Mongolian / ᠮᢍᡎᢦᠯ Moŋġol

(Classical Uighur script)

(romanization and transliteration: KNAB 2007, in Inner Mongolia: pinyin)

The Classical Uighur script for Mongolian is written vertically, from top to bottom, in columns from left to right. In the following table the Mongolian characters are shown in two varieties - as signs of the vertical script and as a horizontal modification of the script (written from left to right). In the latter case the characters are turned 90° counterclockwise. This would be necessary only if Mongolian-script examples are inserted into a text written from left to right, such as in Roman script. In notes and examples below this modification is used.

Mongolian-language names occur in three versions: 1) Khalkha Mongolian Cyrillic spellings (used in Mongolia, names in KNAB are recorded only in romanization, with a language label mn), 2) Classical Mongolian spellings (used in parallel in Mongolia, names in KNAB are recorded both in transcription and transliteration, language label mncl), 3) Inner Mongolian spellings (in China, names in KNAB are romanized according to the pinyin version used in China and the original spellings are transliterated, language label mnCN). The transliteration of Mongolian Classical script is identical in all cases, the transcription is based on one generally used in Mongolian linguistics. Some examples of recording Mongolian names in KNAB:

No.	Original	KNAB romanization	KNAB transliteration
1	Улаанбаатар	Ulaanbaatar	-
2	ᡉᠯᡙᡴᠪ᠇ᡴ᠇ᢌᠣᠷ	Ulaġanbaġatur	ulaġanbaġatur*
3	ᢙᡕᢉᡴᠣᡨ	Hohhot	kökeqota

(* transliteration is not recorded separately if it is identical to romanization, except differences in letter capitalization.)

The signs of the Mongolian script have different forms depending on the position of the sign either at the beginning, within or at the end of a word, sometimes also as isolates. The following table will show initial, medial and final forms of the characters (also isolates in the case of the horizontal modification), and in additional columns:

- 9 transliteration of the Mongolian script (marked by normal script in notes and examples),
- 10 transcription of the Mongolian script (marked by *italic script* in notes and examples),
- 11 equivalent in the *pinyin* romanization used in Inner Mongolia,
- 12 equivalent in the Cyrillic script used in Mongolia,
- 13 hexadecimal code in Unicode.

Mongolian Cyrillic orthography and *pinyin* in Inner Mongolia are based on the actual modern pronunciation of the words and do not have one-to-one relationship with the Classical script, therefore the equivalents in the table are only indicative (Khalkha Cyrillic examples are added in the text if possible). Comments to individual characters, including ligatures, are given after the table. Dotted cells in the table indicate the absence of the glyph in the font that was available for

the table (for missing glyphs you may consult the Unicode website), a dash would mean that the given position is not used.

