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**Information and documentation —  
Transliteration of Thai characters into  
Latin characters**

**Part 2:  
Simplified transcription of Thai language**

*Information et documentation — Translittération des caractères thaï en caractères latins*

*Partie 2: Transcription simplifiée de la langue thaï*

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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 11940-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 46, *Information and documentation*.

ISO 11940 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai characters into Latin characters*:

— *Part 2: Simplified transcription of Thai language*

ISO 11940:1998, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai*, is to be renumbered ISO 11940-1.

## Introduction

This part of ISO 11940 provides a specification for the conversion of Thai characters (or the transliteration of Thai obtained from ISO 11940:1998, written here <between angle brackets>) into a broad phonetic transcription. The results of the application of the rules of this part of ISO 11940 are written here [*in italics between square brackets*]. Since some vowels in Thai are written before the consonant which they follow in speech, text needs to be processed before the conversion takes place. The preposed vowels ɛ- <e>, æ- <æ>, ɪ- <i>, i- <i>, and ɔ- <o> are to be placed after an initial or an initial cluster so that the phonotactics of the transcription will behave the same way in the languages that make use of the Latin script. The transcription obtained using this part of ISO 11940 cannot be converted back to the transliteration which usually can be retransliterated to the Thai characters. Certain Thai words can have more than one reading depending on its meaning in a certain context. It is best for a transcriber to have a knowledge of the Thai language. The simplified phonetic transcription system devised here aims to be done automatically by machine with minor assistance of human beings to select the correct transcription in relation to its meaning provided that pronunciation rules can be written in computer algorithm. A human decision is needed in instances where a word has more than one choice of phonetic transcription.

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# Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai characters into Latin characters —

Part 2:

## Simplified transcription of Thai language

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 11940 includes pronunciation rules and conversion tables of Thai consonants and vowels. These rules are applied, in order, to each word which can be looked up or compared in the Dictionary of the Thai Royal Institute or a dictionary of Thai pronunciation. A short-long vowel is not distinguished in the simplified transcription system. The vowels ใ-า๓ <e-āa>, -๑ <x>, ใ-๔ <o-a>, and ใ- <o> are represented by a single transcription /o/. The simplified transcription system does not include the pronunciation of the tone(s) on each word. Whenever the full pronunciation of each word is necessary or needed, conversion of long vowels can be devised and tone rules can be added to the system to achieve the full pronunciation of each word.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 11940:1998, *Information and documentation — Transliteration of Thai*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **nonseries consonants**

liquids, fricatives, and semivowels

#### 3.2

##### **phonotactics**

possible sequences of sounds that are acceptable in a particular language

#### 3.3

##### **series consonant**

stops, affricates, and nasals which are classified according to their points of articulation, such as series 1 for velars, series 2 for alveopalatals or palatals, series 3 and 4 for dentals or alveolars, series 5 for bilabials

3.4

**transcriber**

one who does a conversion of Thai characters into Latin characters

**4 Symbols**

The letter <C> is used to represent a consonant. The apostrophe <'> is used to represent a glottal stop sound where it physically appears in writing and pronunciation as a syllable initial.

**5 Pronunciation rules**

5.1 The pronunciation rules specified in this part of ISO 11940 are intended to be applied in order, before a conversion is made. Conversion tables given in ISO 11940:1998 will not yield correct pronunciation because pronunciation rules are not incorporated in that scheme. Note that there are many exceptions in the pronunciation of Thai words where spelling does not conform to pronunciation. Some words have the same spelling but different pronunciation depending on their meaning, and some words do not follow the logic of spelling rules in their pronunciation. It is best to consult the Dictionary of the Royal Institute or other Thai dictionaries for the pronunciation of the words.

