Category: Research Article

Research on Writing Sinhalese Names in Katakana
(Comparative analysis about Japanese syllabary table and Sinhalese syllabary table)

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ARTICLE DETAILS

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මුඛ්‍යපද:

කතකන අක්ෂර මාලාව, සිංහල ශබ්ද මාලාව, ජපන් භාෂාව ඉගෙනීම, ලාංකික හා භාෂා කතුවරුන්

සංක්ෂිප්තය

විදේශීය වචන පිටපත් කිරීම සඳහා ජපන් භාෂාවේදී ප්‍රධාන වශයෙන්ම භාවිත කරනුයේ කතකන අකුරුයි. සිංහල භාෂාව ගත් කල කතකන භාවිතයෙන් ලිවිය නොහැකි ශබ්දද සිංහල භාෂාවේ හඳුනාගත හැකිය. මන්ද සිංහල හෝඩියේ ස්වර 18ක් සමග එකතු වී බොහෝ ශබ්ද ඇති නිසාවෙනි. එබැවින් ලාංකික ජපන් ඉගෙනුම ලබන්නන් කතකනවලින් සිංහල නම් ලියන විට එකම නම ලිවීමේ ක්‍රමය වෙනස් වේ. මෙම පර්යේෂණයේදී අවධානය යොමු වී ඇත්තේ සිංහල නම් ලිවීමේදී කතකන අකුරු භාවිතය පිළිබඳය. මුලින්ම කතකන විෂය මාලාවේ සිතියම සහ සිංහල ශබ්ද මාලාව පරීක්ෂා කරන කෙරිණි. ඉන්පසු කතකනහි ලිවිය හැකි සහ ලිවීමට අපහසු ශබ්ද පැහැදිලි කෙරිණි. කතකනහි ලිවීමට අපහසු සිංහල ශබ්ද ලිවීමේ ක්‍රමය පරීක්ෂා කිරීම සඳහා ශ්‍රී ලාංකික සහ ජපන් කතුවරුන් විසින් ලියන ලද පොත් 3ක් ගත් අතර එම පොත්වලින් කතකනවලින් ලියැවුණු සිංහල වචන 30ක් එකතු කරන ලදි.

Introduction

Currently, with a rapid globalization process, the number of learners who study Japanese Language is gradually increasing. In Japanese Language there are four main types of writing systems, namely Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji and Romaji. Katakana letters play an important part in the Japanese language since they are mainly used to write loan words and for transcription of foreign words. When learners start studying Japanese, whether it's a school, a institution or a university, what they prefer to write first are their names in katakana. Therefore, it is impossible for foreign Japanese learners to avoid katakana notation of their names in real language life. But there are many consonant sounds and borrowings in *Sinhalese syllabary* than in *Katakana syllabary*, as well as many sounds created in combination with 18 vowels in Sinhala. Because of this reason, when Sri Lankan Japanese learners write Sinhala names in Katakana, there are sounds in Sinhala that cannot be written in Katakana. Therefore, the way of writing differs, even though they have the same name. In that case, Japanese Language learners in Sri Lanka need to have a proper knowledge on how to write Sinhalese names in katakana. When focusing on previous research articles, they have clarified the exact way to write foreign words that are difficult to write. In particular, the following previous studies were referred to.

Kobayashi (1991) investigated how well beginners in Japanese Language have mastered the Japanese localization rules found in loanwords. A test consisting of 48 English words on 23 Japanese learners whose mother tongue was English has been done. As a result, it is clarified that the correct answer rate for each word and the correct answer rate for each rule are both low. And the writer have identified some problems especially with the insertion of *Sokuon* (geminate consonant-small "tsu" in Japanese) and the long vowels.

The survey of Chou (2007) has examined the errors of foreign words written by Japanese Learners. And realized that, errors affect the vocabulary recognition of native speakers. When looking at the errors by voice element, it was also clarified that the order and position of *vowel*, *voiced consonant*, *long vowel* and *sokuon* (geminate consonant -small「*tsu*」in Japanese) are differs, at the beginning of the word, at the middle of the word and at the end of the word.

