ROMANIZATION OF TIGRINYA

BGN/PCGN System 2007

The BGN/PCGN system for Tigrinya is designed for use in romanizing geographical names written in Tigrinya (Ge'ez) characters. The Roman letters and letter combinations shown as equivalents to the Tigrinya characters reflect modern Tigrinya pronunciation, while taking into account some conscious archaisms based on Ge'ez and liturgical practices.

Tigrinya is written from left to right, each character being a consonant-vowel unit. To romanize, the Tigrinya characters should be located in the table below and represented with the accompanying Roman script. For instance, Eritrea's capital city, አስመራ is represented Asmera (e.g. the first character being located in row 17, 4th order column: አ = A).

BASIC CHARACTERS

	1st order		2nd order		3rd order		4th order		5th order		6th order[1]		7th order	
1	ሀ	he	ሁ	hu	ሂ	hi	ሃ	ha	ሄ	hie	ህ	h / hĭ	ሆ	ho
2	ለ	le	ሉ	lu	ሊ	li	ላ	la	ሌ	lie	ል	l / lĭ	ሎ	lo
3	ሐ	ḥe	ሑ	ḥu	ሒ	ḥi	ሓ	ḥa	ሔ	ḥie	ሕ	ḥ / ḥĭ	ሖ	ḥo
4	መ	me	ሙ	mu	ሚ	mi	ማ	ma	ሜ	mie	ም	m / mĭ	ሞ	mo
5[2]	ሠ	se	ሡ	su	ሢ	si	ሣ	sa	ሤ	sie	ሥ	s / sĭ	ሦ	so
6	ረ	re	ሩ	ru	ሪ	ri	ራ	ra	ሬ	rie	ር	r / rĭ	ሮ	ro
7	ሰ	se	ሱ	su	ሲ	si	ሳ	sa	ሴ	sie	ስ	s / sĭ	ሶ	so
8	ሸ	she	ሹ	shu	ሺ	shi	ሻ	sha	ሼ	shie	ሽ	sh / shĭ	ሾ	sho
9	ቀ	k'e	ቁ	k'u	ቂ	k'i	ቃ	k'a	ቄ	k'ie	ቅ	k' / k'ĭ	ቆ	k'o
10	ቈ	kh'e	ቊ	kh'u	ቋ	kh'i	ቌ	kh'a	ቈ	kh'ie	ቍ	kh' / kh'ĭ	ቈ	kh'o
11	በ	be	ቡ	bu	ቢ	bi	ባ	ba	ቤ	bie	ብ	b / bĭ	ቦ	bo
12	ተ	te	ቱ	tu	ቲ	ti	ታ	ta	ቴ	tie	ት	t / tĭ	ቶ	to
13	ቸ	che	ቹ	chu	ቺ	chi	ቻ	cha	ቼ	chie	ች	ch / chĭ	ቾ	cho
14	ኀ	ḥe	ኁ	ḥu	ኂ	ḥi	ኃ	ḥa	ኄ	ḥie	ኅ	ḥ / ḥĭ	ኆ	ḥo
15	ነ	ne	ኑ	nu	ኒ	ni	ና	na	ኔ	nie	ን	n / nĭ	ኖ	no
16	ኘ	nye	ኙ	nyu	ኚ	nyi	ኛ	nya	ኜ	nyie	ኝ	ny / nyĭ	ኞ	nyo
17[3]	አ[4]	e / 'e	ኡ	u / 'u	ኢ	i / 'i	ኣ	a / 'a	ኤ	ie / 'ie	እ	ĭ / 'ĭ	ኦ	o / 'o

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[1] The 6th-order characters should be romanized either with or without the letter ĭ, depending on pronunciation.

[2] Forms of the consonant character ሠ are understood to be becoming obsolete in Tigrinya.

[3] The vowel characters in row 17 should be romanized with the apostrophe unless appearing as a word-initial.

[4] Forms of the character አ are understood to be falling into disuse in Tigrinya.

