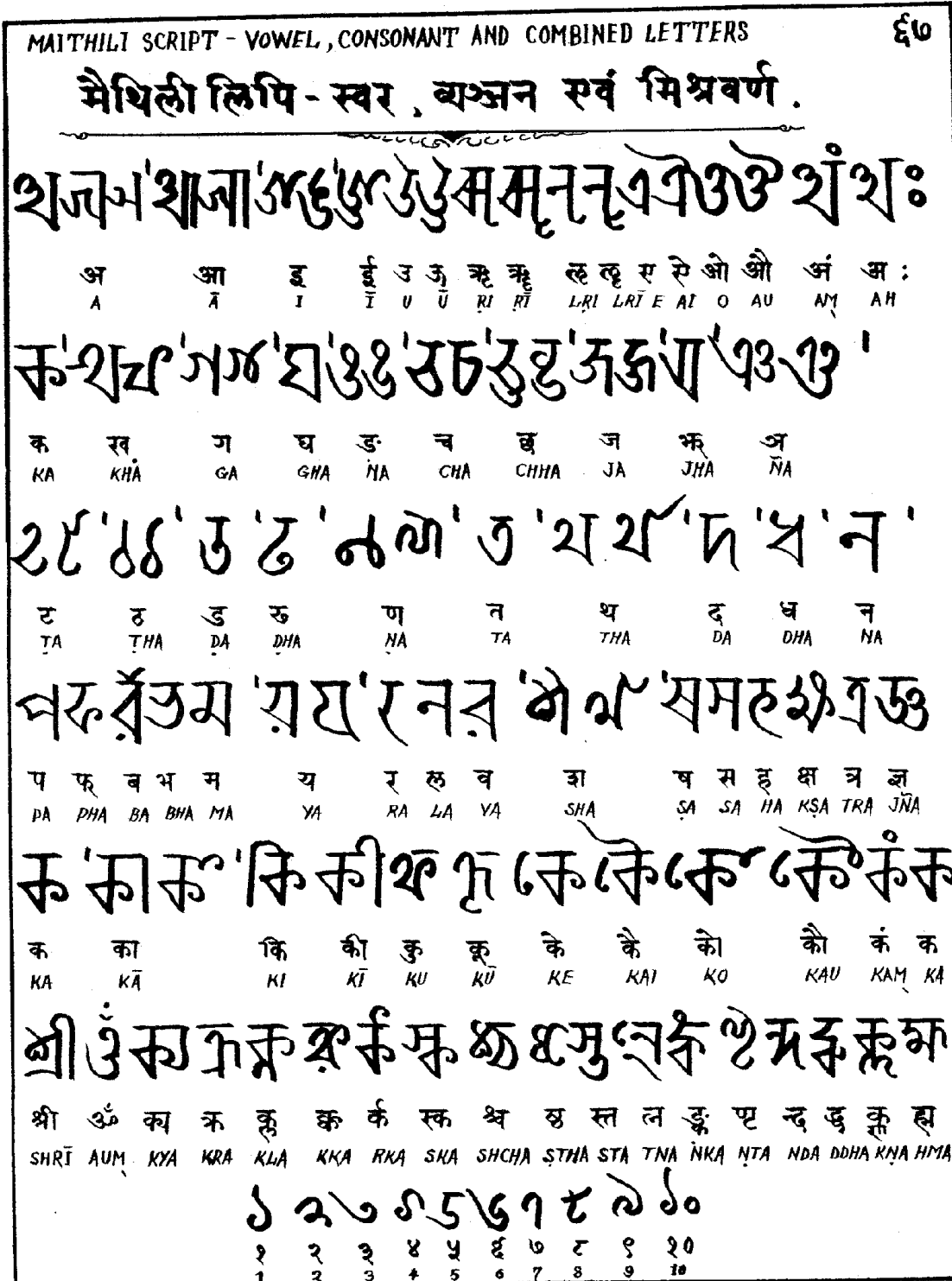
Figure 5: The preface from *Maithili Prathama Pustaka*, printed in Tirhuta type (from Rāya 2003).

