Lepcha Unicode MSKLC Keyboard

Background and overview

The Lepcha Windows keyboard was designed for the Lepcha language. This implementation of the Lepcha keyboard has been built using Microsoft Keyboard Layout Creator 1.4.

The keyboard is somewhat based on the legacy font layout that the "JG Lepcha" font used. To type LEPCHA LETTER KA, you would type the letter "k" on the keyboard. To type LEPCHA LETTER KHA, you would type "K".

The Lepcha script, as encoded in Unicode, requires some reordering. That means that although the vowel might display before a consonant, it is actually stored in the computer after the consonant. This keyboard requires you to type characters in Unicode order. That is:

C(.)(R)(Y)(V)(F)(^)

This translates into Consonant followed by optional nukta, followed by optional Ra, followed by optional Ya, followed by optional Dependent vowel, followed by optional Consonant sign, followed by optional Ran. It is then up to the font to display them in the correct order.

In the charts below, the keystroke is in the top row, the character is below that and the Unicode Scalar Value (USV) is in the 3rd row. To type 𑓓𑓐𑓰 you would type "miV_zD_". To type 𑓐𑓰 you would type "A?oX".

Software requirements

- Windows XP or later.

- Because Lepcha is not implemented in Windows Uniscribe rendering, the only way this keyboard will work is if it is used with the Mingat font (http://scripts.sil.org/Mingzat) using an application that supports Graphite rendering, such as LibreOffice.

Installing and uninstalling the keyboard

To install the keyboard, go to the Lepcha folder, and double-click on Setup.exe.

Repeat this procedure to **uninstall** the keyboard.

Note: While one can remove the keyboard from within the "Text Services and Input Languages" control panel, the Setup program does a more thorough job of removing all components of the keyboard from the system.

Activating the keyboard

The software used to create the keyboard (Microsoft Keyboard Layout Creator) requires that the keyboard be associated with some language. Unfortunately, Windows does not yet offer Lepcha as an option, so a different language had to be chosen. Luxembourgish was used.

Installing the keyboard should have activated the Language Toolbar. This will usually be located near

the right end of the Taskbar, but it may be free floating. It will display a two-letter language code which indicates what the current input language is. (EN will be displayed if the input language is English.)

Click on the existing language code to change it.

A menu will pop up showing the input language options. To select Lepcha, click on "LB – Luxembourgish (Luxembourgh)".

You can now use the keyboard in your document. The layout of the keyboard is on the next pages.

Modifying the keyboard layout

Microsoft Keyboard Layout Creator is required to edit and rebuild the keyboard. All source files should be included with this distribution. The source files include:

Lepcha.klc

LepchaMSKLCLayout.odt

Keyboard Layout

Consonants

k	W	K	g	x	G	c	C	j	J	t	T
ᰀ	ᰁ	ᰂ	ᰃ	ᰄ	ᰅ	ᰆ	ᰇ	ᰈ	ᰉ	ᰊ	ᰋ
1c00	1c01	1c02	1c03	1c04	1c05	1c06	1c07	1c08	1c09	1c0a	1c0b
d	n	p	Y	P	f	F	b	E	m	I	q
ᰌ	ᰍ	ᰎ	ᰏ	ᰐ	ᰑ	ᰒ	ᰓ	ᰔ	ᰕ	ᰖ	ᰗ
1c0c	1c0d	1c0e	1c0f	1c10	1c11	1c12	1c13	1c14	1c15	1c16	1c17
Q	z	y	r	l	h	H	v	s	S	w	A
ᰘ	ᰙ	ᰚ	ᰛ	ᰜ	ᰝ	ᰞ	ᰟ	ᰠ	ᰡ	ᰢ	ᰣ
1c18	1c19	1c1a	1c1b	1c1c	1c1d	1c1e	1c1f	1c20	1c21	1c22	1c23

Dependent Vowels

a	i	O	o	u	U	e
⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨
1c26	1c27	1c28	1c29	1c2a	1c2b	1c2c

Consonant Signs

X	M	L	N	B	R	D	Z	V
⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨
1c2d	1c2e	1c2f	1c30	1c31	1c32	1c33	1c34	1c35

Various Signs

?	/	_	;
⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨
1c24	1c25	1c36	1c37

Numerals

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
○	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨
1c40	1c41	1c42	1c43	1c44	1c45	1c46	1c47	1c48	1c49

Extra-orthographical Marks / Punctuation

'	"	=	+	.	{	}	|
⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨	⟨
1c3b	1c3c	1c3d	1c3e	1c3f	1c4d	1c4e	1c4f

Consonant Conjuncts

k?	W?	K?	g?	x?	t?	T?	d?	p?	Y?	P?	f?

F?	b?	E?	m?	I?	r?	l?	h?	H?	v?	S?	a?

k/	g/	G/	p/	f/	b/	m/	h/

k/?	g/?	G/?	p/?	f/?	b/?	m/?	h/?

Nuktas

ki/	gi/	hi/	ri	zi

Keyboard Layout

Unshifted

Shifted

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Technical Support

If you have problems using the Lepcha keyboard, please contact:

> User Support
> SIL Non-Roman Script Initiative
> 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Rd
> Dallas, TX 75236
> USA
> E-mail: mailto:nrsi@sil.org