

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: Working Group Document

Title: The contemporary Rovas usage and Rovas user community representation

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Preface

Several contributions to the Rovas script encoding process has been submitted by the Hungarian National Body and enthusiastic individuals. However, the voice of the user community and the points of the contemporary Rovas usage were not articulated yet.

As in the case of encoding Khanty, the N4219 (2012-01-30, written by Deborah Anderson, p. 3) points out „*Several scholars strongly advised that the user communities be directly consulted*”, hereby the Rovas Foundation conveys the opinion of whom the encoding should be for: the user community.

Please send any response to this contribution directly to the Rovas Foundation e-mail address (rovasfoundation@gmail.com)

Introduction

The Rovas Foundation, the largest and most acknowledged Rovas-related organization, do appreciate the valuable contributions and the progress toward the encoding of the Rovas script family – *Szekely-Hungarian Rovas*, *Carpathian Basin Rovas* and *Khazarian Rovas* (Hosszú 2011). Within these scripts, the major concern is the Szekely-Hungarian Rovas, as it is probably the only contemporary writing system in Europe that is not yet incorporated into the Unicode Character Set. Therefore, not only the rapidly growing Rovas user society but the global Hungarian speaking community pays more and more attention to the encoding process and hopes that the recent technical obstacle in the digital Rovas utilization will be removed as soon as possible.

To accelerate this process and clear the legitimacy issues, the Rovas Foundation hereby declares that accordingly to the decision of the uniting Rovas stakeholders, exclusively recognizes and only supports the encoding proposal submitted by the Hungarian National Body (N4183, 2012-01-11).

1. User base review

Based on the dimensions of the contemporary Rovas content sales, the quantity and growth of the Rovas digital content, the intensity of education and boost in contemporary daily usage, the experts estimates the size of the global Rovas user community reaching the hundred thousand scale. Due to the technical, legal and administrative developments of the last 2–3 years, the size of the Rovas user community is booming with a 2–3 digit growth/year.

Example: The Rovas Info (daily updated leading Rovas portal site) pages on the Facebook reached almost 5000 and 3000 subscribers within a year.

2. Rovas usage in the everyday life

The vast majority of the users today needs the Rovas scripts not to reproduce historical Rovas findings but to use the Rovas as a contemporary writing system in all the fields of the daily life, in parallel with the Latin-based Hungarian orthography.

During the last decades the harmonization trend between the Rovas and the Latin-based Hungarian orthography accelerated in character usage, punctuation, spelling rules, layout, etc. Thus the interchangeability between the scripts seems to be completed in the very near future.

Note that besides the Szekely-Hungarian Rovas – that was in continuous use during the history up today –, the revitalized Carpathian Basin Rovas needs to have the same attributes.

For that reasons, the following needs of the contemporary users has to be fulfilled in the encoding process.

2.1. Complete historical and contemporary character set

Besides the traditional and historical characters, the Szekely-Hungarian and the Carpathian Basin Rovas character sets need to contain all the modern phoneme of the contemporary Hungarian language.

Thus, the DZ and DZS characters representing individual phonemes and the Q , W , X , and Y characters cannot be omitted without hampering the contemporary, Latin-based Hungarian interchangeable usage. In fact, the 99,9% of the printed Rovas contents of the last few years do apply these characters.

Note, that there is proven usage of these Rovas characters with partly differing glyphs from as early as in 1627 (Benkő 1996a, pp. 55-64; 1996b, p. 33; Hosszú 2011, pp. 220–222) in case of Q , X , W , and Y ; and in 1935 in case of DZ and DZS (Hosszú 2011, p. 238).

2.2. Naming

A) The name of the script family is “rovás” in Hungarian, and the largest ever user conference in 2008, Gödöllő (Hungary) made a consensus to use the „székely-magyar rovás” as the name of the writing system. Moreover, based on the fact that words derived from „rovás” are traditionally used in several languages – including English – the official name of the script family need to be Rovas and the name of the script Szekely-Hungarian Rovas in English.

Note, that the National Council of Szekelys as well made the decision to promote the English term of Szekely to refer them as a nation.

B) According to the user need for harmonized contemporary utilization, the Rovas character names has to be identical to their Latin-based Hungarian orthography counterparts. In case of

character name differentiation, the topological naming is required, as it is widespread among the Rovas users and Rovas researchers.

