

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: Working Group Document**Title: Proposal for encoding the Mende script in the SMP of the UCS****Source: UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)****Author: Michael Everson****Status: Liaison Contribution****Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC****Date: 2010-07-28**

1. Introduction. The Mende script, also called “Kikakui” for the first three characters in the system, was devised by Mohamed Turay, an Islamic scholar in the Sierra Leonean town of Maka, and further developed by his son-in-law and student, Kisimi Kamara, a tailor from the town of Vaama. Kamara's contribution was an additional 150 syllabic characters to Turay's original 42, and efforts to promote the script outside of the Barri chiefdom, in southern and eastern Sierra Leone, beginning in the 1920s. Although a Latin orthography for Mende predominates today, Kikakui was employed by missionaries in some early gospel translations dating from the 1920s, and Konrad Tuchscherer estimates that writers in the script today continue to number in the hundreds. As of 1991, the total population of Mende speakers was estimated at just under 1.5 million in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The script was used for record-keeping and correspondence, and some chiefdom clerks adopted it for official use. In 1940s, however, the British established the Protectorate Literacy Bureau in Bo, and a Latin orthography for Mende was taught. This contributed to the gradual disuse of the Mende script. The primary sources for the encoding proposed here are the chart in Figure 1 and David Dalby’s chart in Figure 2.

2. Structure. Mende is a syllabary, written from right to left.

3. Glyph variants. Dalby’s chart shows a number of glyph variants in parentheses. It is likely that these should be treated as Vai and Bamum glyph variants have been: that if they are required, either a dedicated font for them should be used, or OpenType tables to invoke alternate forms. The forms used in the chart are the primary ones given in Dalby.

4. Ordering. The only traditional order which exists for the syllabary is given in the first part, the 42 characters devised by Mohamed Turay. In Figure 1 below, it can be seen that the first 42 characters are ordered “sensibly” according to sound and shape, but the remaining 150 characters created by Kisimi Kamara are more or less randomly ordered. (There are reports that at least some of the sequences correspond to words or phrases in Mende.) It seems unlikely that such an ordering would be “useful” in practical terms, such as dictionary look-up. The ordering here has been based on Turay’s original scheme, but filling out the pattern with complete runs of syllables based on their initial sound. The assignments have been made thus:

Traditional	k-	w-	m-	b-	Ø-	s-	l-	d-	t-	j-	y-	f-	n-	h-
Supplement	ŋg-	g-	ŋ-	p-	mb-	kp-	gb-	r-	nd-	nj-	v-	j-		

The traditional order is given in a run from *k-* to *h-*; the supplementary initials have been ordered in a secondary run according to the same place of articulation (3 velars, 4 labials, a liquid, a pre-nasalized dental and palatal, a labiodental, a nasal). This provides a certain mnemonicity which is, in fact, present in the structure of the script: compare the shapes of \equiv DI, \equiv DA, \equiv DU with \equiv NDU, \equiv NDEE and the shapes of \odot FI, \odot FA, \odot FU, \odot FEE, with \odot VI, \odot VA, \odot VU, \odot VEE. This is the order used in the code chart, and the order recommended for collation.

In Dalby’s chart in Figure 2, the numbers indicate the order Dalby found in the materials he was analysing. Of interest are the first 42 characters, which form the basis for the ordering proposed here. Although the vowels in *he ha ho* depart from the *ki ka ku* pattern, it is still taken as the last of the “orderly” order, though *hi ha hu* has been used for the whole series. Note that the relative order of the *d-*, *s-*, and *l-* series differs in Dalby from what is given in Figure 1, which has *s-*, *l-*, *d-*. This is a normal variation as both orders are found in various sources and the order in Figure 1 has been settled on in consultation with Konrad Tuchscherer for standardization.

001 ki	023 la	045 wo	067 ndo	089 de	111 ga	133 fo	155 ngi	177 kua
002 ka	024 lu	046 hūa	068 pi	090 gi	112 kpo	134 njo	156 ngo	178 do
003 ku	025 ti	047 mbe-2	069 to	091 te	113 je	135 i	157 je	179 ndo
004 wi	026 ta	048 ko	070 gbo	092 kpa	114 wo	136 so	158 kpo	180 vi
005 wa	027 tu	049 wa-2	071 gbo	093 gbe	115 nge	137 ei	159 nga	181 nūa
006 wu	028 ji	050 pu	072 mbe	094 mō	116 se	138 bo	160 njo	182 ē
007 mī	029 ja	051 pe	073 le	095 ke	117 nē	139 we-2	161 mbe-2	183 ngo
008 mā	030 ju	052 hē	074 kpu	096 he	118 we	140 ho	162 se	184 nē
009 mū	031 yi	053 hī	075 fe	097 be	119 nde	141 yo	163 e	185 va
010 bi	032 ya	054 lo	076 ko	098 nyē	120 go	142 mbo	164 nyī	186 hu
011 ba	033 yu	055 te	077 vo	099 pa	121 yo	143 wei	165 o	187 mbu-2
012 bu	034 fi	056 gba	078 fe	100 ε	122 mbu	144 vo	166 gei	188 mbe
013 i	035 fa	057 hō	079 so	101 fā	123 ndi	145 mbi	167 gua	189 mūe
014 a	036 fu	058 nyā	080 ye	102 po	124 gbi	146 ge	168 gu	190 ge
015 u	037 nī	059 mē	081 pe	103 bo	125 ndu	147 o	169 nō	191 nde
016 di	038 nā	060 nyō	082 ngu	104 to	126 we	148 gbu	170 nyū	192 nju
017 da	039 nū	061 wi-2	083 hei	105 mbo	127 ngua	149 nje	171 ra	193 nge-2
018 du	040 he	062 mba	084 le	106 go	128 hou	150 be	172 mbo-2	194 we-2
019 si	041 ha	063 jo	085 ve	107 gbe	129 nda	151 vu	173 ve	195 ho-2
020 sa	042 ho	064 do	086 nge	108 kpe	130 hā	152 nja	174 mbo-2	
021 su	043 nā	065 ke	087 hū	109 ye	131 ē	153 lo	175 jo	
022 li	044 kpe	066 po	088 fo	110 lee	132 kpi	154 mūa	176 hi	

5. Character names. The usual UCS conventions are used, with EE representing *e*, E representing *ε*, OO representing *o*, O representing *o*, and NG representing *η*. There are several characters which are distinguished by suffixing “-2” to them in order to avoid duplicate names.

6. Linebreaking. Syllables and digits behave as do the syllables and numbers and in Vai and Bamum and should have the same properties. Evidently this is AL for the syllables and NU for the numbers.

