Limbu minimal pairs involving vowel length

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vowel** |  | **Word** | **Roman** | **Gloss** |
| [inherent] |  | ᤕᤰ | y[a]k | fort |
|  |  | ᤕ᤺ᤰ | y[a:]k | plenty |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤗᤵᤔᤠ | l[a]pma | to swallow |
|  |  | ᤗ᤺ᤵᤔᤠ | l[a:]pma | to take out, drive out |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| A ᤠ |  | ᤋᤠᤰᤔᤠ | takma | to freeze (water, milk) |
|  |  | ᤋᤠ᤺ᤰᤔᤠ | ta:kma | to hold |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤌᤠᤰ | thak | warp, loom |
|  |  | ᤌᤠ᤺ᤰ | tha:k | generation /  heap, pile, stack |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤋᤠᤵᤔᤠ | tapma | medal |
|  |  | ᤋᤠ᤺ᤵᤔᤠ | ta:pma | to bring |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| I ᤡ |  | ᤂᤡᤶᤔᤠ | khimma | to stick, paste |
|  |  | ᤂᤡ᤺ᤶᤔᤠ | khi:mma | greed, avarice |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤏᤡᤱ | ning | poison / thatch |
|  |  | ᤏᤡ᤺ᤱ | ni:ng | throat, neck, windpipe |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| U ᤢ |  | ᤂᤢᤶᤔᤠ | khumma | to tame |
|  |  | ᤂᤢ᤺ᤶᤔᤠ | khu:mma | to rob, steal |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤆᤢᤵᤔᤠ | cupma | to kiss |
|  |  | ᤆᤢ᤺ᤵᤔᤠ | cu:pma | to be finished, ended |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤜᤢᤰᤔᤠ | hukma | thumb, big toe |
|  |  | ᤜᤢ᤺ᤰᤔᤠ | hu:kma | to bellow, howl |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| E ᤧ |  | ᤂᤧᤵᤔᤠ | khepma | to escape, evade |
|  |  | ᤂᤧ᤺ᤵᤔᤠ | khe:pma | to hang up, suspend |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤗᤧᤱᤔᤠ | lengma | to instigate / to reverse / to smear |
|  |  | ᤗᤧ᤺ᤱᤔᤠ | le:ngma | to slip |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| OO ᤥ |  | Not true minimal pairs – 2nd word has double ‘m’ | | |
|  |  | ᤂᤥᤔᤠ | khoma | to get, obtain, find |
|  |  | ᤂᤥ᤺ᤶᤔᤠ | kho:mma | to pierce, prick |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ᤋᤥᤔᤠ | toma | hospitality |
|  |  | ᤋᤥ᤺ᤶᤔᤠ | to:mma | to correct, reform |