No.	Vertical script			Horizontal modification				9	10	11	12	13
	ini	med	fin	iso	ini	med	fin	trlit.	trcr.	IM	Cyr.	UC
1	1	4	77	7	Ή	•	٠,	а	a	a	a	1820
2	1	4	۲,	J	7	•	٠,	е	e	e	Э	1821
3	1	1	2	*	τ	7	C	i	i	i	И	1822
4	4	4	94	Ή	Ή	Ь	6 b	0	0	0	0	1823
5	4	4	94	70	Ή	٥	6 в	u	u	u	у	1824
6	Я	a 9	ф	عو.	νος	ਰ ਹਨ	ө ғ	öó	ö	О	θ	1825
7	Я	a 9	ф	عو.	νος	ਰ ਹਨ	ө ғ	üú	ü	u	Y	1826
8	4	4	4	عد	γ_{c}	τ	٦	ē	e	(e)	e	1827
9	-4	-4	4		Υ	ŗŗ	11	n	n	n	Н	1828
10	-		.1		-	₹ Ĉ	L)	ŋ	ŋ	(ng)	НГ	1829
11	タ	9	ø		6	6	Ð	b	b	b	б,в	182A
12	7	\$	••		ᠬ	π	₩	q	q	h	X	182C
13	2	2	••		C	C	-	k	k	h	X	182C
14	••	:\$	••		ϋ	<u> </u>	ਜ ਜ਼	ġ	ġ	g	Γ	182D
15	2	2	••		C	C	7	g	g	g	Γ	182D
16	1	ų	••		7	7	(T	j	j	j	ж,3	1835
17	••	1	-		7 7	2	-	у	у	у	й	1836
18	4	4 4	-		4	₹ 4	-	t	t	t	T	1832
19	P 4	ব 4	••		4 5	इ ज	o√ 5-	d	d	d	Д	1833
20	ħ	ħ	4		Ť	F	Ÿ	m	m	m	M	182E
21	ч	ч	-		ጉ	ד	(1)	č	č	q	ч,ц	1834
22	П	न	ゥ		দ	<u>r</u>	د	r	r	r	p	1837
23	>	\$	ŧ		4	+	#	S	S	S	c	1830
24	> :	* :	t :		*	#	₩	š	š	X	Ш	1831
25	4	4	T		ጙ	7	7	I	1	1	Л	182F
26	1	1	19		τ	τ	₽ B	W	W	W	В	1838
27	Ŋ	ъ	••		5	5	Ŋ	р	p	p	p	182B
28	••	••	••		፞፝፞፞፞፞፞፞	₹₹	-	lh	lh	lh	ЛХ	1840
29	ഴ	ഴ	ഴ		Б	9	Я	f	f	f	ф	1839
30	મ	ম	-		ন	ਸ	-	Z	dz	Z	3	183D
31	મ	મ	-		ন	ਕ	-	С	ts	С	Ц	183C

32	2	2	ゥ	• •	• •	• •	gh	g	g	Γ	183A
33	••			Ө	6	Ð	kh	k	(k)	К	183B
34	4	4		73	V	2	h	h	h	X	183E
35			••		• •	• •	Ž	ž	(r)	ж	183F
36	ৰ		••	7	7	• •	zh	zh	zh	ЧЖ	1841
37			••	ਰਹ	• •	• •	ch	ch	ch	Ч	1842

Comments to individual characters

- 1. Final a occurs in two variations: written in conjunction (signal daya xapax 'to look') or in isolation (with a tail turned to left, isolation in transliteration is indicated by a plus sign: signar+a qara/xapa 'black'). The isolated variant usually occurs after g, l, m, n, q, r, y but there are also exceptions. Final e after k, g in feminine words and final a/e after b, p is written with a tail turned to left but in conjunction: vasts üge yz, vasts aba ae, stelle xənəe. The character preceding the final isolated variant of a is written in its final form, even if normally it would not be found at the end of a word. At the beginning of a word, a begins with the sign of aleph (var) but if a is at the beginning of a suffix written separately from the main word, then aleph is not used (to mark this difference, an underline is used in transliteration): vast vast nom ača nomooc.
- 2. The character for e is actually identical to that of a, the only difference is in the initial form (cf. ΥΛη eke 9x, but γμ√ η aq+a ax). In order to facilitate the distinction, it should be remembered that e occurs in feminine (front vowel) words and a occurs in masculine (back vowel) words. Some consonants (k, g) occur only in feminine, others (q, ġ) only in masculine words.
- 3. Initial i starts with the sign of aleph (χ) but if that vowel is at the beginning of a suffix written separately from the main word, then aleph is not used: χων ο nom_i nomi/номыг. Final i after a vowel denotes a diphthong: χων ο noqai μοχοῦ.
- 4-5. The characters for o and u are identical (although they have different codes in Unicode) but in non-initial syllables only the vowel u occurs, e.g. עששע orun. Initial o and u start with the sign of aleph (עש) but if these vowels are at the beginning of a suffix written separately from the main word, then aleph is not used: עשלע עע nom_un nomun/номын, עשלעע olan_u olanu/олну. At the end of borrowed words the vowel o is written in a form identical to that of medial o (in transliteration the difference is marked with an apostrophe, e.g. עשטעע radio' radio).
- 6-7. The characters for Ö and Ü are identical (although they have different codes in Unicode) but in non-initial syllables only the vowel Ü occurs. In Mongolian script Ö and Ü are fully written only in the first syllable of a word, in non-initial syllables the characters are identical to that of O and U (in order to ensure compatibility in Unicode the vowel is then transliterated with Ó/ú, e.g. Τολίτου Öndúr öndür/θηθθρ). The sign of aleph is not used at the beginning of a separately written suffix (see also comments to 4-5): Τολίτου Θ Ünen_ú ϋπεπϋ/γηθημώ. The vowel u of European languages is transcribed by Ü in the Classical script, in that case the full form of Ü is used (if the full forms of Ö and Ü occur in non-initial syllables, including the beginning of the second component in a compound word, then the apostrophe is added for Unicodecompatibility): Θλάν khürs kurs/κypc, τοικούς Ēυὐγορα Europa/Εβροπα, τοιλίου αΰ't'ο'