7. Punctuation and digits. To date, no script-specific punctuation has been seen. Digits and numbers exist, and have been described in Tuchscherer 2007. Some of these may have been originally derived from the syllables used to represent the names of the numbers:

1 itaa	may be related to the syllable	i
≡ 4 naani	may be related to the syllable	> nan
∂ 6 weita	may be related to the syllable	∂ wei
∂ 7 wafela	may be related to the syllable	∂ wo

Ḑ 8 <i>wayakpa</i>	may be related to the syllable	Ḑ <i>wa</i>
ƒ 9 <i>taalu</i>	may be related to the syllable	ƒ <i>ta</i>
Ḑ 10 <i>puu</i>	may be related to the syllable	Ḑ <i>pu</i> .

There would be no benefit in trying to unify these with the base letters, however, and other numbers (2 *fele*, 3 *sawa*, 5 *lɔlu*) have no obvious analogue in the syllabary.

At present no digit zero exists, so decimal calculation appears not to be made in Mende. The Mende number system makes use of a variety of base characters and some modifier digits which are used to build larger numbers. The basic units are:

| 1, < 2, ʘ 3, ɔ 4, 8 5, ɔ 6, ɔ 7, Ḑ 8, ƒ 9, Ḑ 10

The teens are expressed as a combination of a digit over top of a base that indicates the teens:

1/ 11, </ 12, ʘ/ 13, ɔ/ 14, 8/ 15, ɔ/ 16, ɔ/ 17, Ḑ/ 18, ƒ/ 19

The tens are expressed as a combination of a digit over top of a base that indicates the tens:

Ḑ 20, ƒ 30, Ḑ 40, 8 50, ɔ 60, ɔ 70, Ḑ 80, ƒ 90

The hundreds are expressed as a combination of a digit over top of a base that indicates the hundreds:

1/ 100, 1/ 200, ʘ 300, ɔ 400, 8 500, ɔ 600, ɔ 700, Ḑ 800, ƒ 900

The thousands are expressed as a combination of a digit over top of a base that indicates the thousands:

1/ 1,000, 1/ 2,000, ʘ 3,000, ɔ 4,000, 8 5,000, ɔ 6,000, ɔ 7,000, Ḑ 8,000, ƒ 9,000

The ten thousands are expressed as a combination of a digit over top of a base that indicates the ten thousands:

1/ 10,000, 1/ 20,000, ʘ 30,000, ɔ 40,000, 8 50,000, ɔ 60,000, ɔ 70,000, Ḑ 80,000, ƒ 90,000

The hundred thousands are expressed as a combination of a digit over top of a base that indicates the hundred thousands:

1/ 100,000, 1/ 200,000, ʘ 300,000, ɔ 400,000, 8 500,000,
 ɔ 600,000, ɔ 700,000, Ḑ 800,000, ƒ 900,000

The millions are expressed as a combination of a digit over top of a base that indicates the millions:

1/ 1,000,000, 1/ 2,000,000, ʘ 3,000,000, ɔ 4,000,000, 8 5,000,000,
 ɔ 6,000,000, ɔ 7,000,000, Ḑ 8,000,000, ƒ 9,000,000

Consideration was given to attempting to “decompose” these numbers with a combining element above or below. This was rejected because it was felt that it was simpler to encode the numbers atomically, so that their character properties can have the correct value and for simplicity in rendering (since Mende has

otherwise no special rendering requirements). Numbers, like syllables, have right-to-left directionality, and because the system is positional, the numbers are combined with the larger unit first with the smaller units following:

᠔ᠡᠢ	27	᠊᠊	101
᠘ᠡᠢ	35	᠔ᠡᠢ	206
᠐ᠡᠢ	48	᠔ᠡᠢ	417
᠊ᠢ	51	᠎ᠠᠢ᠊᠊	594
ᠮᠡᠢ	63	ᠡᠢ᠊	620
ᠠᠡᠢ	72	᠔ᠡᠢ᠊᠊	787
᠔ᠡᠢ	86	ᠮᠡᠢ᠊᠊	833
᠎ᠠᠢ	94	᠊ᠡᠢ᠊᠊	999

7. Unicode Character Properties.

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1E800;MENDE SYLLABLE KI;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E801;MENDE SYLLABLE KA;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E802;MENDE SYLLABLE KU;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E803;MENDE SYLLABLE KEE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E804;MENDE SYLLABLE KE;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E805;MENDE SYLLABLE KOO;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E806;MENDE SYLLABLE KO;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E807;MENDE SYLLABLE KUA;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
..
1E8BE;MENDE SYLLABLE NYIN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E8BF;MENDE SYLLABLE NYAN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E8C0;MENDE SYLLABLE NYUN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E8C1;MENDE SYLLABLE NYEN;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E8C2;MENDE SYLLABLE NYON;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
1E8D1;MENDE DIGIT ONE;Nd;0;R;;1;1;1;N;;;;;
1E8D2;MENDE DIGIT TWO;Nd;0;R;;2;2;2;N;;;;;
1E8D3;MENDE DIGIT THREE;Nd;0;R;;3;3;3;N;;;;;
1E8D4;MENDE DIGIT FOUR;Nd;0;R;;4;4;4;N;;;;;
1E8D5;MENDE DIGIT FIVE;Nd;0;R;;5;5;5;N;;;;;
1E8D6;MENDE DIGIT SIX;Nd;0;R;;6;6;6;N;;;;;
1E8D7;MENDE DIGIT SEVEN;Nd;0;R;;7;7;7;N;;;;;
1E8D8;MENDE DIGIT EIGHT;Nd;0;R;;8;8;8;N;;;;;
1E8D9;MENDE DIGIT NINE;Nd;0;R;;9;9;9;N;;;;;
1E8DA;MENDE NUMBER TEN;No;0;R;;;10;N;;;;;
1E8DB;MENDE NUMBER ELEVEN;Nd;0;R;;;11;N;;;;;
1E8DC;MENDE NUMBER TWELVE;Nd;0;R;;;12;N;;;;;
1E8DD;MENDE NUMBER THIRTEEN;Nd;0;R;;;13;N;;;;;
1E8DE;MENDE NUMBER FOURTEEN;Nd;0;R;;;14;N;;;;;
1E8DF;MENDE NUMBER FIFTEEN;Nd;0;R;;;15;N;;;;;
1E8E0;MENDE NUMBER SIXTEEN;Nd;0;R;;;16;N;;;;;
1E8E1;MENDE NUMBER SEVENTEEN;Nd;0;R;;;17;N;;;;;
1E8E2;MENDE NUMBER EIGHTEEN;Nd;0;R;;;18;N;;;;;
1E8E3;MENDE NUMBER NINETEEN;Nd;0;R;;;19;N;;;;;
1E8E4;MENDE NUMBER TWENTY;Nd;0;R;;;20;N;;;;;
1E8E5;MENDE NUMBER THIRTY;Nd;0;R;;;30;N;;;;;
1E8E6;MENDE NUMBER FORTY;Nd;0;R;;;40;N;;;;;
1E8E7;MENDE NUMBER FIFTY;Nd;0;R;;;50;N;;;;;
1E8E8;MENDE NUMBER SIXTY;Nd;0;R;;;60;N;;;;;
1E8E9;MENDE NUMBER SEVENTY;Nd;0;R;;;70;N;;;;;
1E8EA;MENDE NUMBER EIGHTY;Nd;0;R;;;80;N;;;;;
1E8EB;MENDE NUMBER NINETY;Nd;0;R;;;90;N;;;;;
1E8EC;MENDE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;100;N;;;;;
1E8ED;MENDE NUMBER TWO HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;200;N;;;;;
1E8EE;MENDE NUMBER THREE HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;300;N;;;;;
1E8EF;MENDE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;400;N;;;;;
1E8F0;MENDE NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;500;N;;;;;
1E8F1;MENDE NUMBER SIX HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;600;N;;;;;
1E8F2;MENDE NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;700;N;;;;;
1E8F3;MENDE NUMBER EIGHT HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;800;N;;;;;
1E8F4;MENDE NUMBER NINE HUNDRED;Nd;0;R;;;900;N;;;;;
1E8F5;MENDE NUMBER ONE THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;1000;N;;;;;
1E8F6;MENDE NUMBER TWO THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;2000;N;;;;;
1E8F7;MENDE NUMBER THREE THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;3000;N;;;;;

