Introduction

Moya is a strictly calligraphic abugida for Kala. Adapted from my oldest script Moj. It can be written left to right, or vertically, top to bottom. It should be considered the “traditional” script for **Kala**. Inspired primarily by Tibetan, and the Masonic Pigpen cipher, it was first created in mid-1999 and has slowly developed to its current form.

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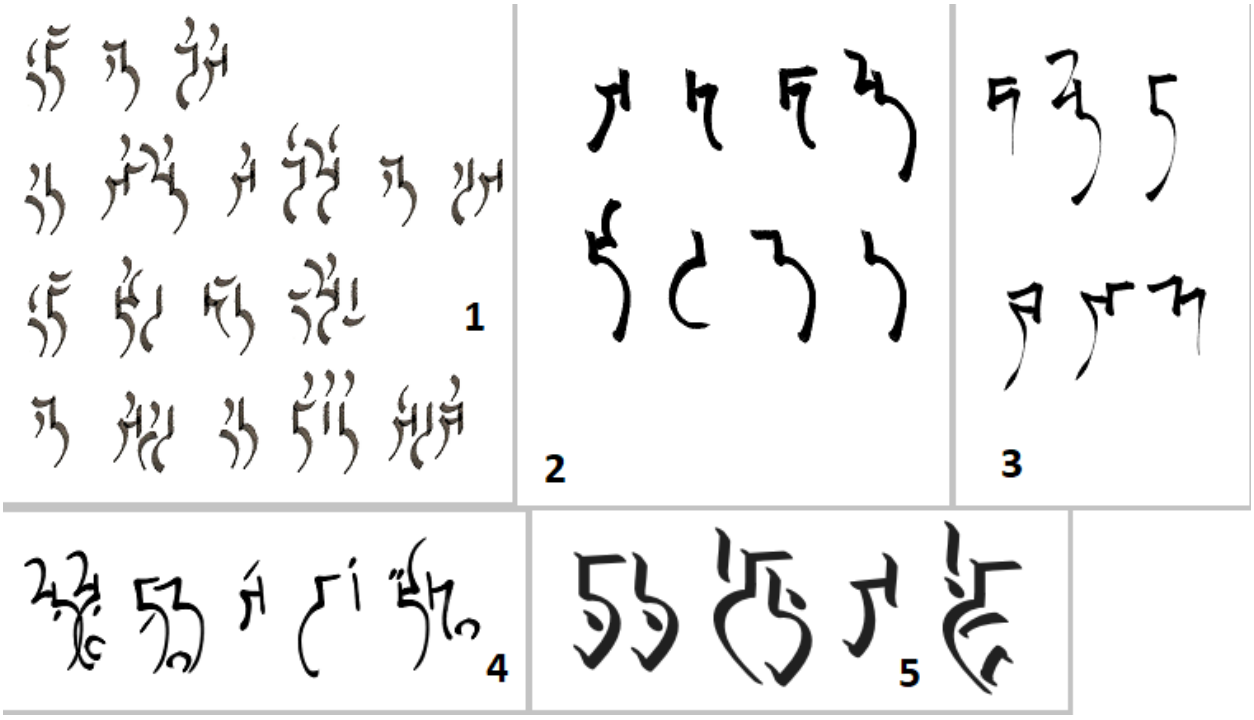
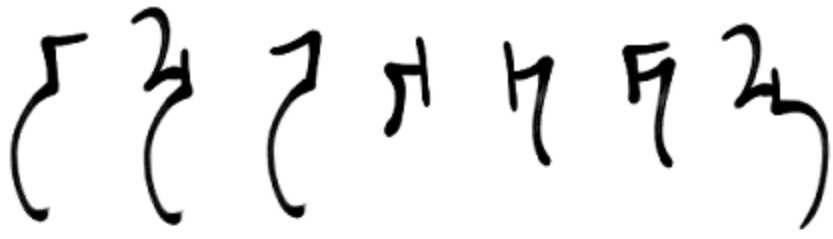
Historical Development