The Ministry of Education in Japan (1955)「外来語の表記」defines 19 principles for writing loanwords in katakana. In particular, this regulation pays attention to the following points. (1) Writing「ハ」,「ヒ」,「ヘ」,「ホ」,「バ」,「ビ」,「ブ」,

「ベ」,「ボ」in katakana, instead of, 「ファ」,「フィ」,「フェ」,「フォ」,「ウァ」,「ウィ」,「ウェ」,「ウォ」(2) Writing in katakana uses(チ chi) and (ジ ji) instead of (ティ ti) (ディ di). (3) When using a place name of foreign languages in katakana, write as a「a」sound 「a」and「æ」.（4）When using er,or,ar at the end of the word, usually it express as a *Chouon* (—long sound).

The previous studies have described above clarifications and the exact way of writing the parts that are difficult when writing foreign languages. Alternatively, research is being conducted on English and Japanese notation systems. However, a research on the notation system of Sinhala language and Katakana has not been done so far. For this reason, it seems crucial to make an appropriate list that can be used as a reference when writing Sinhalese names in Katakana. Based on the above, in this research, I would like to focus on the *Japanese katakana syllabary* table and *Sinhalese syllabary* table which are one of the main official languages in Japan and Sri Lanka.

Purpose

There are three main purpose of this research. First, is to find out the problems in writing Sinhalese names in katakana. For that, sounds that are difficult to write in katakana from the perspective of *Sinhalese syllabary* are being clarified. Next, is to identify the differences and similarities in the way of writing Sinhalese sounds in katakana written by Japanese authors and Sinhala authors. Finally, the main intention of this research is to find out the most suitable way of writing Sinhalese names in katakana.

Materials & Methods

Materials

3 Japanese books written by Sri Lankan authors who have visited Japan.

3 Japanese books written by Japanese authors who have visited Sri Lanka.

Method

Through the survey, the *katakana syllabary* and the *Sinhalese syllabary* were examined and collected 30 Sinhala katakana words, which are difficult to write in katakana, from 3 Sri Lankan books. The data obtained from the survey were

categorized according to the content, and in the case of the Mathematical Chart, each data was calculated. After that, the notation of Japanese books and Sri Lankan books were compared, and examined the differences and similarities in writing Sinhala sounds in katakana by Japanese authors and Sri Lankan authors. In addition, several Sri Lankan names from Sri Lankan magazines and books published from 2000 to 2020 years were collected. Based on the rules for loanword notation and the composition of the collected katakana notations, some rules for notation by character and names related to the practical use of the characters were created, while analyzing the examples. Finally, examined all the katakana lists and created a list of katakana notations that can be used as a reference to write Sinhalese names in Katakana accurately. Finally, the main intention of this research is to find out the *Sinhalese syllables* which can not be written in katakana syllabary, which are used to write the names of Sinhalese and suggest the katakana characters to write such Sinhalese names, which is useful for anyone who begin the journey of Japanese Language.

Survey Results

Two surveys were conducted in this study. The first survey is to examine the sounds of the *Sinhalese Syllabary* and *katakana syllabary*, the similarities and differences in them and the sounds that are difficult to write. (below Survey 1)

The second survey examines whether it is possible to use one or more notation methods based on the母音(*vowel*), 濁点 (*voiced consonant*), 長音 (*long sound*), 促音 (*geminate consonant*-small "tsu" in Japanese) and whether it changes between "in the beginning of the word", or "at the middle of the word" and "at the end of the word" (below Survey 2)

Survey 1

As a result, the following characters can be mentioned as the 150 sounds of the *Sinhala syllabary* that can be written in Katakana.