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1E8F8;MENDE NUMBER FOUR THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;4000;N;;;;;
1E8F9;MENDE NUMBER FIVE THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;5000;N;;;;;
1E8FA;MENDE NUMBER SIX THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;6000;N;;;;;
1E8FB;MENDE NUMBER SEVEN THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;7000;N;;;;;
1E8FC;MENDE NUMBER EIGHT THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;8000;N;;;;;
1E8FD;MENDE NUMBER NINE THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;9000;N;;;;;
1E8FE;MENDE NUMBER TEN THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;10000;N;;;;;
1E8FF;MENDE NUMBER TWENTY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;20000;N;;;;;
1E900;MENDE NUMBER THIRTY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;30000;N;;;;;
1E901;MENDE NUMBER FORTY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;40000;N;;;;;
1E902;MENDE NUMBER FIFTY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;50000;N;;;;;
1E903;MENDE NUMBER SIXTY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;60000;N;;;;;
1E904;MENDE NUMBER SEVENTY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;70000;N;;;;;
1E905;MENDE NUMBER EIGHTY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;80000;N;;;;;
1E906;MENDE NUMBER NINETY THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;90000;N;;;;;
1E907;MENDE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;100000;N;;;;;
1E908;MENDE NUMBER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;200000;N;;;;;
1E909;MENDE NUMBER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;300000;N;;;;;
1E90A;MENDE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;400000;N;;;;;
1E90B;MENDE NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;500000;N;;;;;
1E90C;MENDE NUMBER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;600000;N;;;;;
1E90D;MENDE NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;700000;N;;;;;
1E90E;MENDE NUMBER EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;800000;N;;;;;
1E90F;MENDE NUMBER NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND;Nd;0;R;;;900000;N;;;;;
1E910;MENDE NUMBER ONE MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;1000000;N;;;;;
1E911;MENDE NUMBER TWO MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;2000000;N;;;;;
1E912;MENDE NUMBER THREE MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;3000000;N;;;;;
1E913;MENDE NUMBER FOUR MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;4000000;N;;;;;
1E914;MENDE NUMBER FIVE MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;5000000;N;;;;;
1E915;MENDE NUMBER SIX MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;6000000;N;;;;;
1E916;MENDE NUMBER SEVEN MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;7000000;N;;;;;
1E917;MENDE NUMBER EIGHT MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;8000000;N;;;;;
1E918;MENDE NUMBER NINE MILLION;Nd;0;R;;;9000000;N;;;;;

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9. Bibliography

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	1E80	1E81	1E82	1E83	1E84	1E85	1E86	1E87	1E88
0	1E800	1E810	1E820	1E830	1E840	1E850	1E860	1E870	1E880
1	1E801	1E811	1E821	1E831	1E841	1E851	1E861	1E871	1E881
2	1E802	1E812	1E822	1E832	1E842	1E852	1E862	1E872	1E882
3	1E803	1E813	1E823	1E833	1E843	1E853	1E863	1E873	1E883
4	1E804	1E814	1E824	1E834	1E844	1E854	1E864	1E874	1E884
5	1E805	1E815	1E825	1E835	1E845	1E855	1E865	1E875	1E885
6	1E806	1E816	1E826	1E836	1E846	1E856	1E866	1E876	1E886
7	1E807	1E817	1E827	1E837	1E847	1E857	1E867	1E877	1E887
8	1E808	1E818	1E828	1E838	1E848	1E858	1E868	1E878	1E888
9	1E809	1E819	1E829	1E839	1E849	1E859	1E869	1E879	1E889
A	1E80A	1E81A	1E82A	1E83A	1E84A	1E85A	1E86A	1E87A	1E88A
B	1E80B	1E81B	1E82B	1E83B	1E84B	1E85B	1E86B	1E87B	1E88B
C	1E80C	1E81C	1E82C	1E83C	1E84C	1E85C	1E86C	1E87C	1E88C
D	1E80D	1E81D	1E82D	1E83D	1E84D	1E85D	1E86D	1E87D	1E88D
E	1E80E	1E81E	1E82E	1E83E	1E84E	1E85E	1E86E	1E87E	1E88E
F	1E80F	1E81F	1E82F	1E83F	1E84F	1E85F	1E86F	1E87F	1E88F