- auto/авто, 为ӨХХХХ fakhü'lit'ēt fakulitet/факультет. At the end of borrowed words the form т is used (marked with an apostrophe in transliteration: Ö'/Ü').
- 8. ē is used in borrowed words and names, by its form it is identical to that of W: ᠰσκρίτες türgēnēw Turgenew/Typzeнes, ᠰτερίτες sērgēyēw Sergeyew/Cepzees.
- 9. n before a vowel is dotted, otherwise it appears to be identical to the characters a/e: אַלּ nom nom/hom, ייסיא onul סאסה, ייסיא onul סאסה, ייסיא onul סאסה, ייסיא onul סאסה, ייסיא olan olan, ייסיא olan olan, ייסיא ondúr öndür. In borrowed words the dot may be added in other positions, in older spellings the dot may be missing before a vowel, both exceptional cases are marked with an apostrophe: און fon'd' fond.
- 10. The character η occurs only in the middle of a word (before ġ, l, n, q, s) or word-finally: זֹשׁרְיִשְׁי monġol монгол, זְיִּישִּׁי qanġai хангай, זְיִּיִּהְיֹּ anq+a aнх, זְיִּיִּהְיִּהַ annaqu arнax, סְּיִּהְיִּהַ d'ün dün/дунг.
- 11. Ligatures: 6 6η ba/be, 6τ (6τ) 6η bi, 6 bo/bu. In Khalkha Mongolian b within a word or word-finally has often been substituted by $v(\theta)$: γτωση amarabal αμαρβάλ, γτωση irebe $up \ni \theta$.
- 12-13. Ligatures: ೧ ೧¬ ke, ೧¬ кi, д kö/kü. Unicode unifies q and k into one code, as q occurs in masculine, and k in feminine words: тыны abqu авах, тылдыд ögülekü ögülekü/өгүүлэх, тылын аmaraqu амрах, Ожд kelekú kelekü/хэлэх. If a masculine word starts with тропоипсед as [x], then it is transliterated q'.
- 14-15. Ligatures: Ω Ω ge, Ω Ω gi, Ω gö/gü. Unicode unifies gi [γ] and g into one code, as gi occurs in masculine, and g in feminine words: Ω garm+a garma/zapmaa, Ω keleg xəлəz. The appearance of ligatures ge, gi and gö/gü is identical to that of ke, ki and kö/kü. The character gi is used with dots before a vowel, and without dots in all other positions (in that case being identical in appearance to that of q): Ω gob gobi Γοβ, Ω ağulag+a ağulaga/azyynza, Ω bulag σynzz. It would be useful to know that q does not occur word-finally or before a consonant, in those cases the character is read as gi: Ω bağlaqu σαznax, Ω qonuğlaqu χομοζησχ. If a masculine word starts with Ω pronounced as [g], then it is transliterated g'. (The Mongolian Baiti font does not show dots for goccurring between η and a vowel. To correct this, a reencoding application will add the FVS1 code after g.)
- 17. The character y [j] in printed texts is often by appearance identical to that of j, in the middle of a word it coincides by appearance with i (both cases are transliterated with an apostrophe), in cursive or handwritten text the character contains a curve: κων yabuyu κενιου ~ κων y'abuy'u. Before the isolated final a it is identical to final i: κων η yabui+a yabuya/κενκ, κων η irei+e ireye/upьe. The form identical to i is used, except word-finally, to convey a diphthong ending in i (in that case it forms a liaison between the first vowel and i, but in transliteration and Unicode encoding this liaison is not reflected at all): κων α all αŭν, κον η οἰτ+a οira/οŭρ, κον μοῦ μιζυν μῦ μυχυρ. (Should there be any diphthongs without a liaison, then a middle dot is used to make a distinction: κον παίman.) If i follows another i or ü, then the liaison sign is not used, cf. κον Üille μῦν. The form identical to i is also used in separately written suffixes before or after i (in transliteration y is then unmarked but should there be a character y with a curve, then the apostrophe is added): Λος κων ger_iyen geriyen/ερροο, κων και μασινίνουμα, και η και ασινίνουμα, και η και ασινίνουμα η εκευμίνουμα, και η και ασινίνουμα η εκευμίνουμα η εκευμί