Figure 7: Chart of Tirhuta (from Śākyavaṃśa 1974: 67).

झारदा	गुरुमुखी	कैथि	बंगला	मैथिली	उत्कल	गुजराती	देव नागरी
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Figure 8: Comparison of digits of Tirhuta and other scripts (from Śākyavaṃśa 1974: 76).

Figure 9: Chart of number forms used in Tirhuta (from Rāya 2003: 39).

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Tirhuta Lipi: The Native Script of Maithilee

Tirhuta Lipi: The Native Script of Maithilee

Figure 10: A chart of Tirhuta typeset with the digitized font, "Tirhuta," developed by eCube: Solutions & Research (2003).

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ততেক পাঁক ভবি দেতীহ জে জতেক মোনক কষ্টা মোনমে সোচরঁ তাহিসঁ রেঁশী উঁপজত ।

কনেক মহঁগ খেত কিনরাঁক হৃখএ তঁ মোড রঁনা থা গম্ভাবিক গাছ নগ রঁনা খেত কীনূ । এতএ নোক খেতীসঁ রেঁশী রঁসোরাঁস নেন জমীন কীনি বহন ছথি ।

ডকলী পোখবি রঁনা খেতকেঁ রঁঠমোতব কহন জাগত থছি । পহিনে ব্রহ্মাত্তব কপমে কিনক্কো মঁগনীমে বাজা দ্বাবা ভেঁঠন মোএতন্তি । পহিনে স্বনএ ছিযেঁ নীক খেতী বহএ হৃদা থাগ কান্তি পানি ভবন বঁহ ছৈ । গনাকামে জে ছিগৃথা ধানক খেতী মোগত থছি সে থঁহী রাঁধমে ।

রঁডকা কোনা, ধূবপব, ভোবহা থা প্বাঁগিা রাঁধক থতিবিঙ্ক থাগ কান্তি কিছু গোট্ঠেঁ ছহবক ঠনানপব সেমো খেতী–রাঁবী শ্বক ক২ দেনে ছথি, সীঠী রঁনা ক২ খেতী কেনিহাবক সঁখ্যা ভূগোনক পোথীমে ভনে পমাডপব মাত্র দেখৌনে মোথি । মহীসক মবনাপব কন্নাবোহ্ঠৈক স্বব থা জাদুঠৈনা, ককরো দবর্ঙ্জাপব পূজন ফূন বাতিমে ফেকরঁ । থারঁ নোক্কো হৃদা বুঁনি গেন থছি জে ঙা কোনো ছোঁড়ঁ াক কিবদানী থছি ।

গ্রষি–মऊস্য–পশ্বপানন থাধাবিত মহিসরাঁব ব্রাহ্মণ রঁহন এহি গামক চাক্কাত পঠন নিখন (হৃদা একঠা চোবক ঠৈন সেমো থছি ওতএ), ততেক নহি পঠন নিখন থা হৃহদৃর্বব গাম সভ থছি । পভ্র াসক চোব সভক হিম্নত নহি ছন্তি জে এহি গামমে কোনো জাতিক ঘবমে চোবি ক২ নেথি । এহি গামমে জে রিযাম ভ২ গেন তঁ সভঠা ফসাদী জমীনক নিপঠাব ভ২ জাগত থছি, নোক সর্মঙব ভ২ জাগত থছি । এতএসঁ হসেবী দূব–দূব ধবি জাগত থছি । ক্রঠমক জমীনক সগড্ড াক নিপঠাবাসঁ ন২ ক২ রোঠঁ

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Figure 11: Excerpt from a Maithili e-journal in Tirhuta published as a PDF (from *Videha* no. 80: 22).

Figure 12: A chart of Devanagari, Kaithi, and Tirhuta ('Maithili') (from Grierson 1882: Appendix 1a).

A Sanskrit Śloka written in the three characters of Mithila.

