

To: ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2 Working Group 2 and Unicode Technical Committee
From: Deborah Anderson, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley
Date: 10 April 2006
RE: Support for Ol Chiki (N2984R =L2/05-243R)

Attached is a letter that was circulated to members of the Santali community by Prof. R.C. Hansdah and Sh. Naresh Chandra Murmu on March 27, 2006.

I received back copies of the letter signed by 49 members of the Santali community, including:

- * The President, Vice President, and nine other executive body members of Adibasi Socio Educational & Cultural Assoc. (ASECA), Jharkhand;
- * The General Secretary of the Adibasi Socio-Educational & Cultural Association (ASECA), Orissa, and eight other members of ASECA;
- * Twelve signatures from community members in Orissa, including a Santali language instructor and nine advocates (bar members);
- * The President, General Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer of the All India Santali Writers Association in West Bengal;
- * The President, Vice President, and other members of the Santali Sahitya Academy, Jharkhand.

I would be happy to provide copies of these letters.

Date: March 27, 2006

To

Dr. Mike Ksar, Chair ISO JTC1/SC2 WG2
c/o The Unicode Consortium
P.O. Box 391476
Mountain View, CA 94039-1476
U.S.A.

RE: Ol Chiki Proposal, N2984

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, are Santals and speak Santali at home. We have been informed by Dr. Deborah Anderson that the Ol Chiki Proposal, N2984, is due for discussion at the coming ISO working group 2 meeting in late April 2006. The purpose of writing this letter to you is to convey to you that we agree with the proposal, N2984, for encoding Ol Chiki script in the Unicode/ISO 10646, and assert our support for the same.

The Ol Chiki script was invented by Pandit Raghunath Murmu for writing Santali language during the first half of 20th century, and since then many Santali writers have been using it for writing books, magazines and other types of written materials in Santali. Recognizing the developments, the Government of India included Santali language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India in the year 2003-04. As a consequence, Sahitya Akademi of India now has Santali Advisory Board, and Indian Civil Services Main Examination has Santali as one of the optional papers whose syllabus includes many Santali books published in Ol Chiki script (<http://www.upsc.gov.in/exams/notifications/csp2006/syll-main/csma-santali.htm#PageTop>), and answers can also be written in Ol Chiki script.

We are associated with the development of the Santali language in our individual capacity as evident from our work related to the development of Santali language. Encoding Ol Chiki script in the Unicode/ISO 10646 will greatly help in the development of Santali language, and we, therefore, request ISO/Unicode Consortium to give final approval for encoding Ol Chiki script in the ISO 10646/Unicode.

Thanking you with regards,

Sincerely yours,

Sl. No.	Name, Designation and Address	Signature
1.	Prof. R. C. Hansdah Associate Professor Dept. of Computer Science and Automation Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore - 560012 Karnataka, India	R. C. Hansdah April 3, 2006
2.	Shri N. C. Murmu Head, Tribology Group Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute Mahatma Avenue, Durgapur-713209 West Bengal, India	N. C. Murmu 27/03/06