- identical to i for the character y between vowels; to change this, a reencoding application adds the FVS1 code after y; the application will also add an additional code for i for diphthongs ending in i /e.g. ail \rightarrow aiil/, otherwise the font would show the i without doubling.)
- 18-19. t and d in Mongolian words are written identically before a vowel (in Unicode they have different codes), pronunciation is derived from the context, cf. Կադե Ոսասարի Ötú qoruqai ötü qoruqai/əm хорхой, Որդայան θ Կադե ġalaġun_u ödú ġalaġunu ödü/галууны өð, Կոդի dalai, Կադե teneg. Before a consonant the character is written ա, word-finally as ան, in these positions only d can occur: Կադես dadqu ðaðax, Կոդայան deledkú deledkü/ðəлðəx, Կոդայն nigedkú nigedkü/нэгдэх, Կոդայն arad apð, Կադես noyad ноёð. Word-finally the character 4 t may occur only in borrowed words. Exceptional final form of d is used in some words: Կար ed' ed/əð, Կար ded' ded/ðəð (transliterated with an apostrophe). In borrowed words, 4 is always used to denote t, and ξ is used to denote d (to mark exceptional cases, again the apostrophe is used in transliteration): Կարութ st'an'ci stanci/cmahu, ભૂમ fot'o' foto/фomo, Գարևանի protokol/npomoκοπ, Կասեր jawod' jawod/завоð. In the case of separately written suffixes -tur (-tür) ~ -dur (-dür) it should be noted that -dur (-dür) is written with the character ξ: Θλω νος bulaġ tur δулагт, (Կառար և κereg túr хэрэгт, Կար բան mal_dur малд.
- 21. The character č does not occur word- or syllable-finally. In Khalkha Mongolian, č has often developed into c (ų) (except before i): מוֹנים čaġan μαεααμ, בווית čeŋker μ϶μχ϶ρ, בייו čoġ μοε, בייה čidaqu чα∂αх.
- 23-24. The character š does not occur word- or syllable-finally. The syllable that is transliterated si, is pronounced ši: ᠰᡳᠳᠪᡆᠷᠢ siidburi šiidburi/шийдвэр, ᠰᠢᠨ sin+e šine/шинэ, ᠪᡣᠰᠢ baġsi baġši/багш, ᠰᡙᠣᠷᠰᡳᠠᠣ saġurisiqu saġurisiqu/суурьших.
- 26. W occurs mainly in foreign words, including foreign names where it also may occur word- or syllable-finally: τημης waġar εααρ, θιζος pawlow Παεποε, τιζος lērmon't'ow Περμομποε. In old texts the character before final isolated a may also be written in the form of u (transliterated w'): Θρίστης podisad'w'+a δοδυεαμεα.
- 27. Ligatures: 5 5 pa/pe, 5 5 pi, \$\Delta\$ po/pu. Used mainly in foreign words.
- 29. Ligatures: אָ אָרָ fa/fe, אָרָ אָרָ fi, אָ fo/fu. Used in foreign words: אָרָה fon'd' fond/фонд, אָרָאָדּיָּר fin'lan'd' Finland/Финлянд.
- 33. Ligatures: ຄ ຄງ kha/khe, ες ες khi, θ kho/khu. Used in foreign words: ες khart kart/καρma, ες khino' kino/κυμο, εξιτική khommü'nism kommunism/κομμυμιαμ.
- 30-35. These characters are used in foreign words: אַזָּאל lhasa Лхас, אַזֶּעלאַקָּהָּ hollan'd' Голланд, אַזְּעַרְיִילְּ hawana Гавана.
- **36-37.** These characters are used in Chinese borrowings before the vowel *i*. The character ∇ (without aleph) is used to transcribe the *pinyin* sound of *zh*, and ∇ is used to transcribe the *pinyin* sound of *ch* or *q*.

