Instruction manual for the Burmese LaTeX-package

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July 12, 2002 (1st version: July 6, 2002)

This package provides basic support for writing Burmese. All it can do is produce the correct characters out of an quite intuitive translation scheme. The Burmese tones are transscribed: with no sign for the first tone, with a doubled vowel for the second tone, with an "h" for the third tone, and with an '-sign for the fourth one. You need **Perl** and **dvips** in order to use it, as the package consists of a preprocessor written in Perl and uses Type1-fonts — with `pdflatex` it works, too, however: edit the `texmf/pdftex/config/psfonts.map`-file.

Installation is easy. You put the preprocessor script into a directory where you can find it, e. g. into your working directory, and run `perl birm.pl <FILE>` (without extension) on it. Files to be input into the preprocessor *must* have the extension *.bir; the preprocessor then produces a TeX-file (*.tex), leaving everything outside a Burmese environment untouched, and inserting the right input for the Burmese script. A Burmese environment is surrounded by `{\birm ...}`. The TeX-file can be run through LaTeX and `dvips`. The other files provided are `birm.sty`, `ubirm.fd`, which according to TDS are due into the `texmf/tex/latex/`-directory, `burm.pfb` into the `texmf/fonts/type1`-directory, `burm.tfm` into the `texmf/fonts/tfm`-directory (perhaps a `texhash` run will be necessary). You will have to change your `psfonts.map`: Add the following line:

```
burm Burma <burm.pfb
```

Currently not all Burmese characters are available, but (almost) all needed for producing native Burmese words. The work is in progress yet, and I'm not a master in Burmese script yet. I took the fonts from a *.ttf-font freely available on the Internet, and converted them into Type1 by using the `ttf2pt1` program provided by Mark Heath.

Burmese script can be divided into syllables. Any syllable has got a consonantic onset and a vocalic coda; sometimes a semivowel intervenes between the two. When writing Burmese in LaTeX, we should stick to this scheme and separate the syllables by a space (unless, I can't guarantee for anything). Some of the vowels are written before the consonant character, though, of course, pronounced after them. In this implementation for Burmese, we need not bother with this problem. Vowel characters are produced with the "consonant" for syllables without an onset, which is အ. This “consonant” will be substituted during parsing by the correct consonant character if the syllable has got an onset. The package provides punctuation signs for “.” (။) and “,” (၊), which can be inserted by their Latin equivalent just given.

Only scriptsize can be changed at this time; no different script styles like bold are supported; trying to use them will yield incorrect results. Don’t use commands with arguments either inside a Burmese environment.

The vowels and semivowels are inserted like this:

aaN	အမ်	ai´	အိုက်	ou	အို့
ahN	အမ်း	ei´	အိပ်	oou	အို
aN	အမ့်	ou´	အုပ်	ouh	အိုး
aaiN	အိုင်	au´	အောက်	o	အော
aihN	အိုင်း	eei	အေ	uu	အူ
aiN	အိုင့်	eih	အေး	uh	အူး
eeiN	အိမ်	ei	အေ့	u´	အွပ်
eihN	အိမ်း	ee	အယ်	u	အု
eiN	အိမ့်	eh	အဲ	I	ဣ
iiN	အင်	e´	အက်	I2	၏
ihN	အင်း	ii	အီ	II	ဤ
iN	အင့်	ih	အီး	EI’	ဧ
oouN	အုမ်	i´	အစ်	OO	ဪ
ouhN	အုမ်း	i	အိ	Oh	ဩ
ouN	အုမ့်	e	အဲ့	O	ဩော့
aauN	အောင်	aa	အာ	UU	ဦ
auhN	အောင်း	ah	အား	Uh	ဦး
auN	အောင့်	a´	အပ်	U	ဥ
uuN	အွမ်	a	အ	w	အွ
uhN	အွမ်း	oo	အော်	y	အျ
uN	အွမ	oh	အေ		

The consonants are inserted like this:

y	ယ	th	ထ	ch	ချ
w	ဝ	t	တ	c	ကျ
hw	ယှ	d	ဓ	j	ဂျ
hl	လှ	kh	ခ	m	မ
hng	ငှ	k	က	ny	ည
hny	ညှ	g	ဂ	ng	င
hn	နှ	T	သ	n	န
hm	မှ	sh	ဆ	l	လ
h	ဟ	s	စ	g2	ဃ
ph	ဖ	z	ဇ	n2	ဏ
p	ပ	Sw	ရွှ	ny2	ဉ
b	ဗ	S	ရှ		

Happy TEX-ing! Bug-reports or other comments to `reese@linguist.de`