	1E89	1E8A	1E8B	1E8C	1E8D	1E8E	1E8F	1E90	1E91
0	1E890	1E8A0	1E8B0	1E8C0	1E8D0	1E8E0	1E8F0	1E900	1E910
1	1E891	1E8A1	1E8B1	1E8C1	1E8D1	1E8E1	1E8F1	1E901	1E911
2	1E892	1E8A2	1E8B2	1E8C2	1E8D2	1E8E2	1E8F2	1E902	1E912
3	1E893	1E8A3	1E8B3	1E8C3	1E8D3	1E8E3	1E8F3	1E903	1E913
4	1E894	1E8A4	1E8B4	1E8C4	1E8D4	1E8E4	1E8F4	1E904	1E914
5	1E895	1E8A5	1E8B5	1E8C5	1E8D5	1E8E5	1E8F5	1E905	1E915
6	1E896	1E8A6	1E8B6	1E8C6	1E8D6	1E8E6	1E8F6	1E906	1E916
7	1E897	1E8A7	1E8B7	1E8C7	1E8D7	1E8E7	1E8F7	1E907	1E917
8	1E898	1E8A8	1E8B8	1E8C8	1E8D8	1E8E8	1E8F8	1E908	1E918
9	1E899	1E8A9	1E8B9	1E8C9	1E8D9	1E8E9	1E8F9	1E909	1E919
A	1E89A	1E8AA	1E8BA	1E8CA	1E8DA	1E8EA	1E8FA	1E90A	1E91A
B	1E89B	1E8AB	1E8BB	1E8CB	1E8DB	1E8EB	1E8FB	1E90B	1E91B
C	1E89C	1E8AC	1E8BC	1E8CC	1E8DC	1E8EC	1E8FC	1E90C	1E91C
D	1E89D	1E8AD	1E8BD	1E8CD	1E8DD	1E8ED	1E8FD	1E90D	1E91D
E	1E89E	1E8AE	1E8BE	1E8CE	1E8DE	1E8EE	1E8FE	1E90E	1E91E
F	1E89F	1E8AF	1E8BF	1E8CF	1E8DF	1E8EF	1E8FF	1E90F	1E91F

Syllables in k-

1E800	𐞁	MENDE SYLLABLE KI
1E801	𐞂	MENDE SYLLABLE KA
1E802	𐞃	MENDE SYLLABLE KU
1E803	𐞄	MENDE SYLLABLE KEE
1E804	𐞅	MENDE SYLLABLE KE
1E805	𐞆	MENDE SYLLABLE KOO
1E806	𐞇	MENDE SYLLABLE KO
1E807	𐞈	MENDE SYLLABLE KUA

Syllables in w-

1E808	𐞉	MENDE SYLLABLE WI
1E809	𐞊	MENDE SYLLABLE WI-2
1E80A	𐞋	MENDE SYLLABLE WA
1E80B	𐞌	MENDE SYLLABLE WA-2
1E80C	𐞍	MENDE SYLLABLE WU
1E80D	𐞎	MENDE SYLLABLE WEE
1E80E	𐞏	MENDE SYLLABLE WEE-2
1E80F	𐞐	MENDE SYLLABLE WE
1E810	𐞑	MENDE SYLLABLE WE-2
1E811	𐞒	MENDE SYLLABLE WOO
1E812	𐞓	MENDE SYLLABLE WO
1E813	𐞔	MENDE SYLLABLE WEI

Syllables in m-

1E814	𐞕	MENDE SYLLABLE MIN
1E815	𐞖	MENDE SYLLABLE MAN
1E816	𐞗	MENDE SYLLABLE MUN
1E817	𐞘	MENDE SYLLABLE MEN
1E818	𐞙	MENDE SYLLABLE MON
1E819	𐞚	MENDE SYLLABLE MUAN
1E81A	𐞛	MENDE SYLLABLE MUEN

Syllables in b-

1E81B	𐞜	MENDE SYLLABLE BI
1E81C	𐞝	MENDE SYLLABLE BA
1E81D	𐞞	MENDE SYLLABLE BU
1E81E	𐞟	MENDE SYLLABLE BEE
1E81F	𐞠	MENDE SYLLABLE BE
1E820	𐞡	MENDE SYLLABLE BOO
1E821	𐞢	MENDE SYLLABLE BO

Vowels

1E822	𐞣	MENDE SYLLABLE I
1E823	𐞤	MENDE SYLLABLE A
1E824	𐞥	MENDE SYLLABLE U
1E825	𐞦	MENDE SYLLABLE EE
1E826	𐞧	MENDE SYLLABLE E
1E827	𐞨	MENDE SYLLABLE OO
1E828	𐞩	MENDE SYLLABLE O
1E829	𐞪	MENDE SYLLABLE EI
1E82A	𐞫	MENDE SYLLABLE IN
1E82B	𐞬	MENDE SYLLABLE EEN
1E82C	𐞭	MENDE SYLLABLE EN

Syllables in s-

1E82D	𐞮	MENDE SYLLABLE SI
1E82E	𐞯	MENDE SYLLABLE SA
1E82F	𐞰	MENDE SYLLABLE SU
1E830	𐞱	MENDE SYLLABLE SEE
1E831	𐞲	MENDE SYLLABLE SE
1E832	𐞳	MENDE SYLLABLE SOO
1E833	𐞴	MENDE SYLLABLE SO

Syllables in l-

1E834	𐞵	MENDE SYLLABLE LI
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1E835	𐞶	MENDE SYLLABLE LA
1E836	𐞷	MENDE SYLLABLE LU
1E837	𐞸	MENDE SYLLABLE LEE
1E838	𐞹	MENDE SYLLABLE LE
1E839	𐞺	MENDE SYLLABLE LE-2
1E83A	𐞻	MENDE SYLLABLE LOO
1E83B	𐞼	MENDE SYLLABLE LO

Syllables in d-

1E83C	𐞽	MENDE SYLLABLE DI
1E83D	𐞾	MENDE SYLLABLE DA
1E83E	𐞿	MENDE SYLLABLE DU
1E83F	𐟀	MENDE SYLLABLE DEE
1E840	𐟁	MENDE SYLLABLE DOO
1E841	𐟂	MENDE SYLLABLE DO

Syllables in t-

1E842	𐟃	MENDE SYLLABLE TI
1E843	𐟄	MENDE SYLLABLE TA
1E844	𐟅	MENDE SYLLABLE TU
1E845	𐟆	MENDE SYLLABLE TEE
1E846	𐟇	MENDE SYLLABLE TE
1E847	𐟈	MENDE SYLLABLE TOO
1E848	𐟉	MENDE SYLLABLE TO

Syllables in j-

1E849	𐟊	MENDE SYLLABLE JI
1E84A	𐟋	MENDE SYLLABLE JA
1E84B	𐟌	MENDE SYLLABLE JU
1E84C	𐟍	MENDE SYLLABLE JEE
1E84D	𐟎	MENDE SYLLABLE JE
1E84E	𐟏	MENDE SYLLABLE JOO
1E84F	𐟐	MENDE SYLLABLE JO

