

Title: A response regarding small ko

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References: N3987

Source: Masahiro Sekiguchi

The author of this contribution said during the Tuesday WG 2 session that a member of Japanese body knew an example usage of the proposed KATAKANA LETTER SMALL KO. However, it was his misunderstanding.

The real argument in question was something like this: “*Small katakana are sometimes used to express foreign (no Japanese) sounds using Japanese letters. Most of those usages are ad-hoc invention by authors. There may be a book or two that uses small ko for the purpose.*” The statement actually mentioned *possibility* of transliteration use. None of the committee members knew actual sample of such usage.

Moreover, Japan national body is not comfortable with the idea to encode such ad-hoc inventions in UCS. Generally speaking, authors can do anything he/she considered appropriate, and most of those novel usages are just forgotten without any followers. We should not encode new characters unless they are considered to have some established usages.