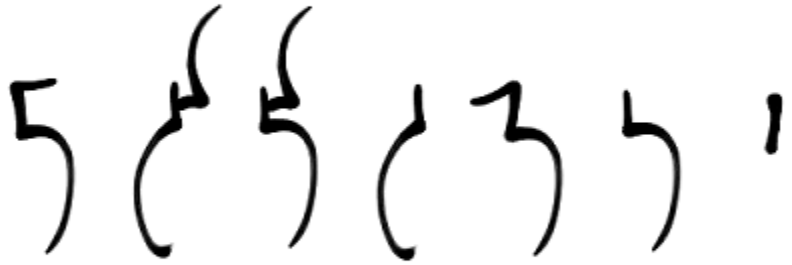
1. Earliest stages from 2000's, used for Qatama with minimal use of diacritics.
2. More definition and smoother strokes c. 2006.
3. Calligraphic experimentation and more brush work, c. 2010.
4. Standardized smooth brush strokes, more grammatical markers, c. 2015.
5. Serif style and more compact clusters, c. 2018.

The refinements have been subtle and nuanced but have – over time – been transformative to how **Moya** is written and read. The trend is toward a sleek complexity that attempts to be reflective of how the **Kala** language works.

Consonants



pa	***ta***	***ka***	***ma***	***na***	***nya***	***sa***
p~b	t~d	k~g	m	n	ɲ	s~ʃ



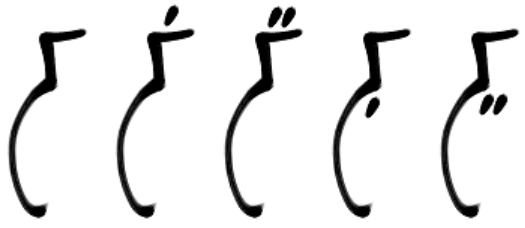
ha	***tsa***	***tla***	***ua***	***la***	***ya***	***a***
h~ɦ~x	t͡s~t͡ʃ	tl~t͡ɬ	wa~ʷa	l~r	ja~ʲa	ʔ

mpa	***nta***	***nka***
ᵐp~mb	ⁿt~nd	ᵑk~ŋg~ᵑ

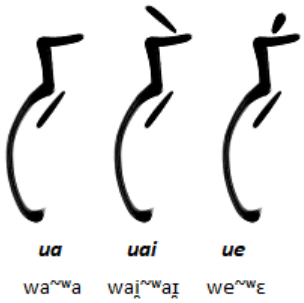
The glottal stop character is only used intervocalically. When a vowel begins a word, the "**la**" character is used. This does not cause confusion as "l" does not begin words in Kala. The careful observer will notice that the plosives all share a descender in the same direction; the nasals, including the prenasalized plosives, lack the "tail" descenders and instead have descenders from the middle of the "spine". The affricates share an ascending "shoulder"; the continuants, like the plosives share a descender in the same direction; and the semivowels only have descenders, in opposing directions. These features lend to recognition of phonological information to the careful reader.

Vowels

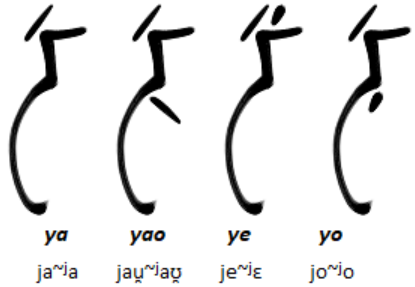
Basic Vowels



Labialized

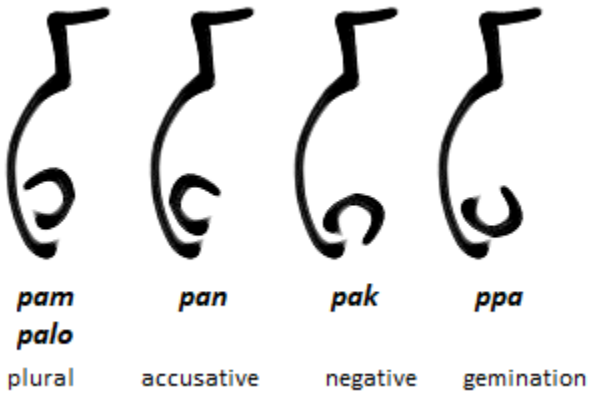


Palatalized



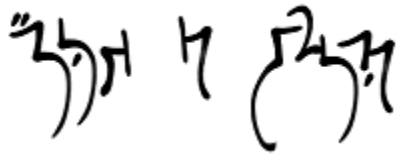
There are only four basic vowel markers, their placement and orientation indicate their use and phonological value.

