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Blin Geez Unicode

Typing Manual

ደለምዳኽ

ተኪኤ ዓልበኪት
ዳንኤል ያዕቆብዲ ካብስትሻነድ

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Oslo, Norway 2005

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Blin GeezUnicode

Introduction

In 2004, a committee of the Unicode Standard has accepted the Blin language, as a language which deserves support by computer software, and recognized its writing system. This is good news, and it means that the problem of writing Blin in Ge'ez script with computer will now be solved. Writing Blin in Ge'ez script, by computer has been difficult up to now, because the following two Ge'ez letters ((ሯ፦), representing the nasal velar stop sound ⟨ŋ⟩ (ng, ngwe) in Blin, were not fully introduced in Ge'ez software programs, and encoded in the Unicode Standard. These two Blin letters are now fully designed by computer, according to their original shapes, which are only found in old Blin literature. In addition, these Blin letters are registered in Unicode Standard 4.1, on March 31, 2005.

Blin GeezUnicode - is a Ge'ez software, which includes fully, the two Blin letters which were encoded in Unicode Standard 4.1. This Ge'ez software is meant for temporarily solving the problem of Blin writers, until the Ge'ez letters of Blin sound are fully integrated in all, or most of the Ge'ez software programs, which are available at the market.

Installation

1) The **BlinGeezUnicode.exe** file contains the **keyman installer** from **tavultesoft**. This file is started automatically, if you have received the file on a CD.

   To start it manually:

   a) Click it and follow the installation instructions.

   b) After successful installation, you will see the icon of the **tavultesoft keyman** on your programs.

      Choose **start>programs>tavultesot keyman** and you will see a pop-up menu with **Blin Keyboard-K keyman etc**.

   c) Click the **K** and it will appear on the right bottom of your tool bar.

   d) If you choose the **K** on the right bottom of your tool bar you will see a pop-up menu with a) **No keyman keyboard** b) **ብሊ Blin Letters**

How to select Blin Ge'ez Font

1) Click on **Blin Letters** on the right bottom of your tool bar.
2) select Blin Ge'ez (from fonts)

3) If you want to go back to **Latin script,** click on **No keyman keyboard**

4) Take a copy of typing manual to guide you on how to type Ge'ez letters. Choose Start **> Programs > Blin Ge'ez Keyboard > Blin Ge'ez Typing Manual.**

How to type Blin Ge'ez letters

1. Generally speaking, typing Blin Ge'ez letters is the same as in other Ge'ez softwares, for writing Tigrigna and Amharic as the following:-

You type	he	hu	hi	ha	hie	h	ho
You get	ሀ	ሁ	ሂ	ሃ	ሄ	ህ	ሆ

(Add space after 6th order consonant, before writing a vowel. Example: - to write "ድአም", first write "ድ" then leave space and write "አም" as "ድ አም". Finally join the two parts by using the space back arrow, to avoid writing "ዳም".

2. The two distinct nasal velar stop Blin sound letters, **nge** and **ngwe** are typed as the following:-

You type	Ge	Gu	Gi	Ga	Gie	G	Go
	ኘ	ኙ	ኚ	ኛ	ኜ	ኝ	ኞ
You type	Gue	Gui	Gua	Guie	Guu		
	ኟ	ኟ	ኟ	ኟ	ኙ		

3) As a general guide line for typing all the Blin Ge'ez letters, please, follow the keyboard and its layout guides on the following pages.

4) Typing Ge'ez numbers can be different according to the computer keyboard configurations. Please, try to solve this problem by trying alternative ways of typing.

5) By default, English numbers appear when typing Numbers with the Blin keyboard. On some computers Ge'ez numbers can be typed by first typing a ' before the number (example '1=፩, '2=፪, etc). If this approach does not work on your computer, you may select the "Ge'ez Numbers"፩ keyboard from the Keyman menu and then type the Ge'ez numbersdirectly (without ').

ኪቦርድ ከተብኒ መርሓይ
KEYBOARD LAYOUT GUIDE

ሀ	ሁ	ሂ	ሃ	ሄ	ህ	ሆ
he	hu	hi	ha	hie	h	ho
ለ	ሉ	ሊ	ላ	ሌ	ል	ሎ
le	lu	li	la	lie	l	lo
ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ
He	Hu	Hi	Ha	Hie	H	Ho
መ	ሙ	ሚ	ማ	ሜ	ም	ሞ
me	mu	mi	ma	mie	m	mo
ሠ	ሡ	ሢ	ሣ	ሤ	ሥ	ሦ
sse	ssu	ssi	ssa	ssie	s	so
ረ	ሩ	ሪ	ራ	ሬ	ር	ሮ
re	ru	ri	ra	rie	r	ro
ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ	ሶ
se	su	si	sa	sie	s	so
ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ
xe	xu	xi	xa	xie	x	xo
ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ
qe	qu	qi	qa	qie	q	qo
ቐ	ቑ	ቒ	ቓ	ቔ	ቕ	ቖ
Qe	Qu	Qi	Qa	Qie	Q	Qo
በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ
be	bu	bi	ba	bie	b	bo

