

Vocalic R etc in Mongolian Square

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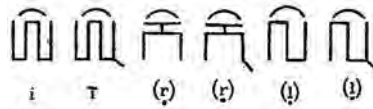
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L2/13-068 proposing the Mongolian Square script notes in §4.5 that the vocalic vowels R RR L LL do not have distinctive forms but are denoted by the sequences:

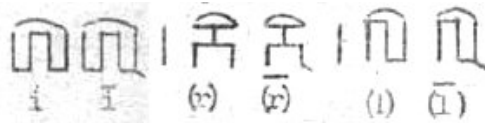
RA/LA + VOWEL SIGN I [+ LENGTH MARK]



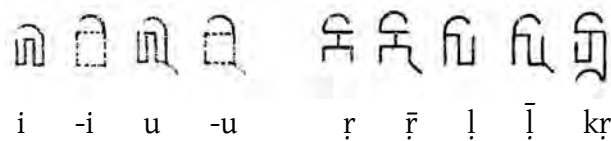
However the author and I suspect that the script may actually have distinct representation of these vocalic vowels. While Kara (p 14) does not show any distinction of the vocalic vowels from RI/RII/LI/LII that use the regular VOWEL SIGN I:



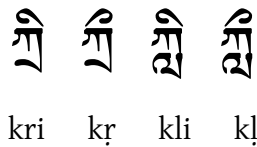
... Kapaj (p 15) however shows the cap on top as joined on the right to the consonant in VS-I but joined on both sides to the consonant in the vocalic vowels:



Shardarsürüng attests an even stronger contrast by showing the cap of the vocalic vowels joined on the left as against VS-I joined on the right: (extracts from pp 17 and 22:)



This is in line with the Tibetan affiliation of the script, since in Tibetan the vocalic vowels are represented using 0F80 VOWEL SIGN REVERSED I ̣ as against 0F72 VOWEL SIGN I ̆ where also the connection to the consonant is on the right in VS-I and on the left in the vocalic vowels:



Scholars are being consulted on this distinction, which would make it appropriate to differentiate VOWEL SIGN I from that of REVERSED II and hence separately encode the latter.

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