# Tibetan / བོད་སྐད་ Poigai

transliteration: Turrell Wylie 1959 (extended), *romanization*: UN 1977 (pinyin)

## I. Consonant characters

| | | Trlit | Rom |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ཀ | k | *ga* |
| 2 | ཁ | kh | *ka* |
| 3 | ག | g | *ka, ga*[A] |
| 4 | ང | ng | *nga* |
| 5 | ཅ | c | *ja* |
| 6 | ཆ | ch | *qa* |
| 7 | ཇ | j | *qa, ja*[A] |
| 8 | ཉ | ny | *nya* |
| 9 | ཏ | t | *da* |
| 10 | ཐ | th | *ta* |
| 11 | ད | d | *ta, da*[A] |
| 12 | ན | n | *na* |
| 13 | པ | p | *ba* |
| 14 | ཕ | ph | *pa* |
| 15 | བ | b | *pa, ba*[A] |
| 16 | མ | m | *ma* |
| 17 | ཙ | ts | *za* |
| 18 | ཚ | tsh | *ca* |
| 19 | ཛ | dz | *ca, za*[A] |
| 20 | ཝ | w | *wa* |
| 21 | ཞ | zh | *xa* |
| 22 | ཟ | z | *sa* |
| 23 | འ | ’ | *a* |
| 24 | ཡ | y | *ya* |
| 25 | ར | r | *ra* |
| 26 | ལ | l | *la* |
| 27 | ཤ | sh | *xa* |
| 28 | ས | s | *sa* |
| 29 | ཧ | h | *ha* |
| 30 | ཨ | a | *a* |

[A] If the character is not accompanied by a prefixed character or a superscripted consonant, it is read as aspirated and the first romanization equivalent is used; otherwise it is read as nonaspirated and the second equivalent is used.

## II. Vowel characters (ཀ stands for any consonant character)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ཀ | a | *a* | 3 | ཀུ | u | *u* | 5 | ཀོ | o | *o* |
| 2 | ཀི | i | *i* | 4 | ཀེ | e | *ê* | | | | |

## III. Other symbols

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ་ | - | syllable boundary, e.g. ནག་ཆུ nag-chu *Nag Qu*. |

## IV. Characters used in Sanskrit and other borrowings

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ཁྷ | gh | | 9 | ཛྷ | dzh | | 17 | ཱི | ī | |
| 2 | ཊ | ṭ | *zh* | 10 | ཥ | ṣh | | 18 | ཱུ | ū | |
| 3 | ཋ | ṭh | *ch* | 11 | ཀྵ | kṣh | | 19 | ཱྀ | ṛ | |
| 4 | ཌ | ḍ | *ch,zh* | 12 | ཎ | ṛ | | 20 | ཻ | ai | |
| 5 | ཌྷ | ḍh | | 13 | ཎྜ | ṝ | | 21 | ཽ | au | |
| 6 | ཎ | ṇ | *n* | 14 | ཏྲ | l̤ | | 22 | ཾ | aṁ | |
| 7 | ད྅ | dh | | 15 | ཏྲཱ | l̤̄ | | 23 | ཿ | aṁ | |
| 8 | བྷ | bh | | 16 | ཱཱ | ā | | 24 | ཿ | aḥ | |

## V. Numbers

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ๐ | 0 | ๔ | 4 | ๘ | 8 |
| ๑ | 1 | ๕ | 5 | ๙ | 9 |
| ๒ | 2 | ๖ | 6 | | |
| ๓ | 3 | ๗ | 7 | | |

## Notes

1. In Tibetan script the main unit is the graphic syllable which contains prefixed, superscripted, subscripted, vowel, suffixed and secondary suffixed characters (apart from vowel characters all others are consonant characters). Usual prefixed characters are ག g-, ད d-, བ b-, མ m-, འ '-, written in front of the main character in the same size. The glyphs for super- and subscripted characters may differ from that of the main character, superscripted characters are r- (e.g. ཀ rka, ག rga, ང rnga, but cf. ཉ rnya), l- (e.g. ཧ lka, ཨ lga, ཪ lnga) and s- (e.g. ཧ ska, ཨ sga, ཪ snga), subscripted characters are ྭ -w (e.g. ཀྭ kwa, ཁྭ khwa, གྭ gwa), ྱ -y (e.g. ཀྱ kya, ཁྱ khya, གྱ gya), ྲ -r (e.g. ཀྲ kra, ཁྲ khra, གྲ gra), ླ -l (e.g. ཀླ kla, གླ gla, བླ bla). Any consonant character may stand as the main character. Suffixed characters are ག -g, ང -ng, ད -d, ན -n, བ -b, མ -m, འ -', ར -r, ལ -l, ས -s. Secondary suffixed characters are ད -d and ས -s. Typical for a Tibetan syllable is the used of stacked characters, e.g. རྒྱུ rgyu.
2. Transliteration is converted into romanization using the following rules:
    a. Main characters are romanized as shown in Table I, considering also the presence of prefixed and superscripted characters (see Note A).