Syllables in y-

1E850	𐟑	MENDE SYLLABLE YI
1E851	𐟒	MENDE SYLLABLE YA
1E852	𐟓	MENDE SYLLABLE YU
1E853	𐟔	MENDE SYLLABLE YEE
1E854	𐟕	MENDE SYLLABLE YE
1E855	𐟖	MENDE SYLLABLE YOO
1E856	𐟗	MENDE SYLLABLE YO

Syllables in f-

1E857	𐟘	MENDE SYLLABLE FI
1E858	𐟙	MENDE SYLLABLE FA
1E859	𐟚	MENDE SYLLABLE FU
1E85A	𐟛	MENDE SYLLABLE FEE
1E85B	𐟜	MENDE SYLLABLE FE
1E85C	𐟝	MENDE SYLLABLE FOO
1E85D	𐟞	MENDE SYLLABLE FO
1E85E	𐟟	MENDE SYLLABLE FAN

Syllables in n-

1E85F	𐟠	MENDE SYLLABLE NIN
1E860	𐟡	MENDE SYLLABLE NAN
1E861	𐟢	MENDE SYLLABLE NUN
1E862	𐟣	MENDE SYLLABLE NEN
1E863	𐟤	MENDE SYLLABLE NON

Syllables in h-

1E864	𐟥	MENDE SYLLABLE HI
1E865	𐟦	MENDE SYLLABLE HA
1E866	𐟧	MENDE SYLLABLE HU
1E867	𐟨	MENDE SYLLABLE HEE
1E868	𐟩	MENDE SYLLABLE HE
1E869	𐟪	MENDE SYLLABLE HOO

1E86A	𐌰	MENDE SYLLABLE HO
1E86B	𐌱	MENDE SYLLABLE HO-2
1E86C	𐌲	MENDE SYLLABLE HEEI
1E86D	𐌳	MENDE SYLLABLE HOOU
1E86E	𐌴	MENDE SYLLABLE HIN
1E86F	𐌵	MENDE SYLLABLE HAN
1E870	𐌶	MENDE SYLLABLE HUN
1E871	𐌷	MENDE SYLLABLE HEN
1E872	𐌸	MENDE SYLLABLE HON
1E873	𐌹	MENDE SYLLABLE HUAN

Syllables in ngg-

1E874	𐌺	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGI
1E875	𐌻	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGA
1E876	𐌼	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGU
1E877	𐌽	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGEE
1E878	𐌾	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGEE-2
1E879	𐌿	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGE
1E87A	𐍀	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGOO
1E87B	𐍁	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGO
1E87C	𐍂	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGUA

Syllables in g-

1E87D	𐍃	MENDE SYLLABLE GI
1E87E	𐍄	MENDE SYLLABLE GA
1E87F	𐍅	MENDE SYLLABLE GU
1E880	𐍆	MENDE SYLLABLE GEE
1E881	𐍇	MENDE SYLLABLE GE
1E882	𐍈	MENDE SYLLABLE GOO
1E883	𐍉	MENDE SYLLABLE GO
1E884	𐍊	MENDE SYLLABLE GUA
1E885	𐍋	MENDE SYLLABLE GEI

Syllables in ng-

1E886	𐍌	MENDE SYLLABLE NGAN
1E887	𐍍	MENDE SYLLABLE NGEN
1E888	𐍎	MENDE SYLLABLE NGUAN

Syllables in p-

1E889	𐍏	MENDE SYLLABLE PI
1E88A	𐍐	MENDE SYLLABLE PA
1E88B	𐍑	MENDE SYLLABLE PU
1E88C	𐍒	MENDE SYLLABLE PEE
1E88D	𐍓	MENDE SYLLABLE PE
1E88E	𐍔	MENDE SYLLABLE POO
1E88F	𐍕	MENDE SYLLABLE PO

Syllables in mb-

1E890	𐍖	MENDE SYLLABLE MBI
1E891	𐍗	MENDE SYLLABLE MBA
1E892	𐍘	MENDE SYLLABLE MBU
1E893	𐍙	MENDE SYLLABLE MBU-2
1E894	𐍚	MENDE SYLLABLE MBEE
1E895	𐍛	MENDE SYLLABLE MBEE-2
1E896	𐍜	MENDE SYLLABLE MBE
1E897	𐍝	MENDE SYLLABLE MBE-2
1E898	𐍞	MENDE SYLLABLE MBOO
1E899	𐍟	MENDE SYLLABLE MBOO-2
1E89A	𐍠	MENDE SYLLABLE MBO
1E89B	𐍡	MENDE SYLLABLE MBO-2

Syllables in kp-

1E89C	𐍢	MENDE SYLLABLE KPI
1E89D	𐍣	MENDE SYLLABLE KPA
1E89E	𐍤	MENDE SYLLABLE KPU
1E89F	𐍥	MENDE SYLLABLE KPPE
1E8A0	𐍦	MENDE SYLLABLE KPE

1E8A1	𐍧	MENDE SYLLABLE KPOO
1E8A2	𐍨	MENDE SYLLABLE KPO

Syllables in gb-

1E8A3	𐍩	MENDE SYLLABLE GBI
1E8A4	𐍪	MENDE SYLLABLE GBA
1E8A5	𐍫	MENDE SYLLABLE GBU
1E8A6	𐍬	MENDE SYLLABLE GBEE
1E8A7	𐍭	MENDE SYLLABLE GBE
1E8A8	𐍮	MENDE SYLLABLE GBOO
1E8A9	𐍯	MENDE SYLLABLE GBO

Syllable in r-

1E8AA	𐍰	MENDE SYLLABLE RA
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Syllables in nd-

1E8AB	𐍱	MENDE SYLLABLE NDI
1E8AC	𐍲	MENDE SYLLABLE NDA
1E8AD	𐍳	MENDE SYLLABLE NDU
1E8AE	𐍴	MENDE SYLLABLE NDEE
1E8AF	𐍵	MENDE SYLLABLE NDE
1E8B0	𐍶	MENDE SYLLABLE NDOO
1E8B1	𐍷	MENDE SYLLABLE NDO

Syllables in nj-

1E8B2	𐍸	MENDE SYLLABLE NJA
1E8B3	𐍹	MENDE SYLLABLE NJU
1E8B4	𐍺	MENDE SYLLABLE NJEE
1E8B5	𐍻	MENDE SYLLABLE NJOO
1E8B6	𐍼	MENDE SYLLABLE NJO