They are、අ 、ආ 、ඉ、ඊ、උ 、ඌ、එ、ඒ 、ඔ 、ඕ、අං、ක、කා、කි、කී、කු、කූ、

කෙ、කේ、කො、කෝ、ග、ගා、ගැ、ගෑ、ගි、ගී、ගු、ගූ、ගෙ、ගේ、ගො、ගෝ、ච、

චා、චි、චී、චු、චූ、චෙ、චේ、චො、චෝ、ජ 、ජා、ජි、ජී、ජු、ජූ、ජෙ、ජේ、ජො、

ජෝ්, ත, තා, තෙ, තේ, තො, තෝ, ද, දා, දෙ, දේ, දො, දෝ, න, නා, නි, නී,

නු, නූ, නෙ, නේ, නො, නෝ, ප, පා, පි, පී, පු, පූ, පෙ, පේ, පො, පෝ, බ,

බා, බි, බී, බු, බූ, බෙ, බේ, බො, බෝ, ම, මා, මි, මී, මු, මූ, මෙ, මේ, මො,

මෝ, ය, යා, යු, යූ, යො, යෝ, ර, රා, රැ, රෑ, රි, රී, රු, රූ, රෙ, රේ, රො,

රෝ, ශ, ශා, ශි, ශී, ශු, ශූ, ශෙ, ශේ, ශො, ශෝ, ස, සා, සු, සූ, සෙ, සේ, සො,

සෝ, හ, හා, හි, හී, හෙ, හේ, හො, හෝ

To write below 42 sounds, only one character is used in Sinhala alphabet where as two characters are written to represent the correspondings in katakana alphabet.

ඒ, කෙ, ගෙ, වෙ, ජේ, ටෙ, ඩෙ, තෙ, දෙ, නෙ, පෙ, බෙ,

මෙ, යෙ, රෙ, ලෙ, වෙ, ශෙ, සෙ, හෙ, ළෙ, ඕ, කො, ගො, වො,

ජො, ටො, ඩො, තො, දො, නො, පො, බො, මො, යො, වො, ශො, සො,

හො, ළො, රො, ලො.

In addition, there are 30 sounds in *Sinhalese syllable* that does not change its meaning even if the shape changes as,
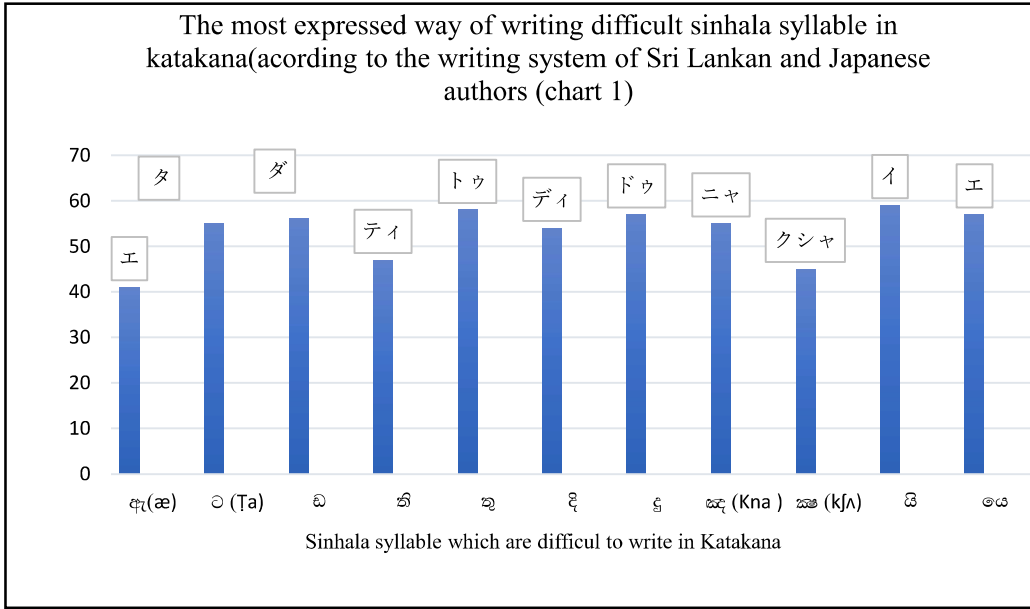
ක · බ」 、 「ග · ස」 、 「ව · ෂ」 、 「ට · ධ」 、 「ඩ · ඨ」 、 「ත · ථ」 、 「ද ·
ධ · ද」 、 「න · ණ · ඩ」 , 「ඤ · ඥ · ජ」 , 「ප · ථ」 、 「බ · හ · ඹ」 、 「ශ · ෂ」
「ල · ළ」 .