Notes

- 2. Mongolian consonants may be divided into pre-vowel consonants and universal consonants (\(\frac{1}{100}\)\) (\(\frac{1}{100}\)\) debisker \(\text{usúg}\). Latter ones may occur both before a vowel or syllable-finally

- without a following vowel. Universal consonants are b, d, q, q, l, m, n, n, r, s, w. In foreign words also other consonants may occur syllable-finally.
- 3. There were in general no long vowels in Classical Mongolian spellings, although in some cases these were marked by two consecutive vowels; also some diphthongs were written without a liaising consonant: θως buur+a συγρ, τωθης luuban πυγβαμ, θωθ boobu σοσβ, Գաժո taulai *myyπaŭ*, Գանի teúke *myyx*, Ռանի keúken *xyyxэн*, Թաθ küú *xyy*. Some of these words are pronounced with a short vowel in modern usage: הייים qour xop, סיים tour mop, הייים words are pronounced with a short vowel in modern usage: āoul гол.
- **4.** In the transliteration of Mongolian script there has been made an attempt to combine the unambiguous denotation of the actual script forms with the encodings based on "deep phonological structure" used in Unicode. All main transliteration equivalents can be converted into Unicode code points without any complicated contextual rules. Additional signs convert into special codes of Unicode, the free variation selectors' (apostrophe, FVS1, U+180B), " (quotation mark, FVS2, U+180C), and ^ (circumflex, FVS3, U+180D). The plus sign (+) is equivalent to the Mongolian vowel separator (U+180E, see comments under character No. 1), an underline () will be transformed into a narrow no-break space (U+202F, see comments under characters No. 3-7).

Comparison of Classical Mongolian and Khalkha Mongolian forms

- 1. Word stems in Khalkha Mongolian are shortened, so one Khalkha Mongolian word may correspond to several Classical Mongolian words: פּת < זיטל סון, זיטל סון, זיטל סון, מאמף כי סון, מאמף כי סון, מאמף amara-, הווה amar, הווה amur; אויים amur; אויים erkelekú, המיקה erkilekú; אויים ağur,
- 2. Syllables with long vowels in Khalkha Mongolian correspond to two syllables in Classical Mongolian where the liaising consonant is mostly ġ, sometimes b or j: מְלְהָיִהָּים qaġalġ+a küriyelekú *хүрээлэх*.
- 3. The vowels u and \ddot{u} in Classical Mongolian have mostly become low vowels o and \ddot{o} in Khalkha Mongolian: Ушин qonuġ хоног, чини örúm өрөм.
- **4.** The e occurring in the first syllable in Classical Mongolian has often turned into \ddot{o} or \ddot{u} , if the following syllable contained ü: 167 ebúl 0801, 1500 ergúkú 0920x, 1650 ebedkú 0800x, 1650 egúrkú уурэх, үд√ egúle уул.
- 5. The i occurring in the first syllable in Classical Mongolian has often turned into ya in хямрах.
- 6. The palatalized consonant in Khalkha Mongolian is spelled with a consonant + i in Classical Mongolian: тыс uni унь.

Comparison of Inner Mongolian *pinyin* and Khalkha Mongolian forms

1. When compared to Khalkha Mongolian, the language used in Inner Mongolia has more often preserved the sounds b (Khalkha 6), č [tf] (in pinyin - q, Khalkha u) and j [dʒ] (Khalkha 3), cf. Баян-Овоо – Bayan Obo, Цагааннуур – Qagan Nur, Зүүн гар – Junggar.

2. The shortening of word stems in Inner Mongolia, as compared to Classical Mongolian, is mostly comparable to that of Khalkha Mongolian.

Main sources

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