

(F) Lontara (1/2)

Hints

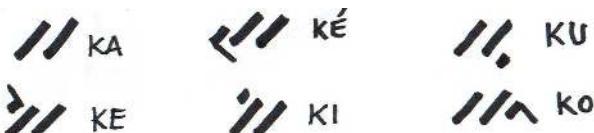
Hint 1: The phrase mattampa puang lé ri batara is repeated twice in the scrambled Latin-alphabet Buginese text. Can you find a series of characters that is repeated twice in the Lontara-script Buginese text? Use this as a foothold for discovering what some symbols mean, and learning more symbols.

Hint 2: Try thinking of the symbols as syllables instead of letters.

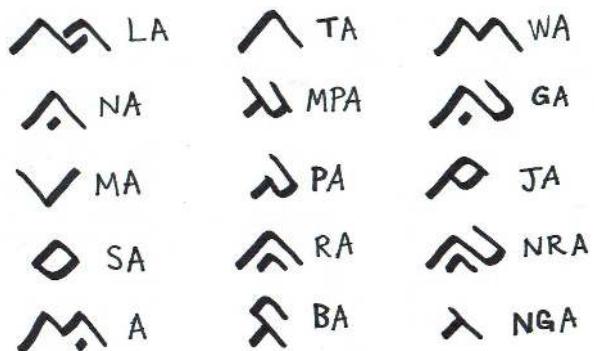
The Lontara script

Each symbol is a single syllable. Lontara is an abugida: the larger, core part of each symbol represents the initial consonant or consonants, while any smaller, accentuating mark represents the vowel.

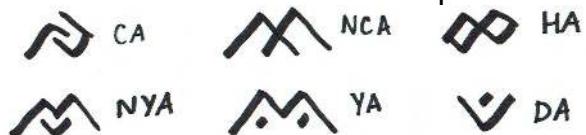
When there is no vowel mark, the syllable defaults to the vowel "A". When a vowel mark is present, the "A" changes to the corresponding vowel. This is similar to Devanagari, another abugida.



Here are more consonants of the Lontara script, in the order they appear in the Buginese text.



For fun, here are some consonants which were not used in the problem.



Although some of the Buginese syllables have final consonants, Lontara does not have a way to write down the final consonants. So the -ng and -q at the end of many of the Buginese words have no representation in the Lontara script: they are ignored. Doubled consonants, as in mattampa, are also ignored and just treated as single consonants (matampa). Lastly, spaces are ignored.

A single punctuation mark (at right) is used to represent both the comma and the period.



Reference for the Lontaran script: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lontara_alphabet



(F) Lontara (2/2)

The unscrambled poem

Lé namasuaq mua na sia
mattampa Puang lé ri batara,
mappaleq wali ri Pérétiwi.
Tammaga Puang muloq séua rijajiammu,
tabareq-bareq ri atawareng,
ajaq naonro lobbang linoé
makkatajangeng ri atawareng.
Teddewata iq. Puang, rékkua masuaq tau
ri awa langiq, lé ri ménéqna Pérétiwié,
mattampa Puang lé ri batara.

*There is no one
to call the gods Lord,
or to offer praise to the Underworld.
Why Lord don't you have one of your children descend,
and incarnate him on the earth,
do not leave the world empty and
the earth uninhabited.
You are not a god, Lord, if there are no humans
under the heavens, above the Underworld,
to call the gods Lord.*

The Buginese text and translation were taken from a paper by Sirtjo Koolhof about the epic poem:
<http://www.sabrizain.org/malaya/library/lagaligo.pdf>

Answers

Problem 1

1. B
2. E
3. D
4. I
5. H
6. A
7. C
8. J
9. G
10. F

Problem 2

lord = puang

underworld = pérétiwi OR pérétiwié

earth = atawareng

Problem 3

Sulawesi

The Sulawesi Lontara script consists of five characters: a vertical line with a dot at the top, a horizontal line with a dot at the left end, a diagonal line pointing up and to the right, a vertical line with a dot at the bottom, and a horizontal line with a dot at the right end.

Amparita

The Amparita Lontara script consists of four characters: a horizontal line with a dot at the left end, a diagonal line pointing up and to the right, a horizontal line with a dot at the right end, and a diagonal line pointing down and to the right.

La Galigo

The La Galigo Lontara script consists of six characters: a horizontal line with a dot at the left end, a diagonal line pointing up and to the right, a horizontal line with a dot at the right end, a diagonal line pointing up and to the right, a horizontal line with a dot at the left end, and a diagonal line pointing up and to the right.

Tenriabéng

The Tenriabéng Lontara script consists of five characters: a diagonal line pointing up and to the right, a horizontal line with a dot at the left end, a diagonal line pointing up and to the right, a horizontal line with a dot at the right end, and a diagonal line pointing up and to the right.

Tompoq Tikkaq

The Tompoq Tikkaq Lontara script consists of four characters: a horizontal line with a dot at the left end, a diagonal line pointing up and to the right, a horizontal line with a dot at the right end, and a diagonal line pointing up and to the right.

