

Doc Type: Working Group Document

Title: Reply to N4513 and N4533 (Suzuki and Endo's comments on Nushu Encoding)

Source: China

Pages: 2

This document briefly and principally replies comments from Suzuki san and Endo san (N4513 and N4533) on the Nushu code charts in PDAM1 (N4484). For the reason that N4533 reflects almost the same comments / opinions as those in N4513, in order to simply the discussion, this document is written in form of replying N4533. We think the current code charts in PDAM1 (N4484) is mature for balloting.

- *For the representative glyph in the charts: rely on one a single author, even if the repertoire is defined by the statistic survey for various authors; Endo found the glyphs of He Yanxin to be less variable and more consistent than those of other experts (Gao Yinxian, Yi Nianhua, Yang Huanyi)*

Reply:

We chose the most frequently used glyph based on statistic survey as the representative glyph of each Nushu character, according to the theory of grapheme (字位, see N4341 Appendix F 'the value of Nyushu Character comparison', or the book Nushu Yongzi Bijiao (女书用字比较, ISBN 7 - 801983 - 261 - 4) p214, 'statistics of Nushu and Nushu varieties'). The stroke counts of representative glyphs are sufficiently stable.

- *For collation, it is reasonable to use the stroke count as the first collation key. The options under consideration for the second collation key would be by (a) shape similarity or (b) the phonetic value. Endo has even made He Yanxin's glyph list by using the shape similarity as the second collation key. The method of determining the representative phonetic value is debatable.*

Reply:

The method of determining the representative phonetic value is also based on the theory of grapheme. The most frequently used phonetic value is used as the representative phonetic value for every Nushu character.

- *For naming, putting the phonetic value in the name would be a questionable practice, because the current statistics are an unstable means of identifying the most frequently used phonetic value for an international standard, where the names cannot be changed, once encoded. An acceptable approach would be to use the code point in the character name, instead of the phonetic value.*

Reply:

The current naming method was discussed for several times and determined during WG2 meetings, by experts from variant NBs. It seems like that no necessary needing to further discuss it.

- For the source, better than Nushu Duben would be Nushu Yongzi Bijiao (ISBN 7 - 801983 - 261 - 4) by Zhao, which is easier to obtain than Nushu Duben and is preferable because it shows the variants by author, making it useful for users to correctly guess the unification criteria.

Reply:

Nushu Yongzi Bijiao is used as the basic material and as theory basis of the Nushu proposal.

Note: The book Nushu Yongzi Bijiao (女书用字比较) was written based on the statistical survey of all materials in the book Zhongguo Nushu Heji(中國女書合集, ISBN 7101044050), which has 5 volumns, contains the copy of 640 different original materials from various author, 220 thousand characters in total. It covers 95% existing Nushu materials of both ancient and cultural heirs' work. The book was compiled by the author of Nushu Yongzi Bijiao (女书用字比较).