Other Symbols

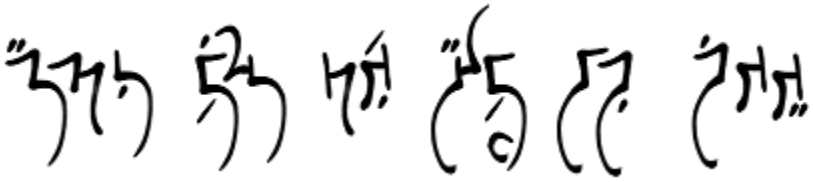


The plural mark is either /m/ or /lo/ depending on the preceding syllable. Gemination is typically a product of derivation through compounding and is infrequent. The accusative mark is present in most phrases with a transitive verb. The negative mark is either /k/ or /ᵑkɛ/ depending on the preceding syllable.

Examples



iyoma na pasanko
today 1SG feel.ill-PROG
I am not feeling well today.



inkayo huesa namyo tsihuan pako kemamu
this.week company 1PL.GEN project-ACC new work-INCH
Our company will begin working on the new project this week.

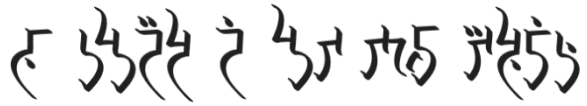
The Northwind and Sun

yasakita ma sama uen manahu halonkoye ma yalako mitli'atsumuan talapuaye
wind-north and sun X.or.Y-ACC be.strong-EXT dispute-PROG-PST and travel-AG tunic-thick-COM-ACC arrive-PFV-PST
/jasaˈkiːta ma ˈsaːma wɛn maˈnaːhu halo^{n}ˈkoːjɛ ma jaˈlaːko mit͡ɬɪʔat͡suˈmʷaːn talaˈpʷaːjɛ/
The North Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger, when a traveler came along wrapped in a warm cloak.

kam nya kola yalako mitlin hoyo tsitamyapa manahu omyone nkataye
3pl for AG.INDEF travel-AG tunic-ACC 3s.GEN remove-CAUS-ABIL be.strong-EXT be.viewed-SUG agree-PST
/kam ɲa ˈkoːla jaˈlaːko ˈmiːtlin ˈhoːjo tsitaˈmʲaːpa maˈnaːhu oˈmʲoːne ^{n}kaˈtaːjɛ/
They agreed that the one who first succeeded in making the traveler take his cloak off should be considered stronger than the other.

ma yasakita tinuahumua samyapaye me samyahamua yaloko tla'eki miltin hoyo apaye – ma opuan tsotoye
and wind-north be.firm-EXT-COM blow-ABIL-PST but blow-AUG-COM travel-AG encircle-REFL tunic-ACC 3s.GEN close-PST and end-ACC relent-PST
/ma jasaˈkiːta tinʷaˈhuːmʷa samjaˈpaːjɛ me samjaˈhamʷa jaˈloko t͡ɬaˈʔeːki ˈmit͡ɬɪn ˈhoːjo aːpajɛ ma ˈoːpʷan t͡soˈtojɛ/
Then the North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew the more closely did the traveler fold his cloak around him; and at last the North Wind gave up the attempt.

ma tlolohamua sama nalaye kinkiyo yalako mitlin hoyo tsitaye
and mid-AUG-COM sun shine-PST RED-be.quick travel-AG tunic-ACC 3s.GEN remove-PST
/ma t͡ɬoloˈhaːmʷa ˈsaːma naˈlaːjɛ kɪˈŋiːjo yaˈlaːko ˈmiːt͡ɬɪn ˈhoːjo t͡ʃɪˈtaːjɛ/
Then the Sun shined out warmly, and immediately the traveler took off his cloak.

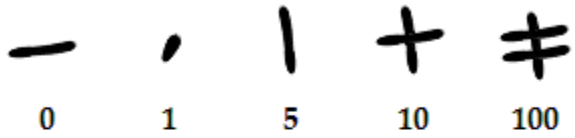


po yasakita ke sama manahan mitoheye
thus wind-north that sun be.strong-AUG-ACC confess-NEC-PST
/po jasaˈkiːta kɛ ˈsaːma maˈnaːhan mɪtoˈheːjɛ/
And so the North Wind was obliged to confess that the Sun was the stronger of the two.

