



### 9.3 Manipuri Language Details

#### Introduction

This document provides general information about the Manipuri language and some conventions of its usage. It contains a generic description of Manipuri.

#### Manipur

Manipur is situated in the northeastern region of the country. Manipur is bounded by Nagaland in the North, Mizoram in the south, Upper Myanmar in the east and Cachar district of Assam in the West. Manipur is known as the "land of jewels". Geographically Manipur is divided into two regions viz. hill and plain (valley). The valley is centrally located, surrounded by ranges of hills. In the beginning of the Christian Era, the valley was divided into seven independent principalities.

#### Languages

##### Name of the languages

Manipuri language (Meiteilon) is the official language of Manipur. It is the principal language spoken in the state of Manipur. It is also the Lingua Franca Manipur. It belongs to the Kuki-Chin group within the Tibeto Burman subfamily of languages. The original speakers of Manipuri language call themselves Meiteis. There are at least 29 different dialects spoken in Manipur.

##### Description of Manipuri Language

Manipuri makes use of 15 consonant and 6 vowel phonetic sounds. Later development is the inclusion of r as allophone of lateral l and voiced consonants b, d, j and g are derived from the voiceless counterparts of p, t, c and k making the number of consonants to 20. Due to the influence of neighboring languages another 4 sounds (bh, dh, jh and gh) were developed. It is written using Manipuri script. Manipuri is written from left to right and top to bottom, in the same manner as in English. All the consonants cannot combine with one another. There are three independent vowels only, and remaining vowels are dependent upon a consonant.

#### History of Manipuri Language

Manipuri is a direct descendent of conglomeration of Tibeto-Burman dialects of seven different clans namely, Angom, Khaangaanba, Khuman, Luwaang, Mangaang, Moiraang, and Saraang Layshaang. It has been influenced and enriched by Indo-Aryan languages of Sanskrit origin and English.

#### Population using the Manipuri Language

23,00,000 in Manipur  
 3,00,000 in Assam  
 50,000 in Tripura  
 30,000 in Nagaland  
 3,000 in Mizoram  
 5,000 in Meghalaya  
 1000 in Arunachal Pradesh  
 2000 in West Bengal  
 5000 in New Delhi  
 500 in Uttar Pradesh  
 50,000 in Bangladesh  
 1,00,000 in Myanmar  
 400 in the U.S.A  
 300 in Canada  
 500 in United Kingdom  
 1000 in countries other than those of above

#### Technical Characteristics

##### Manipuri Alphabet Characteristics

Manipuri alphabet utilizes consonant letters, independent vowels, dependent vowel signs, punctuation, numerals and ancient sign.

##### Consonant Letters

Each consonant letter represents a single consonant sound with inherent vowel, the Manipuri vowel /a/. Letters are arranged in rows of three letters. There are seven non-syllabic (final) consonant letters. They represent only the consonant sounds and do not include the inherent vowel.

##### Independent Vowel Letters

There are only three separate vowel symbols in Manipuri script, which are pronounced independently.

##### Dependent Vowel Signs (Matras)

To indicate a vowel sound other than the implicit one a vowel sign (Matra) is attached to the conso-



nant. Explicit appearance of a matra in syllable overrides the inherent vowel. Three matras, out of seven used in Manipuri can exist above, one below and the remaining three to the right of the consonant to which it is applied to.

### Consonant Conjuncts

Consonant conjuncts in Manipuri are the combination of two consonants. To indicate the combination and inseparability of the two consonants, they are underlined. Manipuri script is written using the Bengali alphabet set along with a few more character as given below.

The Manipuri alphabet is almost identical with the Bengali alphabet.