Syllables in v-

1E8B7	𐍿	MENDE SYLLABLE VI
1E8B8	𐎀	MENDE SYLLABLE VA
1E8B9	𐎁	MENDE SYLLABLE VU
1E8BA	𐎂	MENDE SYLLABLE VEE
1E8BB	𐎃	MENDE SYLLABLE VE
1E8BC	𐎄	MENDE SYLLABLE VOO
1E8BD	𐎅	MENDE SYLLABLE VO

Syllables in ny-

1E8BE	𐎆	MENDE SYLLABLE NYIN
1E8BF	𐎇	MENDE SYLLABLE NYAN
1E8C0	𐎈	MENDE SYLLABLE NYUN
1E8C1	𐎉	MENDE SYLLABLE NYEN
1E8C2	𐎊	MENDE SYLLABLE NYON

Digits

1E8D1	𐎋	MENDE DIGIT ONE
1E8D2	𐎌	MENDE DIGIT TWO
1E8D3	𐎍	MENDE DIGIT THREE
1E8D4	𐎎	MENDE DIGIT FOUR
1E8D5	𐎏	MENDE DIGIT FIVE
1E8D6	𐎐	MENDE DIGIT SIX
1E8D7	𐎑	MENDE DIGIT SEVEN
1E8D8	𐎒	MENDE DIGIT EIGHT
1E8D9	𐎓	MENDE DIGIT NINE

Teens

1E8DA	𐎔	MENDE NUMBER TEN
1E8DB	𐎕	MENDE NUMBER ELEVEN
1E8DC	𐎖	MENDE NUMBER TWELVE
1E8DD	𐎗	MENDE NUMBER THIRTEEN
1E8DE	𐎘	MENDE NUMBER FOURTEEN
1E8DF	𐎙	MENDE NUMBER FIFTEEN
1E8E0	𐎚	MENDE NUMBER SIXTEEN
1E8E1	𐎛	MENDE NUMBER SEVENTEEN

1E8E2 𐌲𐌸𐌸 MENDE NUMBER EIGHTEEN
 1E8E3 𐌲𐌸𐌹 MENDE NUMBER NINETEEN

1E917 𐌹𐌺𐌸𐌸 MENDE NUMBER EIGHT MILLION
 1E918 𐌹𐌺𐌸𐌹 MENDE NUMBER NINE MILLION

Tens

1E8E4 𐌲𐌸𐌺 MENDE NUMBER TWENTY
 1E8E5 𐌲𐌸𐌻 MENDE NUMBER THIRTY
 1E8E6 𐌲𐌸𐌼 MENDE NUMBER FORTY
 1E8E7 𐌲𐌸𐌽 MENDE NUMBER FIFTY
 1E8E8 𐌲𐌸𐌾 MENDE NUMBER SIXTY
 1E8E9 𐌲𐌸𐌿 MENDE NUMBER SEVENTY
 1E8EA 𐌲𐌹 MENDE NUMBER EIGHTY
 1E8EB 𐌲𐌺 MENDE NUMBER NINETY

Hundreds

1E8EC 𐌲𐌻 MENDE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED
 1E8ED 𐌲𐌼 MENDE NUMBER TWO HUNDRED
 1E8EE 𐌲𐌽 MENDE NUMBER THREE HUNDRED
 1E8EF 𐌲𐌾 MENDE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED
 1E8F0 𐌲𐌿 MENDE NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED
 1E8F1 𐌳 MENDE NUMBER SIX HUNDRED
 1E8F2 𐌳𐌰 MENDE NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED
 1E8F3 𐌳𐌱 MENDE NUMBER EIGHT HUNDRED
 1E8F4 𐌳𐌲 MENDE NUMBER NINE HUNDRED

Thousands

1E8F5 𐌳𐌳 MENDE NUMBER ONE THOUSAND
 1E8F6 𐌳𐌴 MENDE NUMBER TWO THOUSAND
 1E8F7 𐌳𐌵 MENDE NUMBER THREE THOUSAND
 1E8F8 𐌳𐌶 MENDE NUMBER FOUR THOUSAND
 1E8F9 𐌳𐌷 MENDE NUMBER FIVE THOUSAND
 1E8FA 𐌳𐌸 MENDE NUMBER SIX THOUSAND
 1E8FB 𐌳𐌹 MENDE NUMBER SEVEN THOUSAND
 1E8FC 𐌳𐌺 MENDE NUMBER EIGHT THOUSAND
 1E8FD 𐌳𐌻 MENDE NUMBER NINE THOUSAND

Ten thousands

1E8FE 𐌳𐌼 MENDE NUMBER TEN THOUSAND
 1E8FF 𐌳𐌽 MENDE NUMBER TWENTY THOUSAND
 1E900 𐌳𐌾 MENDE NUMBER THIRTY THOUSAND
 1E901 𐌳𐌿 MENDE NUMBER FORTY THOUSAND
 1E902 𐌴 MENDE NUMBER FIFTY THOUSAND
 1E903 𐌴𐌰 MENDE NUMBER SIXTY THOUSAND
 1E904 𐌴𐌱 MENDE NUMBER SEVENTY THOUSAND
 1E905 𐌴𐌲 MENDE NUMBER EIGHTY THOUSAND
 1E906 𐌴𐌳 MENDE NUMBER NINETY THOUSAND

Hundred thousands

1E907 𐌴𐌴 MENDE NUMBER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E908 𐌴𐌵 MENDE NUMBER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E909 𐌴𐌶 MENDE NUMBER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E90A 𐌴𐌷 MENDE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E90B 𐌴𐌸 MENDE NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E90C 𐌴𐌹 MENDE NUMBER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E90D 𐌴𐌺 MENDE NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E90E 𐌴𐌻 MENDE NUMBER EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND
 1E90F 𐌴𐌼 MENDE NUMBER NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND

Millions

1E910 𐌴𐌽 MENDE NUMBER ONE MILLION
 1E911 𐌴𐌾 MENDE NUMBER TWO MILLION
 1E912 𐌴𐌿 MENDE NUMBER THREE MILLION
 1E913 𐌵 MENDE NUMBER FOUR MILLION
 1E914 𐌵𐌰 MENDE NUMBER FIVE MILLION
 1E915 𐌵𐌱 MENDE NUMBER SIX MILLION
 1E916 𐌵𐌲 MENDE NUMBER SEVEN MILLION

10. Figures.

The table consists of approximately 20 rows and 15 columns of syllables. Each entry includes a unique symbol and a phonetic label. The labels are organized into groups, such as 'U AI', 'Bu Ba Bi', 'Mo Ma Mi', 'Wu Wa Wi', 'Ku Ka Ki' in the first row, and 'Ju Ndé', 'Mué', 'Hbe', 'Mbu' in the final row. The symbols are diverse, ranging from simple lines and dots to more complex geometric and organic shapes.

