Tai Lü / ᦺᦎᦟᦹᧉe Dai Lùe

romanization: KNAB 2013 (based on *pinyin*)

I. Consonant characters

1	ᦀ	ā	13	ᦉ	sa	25	ᦔ	pa	37	ᦢ	bbā[A]
2	ᦀ̂	a	14	ᦊ	ya	26	ᦙ	ma[A]	38	ᦠ	ha
3	ᦅ	gā[A]	15	ᦡ	dā	27	ᦓ̂	fā	39	ᦡ̂	dda
4	ᦄ	kā	16	ᦎ	tā	28	ᦞ	wā	40	ᦢ̂	bba
5	ᦇ	ngā	17	ᦓ	nā	29	ᦟ	lā	41	ᦂ	gwā
6	ᦋ	ga	18	ᦷ	da	30	ᦝ	fa	42	ᦆ	kwā
7	ᦌ	ka	19	ᦆ	ta	31	ᦞ	wa[A]	43	ᦇ	gwa
8	ᦈ	nga[A]	20	ᦓ	na[A]	32	ᦜ	la	44	ᦆ	kwa
9	ᦍ	zā	21	ᦢ	bā	33	ᦟ	lae	45	ᦉ	swā
10	ᦌ	sā	22	ᦔ	pā	34	ᦟ	laew	46	ᦉ	swa
11	ᦌ	yā	23	ᦙ	mā	35	ᦠ	hā			
12	ᦎ	za	24	ᦙ	ba	36	ᦡ	ddā[A]			

[A] Syllable-final forms of these characters alphabetically: ᦞ -*w*, ᦣ -*ng*, ᦓ -*n*, ᦙ -*m*, ᦋ -*k*, ᦡ -*t*, ᦔ -*p*.

II. Vowel characters (ᦀ stands for any consonant character)

1	ᦀ	a	6	ᦀᦴ	u[C]	11	ᦀᦹ	ue	16	ᦀᦩ	oi
2	ᦀᧈ	a'[A]	7	ᦵᦀ	e	12	ᦵᦀᦹ	oe	17	ᦀᦩ	oai
3	ᦀᦸ	aa	8	ᦶᦀ	ae	13	ᦺᦀ	ai	18	ᦀᦩ	uei
4	ᦀᦲ	i	9	ᦷᦀ	o	14	ᦀᦻ	aai	19	ᦵᦀᦩ	oei
5	ᦀᦳ	u', u[B]	10	ᦀᦵ	oa	15	ᦀᦷ	ui			

[A] Indicates vowel shortness in the following cases: ᦀᦲᧈ *i'* [iʔ], ᦵᦀᧈ *e'* [eʔ], ᦶᦀᧈ *ae'* [ɛʔ], ᦷᦀᧈ *o'* [oʔ], ᦀᦵᧈ *oa'* [ɔʔ], ᦀᦹᧈ *ue'* [ɯʔ], ᦵᦀᦹᧈ *oe'* [əʔ]. In some cases used to distinguish homonyms, cf. ᦺᦡᦇ *doang* 'bronze' and ᦺᦡᦇᧈ *doang'* 'to look'.

[B] In an open syllable it is romanized *u'* (pronounced [uʔ]); if followed by a syllable-final consonant, it is romanized *u*.

[C] The character is used only in an open syllable and in the diphthong *ui* (see No. 15).

III. Tone marks

		low	high
1	᧠	´	ˆ
2	᧡	`	ˇ

IV. Numbers

᧐ 0, ᧑ 1, ᧒ 2, ᧓ 3, ᧔ 4, ᧕ 5, ᧖ 6, ᧗ 7, ᧘ 8, ᧙ 9. (1 in isolation is written ᧚.)

Pronunciation

aa [aː], **ae** [ɛ], **b** [p], **bb** [b], **d** [t], **dd** [d], **g** [k], **k** [x]~[kʰ], **ng** [ŋ], **oa** [ɔ], **oe** [ə]~[ɤ], **p** [pʰ], **t** [tʰ], **ue** [ɯ], **w** [w]~[v], **z** [ts]/[tɕ][A].
[A] Before front vowels (ae, e, i).

Tone contour is determined by the class of the initial character and the tone mark if present. In romanization, the class of the initial character and the tone mark are combined into a diacritic:

Initial char.	Without tone mark	Tone mark 1 (᧠ ´)	Tone mark 2 (᧡ `)
high	ᦒᦱᧁ *dāw* [taw¹]	ᦒᦱᧁ᧠ *dâw* [taw²]	ᦒᦱᧁ᧡ *dǎw* [taw³]
	55	35	13
low	ᦇᦱᧁ *daw* [taw⁴]	ᦇᦱᧁ᧠ *dáw* [taw⁵]	ᦇᦱᧁ᧡ *dàw* [ta̰w⁶]
	33~31	44~43	33~31 (kähe)

Even if the actual tone differs, romanization is based on spelling, cf. ᦠᦱᧅ *hāk* [hak²].

Notes

1. Tai Lü (ᦂᡯᦵᦑᦟᦹᧈ *gam Dai Lùe* [kam˧ tai˧ lɯ̰˧]) is written in two scripts: New Tai Lue (given here) and an earlier, Tai Tham script which was simplified in China in the 1950's into the New Tai Lue script. For Tai Tham see Northern Thai; the script is used in Burma, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, since the 1980's also again in China. (NB! The script is named 'New Tai Lue' which should not be confused with Tai Le script used for Tai Nüa.)

2. Tai Lü consonants are divided into high and low class consonants. The first group is denoted by *ā* following the consonant in Table I.

3. If a consonant has no vowel character, it is pronounced and romanized with an inherent *a* [aʔ]; syllable-final consonants *k, m, n, ng, p, t* have a special form (see Note A to Table I). Ambiguous syllable limits are denoted by a hyphen: ᦒᦱᦵ᦬ᦱᧃᦖᦸᧅᦵ *Táen-áanmòen*.

4. In the New Tai Lue script words are not usually separated but in romanization lexemes may be divided. Should there be a space in New Tai Lue, it could be denoted by a middle dot after the preceding word.

Sources

1. *New Tai Lue script.* — Omniglot, *http://www.omniglot.com/writing/tailue.htm*, 2012-10-09.
2. William J. Hanna. *Dai Lue – English Dictionary.* Chiang Mai, Silkworm Books 2012.
3. *Tai Lü language.* — Wikipedia, *en.wikipedia.org*, 2012-10-09.
4. 傣仂語. — Wikipedia, *zh.wikipedia.org*, 2012-10-09.