

## Your page „Jingpho“:

- I. According to sources ①, ② and ③, Jingpho shall (mainly) be written with a *Latin* alphabet. So I've compiled a Jingpho alphabet in Latin script.
- II. Your section „Jingpho alphabet and pronunciation” follows the English Wikipedia page “Jingpho language” (source ①) to a great extent. I don't know who is the author. I'm afraid but his information is partly illogical and not understandable. I cannot believe that his information is true and correct. I refer to my sources ② and ③.

I've also seen you have modified some single information opposite to Wikipedia. What was your source?

All in all therefore:

1. According to sources ② and ③, Jingpho distinguishes triple onset stops: [b/ḃ, p, pʰ; d/ḍ, t, tʰ; g/ḡ, k, kʰ]. There are some specification in the “IPA” column on the Wikipedia page containing a *hyphen* (f.e.: [p-, t-] etc.). I don't know what that shall stand for. I didn't find any explanation.
2. Wikipedia uses the diacritic ၵ for the medial /-r-/. That cannot be right. This diacritic is set *behind* the connected consonant, not *before*. Besides this diacritic stand for the medial /-y-/. On the other hand, the medial /-r-/ is written ၶ and this one is indeed set *before* the connected consonant.
3. Wikipedia uses the diacritic ၷ for the palatalization of the connected plosive. That cannot be right.
  - a) This diacritic is incompatible with the vowel diacritic ၸ /-i/.
  - b) This diacritic usually stand for the vowellessness of the final coda consonant (f.e.: ၵ-ၶ /-k/). For this aim, Wikipedia uses the diacritic ၵ instead. But this diacritic is only a technical expedient to create clusters (f.e.: ၵ /k/ + ၵ + ၶ /l/ = ၵ /kl/). It's no official sign of the Burmese or Jingpho script.
  - c) Therefore all the palatalized consonants are written with the diacritic ၵ (f.e.: ၵ /by/ [bʲ], ၵ /my/ [mʲ], ၵ /gy/ [gʲ], ၵ /ky/ [kʲ], ၵ /khy/ [kʰʲ]).
4. The letter ၶ /ny/ shall be pronounced [ɲ]. That cannot be right, what you has made out. Because according to source ②, /ny/ is pronounced [ɲ] indeed.
5. Jingpho /sh/ [ʃ] or [ɕ] shall be written ၶ. But this letter is transcribed /rw/. That cannot be right. The letter /sh/ in Burmese script is ၶ (U+1050). But possibly the Sgaw Karen letter /sh/ ၶ (U+1061) may be meant.