5.2 Either ร <r> or the first ร <r>, is deleted in กษิณาศรพ, ก่าศรด, ก่าศรวล, เกียรติ, ขษิณาศรพ, จริง, ชะชราว, ไชรม, ไชร, พนาศรม, มารค, แมร, วนาศรม, ศรัทธา, ศรัย, ศราทอ, ศราทอพรต, ศรี, ศารท, ศีระษ, เศรชฐ, เศรชฐ, เศร้า, โศครตร, สมเสริจ, สมศร, สรง, สรวง, สรวม, สรวล, สรวุย, สร้าง, สร้าง, สราวเสียว, สระ, สรุง, สามารถ, สารท, เสริจ, (สร)เสริญ, (สรร)เสริญ, เสริต, เสริม, แสร้ง, โสรจ, ไสร, เฮียรตช, and the second ร <r> is deleted in ไกรศรี, นิราศรัย, ประเสริฐ, ปรรธนา, ปราศรัย, and รังสร้ง.

ก่าศรด <kả́rd>	=	ก่าสด <kả́sd>
ไชรรม <osrm>	=	ไชม <osm>

5.3 The preposed vowels เ- <e>, แ- <æ>, ไ- <i>, ไ- <i>, and โ- <o> are transposed after the syllable initial or the initial cluster before a conversion.

แทน <æthn>	=	ทแทน <thæn> [thaen]
ไป <ip>	=	ปไป <pi> [pai]

5.3.1 If the transposed preposed vowel is next to another vowel, a special character, or a consonant followed by a vowel, it is not further transposed.

ดโน <dein>	cannot be further transposed.
ทแ่ง <hæ`ng>	cannot be further transposed.
กไบ <ke`b>	cannot be further transposed.
พไรซ์ <phirach>	cannot be further transposed.

5.3.2 If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ห <h> and the next character after the vowel is ง <ng>, ญ <y>, น <n>, ม <m>, ย <y>, ร <r>, ล <l>, or ว <w>, it is further transposed one more time only.

ทแ่ง <hæyng>	=	ทยแ่ง <hyæng>
ทโน่ง <hon`ng>	=	ทนอ่ง <hno`ng>
ทไญ <hiy`>	=	ทญไ <hiy1`>

**5.3.3** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ก <k>, ข <k̄>, ค <kh>, ฅ <k'h>, ท <th>, ป <p>, or พ <ph> and the next character is ฃ <r>, it is further transposed one more time only.

กัโรธ <korth>	=	กรโธ <kroth> [krot]
คเรง <kher`ng>	=	ครเง <khre`ng> [khreng]
พแร <phær`>	=	พรแ <phræ`> [phrae]

An /a/ is inserted into the three words อิกเกริก <xeikkerik>, ปเรียญ <perīyy>, and ปเรก <pærk> before the preposed vowels are further transposed after ฃ to become อิกเกริก <xeikkareik> [’oekkaroek], ปเรียญ <pareīyy> [parian], ปเรก <paræk> [paraek].

**5.3.4** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ก <k>, ข <k̄>, ค <kh>, ป <p>, ผ <p̄h>, or พ <ph> and the next character is ล <l>, it is further transposed one more time only.

กลื่อน <kelī`xn>	=	กลเื่อน <kleī`xn> [kluean]
ขโลง <k̄long>	=	ขลเอง <k̄long> [khlong]
ปลั <plī`>	=	ปลเั <plī`> [plai]
ผลโ <p̄hol`>	=	ผลเโ <p̄hol`> [phlo]

**5.3.5** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ก <k>, ข <k̄>, or ค <kh>, and the next character is ว <w>, it is further transposed one more time only.

กวแ่ง <kæw`ng>	=	กวแ่ง <kwæ`ng> [kwaeng]
ขวเัว <k̄hwī`>	=	ขวเัว <k̄hwī`> [khwai]
ควเ่ง <khew`ng>	=	ควเ่ง <khwe`ng> [khweng]

**5.3.6** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ข <k̄>, ฉ <ch>, ถ <th>, or ส <s>, and the next character is ง <ng>, น <n>, ม <m>, ย <y>, ร <r>, ล <l>, or ว <w>, an /a/ is inserted before a vowel and it is further transposed after the next consonant.

ฉเลียยง <cheliyng>	=	ฉลเเลียยง <chaleiyng> [chaliang]
ถลเิง <theling>	=	ถลเิง <thaleing> [thaloeng]
สเียยม <sengi`ym>	=	สเียยม <sangei`ym> [sangiam]

**5.3.7** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ก <k>, ข <k̄>, or ส <s> and the next character is not ฃ <r>, ล <l>, or ว <w>, an /a/ is inserted before the vowel and it is further transposed after the next consonant.