ॐ स्माख्यात्मीय नाविह मिद मेवास्म द्रुहमन्ते · ॥
दयाल्लुरपियन्क्ष रेशानास्म द्धः रर्वजिह्रार्षिनि ॥१॥

ह्स्मास्वात्मीश्शा मीऋ मी द मेवासीश्चद्कीशीस्महे ·
द स्पाइनपीण त्क्वी रुो नास्म द्धु इव्यं दीदीव्यनी ·॥१॥

The Kayathi character is not adapted for writing Sanskrit. It has no form for short medial ı and has no cernuvowel ya.

ॐ स्मा स्त्रामेोयत्ताठि हृ मिद मेत्रास्य द्धु ज्ये ट्रे · ॥
दयान्नु रपियज्क्तेक्ष्ठोना स्म द्धु ः ख जिव्री षिठि · ॥१॥

Figure 13: Specimens of Devanagari, Kaithi, and Tirhuta (from Grierson 1882: Appendix 1b).

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Scripts Used in Writing Maithili
मैथिली लिखबामे व्यवहृत लिपि
(1) Tirhutā (2) Newārī (3) Nāgarī (4) Roman

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		अ	a				छ	chh				य	y				कृ	kri
		आ	ā				ज	j				र	r				क्य	ky
		इ	i				झ	jh				ल	l				क्र	kr
		ई	ī				ञ	ñ				व	v				क्व	kv
		उ	u				ट	ṭ				श	sh				द्ध	ddh
		ऊ	ū				ठ	th				ष	ṣ				त्त	tt
		ऋ	ri				ड	ḍ				स	s				श्र	shr
		ए	e				ढ	dh				ह	h				ष्ठ	sth
		ऐ	ai				ण	ṇ				क	ka				नु	nu
		ओ	o				त	t				का	kā				न्व	nv
		औ	au				थ	th				कि	ki				ह्म	hm
		अं	ṁ				द	d				की	kī				१	1
		अः	ḥ				ध	dh				कु	ku				२	2
		क	k				न	n				कू	kū				३	3
		ख	kh				प	p				के	ke				४	4
		ग	g				फ	ph				कै	kai				५	5
		घ	gh				ब	b				को	ko				६	6
		ङ	ṅ				भ	bh				कौ	kau				७	7
		च	ch				म	m				क्ष	kṣ				८	8
												त्र	tr				९	9
												ज्ञ	gẏ				१०	10

xxxi   xxxii

Figure 14: Comparison of Tirhuta, Newari, and Devanagari (from G. Jhā 1999: xxxi–xxxii).

বৃহৎ মৈথিনী শর্বকোশ

बृहत् मैथिली शब्दकोश

BṚHAT MAITHILĪ ŚABDAKOŚA

Fascicule I

 શ ਅ A—ਸ਼ব ਅ੭ Ava

শ্রীজয়কান্তমিশ্র

শ্রীজয়কান্তমিশ্র

Jayakanta Mishra

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY

SIMLA

Figure 15: Title page of *Bṛhat Maithilī Śabdakośa* (from Mishra 1973).

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Figure 16: Comparison of hand-written Tirhuta ('Maithili') and Bengali letters (from Ojhā 1971: Plate LXXVIII).

REMARKS

The conjunction of consonants with vowels are indicated ordinarily as in the case of jh, in other cases, where the letters differ from the jh-pattern, they have been indicated in the chart.

Roman (band 1): sta, ṣṇa, sma, ska, sma, sru, srū, hna, hma, hra, stra, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Roman (band 2): tma, tya, tva, kta, ddha, dya, ndhya, kra, jhya, sra, jhva, ndha, nha, mbha, rjha, rga, śra, sru, srū, ṣoka

Roman (band 4): va, śa, ṣa, sa, ha, kṣa, tra, jña, jhā, jhi, jhī, jhu, jhū, jhṛ, jhṝ, jhe, jhai, jho, jhau, jhaṃ, jhaḥ, ku, gu, tu

Roman (band 5): j, jh, ñ, ṭa, ṭha, ḍa, ḍha, ṇ, ṛa, ṛha, ta, tha, da, dha, na, pa, pha, ba, bha, ma, ya, ra, la, ḷa

Roman (band 6): a, ā, i, ī, u, ū, ṛ, ṝ, ḷ, ḹ, e, ai, o, au, aṃ, aḥ, ka, kha, ga, gha, ṅa, c, ch

Figure 17: Chart showing comparison of Tirhuta ('Maithilī') and Bengali (from S. Jha 1958: 54–55).