6. According to source ①, the letter ၵ်ၵ shall stand for both /j/ [tʃ] and /gy/ [k]. Hardly possible! You have differentiated at least (see above at 3., too).
7. According to source ③, Jingpho shall have only *two* palatal stops [dʒ] /j/ and [tɕ] /c/, and the fricatives [ts~s] /ts/, [s~sh] /s/, [ɕ] /sh/ and /z/, which shall be pronounced [z], not [ts] (source ② as well); but the latter source lists a further /chy/ of unnamed pronunciation. For /sh/ see above at 5. But how the other sounds are written in the Burmese script for Jingpho is difficult to answer, because I didn't find any other source about the Burmese script for Jingpho.
- a) I think one may perhaps agree with the symbols ၵ်ၵ for /z/ (like Burmese) and ၵ်ၵ for /s/.
  - b) If, according to source ③, the /ts/ shall be pronounced as [s~ts] (in the Burmese language [s]), then one can expect that the symbol ၵ်ၵ stands for /ts/. Therefore it's obvious that [dʒ] /j/ and [tɕ] /c/ are written ၵ်ၵ and ၵ်ၵ respectively.
  - c) But it's possible, too, that Jingpho follows the *Burmese* pronunciation of ၵ်ၵ = [s] and ၵ်ၵ = [z]. Then /ts/ [ts~s] would probably be written ၵ်ၵ (Burmese: [θ]), and besides /j/ and /c/ could be written ၵ်ၵ and ၵ်ၵ respectively.
- I prefer the last alternative.
8. In opposite to Wikipedia, you're right that ၵ်ၵ is pronounced [kʰ].
9. Your alphabet lists an odd symbol combination ၵ်ၵ meaning /kr (gy)/ [kʒ]. But ၵ်ၵ is the *Shan* letter "fa" (U+107E). Your sign would be transcribed /faka/. That cannot be right. So /kr/ is written ၵ်ၵ (see above at 2.) and /gy/ is written ၵ်ၵ (see above at 3.).
10. Your alphabet contains a symbol ၵ်ၵ which shall mean /hky/ [kʰj]. But the diacritic ၵ်ၵ is the medial /-w-/; so your symbol is transcribed as final /-kw/. That cannot be (see also above at 3.). Therefore the sound [kʰj] is written ၵ်ၵ.
11. The Latin written /iu/ shall be pronounced [iau] and the written /iau/ shall be pronounced [iu]. I think that's exactly the other way round! Besides:
- a) Neither source ② nor source ③ mention any diphthongs like [iu] or [iau] or [ua].
  - b) You write /iau/ as ၵ်ၵ (Wikipedia as ၵ်ၵ). But what shall that be? It's true the diacritic ၵ်ၵ is the long /ī/; but your diacritic ၵ်ၵ (U+105E) is the *Mon* medial /-n-/ , and Wikipedia's ၵ်ၵ (U+1095) is the *Shan digit five*!
  - c) Your sequence /ua/ [ua] may appear as medial /-wa/ and therefore written ၵ်ၵ (f.e.: ၵ်ၵ [kwa] /kwa/).

– d) The Burmese double diacritic ၵ်းဝ်း /ui/ (for Jingpho /ui/ see below) shall stand for the closed [o] (source ④). According to source ②, Jingpho shall have such a sound in open unstressed penultimate syllables. But source ③ doesn't differentiate the both "O"s (open [ɔ] and closed [o]) in writing.

12. According to source ③, [ai, au, oi, ui] are *no* diphthongs, but sequences of vowel plus glide. So they never occur in closed syllables. Therefore these sounds are written as ၵ်းဝ်း, -ဝ်း, ဝ်းဝ်း, ဝ်းဝ်း transcribed /ay, aw, oy, uy/.

13. According to source ③, in opposite to Wikipedia, Jingpho has:

– a) *four* syllabic tones on sonorant-final (and vowel-final) syllables which are written in the Latin script by diacritics:

- (1) a high-level tone [-ᵿ] marked by an akute /´/;
- (2) a mid-level tone [-ᵿ], unmarked;
- (3) a low-falling tone [-ᵿ] marked by a gravis /˘/;
- (4) a high-falling tone [-ᵿ] marked by a circumflexe /ˆ/, but only found in some particles, special words and interjections.

– b) only *two* syllabic tones on stop-final syllables (ending /-k, -p, -t, -ʔ/):

- (1) a high tone [-ᵿ] marked by an akute /´/;
- (2) a low tone [-ᵿ] marked by a gavis /˘/.

14. The problem: How are these tones written in the *Burmese* script for Jingpho? Wikipedia doesn't give an answer.

– a) In the Burmese language, the diacritic ၵ်းဝ်း is partly used to mark a *low* tone and the diacritic ၵ်းဝ်း to mark a *high* tone (source ④). These diacritics could be used for Jingpho sonorant-final syllables as well (f.e.: ၵ်းဝ်း /kà/, ၵ်းဝ်း /gò/, ၵ်းဝ်း /m̃/, ၵ်းဝ်း /tìng/, ၵ်းဝ်း /nàw/; ၵ်းဝ်း /má/, ၵ်းဝ်း /tò/, ၵ်းဝ်း /kyú/, ၵ်းဝ်း /h̃/; ၵ်းဝ်း /múng/).

– b) Then it would be no problem to leave the mid-level tone for *these* syllables unmarked.