ඇ,කැ, ගැ, වැ,ජැ, ටැ,ඩැ,තැ,දැ,නැ,පැ,බැ,මැ,යැ,�,ලැ,වැ, ශැ,සැ,හැ,ළැ,ඈ,කෑ, ගෑ, වෑ,ජෑ,ටෑ,ඩෑ,
තෑ,දෑ,නෑ,පෑ,බෑ,මෑ,යෑ,ඥ,ලෑ,වෑ,ශෑ,සෑ,හෑ,ළෑ,ට, වා,වැ,වෑ,ටි,ටී,වු,වූ,ටෙ,ටේ,ටෙ,ටො,ටෝ,ටෙ,ඩ
,ඩා,ඩි,ඩී,ඩු,ඩූ,ඩෙ,ඩේඩෙ ,ඩො,ඩෝ,ඩෙ,ති,තී,තු,තූ,දි,දී,දු,දූ, ව, සි,ෂැ, ඥ,ක්ෂ, යි, යී, යෙ, යේ

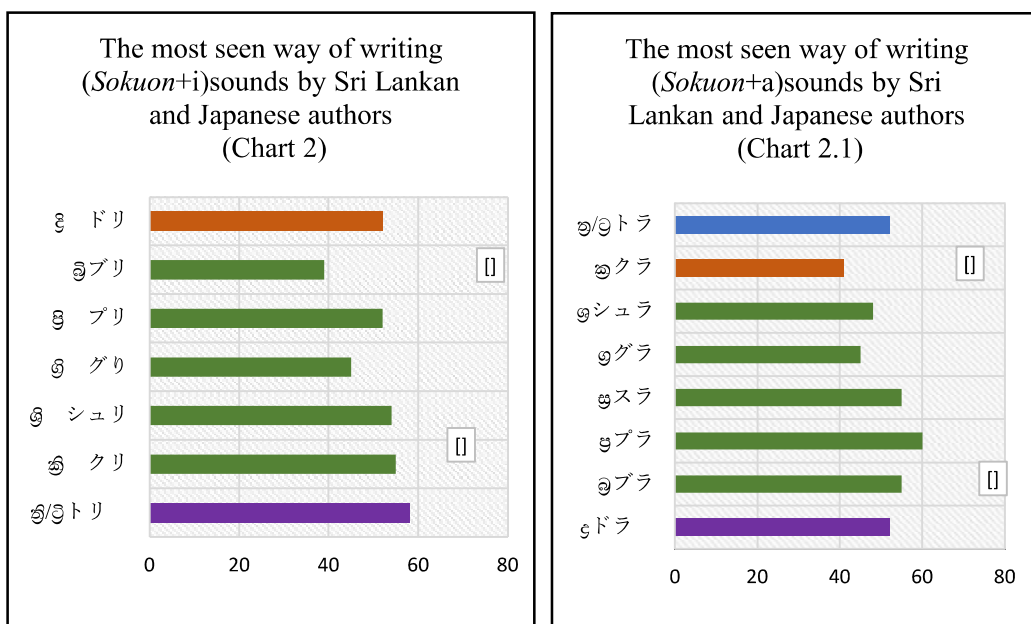Furthermore, there are about 85 sounds that are not found in *katakana syllabary* as in below.

In addition, it was clear that it is difficult to express these sounds □,□,□,□, some of ඔ sounds, "Rakaranshaya" and "Yanshaya"in Katakana.