b. Prefixed characters are not romanized, except the syllable-initial དབ dba→ *wa* (but in case of other vowels, e.g. དབུ dbu → *u*, neither of the consonants is romanized); prefixed characters མ m- ja ཨ '- are romanized *n* if they give a nasal flavour to the following consonant.

c. Superscripted consonants are omitted in romanization, except ལྷ lh → *lh*, and ལ l- is romanized *n* if it gives a nasal flavour to the following *b, d, g, j*.

d. Subscripted characters are converted as follows:
   i. -w: omitted;
   ii. -y: ky → *gy*, khy → *ky*, gy → *ky/gy*[A], py → *j*, phy → *q*, by → *q/j*[A], my → *ny*;
   iii. -r: kr → *zh*, khr → *ch*, gr → *ch/zh*[A], tr → *zh*, thr → *ch*, dr → *ch/zh*[A], pr → *zh*, phr → *ch*, br → *ch/zh*[A], hr → *sh*, mr → *m*, nr → *n*, sr → *s*, shr → *x* ([A] – see Note A to Table I);
   iv. -l: kl, gl, bl, rl, sl → *l*, zl → *d*.

e. Syllable endings are transformed as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| abs → *ab* | ems → *êm* | ol → *oi* |
| ad → *ai* | es → *ê* | oms → *om* |
| ags → *ag* | e'u → *iu* | on → *oin* |
| a'i → *ai* | ibs → *ib* | ongs → *ong* |
| al → *ai* | id → *i* | os → *oi* |
| ams → *am* | igs → *ig* | ubs → *ub* |
| an → *ain* | i'i → *i* | ud → *ü* |
| angs → *ang* | il → *i* | ugs → *ug* |
| as → *ai* | ims → *im* | u'i → *ü* |
| a'u → *au* | ings → *ing* | ul → *ü* |
| e → *ê* | is → *i* | ums → *um* |
| ebs → *êb* | i'u → *iu* | un → *ün* |
| ed → *ê* | obs → *ob* | ungs → *ung* |
| egs → *êg* | od → *oi* | us → *ü* |
| e'i → *ê* | ogs → *og* | |
| el → *ê* | o'i → *oi* | |

f. Special rules for polysyllabic words:
   i. If the preceding syllable ends with a vowel, the following syllables are transformed: ba → *wa*, be → *wê*, bo → *wo*.
   ii. If the preceding syllable ends with a vowel, then the prefixed characters of the following syllable b-, m- will be preserved, and '- → *n*, e.g. ཨ་མདོ་ a-mdo → *Amdo*.
   iii. In case of duplicate syllables, sub- or superscripted characters may be pronounced in the second syllable instead of the main character and

suffixed characters -b, -d, -g are not pronounced: ལྷོད་ལྷོད་ lhod-lhod → *lhoilo*, ལེབ་ལེབ་ leb-leb → *lêblê*.

3. If needed, stacked and unstacked characters should be distinguished in transliteration. In general, the conversion program is able to recognize typical stacking consonants. The following rules are observed. Determined as stacking consonants will be adjacent consonants whereby 1) the first is l, r, s and the second is any consonant (e.g. lb, lc, ld, rg, rdz, sd, sg); 2) the first is c, ch, j, dzh and the second is g (i.e. cg, chg, etc.); 3) the first is any consonant and the second is r, l, w, y (e.g. kr, bl, rw, my). Also, if e.g. r has been determined as stacking with the following consonant (Rule 1), Rule 3 is no longer observed (therefore brnga = བརྔ, not བྲྔ). Exceptional stackings or unstackings are marked as follows:
    a. If there are stacking characters that do not follow the rules above, an underline (_) is inserted between the two characters, e.g. ཕྷ = h_pha. Cf.: ཁྨ = dma, ཌྨ = d_ma.
    b. If adjacent characters that normally stack, are not stacked, an additional a is inserted between the two characters (in many applications also dot is used in the same function), e.g. མ་ཕམ་གཡུ་མཚོ་ ma-pham-gayu-mtsho → *Mapamyum Co*. Cf.: གཡུ = gayu (g.yu), ཡུ = gyu.

**Pronunciation of romanization**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ag | [aʔ] | i | [i], | p | [$p^h$] |
| ai | [ɛ], | | [iʔ] (-id, -is) | q | [$tɕ^h$] |
| | [ɛʔ] (-ad, -as) | ig | [iʔ] | sh | [ʂ] |
| ain | [ɛ̃] | in | [ĩ] | t | [$t^h$] |
| an | [ã] | j | [tɕ] | ug | [uʔ] |
| b | [p] | k | [$k^h$] | un | [ũ] |
| c | [$ts^h$] | ky | [$c^h$] | ü | [y], |
| ch | [$ʈ^h$] | lh | [ɬ] | | [yʔ] (-ud, -us) |
| d | [t] | ng | [ŋ] | ün | [ỹ] |
| ê | [e], | ny | [ɲ] | x | [ɕ] |
| | [eʔ] (-ed, -es) | og | [oʔ] | y | [j] |
| êg | [eʔ] | oi | [ø], | z | [ts] |
| ên | [ẽ] | | [øʔ] (-od, -os) | zh | [ʈ] |
| g | [k] | oin | [ø̃] | | |
| gy | [c] | on | [õ] | | |