ক (ka)	খ (kha)	গ (ga)
ঘ (gha)	ঙ (nga)	চ (cha)
ছ ( chaa)	জ (barga ja)	ঝ (jha)
ঞ (nia)	ট(ta)	ঠ(tha )
ড( da)	ঢ (dha)	ণ(mudhoinnya)
ত (ta)	থ (tha)	দ (da)
ধ (dha)	ন (dantiya na)	প (pa)
ফ (pha)	ব (ba)	ভ (bha)
ম (ma)	য (antasta ja)	র (antasta raa)
ল (la)	ৱ (waa)	শ (dalebe sho)
ষ(mudhoinnya so)	স (dante so)	হ (ha)
ক্ষ (khya)	ড় ( ra)	ঢ় (dar bindu)
য় (antasta ya)	৺ (khandata)	৻ (anungswar)
ং (bisharga)	ঁ (chandra bindu)	

### Independent Vowel letters

There are fourteen independent vowel letters in Manipuri. These are :

অ (soro a)	আ (soro aa)	ই (raswa i )
ঐ (dirgha i )	উ (raswa u )	ঊ (dirgha u )
ঋ (raswa ri)	৞ (dirgha li )	এ (e)
ঐ (ei)	ও (o)	ঔ (ou)
অং ( ang )	অঃ (ah)	

Vowels are of two types:

Short (ছস্ব – raswa) অ (a), ই (raswa i), উ (raswa u) , ও (o), এ (e)

Long (দীর্ঘ – dirgha) আ(aa) , ঐ (dirgha i), ঊ (dirgha u) , ঐ(ei), ঔ (ou)

### Dependent Vowel Signs ( Matras) ( saitap)

There are equivalent matras for all the vowels. These matras can exist above, below, to the right or to the left of the consonant to which it is applied.

আ	া	(aakaar)
ই	ি	(ikaar)
ঐ	ী	(dirgha ikaar)
উ	ু	(ukaar)
ঊ	ূ	(dirgha ukaar)
ঋ	্	(rikaar)
এ	ে	(ekaar)
ঐ	ৈ	(eikaar)
ও	ো	(okaar)
ঔ	ৌ	(oukaar)

### Halant

To write a consonant without the inherent vowel the halant sign is used below the base glyph. For the Manipuri language, this is not required in normal writing. If no dependent vowel sign is attached to the consonant, no vowel sound is used while speaking. This is one major difference in pronunciation from that of the Bengali language.

### Consonant Conjuncts

Consonant conjuncts in Manipuri are the combination of two consonants.

For Example :-

ন্ধ (andha), ঞ (ancha), ন্দ (anda), ণ্ঠ (antha), ভ্ভ (ambha), দ্ধ (addha) , স্থ (astha), ঙ্গ (aska), ক্র (kra) , ঙ্গ (ungga), ষ্টে (ashta), স্ব (swa), ত্ম (tma), ভ্র (bhra), স্ফ (aaspha), ন্ম (anma), ক্ত (akta) , প্র (pra)

### Nukta

Does not exist.



### Anuswar

Anungswar (◌ং) indicates a nasal consonant sound. When an anungswar comes before a consonant belonging to any of the 5 bargas, it represents the nasal consonant belonging to that barga.

### Chandra Bindu

Chandra Bindu (◌ঁ) denotes nasalization of the preceding vowel. It is sparingly used.

### Visarg

Visarg ◌ঃ (bisharga in Manipuri). It is also sparingly used.

### Avagraha

Does not exist.

### Numerals (মশিং) ( mashing)

The Manipuri script has its own numerals. They are still in vogue in Manipuri.

◌ (shino), ১ (ama), ২ (ani), ৩ (ahum), ৪ (mari), ৫ (mangaa), ৬ (taruk), ৭ (taret), ৮ (nipaan), ৯ (maapan) ১০ (taraa)

### Punctuation Marks (খৃদমশিং) ( khudam sing )

Full stop	চৈখে (।) (cheikhei)
Comma	কোমা (,) (koma)
Semi colon	সেমিকলন (;) (semi kolon)
Colon	কলন (: ) (kolon)
Question mark	অহংবা খৃদম (?) (ahangba khudam)
Exclamatory sign	অঙকপা খৃদম (!) (angakpa khudam)
Inverted commas	ওন্না- তৈনবা কোমা ( “ ” ) / (“”) (onna-teinaba koma)
Hyphen	হাইফেন (-) (haiphén)
Parenthesis	অহান বা ব্ৰেক্ৰেট ( ) (ahaanba breket)

### Braces

অনিশুবা ব্ৰেক্ৰেট  
{ }(aneeshuba breket)

### Brackets

অহম্ শুবা ব্ৰেক্ৰেট [ ]  
(ahumshuba breket)

### Ancient signs

An ancient script is there for the Manipuri language.