Survey 2

The most expressed way of writing difficult sinhala syllable in katakana(acording to the writing system of Sri Lankan and Japanese authors (chart 1)

Sinhala syllable which are difficul to write in Katakana

In chart 01, examined the 「ඇ æ」,「ඔ Ṭa」,「ඩ」,「ති 」,「ඩ 」,「ඩි」,「ඩ 」,「ඤ」 ,「ෂ 」,「ඉ 」,「එ 」sounds, which are difficult to write in katakana and collected 60 words from 6 books which included these sounds written by Japanese authors and Sri Lankan authors. This graph shows the result after summarizing the most used ways of writing by Japanese writers and Sri lankan writers in katakana. According to this chart, there were many places where the sound of the "ඇ æ" was represented by "エ" sound such as 「ケ」、「セ」、「テ」、「ネ」、「ヘ」,「メ」、「レ」. Next, realized that the sound notation of the "ඩ" line is similar to the sound of the "ද" line. As shown in the chart ති sound was written as "ティ" and the"ඩ" sound was written as "トゥ". In addition "ඩ" and "ඩ" were written as "diディ" and "deデ", and the sound of "ඤ" was written as "nyaニャ". When the sound of "ෂ" in Sinhalese is written in katakana, more than in 80% of the places it was written as "kushaクシャ". In addition, it was clarified that the sounds of " ඉ" and "එ" are written by Sri Lankan writers and Japanese writers by using the sounds of 「iイ」and 「eエ」.

The most seen way of writing (*Sokuon* + "I") sounds by Sri Lankan and Japanese authors

The most seen way of writing (*Sokuon*+i)sounds by Sri Lankan and Japanese authors (Chart 2)

ද ドリ	
බ ブリ	
ප プリ	
ග グリ	
ශ シュリ	
ක クリ	
ත/ට トリ	

The most seen way of writing (*Sokuon*+a)sounds by Sri Lankan and Japanese authors (Chart 2.1)

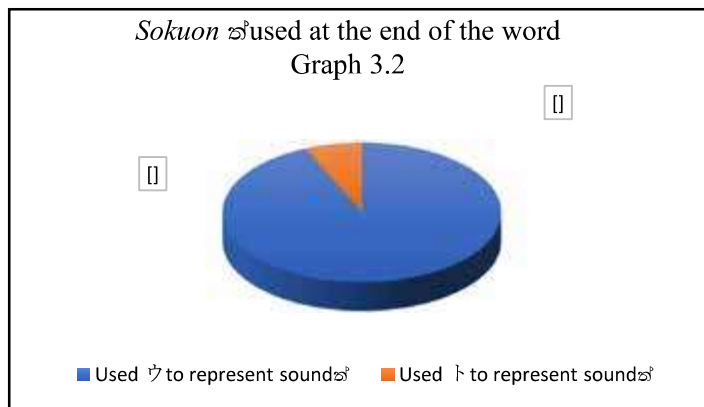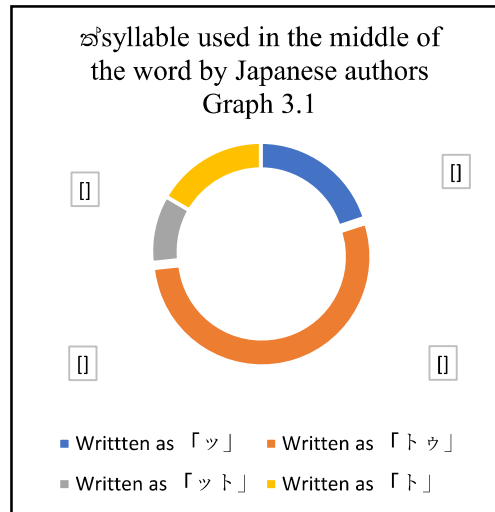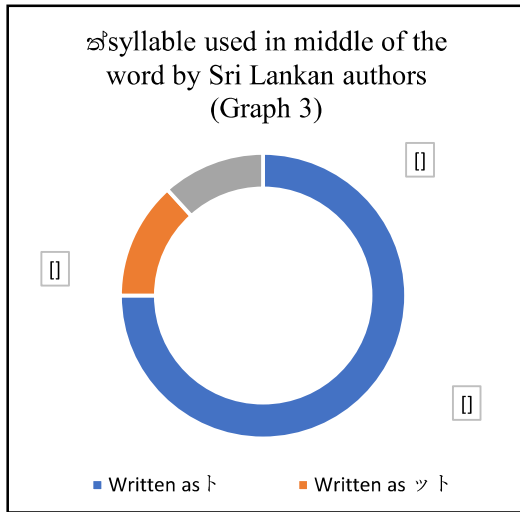|	
ත/ට トラ	
ක クラ	
ශ シュラ	
ග グラ	
ස スラ	
ප プラ	
බ ブラ	
ද ドラ	