Monogram

The above image is a monogram, referred to as **yotsakua** (the whole face), as it resembles the face of someone in deep meditation. It includes the strokes for every letter and number of the **Moya** system. Older versions contained the diacritic marks, but this version prevails as the stylistic representation of the monogram. The **moyamatse** are also visible to the careful observer.

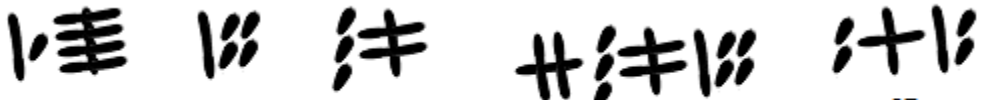
Numerals



0 1 5 10 100

10^3 10^4 10^5 10^6 10^9

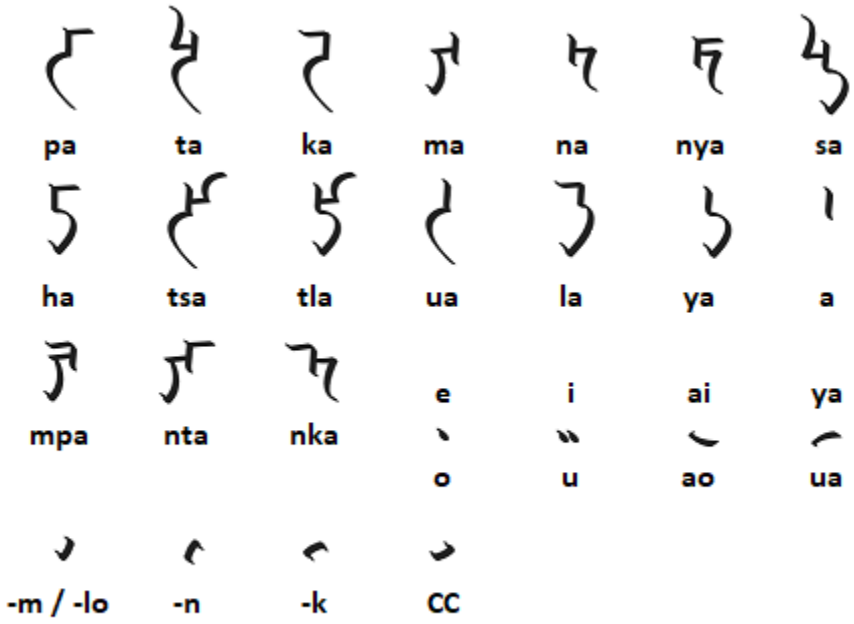
Forming numbers



60K 9 300 100,309 27

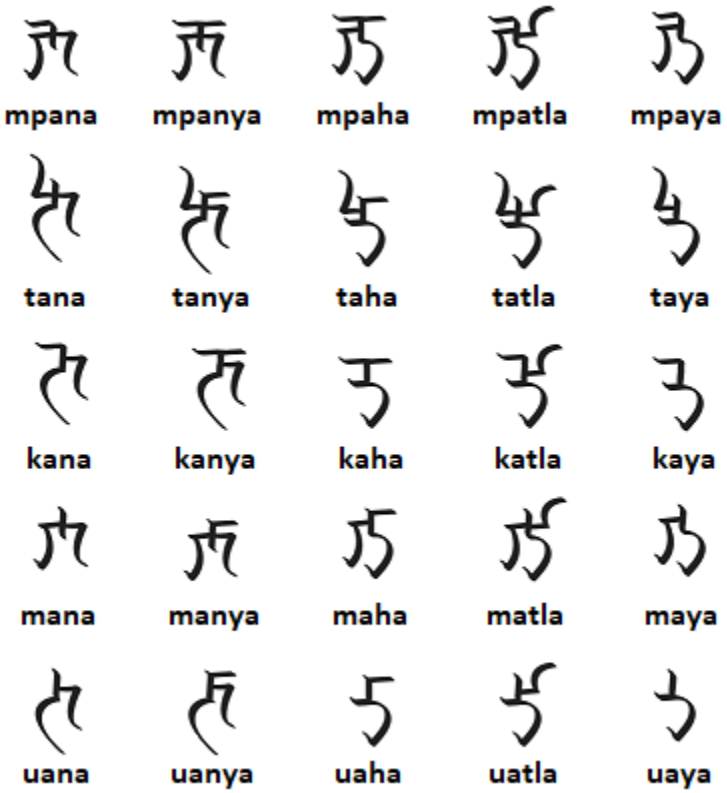
Serif

A serif version of **Moya** was designed by Britton Watkins and is used with permission.



