The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2022 - Round 1

Problem 2. Buhid Script (5 marks)

Buhid is spoken by the Mangyan people on the island of Mindoro in the Philippines. In 2009 there were about 9,300 Buhid speakers. Buhid is also known as Mangyan. It is written in the Buhid script, which is descended from Southern Indian scripts which spread east via the Indonesian islands of Sumatra, Java, and Bali.

In the table below left is the text of a Buhid song, with some of it transliterated into the Roman alphabet.

However some of the transliteration is missing: each number refers to a complete word in Buhid, and each underscore _ indicates where there is a letter missing.

Q 2.1 Complete the missing words of the transliteration.

Buhid script	Transliteration in Roman alphabet
﹦ﰀ﹦ﰀ﹦﹣𝄤ퟓ	kahu (1) _ _ _ _ ku malagu
﹦ﬡﬡﬡﬡ퟼ퟓퟍ	(2)_ _ _ _ _ _ buya si ulu
﹦ퟍﬡퟍﬡ퟼ퟍퟓ	(3)_ _ _ _ _ _ (4)_ _ _ _ si dagu
ퟍ𝄤﹦ퟓퟍ±𝄤ﬡ	dalika (5) _ _ parumiya
퟼ﰀ𝄤﹦ퟓﬡ𝄤ﬡ﹦	sihamu ka (6) _ _ (7) _ _ _ _ (8) _ _ _ _
ퟍﱼퟓ𝄤ﬡ﹦﹦𝄤	ana umabu ka nimu

1. __ __ __ __   5. __ __

2. __ __ __ __ __ __   6. __ __

3. __ __ __ __ __ __   7. __ __ __ __

4. __ __ __ __   8. __ __ __ __

Buhid is a type of script that is known as "abugida".

Q 2.2 Write "abugida" in the Buhid script:

9. abugida =

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2022 - Round 1

Solution and marking.
Scoring: (max 20)

- Q2.1: 1 point per 'slot' (i.e. syllables separated by +)   [max 16]
    - expect the specified number of slots, so extra syllables have to be squeezed into one of these slots and therefore create an error; e.g. for *ka+hu, baka+hu* = 0 + 1.
- Q2.2: 1 point per glyph/character   [max 4]
    - ignore extra characters.

Q 2.1 Complete the missing words of the transliteration.

1. ka+hu	2		5. sa	1
2. ka+bu+ya	3		6. sa	1
3. ka+du+ya	3		7. ba+la	2
4. du+ya	2		8. ba+ku	2

Buhid is a type of script that is known as "abugida".

Q 2.2 Write "abugida" in the Buhid script:

9. abugida =

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2022 - Round 1

Commentary

Translation of the text: (for information only, not needed for solving the puzzle).

"like a tree with overgrown branches
my mind is full of turmoil
though loaded with pain and grief
my dreams continually seek for an end
let it be known that I am on my way
perchance you'll catch up with me."

Buhid Syllables[2]

transcription	k	g	ng	t	d	n	p	b	m	y	r	l	w	s	h
consonant + a	꞊	ꞁ	ꞃ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	–	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ
consonant + i	ꞁ	ꞁ	ꞃ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ
consonant + u	꞊	ꞁ	ꞃ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ⃫	ꞁ

Buhid is a syllabic script (abugida), which means its consonant characters automatically contain the vowel sound 'a'. The list of consonant-vowel pairs pasted below comes from the Wikipedia article on this script. Where the vowels, a, i, and u occur independently, there is an independent vowel character, but otherwise, vowels are indicated with the characters of the consonants. A character without a diacritic mark has an inherent 'a', a character with a short horizontal line at the top right of it, means the inherent vowel is 'i' and a short horizontal line at the bottom right of the character means the inherent vowel is 'u'.

For example, when writing in Buhid script, there is no spacing between words:

᷁/ = da   ᷁7 = di   ᷁/ = du

References:

Ager, S. (1998 – 2021) Buhid. Omniglot [website]. Retrieved from: https://omniglot.com/writing/buhid.htm

Lopez, V.B. (1976) *The Mangyans of Mindoro. An ethnohistory*. Quezon City: The University of the Philippines Press