Figure 1. Table of Mende syllables. The chart reads from right to left. The first forty-two characters, from KI KA KU to HE HA HO are the ones first devised by Mohamed Turay.

Table II The Mende Syllabary										
	i	a	u	e	ε	ɔ	o	ua	ɛi	OTHER VOWELS
p	⁶⁸ 𐎗 (p)	⁹⁹ 𐎗 (u)	⁵⁰ 𐎗 (a)	⁸¹ 𐎗 (e)	⁵¹ 𐎗 (ε)	⁶⁶ 𐎗 (ɔ)	¹⁰² 𐎗 (o)			
w	⁴ 𐎗 (w)	⁵ 𐎗 (w)	⁶ 𐎗 (w)	¹²⁶ 𐎗 (w)	¹¹⁸ 𐎗 (w)	⁴⁵ 𐎗 (w)	¹¹⁴ 𐎗 (w)		¹⁴³ 𐎗 (w)	
mb	¹⁴⁵ 𐎗 (mb)	⁶² 𐎗 (mb)	¹²² 𐎗 (mb)	¹⁸⁸ 𐎗 (mb)	⁷² 𐎗 (mb)	¹⁴² 𐎗 (mb)	¹⁰⁵ 𐎗 (mb)			
b	¹⁰ 𐎗 (b)	¹¹ 𐎗 (b)	¹² 𐎗 (b)	¹⁵⁰ 𐎗 (b)	⁹⁷ 𐎗 (b)	¹³⁸ 𐎗 (b)	¹⁰³ 𐎗 (b)			
kp	¹³² 𐎗 (kp)	⁹² 𐎗 (kp)	⁷⁴ 𐎗 (kp)	⁴⁴ 𐎗 (kp)	¹⁰⁸ 𐎗 (kp)	¹⁵⁸ 𐎗 (kp)	¹¹² 𐎗 (kp)			
gb	¹²⁴ 𐎗 (gb)	⁵⁶ 𐎗 (gb)	¹⁴⁸ 𐎗 (gb)	⁹³ 𐎗 (gb)	¹⁰⁷ 𐎗 (gb)	⁷⁰ 𐎗 (gb)	⁷¹ 𐎗 (gb)			
f	³⁴ 𐎗 (f)	³⁵ 𐎗 (f)	³⁶ 𐎗 (f)	⁷⁸ 𐎗 (f)	⁷⁵ 𐎗 (f)	⁸⁸ 𐎗 (f)	¹³³ 𐎗 (f)			¹⁰¹ 𐎗 (fā)
v	¹⁸⁰ 𐎗 (v)	¹⁸⁵ 𐎗 (v)	¹⁵¹ 𐎗 (v)	¹⁷³ 𐎗 (v)	⁸⁵ 𐎗 (v)	⁷⁷ 𐎗 (v)	¹⁴⁴ 𐎗 (v)			
t	²⁵ 𐎗 (t)	²⁶ 𐎗 (t)	²⁷ 𐎗 (t)	⁹¹ 𐎗 (t)	⁵⁵ 𐎗 (t)	⁶⁹ 𐎗 (t)	¹⁰⁴ 𐎗 (t)			
l	²² 𐎗 (l)	²³ 𐎗 (l)	²⁴ 𐎗 (l)	⁸⁴ 𐎗 (l)	⁷³ 𐎗 (l)	¹⁵³ 𐎗 (l)	⁵⁴ 𐎗 (l)			¹¹⁰ 𐎗 (lce)
nd	¹²³ 𐎗 (nd)	¹²⁹ 𐎗 (nd)	¹²⁵ 𐎗 (nd)	¹⁹¹ 𐎗 (nd)	¹¹⁹ 𐎗 (nd)	¹⁷⁹ 𐎗 (nd)	⁶⁷ 𐎗 (nd)			
d	¹⁶ 𐎗 (d)	¹⁷ 𐎗 (d)	¹⁸ 𐎗 (d)	⁸⁹ 𐎗 (d)		⁶⁴ 𐎗 (d)	¹⁷⁸ 𐎗 (d)			