### Character Set Consideration

Usage Frequencies

Input Sequence Validity

### Fonts

#### Character Cell Size

Same as Bengali except for the alphabets ৰ and ঙ

#### Glyphs to be supported in Manipuri Fonts

**Keyboard** ISCII

#### Presentation and Storage Considerations

Character Composition	Same as Bengali
Data Entry	Same as Bengali
Printing Displaying	Same as Bengali
Text Space Requirement	Same as Bengali
Manipuri Composing	Same as Bengali

#### Formats of Units

Calendar	চৈচং পথাপ (cheichat pathaap)
Week	চয়োল (chaiyol)
Date	তাং (taang)
Time	মতম (matam)
Number	মশিং (mashing)
Currency	লুপা (lupaa)

#### Localization Data

<b>Abbreviated Language Name</b>	<b>Abbreviated Country Name</b>
India	ভারত ( bharot)



### AM/PM Markers

AM नुमिं युंवा ममां (numityungba mamaang)

PM नुमिं युंवा मतुं (numityungba matung)

Eras चक (chak)

### Calendars

Optional ( in Manipuri) शकाब्द (shakabda)

Gregorian (in Manipuri) मीते कुमशिं पथाप (meetei kumshing pathaap)

### Month Names (Manipuri)

शजिबु	(sajibu)
कालेन	(kaalen)
इंगा	(ingaa)
इंगेन	(ingen)
थरान	(thawaan)
लांगबन	(laangban)
मेरा	(mera)
हियांगे	(hiyangei)
पोइनू	(poainu)
राकचिं	(waakching)
फाइरेल	(phairel)
लामता	(lamta)

### Weekday Names

Sunday	नोंगमाइजिं (nongmaijing)
Monday	निंथोकाबा (ningthoukaaba)
Tuesday	लेपाकपोकपा (leipakpokpa)
Wednesday	युमशा केशा (yumshakeisha)
Thursday	शगोलशेल (sagolshel)
Friday	इराइ (irai)
Saturday	थांगज (thangja)

TimeZone IST (5:30)

### Measuring System used

Metre	मिटर (mitar)
Kilometre	किलोमिटर (kilomitar)
The yard measurement of length	गज (gaj)
A measure of land four yards square	फैदोम (pheidom)

Twenty *lasas* (of land)

5 *kathas* of land

Four *bighas* of land

सङ्गम (sangam)

मराक (maraak)

परी (paree)

### Number Elements

Zero	शिनो (shino)
One	अमा (amaa)
Two	अनि (ani)
Three	अहम (ahum)
Four	मरि (mari)
Five	मंगा (mangaa)
Six	तरुक (taruk)
Seven	तरेंग (taret)
Eight	निपान (nipaan)
Nine	मापन (maapan)
Ten	तरा (taraa)

### Native International Currency Symbol

Rs लुपा (lupaa)

### Collating Sequence and Sorting

Sorting as per unicode chart.

### Character, Word, Line and Sentence Break Rules

Comma	कोमा (,) (koma)
Semicolon	सेमिकलन (;) (semi kolon )
Colon	कलन (:) (kolon)
Exclamatory sign	अङ्कपा खुदम (!) (angakpa khudam)
Hyphen	हाइफेन (-) (haiphen)

### Weights and measurements

Gram	ग्राम (graam)
Kilogram	किलोग्राम (kilograam)
Litre	लिटर (litar)
Quintal	कुइन्टल (kuintal)

(Courtesy : Prof. Gautam Barua  
Department of Computer Science & Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology  
Guwahati 781 001 (Assam)  
Tel. 0361-690321-28 Cell No. : 098640-25475  
E-mail : gb@iitg.ernet.in)