PRE-LKHCHHAVI PERIOD	LICHCHHAVI PERIOD		MALLA AND SHÁHA PERIOD							
ब्राह्मी BRAHMI	पूर्वलिन्छवि PRO-LICHCHHAVI	उत्तरलिन्छवि POST-LICHCHHAVI	किरात KIRAT	रञ्जना RANJANA	सुजिमो BHUJIMO	नेवारी NEWARI	मैथिली MAITHILI	तिब्बती TIBETAN	नन्दिनागरी NANDINAGARI	देवनागरी DEVANAGARI
ᘜ	ᘜ	ૐ	ㄹ	ঝ	অ	অ	अ	ᵕᵕ	ᘜ	अ A
ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	আ	আ	আ	आ	ᵕᵕ	ᘜ	आ Ā
∴	ৗ	ᘜ		ᘜ	৹৹	৹৹	उ	ᘜ	ξ	इ I
	ৗ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	৹৹	৹৹	उ	ᘜ	ξ	ई Ī
L	U	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	उ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	उ U
	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ऊ Ū
		ᘜ		ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ऋ RI
		ᘜ		ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ॠ RĪ
		९		ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	न	ᘜ	ᘜ	ऌ LRĪ
		२		ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	न	ᘜ	ᘜ	ॡ LRĪ
△	▽	▽	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ए E
	▽	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ऐ AI
ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ओ O
	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	उ	ᘜ	ᘜ	औ AU
ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	अं AM
ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	अः AH
+	ᘜ	ᘜ	Z	ᘜ	ᘜ	क	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	क KA
ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ख	थ	ᘜ	ᘜ	ख KHA

Figure 18: Excerpt from a chart of scripts used in Nepal (from Thāpā et al.).

Figure 19: Comparison of Tirhuta ('Maithili') with other Brahmi-based scripts (from Naik 1971: Table 13).

	TIRUTA	BENGALI		TIRHUTA	BENGALI
A	খ	অ		*no dependent form*	
AA	থা	আ		ৈা	ৈা
I	ড	ই		ি	ি
II	ড	ঈ		ী	ী
U	ঙ	উ		ু	ু
UU	ঙ	ঊ		ৃ	ৃ
VOCALIC R	ঋ	ঋ		ৃ	ৃ
VOCALIC RR	ঋ	ৠ		ৄ	ৄ
VOCALIC L	নৃ	৯		ৢ	ৣ
VOCALIC LL	নৄ	ৡ		ৣ	ৣ
E	এ	এ		ে	ে
SHORT E	*no independent form*			ৗ	—
AI	ঐ	ঐ		ৈ	ৈ
O	ও	ও		ো	ো
SHORT O	*no independent form*			ৗ	ৗ
AU	ঔ	ঔ		ৌ	ৌ

Table 3: Comparison of Tirhuta and Bengali vowel letters and signs (differences highlighted).

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	TIRHUTA	BENGALI			TIRHUTA	BENGALI
KA	ক	ক		DA	দ	দ
KHA	খ	খ		DHA	ধ	ধ
GA	গ	গ		NA	ন	ন
GHA	ঘ	ঘ		PA	প	প
NGA	ঙ	ঙ		PHA	ফ	ফ
CA	চ	চ		BA	ব়	ব
CHA	ছ	ছ		BHA	ভ	ভ
JA	জ	জ		MA	ম	ম
JHA	ঝ	ঝ		YA	য	য
NYA	ঞ	ঞ		RA	ব	র
TTA	ট	ট		LA	ন	ল
TTHA	ঠ	ঠ		VA	র	—
DDA	ড	ড		SHA	শ	শ
DDHA	ঢ	ঢ		SSA	ষ	ষ
NNA	ণ	ণ		SA	স	স
TA	ত	ত		HA	হ	হ
THA	থ	থ				

Table 4: Comparison of Tirhuta and Bengali consonant letters (differences highlighted).