กเชียร <kesī`yr>	=	กชเเชียร <kaśī`eīyr> [kasian]
ขเมร <k̄hemr>	=	ขมเเร <k̄hamer> [khamen]
ขสเร์ <k̄hæsr`>	=	ขสเร์ <k̄hæsr`> [khasae]
สแดง <sædng>	=	สดแง <sædæng> [sadaeng]
สแดมป <sætmp`>	=	สดแมป <sætæmp`> [sataem]
สบแก <sæbk>	=	สบแแก <sæbæk> [sabaek]

**5.3.8** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ต <t> or ท <th> and the next character is ล <l> or ว <w>, an /a/ is inserted before the vowel and it is further transposed after the next consonant.

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ตลeng <telng>	=	ตลeng <taleng> [taleng]
ทวेष <tewṣ'>	=	ทวेष <tawesī'> [thawet]

**5.3.9** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by จ <c>, ช <ch>, พ <ph>, or ม <m> and the next character is น <n>, ร <r>, or ล <l>, an /a/ is inserted before the vowel and it is further transposed after the next consonant.

จเรีyng <cerīyng>	=	จระีyng <careīyng> [cariang]
ชลeng <chelng>	=	ชลeng <chaleng> [chaleng]
พเนีyด <phenīyd>	=	พนาีyด <phaneīyd> [phaniat]
มเลีoxng <melūxng>	=	มาเลีoxng <maleūxng> [malueang]

**5.3.10** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ฉ <ch> and the next character is พ <ph>, an /a/ is inserted before the vowel and it is further transposed after the next consonant.

ฉพะā <chephāa>	=	ฉาพะā <chapheāa> [chapho]
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**5.3.11** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ผ <p̄h> and its next character is ช <ch> ด <d>, ท <th>, น <n>, ย <y>, or อ <x>, an /a/ is inserted before the vowel and it is further transposed after the next consonant.

ผเชีy <p̄hechiy>	=	ผาเชีy <p̄hacheiy> [phachoen]
ผเดีy <p̄hedim>	=	ผาเดีy <p̄hadeim> [phadoem]
ผไท <p̄hiṭh>	=	ผาไท <p̄hathī> [phathai]
ผแนก <p̄hænk>	=	ผาแนก <p̄hanæk> [phanaek]
ผเยอ <p̄heyx>	=	ผาเยอ <p̄hayex> [phayoe]
ผเอีy <p̄hexiy>	=	ผาเอีy <p̄haxeiy> [pha'oen]

**5.3.12** If the transposed preposed vowel is preceded by ล <l> and the next character is บ <b>, an /a/ is inserted before the vowel and it is further transposed after the next consonant.

ลเบng <lebng>	=	ลาเบng <labeng> [labeng]
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**5.4** กี่ <k̄> is to be transcribed as /ko/.

**5.5** ห <h̄> is deleted when occurring as the first member of the cluster preceding ง <ng>, ญ <ṅ>, น <n>, ม <m>, ย <y>, ร <r>, ล <l>, ว <w>.

หองน <h̄ngxn>	=	งอน <ngxn>
หนาม <h̄nām>	=	นาม <nām>

**5.6** ห <h̄> in พรหม, พรหมัญดา, พรหมา, พรหมาณต์, พรหมาสตร์, พรหมินทร์, พรหมเณทร์, พรหมเศวร, พรหมณ, พรหมณต์บด, พรหมณ, พรหม is deleted.

พรหม <phr̄hm>	=	พรม <phrm>
พรหมณ <phrāhm̄'>	=	พรมณ <phrām̄'>



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**5.12.1** When ณ <n> is a syllable-final and is followed by a series or nonseries consonant, it is geminated and an /a/ is inserted after it.

พรรณนา <phrrṇṇā> =	พรรณณนา <phrrṇṇanā> [phannana]
พรรณราย <phrrṇṇrāy> =	พรรณณราย <phrrṇṇarāy> [phannarai]
อุณหิส <xuṇḥiṣ> =	อุณณหิส <xuṇṇahiṣ> [’unnahit]

Word rhythms always overrule the gemination rule. If the rhythm pattern heavy-weak-heavy occurs in a three syllable word, the gemination and /a/ insertion will not apply.