2.3. Numerals

In both contemporary Rovas script, all the basic numerals 0–12 and the traditional numerals (10, 50, 100, 500, 1000) need to be encoded for the unhampered daily usage. Besides them, there are traces in the literature, that other numerals did exist (5000, 10000 and million) before. Although their characters are unknown today, the user community shows signs of need for them, thus the community might reach a consensus about their contemporary characters in the very near future.

Note, that for the numeral 10000 the Hungarian language does even have a traditional name in the forms of *tömény*, *tömén* or *tumen*.

2.4. Alignment

Although the Rovas alignment was traditionally oriented to the base line, since the invention of the Rovas editing-printing technology in 2009, if casing is used, the so-called horizontally centered alignment has become the major system (e.g. book printing, city limit signs, see Rumi, Sípos, & Somfai 2009; and Rumi, Sípos, & Somfai 2010; Hosszú 2011, p. 246).

2.5. Historical and linguistic descriptions

The Rovas community do require using the latest scientific (historical, linguistic, archeological) statements, citations and technical references in the text of the encoding documents, instead of obsolete, unscientific or sentimentally, politically biased ones.

3. Legitimacy of the representation of the user community

The Rovas Foundation is a key stake holder of the Rovas lobbying system that includes social, political, legal and professional-technical members at both national and international level, and includes the general Rovas user community of the global Hungarian society.

As for the legitimacy of representing the user community in the encoding process, the Rovas Foundation has a clear stand point: the Hungarian National Body is regarded the only legitimate representative. However, the Rovas Foundation, its supporters and partners are open to cooperate with all institutions, individuals respecting the legitimacy of the Hungarian National Body.

The Rovas Foundation is ready to articulate the needs and lobby for the interests of the represented Rovas community and Rovas culture stake holders at global level.

Objection:

The Rovas Foundation made a personal investigation about the claims that N3697 (2009.10.14) – the last contribution with full administrative attachment – contains false information about the user base contacts in C – Technical justification, 2.b, by listing 13 names.

The result is that out of the 13 persons named, 2 are the contributors of the N3697 (Ádám Joó, Szabolcs Szelp), 4 did not answered, unknown (Gábor Szakács, Gáspár Sinai, Klára Szakács, Tamás Böröczki), and 7 persons – the majority – do oppose N3697, its authors and condemns the use of their names without permission.

Note, that Gábor Bakonyi submitted own proposal N3526. Moreover, András Tisza, Mária Tiszáné Bencsik, Győző Libisch, András Záhonyi, Tamás Rumi, Gábor Hosszú and László Sípos are authors and supporters of the Hungarian National Body's proposal N4183.

4. The encoding process

The Rovas Foundation did review the documents of the encoding process. After careful evaluation of the related documents, the Rovas Foundation does agree with the statements and proposed solutions of N4183 (2012-01-11) and related contributions, because the Hungarian National Body do have a regular consultation with the major representatives of the user community – including the Rovas Foundation.

5. About Rovas Foundation

The organization is the largest user community and stake holder representation body in the fields of Rovas culture. It is recognized within the legislation, state administration, higher education and research institutions. The Rovas Foundation is the prime source of the digital and printed media about the Rovas culture issues. The organization is privately founded, its activity is sponsored by both private and public sources.

5.1. General data:

Funded: 2009
Type: public benefit organization
Address: Hungary, 5000 Szolnok, Háromrózsa 24.

5.2. Main goals:

Research, popularization of the Rovas culture and promotion, development of the contemporary Rovas usage. Representation of the Rovas user community and the Rovas culture stake holders.

5.3. Main activity:

Supporting the scientific Rovas research and publication
Organizing the Rovas public life, lobbying
Supporting the unification, standardization and technical development of the Rovas
Publishing about and in Rovas
Managing the unified Rovas city limit sign system in the Carpathian Basin
Education and popularization
Rovas media development, PR and international relations

5.4. Main partners

The National Assembly of Hungary
Ministry of National Resources, Hungary
Ministry of National Development, Hungary
Hungarian Public Road Co.

Hungarian Standard Association (National Body)
Government of Capital Budapest
World Association of Hungarians
National Council of Szekelys

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