– c) For stop-final syllables, only *one* tone marker is needed, because low tone syllables can be leave unmarked, and high tone syllables may be marked with the diacritic ၵ်းဝ်း (f.e.: ၵ်းဝ်း /myit/, ၵ်းဝ်း /bùk/; ၵ်းဝ်း /ngút/, ၵ်းဝ်း /phót/).

15. But how is written or marked the final glottal stop [-ʔ] /-ʔ/ in the Burmese script for Jingpho? Not all Jingpho syllables with a final vowel are pronounced with a (written or unwritten) glottal stop. Wikipedia doesn't give an answer for this problem, too.

I see four possibilities:

- a) The Burmese diacritic ၵ်း could be used (f.e.: ထုံ်း /thùʔ/, ဖှဲး /phéʔ/).
- b) The Burmese letter အ /ʔa/ plus the diacritic ၵ်း = အ်း could be used (f.e.: ထုံအ်း /thùʔ/, ဖှဲအ်း /phéʔ/).
- c) The Burmese language uses the four stops က် /-k/, ပ် /-p/, တ် /-t/, င် /-c, -s/ as a final glottal stop [-ʔ]. In the Jingpho language, the first three are full pronounced as [-k, -p, -t]. Therefore it would be possible to use the free symbol စ် as a final glottal stop (f.e.: ထုံစ် /thùʔ/, ဖှဲစ် /phéʔ/).
- d) A further possibility would be to use the unused letter ဟ် /\*h/ plus the diacritic ၵ်း (f.e.: ထုံဟ် /thùʔ/, ဖှဲဟ် /phéʔ/).

Have you any idea or a source to find out what's right in the Burmese script for Jingpho?

III. According to source ①, the proper name of Jingpho is pronounced [tɕiŋpʰoʔ], and this name is written in Latin script ၵJingphòʔ (cf. source ③). You write the proper name in Burmese script “ဂျိမ်းဖော”. I don't know what your source was. But I'm afraid, this spelling can't be right, because this spelling is transcribed /gyim:pho/. Because:

- a) According to source ② (and even source ①), Jingpho /gy/ is pronounced [gɿ] (and /ky/ [kɿ] respectively) (cf. source ③: /gy/ ≠ [dʒ]).
- b) According to source ③, Jingpho /gy/ shall be written in Burmese script ဂ်, whereas your sign ၵျ shall not exist (Because of the diacritic ၵ်း see above at II.3.).
- c) According to source ①, your sign မ် shall be written /my/ and pronounced [mi], whereas the coda /-ing/ shall be written in Burmese script မ်း (but about this see above at II.3.). That's not compatible.
- Source ① doesn't show a sign ဝ် for Jingpho (but about this see above at II.14.).

Therefore your spelling *cannot* be correct! I think that's perhaps the name written in the orthography of the *Burmese* language.

In my opinion, the proper name may possibly be written မျိင်ဖှဲင်.

IV. There are some further remarks to Jingpho:

1. According to source ②, the stress rests on the last syllable in disyllabic words with exceptions for compound nouns and some adverbs. The stress in trisyllabic words is on the last syllable with a slight accent on the first syllable, excepting words ending in /-sha/, then the penultimate syllable is stressed.

2. According to source ②, the vowel /a/ is pronounced [ə] in (unstressed) open penultimate syllables (in the past written /ǎ/), and more or less [ɐ] in closed syllables.
3. According to source ③, your sample text was written in an older Latin orthography (cf. source ②).

V. You're welcome to have a look at my attached PDF-file "Jingpho".

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① Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jingpho\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jingpho_language)

② H.F.Hertz, A Practical Handbook of the Kachin or Chingpaw Language (1954); [https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject\\_kac\\_ortho-1](https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject_kac_ortho-1)

③ Keita Kurabe, Jingpho Dialogue Texts with Grammatical Notes (2012); [http://repository.tufs.ac.jp/bitstream/10108/73109/1/aall7\\_8.pdf](http://repository.tufs.ac.jp/bitstream/10108/73109/1/aall7_8.pdf)

④ Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burmese\\_alphabet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burmese_alphabet)