อุณหภูมิมิ [’unhapum]	not	*อุณณภูมิ
ชลบุรี [chonburi]	not	*ชลลบุรี
ราชบุรี [ratburi]	not	*ราชชบุรี

If the rhythm pattern weak-heavy-heavy occurs in the three syllable word, the gemination and /a/ insertion will not apply.

พิชิตมาร [phichitman]	not	*พิชิตตมาร
สุภาพชน [suphapchon]	not	*สุภาพพชน

If the rhythm pattern weak-heavy-weak-heavy occurs in the four syllable word, the gemination and /a/ insertion will not apply.

สุพรรณบุรี [suphanburi]	not	*สุพรรณณบุรี
ปทุมธานี [pathumthani]	not	*ปทุมมธานี
มัชฌิมประเทศ [matchimprathet]	not	*มัชฌิมมประเทศ
อุดมศึกษา [’udomsueksa]	not	*อุตมศึกษา

**5.12.2** When น <n> is a syllable-final and is followed by น <n>, it is geminated and an /a/ is inserted after it.

ชนนี <chnnī> =	ชนนณี <chnnanī> [chonnani]
ทินนาม <thinnām> =	ทินนณาม <thinnanām> [thinnanam]

**5.12.3** When a nonseries consonant is a syllable-final and is followed by a series or a nonseries consonant, it is geminated and an /a/ is inserted after it.

อัยการ <xaykār> =	อัยยการ <xayyakār> [’aiyakan]
อัครจร <xarṅgr> =	อัครจรร <xarṅṅgr> [’atsacan]
กัลยา <kalyā> =	กัลลยา <kallayā> [kanlaya]

**5.12.4** When ญ <y> follows a series 2 consonant, that series consonant can optionally be geminated and an /a/ can be inserted after it. In this case ญ <y> is treated as ย <y> (/y/).

อาชญา <xāchyā> =	อาชชญา <xāchchayā> [’atchaya]
พิชญา <phichyā> =	พิชชญา <phichchayā> [phitchaya]

**5.12.5** When a series consonant, except ง <ng> or น <n>, is a syllable-final and it precedes another series consonant of different series, or a nonseries consonant, the first series consonant is geminated and an /a/ is inserted after it.

รัชกาล <raçhkāl>	=	รัชชกาล <raçhchakāl>	[ <i>ratchakan</i> ]
อัญมณี <xaymṇī>	=	อัญญมณี <xayyamṇī>	[ <i>'anyamani</i> ]

**5.12.6** When a consonant, both series and nonseries, is a syllable-final and is followed by the same consonant, no gemination will occur.

**5.12.7** When ม <m> is a syllable-final and it is followed by a series consonant of series 1 to 4 or a nonseries consonant, except in อัมพฤก(ษ์) <xamphvk(ṣī')> and อัมพาด <xamphāt>, it is geminated and an /a/ is inserted after it.

กามเทพ <kāmethph>	=	กามมาเทพ <kāmmaethph>	[ <i>kammathep</i> ]
รมณี <rmṇī>	=	รมมาณี <rmmaṇī>	[ <i>rommani</i> ]
อัมพฤก <xamphvk>	=	อัมมาพฤก <xammaphvk>	[ <i>'ammaphruek</i> ]
อัมพาด <xamphāt>	=	อัมมาพาด <xammaphāt>	[ <i>'ammaphat</i> ]

**5.13** If a cluster กร <kr>, ตร <tr>, ทร <thr>, or ปร <pr> functions as a syllable-final, ร <r> is deleted.

**5.14** All tone marks, and special marks except ๗ <<> are deleted.

นี่ <nī̂>	=	นี่ <nī>	[ <i>ni</i> ]
เป็น <ep̃n>	=	ปน <pen>	[ <i>pen</i> ]

**5.15** When ก <k>, ค <kh>, ข <kh>, จ <c>, ท <th>, ฐ <th>, น <n>, บ <b>, ป <p>, ม <m>, ว <w>, ส <ṣ>, ห <h̄>, or อ <x> precedes รC, an /o/ is inserted between it and ร <r>.