s	¹⁹ 𐎗 (s)	²⁰ 𐎗 (s)	²¹ 𐎗 (s)	¹⁶² 𐎗 (s)	¹¹⁶ 𐎗 (s)	⁷⁹ 𐎗 (s)	¹³⁶ 𐎗 (s)			
j	²⁸ 𐎗 (j)	²⁹ 𐎗 (j)	³⁰ 𐎗 (j)	¹⁵⁷ 𐎗 (j)	¹¹³ 𐎗 (j)	⁶³ 𐎗 (j)	¹⁷⁵ 𐎗 (j)			
nj		¹⁵² 𐎗 (nj)	¹⁹² 𐎗 (nj)	¹⁴⁹ 𐎗 (nj)		¹⁶⁰ 𐎗 (nj)	¹³⁴ 𐎗 (nj)			
y	³¹ 𐎗 (y)	³² 𐎗 (y)	³³ 𐎗 (y)	¹⁰⁹ 𐎗 (y)	⁸⁰ 𐎗 (y)	¹²¹ 𐎗 (y)	¹⁴¹ 𐎗 (y)			
ɲg	¹⁵⁵ 𐎗 (ɲg)	¹⁵⁹ 𐎗 (ɲg)	⁸² 𐎗 (ɲg)	¹¹⁵ 𐎗 (ɲg)	⁸⁶ 𐎗 (ɲg)	¹⁸³ 𐎗 (ɲg)	¹⁵⁶ 𐎗 (ɲg)	¹²⁷ 𐎗 (ɲg)		
g	⁹⁰ 𐎗 (g)	¹¹¹ 𐎗 (g)	¹⁶⁸ 𐎗 (g)	¹⁹⁰ 𐎗 (g)	¹⁴⁶ 𐎗 (g)	¹²⁰ 𐎗 (g)	¹⁰⁶ 𐎗 (g)	¹⁶⁷ 𐎗 (g)	¹⁶⁶ 𐎗 (g)	
k	¹ 𐎗 (k)	² 𐎗 (k)	³ 𐎗 (k)	⁶⁵ 𐎗 (k)	⁹⁵ 𐎗 (k)	⁴⁸ 𐎗 (k)	⁷⁶ 𐎗 (k)	¹⁷⁷ 𐎗 (k)		
h	¹⁷⁶ 𐎗 (h)	⁴¹ 𐎗 (h)	¹⁸⁶ 𐎗 (h)	⁴⁰ 𐎗 (h)	⁹⁶ 𐎗 (h)	¹⁴⁰ 𐎗 (h)	⁴² 𐎗 (h)			⁸³ hei (h)
-	¹³ 𐎗 (-)	¹⁴ 𐎗 (-)	¹⁵ 𐎗 (-)	¹⁶³ 𐎗 (-)	¹⁰⁰ 𐎗 (-)	¹⁴⁷ 𐎗 (-)	¹⁶⁵ 𐎗 (-)		¹³⁷ 𐎗 (-)	¹²⁸ hou (h)
NASAL SYLLABLES	ĩ	ã	ũ	ẽ	ɛ̃	õ				
h̃	⁵³ 𐎗 (h̃)	¹³⁰ 𐎗 (h̃)	⁸⁷ 𐎗 (h̃)		⁵² 𐎗 (h̃)	⁵⁷ 𐎗 (h̃)	⁴⁶ 𐎗 (h̃)			
m	⁷ 𐎗 (m)	⁸ 𐎗 (m)	⁹ 𐎗 (m)		⁵⁹ 𐎗 (m)	⁹⁴ 𐎗 (m)	¹⁵⁴ 𐎗 (m)			¹⁸⁹ mūc (m)
n	³⁷ 𐎗 (n)	³⁸ 𐎗 (n)	³⁹ 𐎗 (n)		¹¹⁷ 𐎗 (n)	¹⁶⁹ 𐎗 (n)				
ny	¹⁶⁴ 𐎗 (ny)	⁵⁸ 𐎗 (ny)	¹⁷⁰ 𐎗 (ny)		⁹⁸ 𐎗 (ny)	⁶⁰ 𐎗 (ny)				
ŋ		⁴³ 𐎗 (ŋ)			¹⁸⁴ 𐎗 (ŋ)		¹⁸¹ 𐎗 (ŋ)			
-	¹³⁵ 𐎗 (-)			¹⁸² 𐎗 (-)	¹³¹ 𐎗 (-)					

Figure 2. Table of Mende syllables from Dalby .

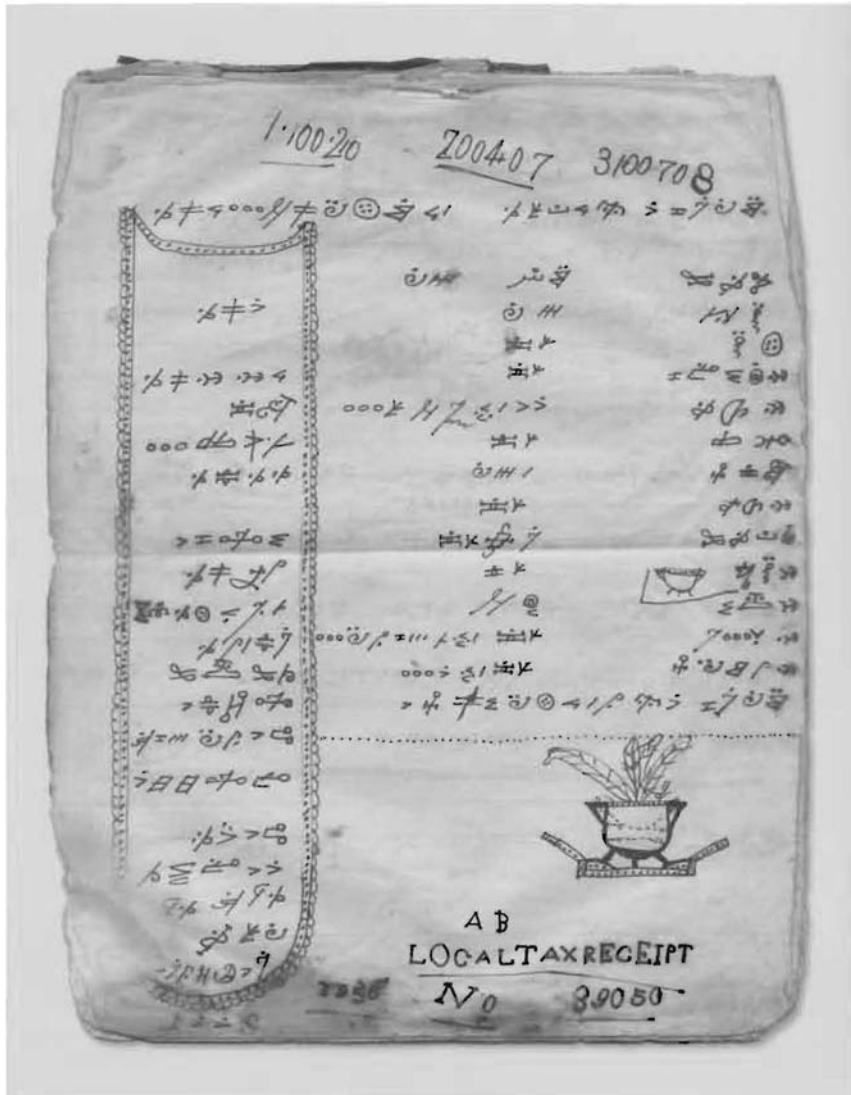


Figure 3. Tax receipt from Sierra Leone in Mende script, from Tuchscherer 2007.



Figure 4. An example of a Mende sign, made in 1993, intended to be put up in Potoru, headquarters of Barri Chiefdom. The text reads 𐎂𐎃 𐎄𐎅𐎆𐎇 *potolu bali*.

A. Administrative

1. Title

Proposal for encoding the Mende script in the SMP of the UCS

2. Requester's name

UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative (Universal Scripts Project)

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Liaison contribution.

4. Submission date

2010-07-28

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

No.

6b. More information will be provided later

Yes.

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

Yes.

1b. Proposed name of script

Mende.

1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

No.

1d. Name of the existing block

2. Number of characters in proposal

221.

3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)

Category A.

4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?

Yes.

4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Jason Glavy and Michael Everson.

5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, FontLab.

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes.

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

Yes.

8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

See above.

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

No.

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

No.

2b. If YES, with whom?

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

See above.

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

Relatively rare.

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

Scholars and some local use in Sierra Leone.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

No.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Yes.

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

No.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?