	1ˢᵗorder		2ⁿᵈorder		3ʳᵈorder		4ᵗʰorder		5ᵗʰorder		6ᵗʰorder¹		7ᵗʰorder	
18	ከ	ke	ኩ	ku	ኪ	ki	ካ	ka	ኬ	kie	ክ	k / kĭ	ኮ	ko
19	ኸ	khe	ኹ	khu	ኺ	khi	ኻ	kha	ኼ	khie	ኽ	kh / khĭ	ኾ	kho
20	ወ	we	ዉ	wu	ዊ	wi	ዋ	wa	ዌ	wie	ው	w / wĭ	ዎ	wo
21	ዐ	‘e	ዑ	‘u	ዒ	‘i	ዓ	‘a	ዔ	‘ie	ዕ	‘ / ‘ĭ	ዖ	‘o
22	ዘ	ze	ዙ	zu	ዚ	zi	ዛ	za	ዜ	zie	ዝ	z / zĭ	ዞ	zo
23	ዠ	zhe	ዡ	zhu	ዢ	zhi	ዣ	zha	ዤ	zhie	ዥ	zh / zhĭ	ዦ	zho
24	የ	ye	ዩ	yu	ዪ	yi	ያ	ya	ዬ	yie	ይ	y / yĭ	ዮ	yo
25	ደ	de	ዱ	du	ዲ	di	ዳ	da	ዴ	die	ድ	d / dĭ	ዶ	do
26	ጀ	je	ጁ	ju	ጂ	ji	ጃ	ja	ጄ	jie	ጅ	j / jĭ	ጆ	jo
27	ገ	ge	ጉ	gu	ጊ	gi	ጋ	ga	ጌ	gie	ግ	g / gĭ	ጎ	go
28	ጠ	t'e	ጡ	t'u	ጢ	t'i	ጣ	t'a	ጤ	t'ie	ጥ	t' / t'ĭ	ጦ	t'o
29	ጨ	ch'e	ጩ	ch'u	ጪ	ch'i	ጫ	ch'a	ጬ	ch'ie	ጭ	ch' / chĭ	ጮ	ch'o
30	ጰ	p'e	ጱ	p'u	ጲ	p'i	ጳ	p'a	ጴ	p'ie	ጵ	p' / p'ĭ	ጶ	p'o
31	ጸ	ts'e	ጹ	ts'u	ጺ	ts'i	ጻ	ts'a	ጼ	ts'ie	ጽ	ts' / ts'ĭ	ጾ	ts'o
32	ፀ	ts'e	ፁ	ts'u	ፂ	ts'i	ፃ	ts'a	ፄ	ts'ie	ፅ	ts' / ts'ĭ	ፆ	ts'o
33	ፈ	fe	ፉ	fu	ፊ	fi	ፋ	fa	ፌ	fie	ፍ	f / fĭ	ፎ	fo
34	ፐ	pe	ፑ	pu	ፒ	pi	ፓ	pa	ፔ	pie	ፕ	p / pĭ	ፖ	po
35	ቨ	ve	ቩ	vu	ቪ	vi	ቫ	va	ቬ	vie	ቭ	v / vĭ	ቮ	vo

COMBINATIONS WITH W (Labialized Consonants)

1ˢᵗ order		3ʳᵈ order		4ᵗʰ order		5ᵗʰ order		6ᵗʰ order	
ኰ	kwe	ኲ	kwi	ኳ	kwa	ኴ	kwie	ኵ	kwĭ
ዀ	khwe	ዂ	khwi	ዃ⃞	khwa	ዄ	khwie	ዅ	khwĭ
ቈ	k'we	ቊ	k'wi	ቋ	k'wa	ቌ	k'wie	ቍ	k'wĭ
ቈ	kh'we	ቊ	kh'wi	ቋ⃞	kh'wa	ቌ	kh'wie	ቍ	kh'wĭ
ጐ	gwe	ጒ	gwi	ጓ	gwa	ጔ	gwie	ጕ	gwĭ
ኈ	ḥwe	ኊ	ḥwi	ኋ	ḥwa	ኌ	ḥwie	ኍ	ḥwĭ
				ሏ	lwa				
				ሟ	mwa				
				ሯ	rwa				
				ሷ	swa				

1ˢᵗ order		3ʳᵈ order		4ᵗʰ order		5ᵗʰ order		6ᵗʰ order	
				ሿ	shwa				
				ቧ	bwa				
				ቷ	twa				
				ቿ	chwa				
				ኗ	nwa				
				ኟ	nywa				
				ዟ	zwa				
				ዧ	zhwa				
				ዷ	dwa				
				ጇ	jwa				
				ጧ	t'wa				
				ጯ	ch'wa				
				ጸ	ts'wa				
				ፗ	fwa				

NUMERALS

፩	፪	፫	፬	፭	፮	፯	፰	፱	፲	፲፩	፳	፳፩	፴	፵	፶	፷	፸	፹	፺	፻
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	20	21	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

PUNCTUATION

Word Break (space)	፡
Comma	፣
Semicolon	፤
Period	።

NOTES

1. Where consonant character sequences give rise to the romanizations **k-h**, **n-y**, **z-h** and **s-h**, a hyphen may be added between them to differentiate those romanizations from the digraphs **kh**, **ny**, **zh** and **sh**.

2. Where possible, consonant gemination should be reflected. Though not evident from the Ge'ez script, this may be ascertained from a reference source, such as the *Tigrinya-English dictionary*, Thomas Leiper Kane, Dunwoody Press, Springfield, VA, 2000.

3. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations, with their Unicode encoding, in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:
    All apostrophes appearing in romanization are U+2019, except as they appear in row 21, which are U+2018.

Ĭ (U+012C)	ĭ (U+012D)
Ḥ (U+0048+0323)	ḥ (U+0068+0323)

4. The Romanization column shows only lowercase forms but, when romanizing, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.