(Chart 2)

The most seen way of writing (Sokuon + "I") sounds by Sri Lankan and Japanese authors

(Chart 2)

This bar chart shows information about the way of writing (*Sokuon* + "I") and (*Sokuon* +"a").

This graph shows the results of a survey in which Japanese authors' and Sri Lankan authors' way of writing is examined. Then, the method of the notation of all the investigation collaborators was "*sokuon+consonant*" when there was a prompting sound in the word, and it was a form of "*Silent consonant*" + "*Voiced consonant*".

Acording to chart 3,3.1and chart 3.2 the word ends with a "*sokuon*", the place written by changing it to the sound of "U line" exceeds 80%. Such as, from the pie chart, it is clear that the majority of participants prefer to write ට as トウ and only a minority of 7% prefer as ト.

ට්syllable used in middle of the word by Sri Lankan authors (Graph 3)

Written as ト   Written as ット

ට්syllable used in the middle of the word by Japanese authors Graph 3.1

Writtten as 「ッ」   Written as 「トゥ」
Written as 「ット」   Written as 「ト」

Sokuon ට්used at the end of the word Graph 3.2

Used ウto represent soundට්   Used トto represent soundට්

Conclution

Vowel notation method

The Sinhala sounds (a,i,u,e,o) are the same as in Japanese. However, there are four variety of「アa」There are the short vowel of「アඇ」and the long vowel「アーඈ」and (ඇ æ) sound which is like a combination of 「アඇ」and「エඑ」and long vowel of (ඈ) . Acording to the results of the survey, there were different methods used to write ඇ,such asア、エandアエ. But, when compare those syllables with Sinhala, ア is ඇ and エis එ. Therefore, アエ),「アエー」can be suggested as the most appropriate way to write ඇ, ඈ.

Example: ඈ「æ」(アエ) アエンタニ   æ n θ ʌ n、   ඈන්තනි

We can use two letters to represent the corresponding Katakana sounds. Such as 「ඓ 」、 「ඖ 」 . In *Sinhalese syllabary* these sounds pronounced as (a+i)and (a+u) .Since the phonetic symbol is also indicated as (Ai)and(Au),it is suggest that these two letters can be written in as 「アイ」and「アウ」when writing in katakana syllable.

Example:

ඓ 「Ai」 （アイ）アインディ aɪ n ð ɪ ඓන්දි

ඖ Au」 （アウ）アウシャーニ aʊ ʃ ɑː n ɪ ඖශානි

「ං」is not used at the begining of a person's name. It is used at the end of a word and the middle of the word. It represent （ン） in *Katakana syllable*. As an example, スプ<u>ン</u> සුපුන් 、サ<u>ン</u>ギーター සංගීතා. Recently, phonemes that are not used as Sinhalese names are mainly derived from pali and Sanskrit. As an example, 「ඌ」、「ඖ」、「 ඃ」. In Sinhala syllable ඎ borrowed from the Pali language. Also, according to Noguchi (1986), the dual vowels "ඓAi", "ඖAu" "ඈ", "ඈ", "ඖ", and "ඖ" nasal sounds "ං" also borrowed sounds. Sounds such as [f][Z], which are not in the original *Sinhalese syllable*, and entered as foreign languages after the current notation was established. These sounds are especially used in Muslim names.

Writing method of consonant

According to the *katakana syllable*, the consonant of the (ැ)sound can be written as follows.