ተ	ቱ	ቲ	ታ	ቴ	ት	ቶ
te	tu	ti	ta	tie	t	to
ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቾ
ce	cu	ci	ca	cie	c	co
ኀ	ኁ	ኂ	ኃ	ኄ	ኅ	ኆ
hhe	hhu	hhi	hha	hhie	hh	hho
ነ	ኑ	ኒ	ና	ኔ	ን	ኖ
ne	nu	ni	na	nie	n	no
ኘ	ኙ	ኚ	ኛ	ኜ	ኝ	ኞ
Ne	Nu	Ni	Na	Nie	N	No
አ	ኡ	ኢ	ኣ	ኤ	እ	ኦ
A	u	i	a	ie	e	o
ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ክ	ኮ
ke	ku	ki	ka	kie	k	ko
ኸ	ኹ	ኺ	ኻ	ኼ	ኽ	ኾ
Ke	Ku	Ki	Ka	Kie	K	Ko
ወ	ዉ	ዊ	ዋ	ዌ	ው	ዎ
we	wu	wi	wa	wie	w	wo
ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዔ	ዕ	ዖ
eee	eeu	eei	eea	eeie	ee	eeo
ዘ	ዙ	ዚ	ዛ	ዜ	ዝ	ዞ
ze	zu	zi	za	zie	z	zo
ዠ	ዡ	ዢ	ዣ	ዤ	ዥ	ዦ
Ze	Zu	Zi	Za	Zie	Z	Zo

ዬ	ዩ	ዪ	ያ	ዬ	ይ	ዮ
ye	yu	Yi	ya	yie	y	yo
ደ	ዱ	ዲ	ዳ	ዴ	ድ	ዶ
de	du	di	da	die	d	do
ጀ	ጁ	ጂ	ጃ	ጄ	ጅ	ጆ
je	ju	ji	ja	jie	j	jo
ገ	ጉ	ጊ	ጋ	ጌ	ግ	ጎ
ge	gu	gi	ga	gie	g	go
ኘ	ኙ	ኚ	ኛ	ኜ	ኝ	ኞ
Ge	Gu	Gi	Ga	Gie	G	Go
ጠ	ጡ	ጢ	ጣ	ጤ	ጥ	ጦ
Te	Tu	Ti	Ta	Tie	T	To
ጨ	ጩ	ጪ	ጫ	ጬ	ጭ	ጮ
Ce	Cu	Ci	Ca	Cie	C	Co
ጰ	ጱ	ጲ	ጳ	ጴ	ጵ	ጶ
Pe	Pu	Pi	Pa	Pie	P	Po
ጸ	ጹ	ጺ	ጻ	ጼ	ጽ	ጾ
Se	Su	Si	Sa	Sie	S	So
ፀ	ፁ	ፂ	ፃ	ፄ	ፅ	ፆ
SSe	SSu	SSi	SSa	SSie	SS	SSo
ፈ	ፉ	ፊ	ፋ	ፌ	ፍ	ፎ
fe	fu	fi	fa	fie	f	fo
ፐ	ፑ	ፒ	ፓ	ፔ	ፕ	ፖ
pe	pu	pi	pa	pie	p	po

ᖻ	ᖼ	ᖽ	ᖾ	ᖿ	ᗀ	ᗁ
ve	vu	vi	va	vie	v	vo
ᘀ	.	ᘁ	ᘂ	ᘃ	ᘄ	.
kue	.	kui	kua	kuie	kuu	.
ᘇ	.	ᘈ	ᘉ	ᘊ	ᘋ	.
Kue	.	Kui	Kua	Kuie	Kuu	.
ᘌ	.	ᘍ	ᘎ	ᘏ	ᘐ	.
que	.	qui	qua	quie	quu	.
ᘑ	.	ᘒ	ᘓ	ᘔ	ᘕ	.
Que	.	Qui	Qua	Quie	Quu	.
ᘖ	.	ᘗ	ᘘ	ᘙ	ᘚ	.
gue	.	gui	gua	guie	guu	.
ᘛ	.	ᘜ	ᘝ	ᘞ	ᘟ	.
Gue	.	Gui	Gua	Guie	Guu	.
ᘠ	.	ᘡ	ᘢ	ᘣ	ᘤ	.
hWe	.	hWi	hWa	hWie	hWu	.
ᘥ	ᘦ	ᘧ	ᘨ	ᘩ	ᘪ	etc.
lua	mua	rua	sua	bua	tua	
ᘫ	ᘬ	ᘭ	ᘮ	ᘯ		
Ø	ØØ	,	Ø	?		

