**Some Guidelines/Help for Approximate Text Alignment**

**Possible Main/Root letters**: all (= 30). Note: Nowadays Tibetologists normally transcribe using the so-called Wylie system, which means that we do not use diacritics, and thus some Tibetan letter are transcribed with two, sometimes three, consonants. Also note: (1) apostrophe – ’, ' – stands for one of the 30 Tibetan letter; (2) “a” is one of the 30 letters:

k, kh, g, ng

c, ch, j, ny

t, th, d, n

p, ph, b, m

ts, tsh, dz, w

zh, z, ’

y, r, l

sh, s

h, a

**Vowels**: 4: i, u, e, o. Note: The vowel “a” is inherent in each letter (i.e. have no special sign in Tibetan and is in fact considered as a “letter” on the one hand and as a basic sound inherited in each letter on the other). In transliteration we can treat it as a vowel.

**Possible Prefixes**: 5: g, d, b, m, ’

**Possible Superscripts**: 3: r, l, s

**Possible Subscripts**: 4: y, r, l, w (less common than the first 3)

**Possible Final Letters**: 10: g, ng, d, n, b, m, ’, r, l, s

**Possible Suffixes** (i.e. come after the final letters): 2: s, d (suffix d is archaic, found seldom)

**Finding the Root Letter**

The vowel (a, i, u, e, o), necessarily follows the root letter, or the subscript (y, r, l, w) if there is one. Examples: *bam* (*b* is the root letter); *bsgrubs* (*g* is the root); *’ga’* (*g* is the root letter); *zhwa* (*zh* is the root letter); *chen* (*ch* is the root letter).

**The “Root” of the Word**

The “root” of the word (= syllable) consists of the **root letter** or the **stacked letter** (which consists of the root letter and a superscript or a subscript or both), the **vowel**, and the **final letter** (if this is found). The word (=syllable) can be considered the same if these are consistent, i.e. despite additions of a prefix and/or a suffix. Possible changes can be found in the vowel, while still retaining the same basic meaning: Most commonly the vowel “o” in verbs changes to “a” reflecting a change in the tense)

**Tibetan Grammatical Particles**

The particles can often be omitted/added without changing the meaning.

1. su, ra, ru, du, tu, na, la  
2. kyi, gyi, gi, yi, ’i

3. kyis, gyis, gis, yis, ’is  
3. kyang, yang, ’ang

4. ste, te, de  
5. gam, ngam, dam, nam, bam, mam, ’am, ram, lam, sam, tam

6. nas, las  
7. go, ngo, do, no, bo, mo, ’o, ro, lo, so, to

8. dang

9. ni

10. ma, mi (omission/addition significant!)

11. pa, ba, po, bo (less likely to be omitted)

**Perhaps also Helpful**

1. Variants in the punctuation (transliterated as either , or | ) are not significant.

2. Variants of *pa* and *ba*, or *tu* and *du* are not significant.