กรณี <krṇī>	=	กอกรณี <korṇī>	[ <i>korani</i> ]
ขกรณี <khrṇī>	=	ขอกรณี <khorṇī>	[ <i>khorani</i> ]
บรม <brm>	=	บอบรม <borm>	[ <i>borom</i> ]
อรัทัย <xrthay>	=	ออรัทัย <xorthay>	[ <i>'orathai</i> ]

**5.16** In the environment C<sub>1</sub>C<sub>2</sub>V an /a/ is inserted between the two consonants, if C<sub>2</sub> is not ร <r>, ล <l>, or ว <w>.

กอกรณี <korṇī>	=	กอรากรณี <koraṇī>	[ <i>korani</i> ]
ออรัทัย <xorthay>	=	ออรารัทัย <xorathay>	[ <i>'orathai</i> ]

Table 1 – Consonants

No.	Thai character	Initial	Final
1	ก <k>	[k]	[k]
2	ข, ข̄ <k̄h, k̄h>	[kh]	[k]
3	ค, ค, ฆ <kh, k'h, kh>	[kh]	[k]
4	ง <ng>	[ng]	[ng]
5	จ <c>	[c]	[t]
6	ฉ, ฉ <ch, ch>	[ch]	none
7	ช <ch>	[ch]	[t]
8	ซ, ซ, ฌ, ฌ <s, s̄, s̄', s̄>	[s]	[t]
9	ญ <y>	[y]	[n]
10	ฎ, ด <d, d>	[d]	[t]
11	ฏ, ต <t, t>	[t]	[t]
12	ฐ, ฐ <sup>1</sup> , ฑ, ฑ, ฑ <sup>2</sup> , ฐ <th, th, t'h, th, th, th>	[th]	[t]
13	ณ, น <n, n>	[n]	[n]
14	บ <sup>3</sup> <b>	[b]	[p]
15	ป <p>	[p]	[p]
16	ผ <ph>	[ph]	none
17	ฝ <f>	[f]	none
18	พ, ภ <ph, ph>	[ph]	[p]
19	ฟ <f>	[f]	[p]
20	ม <m>	[m]	[m]
21	ย <y>	[y]	[l]
22	ร <sup>4</sup> <r>	[r]	[n]
23	ฤ <sup>5</sup> , ฤ <sup>6</sup> <v, vi>	[rue]	none
24	ล, ล <l, l>	[l]	[n]
25	ฬ, ฬ <t, ti>	[lue]	none
26	ว <sup>7</sup> <w>	[w]	[o]
27	ห, ฮ <h, h>	[h]	none
28	อ <sup>8</sup> <x>	[']	[o] <sup>9</sup>
29	ฯลฯ <≠l≠>	[la]	none
30	ๆ <<>	Repetition of the preceding syllable or word	

1 ท is pronounced /d/ in หังส-, ทาก-, ดัณฑุล, ทัณฑกรรม, ทัณฑะ, บัณฑิต, บัณฑิต(ย์), บัณฑุ, บัณฑะ(ก), บัณฑะ(ว), บุนฑริก, บัณฑหัตถ์, ปิณฑะ, ปุณฑริก, ภัณฑครรภ, ภัณฑณะ, ภัณฑาคาร, ภัณฑาคาริก, ภัณฑู, ภัณฑูกรรม, มณฑป, มุณฑ, มุณฑก, เลทฑ, เลณฑ.

2 ทร is pronounced /s/ in the following words กรรแทรก, กระทรวง, กัณแทรก, กายินทรี(ย์), กาเยนทรี(ย์), ชินินทรี(ย์), ชิตินทรี(ย์), ชิวิตินทรี(ย์), ฉะเชิงเทรา, ทรง, ทรวง, ทรวด, ทรพ์(ย์), ทราบ, ทราม, ทราย, ทรุด, ทรู, เทร็ด, แทรก, ไทร, ไทรม, นนทรี, พิกเลนทรี(ย์), พุทรา, มัทรี, อินทรี, อินทรี(ย์).