Moyamatse

Given the calligraphic nature of **Moya**, the ability to combine certain “letters” to form “words” or at least parts of words. This practice is called ***moyamatse***, or “mixed writing“. These are a few examples of common “mixtures”. Keep in mind, these can be modified with vowel diacritics to change the word.



More of these combinations are possible, but the process and result should be obvious with the examples above.

Calligraphic Variation

Moya lends itself to calligraphic variation and artistic representation.

yama - mountain; hill

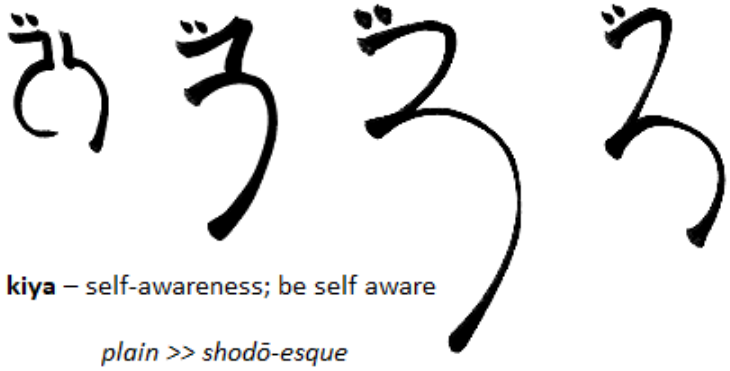
maua - flower; bloom

tsa'i - tea

nalo - smile; laugh

tanka - eagle; falcon

manka - cold; cool; chill

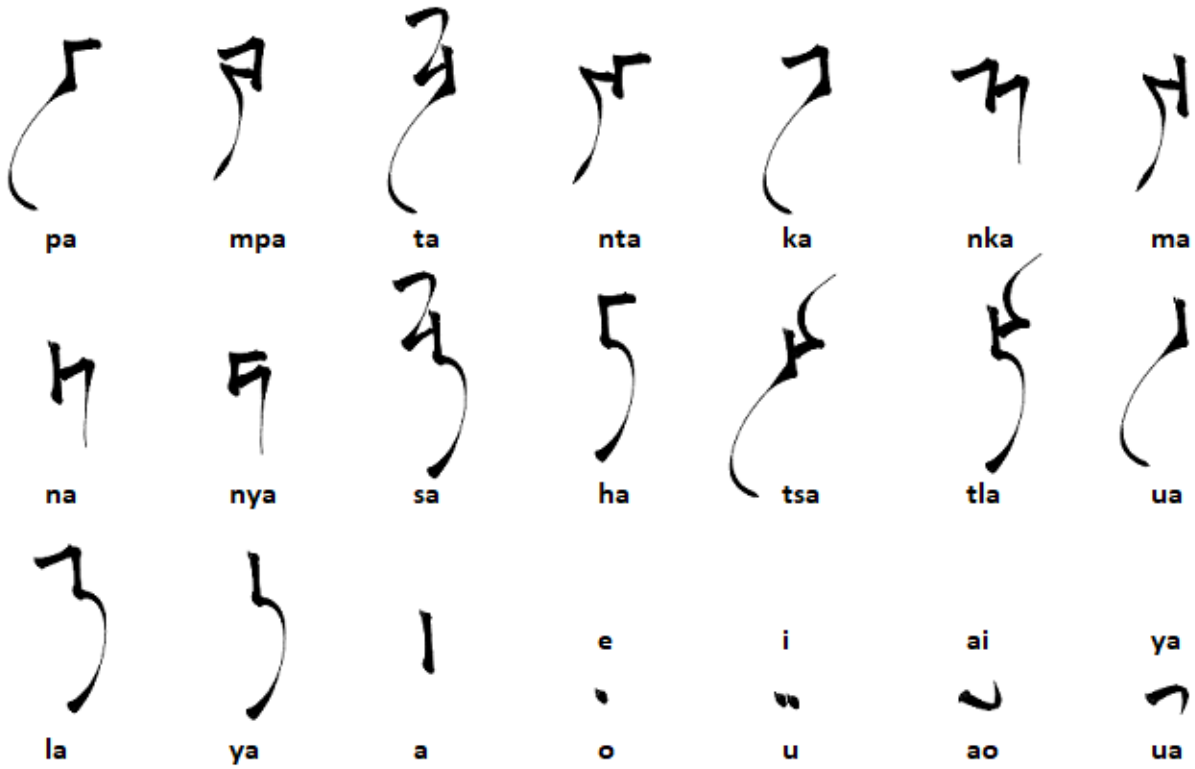


kiya – self-awareness; be self aware

plain >> shodō-esque

Other Styles

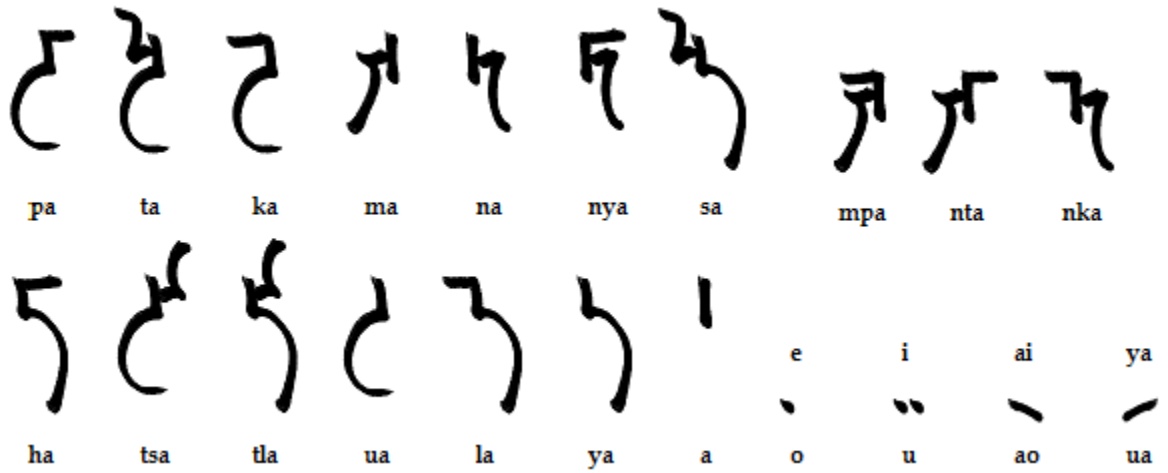
Thin Brush