පැ（パェ）、නැ（ナェ）、කැ（カェ）、බැ（バェ）、ගැ（ガェ）、මැ（マェ）、නැ（ナェ）、යැ（ヤェ）、ද（ラェ）、සැ（サェ）、තැ（タェ）、රැ（ラェ）、ඩැ（ダェ）、හැ （ハェ）、තැ（タェ）、ඩැ（ダェ）.しかし、ශැ（シェ）、ඡැ （ジェ）、වැ（ヴェ）、චැ（チェ）、ෆැ（フェ）.

There are many shapes which can be created with the combination of two sounds （i) and(u).

කෛ「 カイ」「ගෛガイ」「චෛチャイ」「ජෛジャイ」「ටෛタイ」「ඩෛダイ」「තෛタイ」「දෛダイ」「නෛナイ」「පෛパイ」「බෛバイ」「මෛマイ」「යෛヤイ」「රෛライ」「ලෛライ」「වෛワイ/ヴァイ」「ශෛシャイ」「සෛサイ」「හෛハイ」「ෆෛファイ」.

The consonant sounds of ඖ「Au」also can be written as follows.

「කෞカウ」「ගෞガウ」「චෞチャウ」「ජෞジャウ」「ටෞタウ」「ඩෞダウ」「තෞタウ」「දෞダウ」「නෞナウ」「පෞパウ」「බෞバウ」「මෞマウ」「යෞヤウ」「වෞウァウ/ヴァウ」「ශෞシャウ」「සෞサウ」「හෞハウ」「ෆෞファウ」「ඪෞラウ」「ළෞラウ」.

The Long Vowel Sound

Long vowels have been radically simplified in Katakana. Despite the vowel sound, all long vowel sounds are denoted by a simple dash as「ー」.

Combined Vowel Sound

According to the Japanese Grammar Guide (2012) the decision to resolve these deficiencies was to add small versions of the five vowel sounds. This has also been done for the / w / consonant sound to replace the obsolete characters. In addition, the convention of using the little double slashes on the「ウ」vowel（ヴ）with the small「ア、イ、エ、オ」to designate the / v / consonant has also been established, but it is not often used probably due to the fact that Japanese people still have difficulty in pronouncing / v /. For instance, while you may guess that "volume" would be pronounced with a / v / sound, the Japanese have opted the easier way to pronounce it as "bolume"（ボリューム）and similarly the *Sinhalese syllable* as,「නඩිශා ナビーシャー」. In the same way, vodka is written as "wokka"（ウォッカ）by Japanese people and not   . Because of that, this thesis suggest the Japanese learners the way of writing ウァ、ウィ、ウェ、ウォ.

Notice that there is no / wu / sound but according to the survey most (Wu) sounds were written in「ウ」. Therefore, as an example, we can write as නාවුනලාගෙ aナーウナラーゲー）. Due to the limitations of the sound set in Katakana, some new combinations have been devised over the years to account for sounds that were not originally in Japanese. Most notable is the lack of the / ti / di / and / tu / du / sounds which can be expressed as follows according to the survey.「ティ,ディ、トゥ、ドゥ」and the lack of the / f / consonant sound except for   , while it can be written according as「ファ、フィ、フ、フェ、フォ」. However, (Ta) and (Tha) was used as a different sounds in Sinhala syllable. According to the Ministry of Education (1955), (Ta) and (tha) appear in the same environment. Therefore, according to the data of

this survey, when writing ට 」sound, it can be written same as (ත) ට ටි ටු ටේ、ටො ├」. On the other hand, the way of writing (ද)and(ඩ) sounds are same ද ダ、ඩ ディ、ඩු ドゥ、ඩෙ デ、ඩො ド、」. As an example, සුමුදු 「スム<u>ドゥ</u>」. Also, sounds of "ha" line which are pronounced as (ha,hi,hu,he ho) in Sinhala becomes (ha,hi,fu,he,ho) according to the order of the *katakana syllabary*. So it is necessary to consider the way of writing (hu)sound. Therefore, this research suggest (ヒゥ) as the most close sound.