Blin Language Registered in the Unicode Standard

25-02-05

(By Tekie Alibekit)

The ISO 639-2 Joint Advisory Committee, which advises registration authorities and guides coding rule applications
has some established criterion, supplemented by its resolutions, for defining new languages in ISO 639-2. One of the main criteria for defining new languages in ISO 639-2 is presenting evidence, which proves that one agency holds at least 50 different documents in that language.

The Blin Language has fulfilled the criteria for defining new languages in ISO 639-2. The acting chairman of the ISO 639 Registration Authority's Joint Advisory Committee, Mr. Håvard Hjulstad, confirmed the approval of Blin, on his letter of October 27, 2003 to the different organs of of the ISO 639, to include Blin on their lists.

This is a great victory for the Blin language, because it has gained recognition as one of the interesting languages of the world, which deserves support by computer software. It is also very good news for all Blin language speakers and others who are interested in the development of Blin and its writing system.

In addition to achieving recognition of Blin language in an international standard, recognition and support has also been accomplished for the Blin writing system. The Blin letters, or two characters of the Ge'ez alphabet, which

are very crucial for the writing of distinct Blin sounds, are now included in the International Unicode StandardSystem.

The Unicode Standard is a character coding system designed to support the worldwide interchange, processing and display of the written texts of diverse languages and technical disciplines of the modern world.

The two Blin letters of Ge'ez alphabet which are now registered at the Unicode Standard, are the velar nasal stop "nge" (which has 7 forms) and its labialized sibling "ngwe" (which has 5 forms). In English, the sound of the nasal stop [ŋ] is written by combining two letters, n and g as in bang, sing, long etc. These two Blin letters were well documented as part of the Ge'ez alphabet in Leo Reinisch's 1882-1887 Blin books, and the present computer designed letters are copied from these old Blin documents. The regular "nge" letters were included in the Unicode 3.0 standard, but had the wrong shapes. The "ngwe" letters were not included however, so we undertook the effort to include the labialized letters and correct the shapes of the others.

The draft work for proposing and submitting Blin to be encoded in the Unicode Standard has started at the beginning of 2001, and the final proposal was submitted to the ISO 10646 Working Group in May 2004. The results we can now expect to see in the Unicode 4.1 standard coming early next year.

Parallel with the drafting of the proposal, the work of computer design of the Blin letters according to their

original shapes has been going on, and the letters are now perfectly designed as the original ones.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Daniel Yacob, who is a devoted researcher with the objective, as he put it, “to get Ge’ez on as many computers as possible, before the lack of Ge’ez causes English and other languages to corrode language and culture”. The computer design of the Blin letters was carried out by Daniel, who did it with my close co-operation, whereby I helped him by providing the original shapes of the Blin letters, from old Blin documents, and from time to time recommended to him to make the necessary changes until the letters were at last refined and polished to their original shape. Daniel also contributed greatly on drafting the proposal for encoding Blin for which we were both co-authors.

I would also like to thank Dr. Kiflemariam Hamde, for his encouragement of our work of designing the Blin letters, and joining us to submit the proposal for encoding Blin in the Unicode Standard.

The success of Blin, in fulfilling the creiteria for defining new languages primarily depended on the availability of over 50 Blin documents. These Blin documents were collections of Blin literature, starting from the year 1857 upto 2001. Thus, my praise and admiration goes to everybody, who contributed to producing Blin literature.

Especially I would like to mention the name of Professor Leo Reinisch, who laid the foundation of pioneering works in Blin literature, by writing four Blin books,

including a Blin dictionary, from 1882 up to 1887. I would also like to mention the name of Fr. Kiflemariam Fadega, who initially inspired and encouraged the present Blin generation, to be aware in developing their own language, even though his poor health condition did not give him the opportunity to put his ambitious plans about Blin in action.

Blin is now registered on the Register of codes for Representation of names of languages (library of Congress). The registry of codes can be viewed at the following web address:-
http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/englangn.html#ab

A Blin translation of "What Is Unicode?", "Unicode Wreni Gin?" is available at the Unicode Home Page, at the following web address: - (Present Blin translation may be updated for some corrections.)

http://www.unicode.org/standard/translations/blin.html

Hopefully, the Blin letters will gradually be included in many Ge'ez software programs, and until that time, I will be at the disposal of every one who wants to write in Blin. Please, contact me by the following e-mail address: - tekie.al@online.no

(N.B: The above article was written before the encoding of the Blin letters in the Unicode Standard.Since 2008 the Blin letters mentioned in this manual are included in GezzWord. Thus, any person who wants to write in Blin can now buy GeezWord from www.geezsoft.com, by contacting Ato Yemane Russom, Tel. 713 660 9913.)