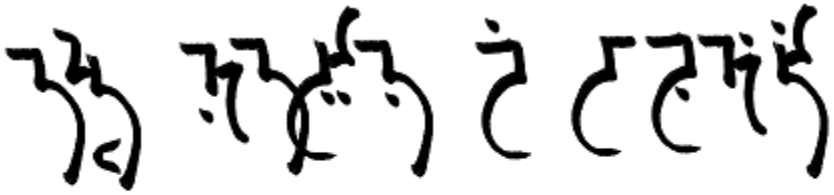
The **matsuenka** (thin brush) style, used mainly in symbolistic calligraphy (words meant to resemble the item).

saya te nahe
peace of within
Peace comes from within.

Wide Brush



The **matsompana** (wide brush) style, used primarily on signs and banners.



asan nkolatsulo ke pakonketle
/ˈa:san ᵑkolaˈt͡su:lo kɛ pakoˈᵑkɛ:t͡ɬɛ/
life-ACC choice-series TOP be.new-NEG-REL
Life is a series of choices, none of which are new

nok mya kolin kuatlatsitleyo meya
nothing EQU tail-ACC snake.rattle be.eloquent
There is nothing as eloquent as a Rattlesnake's tail.

Square Brush

The **matsotapua** (square brush) style, used for decorative purposes. Inspired by Kufic calligraphy.

"**moyatapua**" Square writing.

kola hatapa me pakampe nikinko
AG-INDEF error-ABIL but fool-LIM persist-PROG
Any man can make mistakes, but only an idiot persists in his error.