Even though, *katakana syllable*,"sa line" becomes "Sa,Shi,Su,Se,So". But it must be (si)instead of (shi) in Sinhala syllabary. Therefore, I prefer that it is more appropriate to write the sounds of (shi)as(スィ).

There are only three   sounds in *Katakana syllabary*. They are (ya,yu,yo). The sounds of (yi)and (ye)are not found in *katakana syllabary*. Therefore, according to the data of the survey it can be written in as (yiい) and(yeエ).

Next, *Sinhalese syllabary* which the pronunciations are exactly the same, but sound notations differ, are given below.

Allophone	Katakana Syllable	Sinhalese Names
「ක kʌ」 、「ඛ kʌ」	(カ)	Ex : カマニ කමනි
「ග gʌ」 、「ඝ gʰʌ」	「ガ」	Ex : ガヤニ ගයනි
「ච tʃʌ」 、「ඡ tʃʰʌ」	「チャ」	Ex : チャマリ චමරි
「ට tʌ」 、「ඨ tʰʌ」	「タ」	Ex : ターニヤー ටානියා
「ඩ dʌ」 、「ඪ dʰʌ」	「ダ」	Ex : デンシル ඩෙන්සිල්
「ත θʌ、「ථ θʰʌ」	「タ」	Ex : タマーシャー තමාෂා
「ද ðʌ」 、「ධ ðʰʌ」	「ダ」	Ex : ダヤーン දයාන්
「න nʌ」 、「ණ nʌ」	「ナ」	Ex : バンナカ බන්නක ナヤニ නයනි
「ඤ(?)」 、「ඥ (?)」	「ニャ」	Ex : ニャーナセーナ ඤානසේන
「ප pʌ」 、「ඵ pʰʌ」	「パ」	Ex : パボーダー පබෝධා
「 බbʌ 」 、「භbʰʌ 」 、「ඹ」 「mbʌ」	「バ」	Ex : パバサラー පබසරා
「ර lʌ」 、「ළ lʌ」	「ラ」	Ex : ラスィニ රසිනි
「ශ ʒʌ」 、「ෂʃʌ」	「シャ」	Ex : シャラニ ශලනි : ラクシャーン ලක්ෂාන්

The following table shows 42 sounds that use two characters to represent the corresponding katakana sound.

◌ +「ア」	◌ +「アー」	◌ +「イ」	◌ +「イー」
「ක クラ」、 「ශ シュラ」、 「ග グラ」、 「ඵ プラ」、 「බ ブラ」	「කා クラー」、 「ශා シュラー」、 「ඵා プラー」、 「ගා グラー」、 「බා ブラー」	「කි クリ」、 「ශි スリ」、 「ගි グリ」、 「ඵි プリ」、 「බි ブリ」	「කී クリー」、 「ශී スリー」、 「ගී グリー」、 「ඵී プリー」、 「බී ブリー」
「ත /ඨ トラ」、 「ඳ ドラ」	「තා/ඨා トラー」、 「ඳා ドラー」	「ති/ඨි トリ」、 「ඳි ドリ」	「තී/ඨී トリー」、 「ඳී ドリー」

As in Japanese, when writing Sinhalese names in katakana, "*sokuon*" (small tsu in Japanese) can be used in the middle of the word and at the end of the word, but not at the beginning of the word. In Sinhala sign "හල් කිරීම" can be used to represent consonants. For example (ka ක) becomes the sound of (k ක්), if you add a sign to make a consonant, when pronouncing the *sokuon*, the air stops at the tongue and lips when pronouncing.

According to this study, first intention is to find the problems in writing Sinhalese names in katakana, then, to study sounds that are difficult to write in katakana from the viewpoint of *Sinhalese syllable* diagrams. The third is to suggest letters representing rules that can be referenced in order to write the names of Sinhalese in katakana accurately. Numerous studies have been conducted on Katakana, but the way of writing Sinhalese names in Katakana has not been examined yet. Most importantly, the *katakana syllabary* suggested in this article can be used as a reference for Sri Lankan learners of Japanese Language when writing their names in katakana.

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