	TIRHUTA	BENGALI
ZERO	০	০
ONE	১	১
TWO	২	২
THREE	৩	৩
FOUR	৪	৪
FIVE	৫	৫
SIX	৬	৬
SEVEN	৭	৭
EIGHT	৮	৮
NINE	৯	৯

Table 5: Comparison of Tirhuta and Bengali digits (differences highlighted).

	TIRHUTA	BENGALI
CANDRABINDU	◌̐	◌̐
ANUSVARA	◌̊	◌ং
VISARGA	◌ঃ	◌ঃ
VIRAMA	◌্	◌্
AVAGRAHA	ঽ	ঽ
ANJI	৷	—
OM	ওঁ	—
GVANG	◌ẇ	—

Table 6: Comparison of Tirhuta and Bengali miscellaneous signs (differences highlighted).

	TIRHUTA	BENGALI			TIRHUTA	BENGALI
kta				*tta*		
kra				*tya*		
kṣa				*tva*		
gga				*ddha*		
gdha				*dya*		
ṅka				*ndha*		
ṅkha				*nha*		
ṅga				*bda*		
ṅgha				*bdha*		
cca				*ścha*		
ccha				*ṣṭa*		
jña				*ṣṭha*		
ñca				*ṣṇa*		
ñcha				*rga*		
ṭṭa				*hṇa*		
ṭṭha				*hna*		
ṇṭa				*hma*		
ṇṭha				*hra*		
ṇḍa				*hla*		
ṇḍha				*hva*		

Table 7: Comparison of conjunct forms used in Tirhuta and Bengali.

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A. Administrative

1. **Title:**   *Proposal to Encode the Tirhuta Script in ISO/IEC 10646*
2. Requester's name: *Script Encoding Initiative (SEI) / Anshuman Pandey (pandey@umich.edu)*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):   *Liaison contribution*
4. Submission date: *2011-05-05*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
    This is a complete proposal: *Yes*
    (or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
    a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):   *Yes*
       Proposed name of script: *Tirhuta*
    b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:
       Name of the existing block:
2. Number of characters in proposal: *82*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
    A-Contemporary   *X*   B.1-Specialized (small collection)   B.2-Specialized (large collection)
    C-Major extinct   D-Attested extinct   E-Minor extinct
    F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic   G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?   *Yes*
    a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines"
       in Annex L of P&P document?   *Yes*
    b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?   *Yes*
5. Fonts related:
    a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?
       Anshuman Pandey
    b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
       Anshuman Pandey (pandey@umich.edu)
6. References:
    a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?   *Yes*
    b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
    of proposed characters attached?   *Yes*
7. Special encoding issues:
    Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?   *Yes*

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

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[1] Form number: N3902-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? *No*

   If YES explain

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body,
   user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? *Yes*

   If YES, with whom? *See text of proposal*

   If YES, available relevant documents: *See text of proposal*

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example:
   size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? *Yes*

   Reference: *Size of user community is unknown. Script is used for print and digital publications.*

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) *Common*

   Reference: *The Tirhuta script is used for writing Maithili. See text of proposal for details.*

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? *Yes*

   If YES, where? Reference: *Bihar (India) and Nepal. See text of proposal for details.*

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely
   in the BMP? *No*

   If YES, is a rationale provided?

   If YES, reference:

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? *Yes*

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing
   character or character sequence? *No*

   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

   If YES, reference:

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either
   existing characters or other proposed characters? *No*

   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

   If YES, reference:

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function)
    to an existing character? *Yes*

    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? *Yes*

    If YES, reference: *See text of proposal for similarities between Tirhuta and Bengali.*

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? *Yes*

    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? *Yes*

    If YES, reference: *Combining vowel signs*

    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

    If YES, reference:

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as
    control function or similar semantics? *Yes*

    If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary) *Virama*

    See text of proposal

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? *No*

    If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?

    If YES, reference: