

SORTING ORDER OF MYANMAR VOWELS IN SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

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4-Apr-2004

Message from the presenter

Quite similar to other Indic scripts, Myanmar language has 24 vowels, which can be grouped into 8 groups (8 rows) in 3 tones (3 columns). To remember the 8 groups of vowels, Myanmar used to refer to a poem-like phrase: ‘အအိအုအေအဲအောအံအို’ The presenter found some possible misleading derivations which might have slipped along Myanmar language's 1200 years of history.

IMPORTANT: The presenter is NOT proposing Myanmar Language Commission nor other scholars to change. But this is presented as a theory to consider the concept which might have been the original approach.

(1) Scientific Approach (or) Possible Original Approach

1 snap length (est. 0.5 second) <i>short syllable</i>	2 snaps length (est. 1 second) <i>medium syllable</i>	3 snaps length (est. 1.5 second) <i>long syllable</i>
အ	အာ	အာ:
အိ	အိ	အိ:
အု	အူ	အူ:
အေ	အေ	အေ:
အဲ	(အယ်)*	အဲ
အော	အော်	အော
အံ	အံ	(အမ်:)*
အို	အို	အို:

(2) Myanmar Language Commission's Approach

1st column	2nd column	3rd column
အ	အာ	အာ:
အိ	အိ	အိ:
အု	အူ	အူ:
အေ	အေ	အေ:
အဲ	အဲ	*
အော	အော	အော်
အံ	အံ	*
အို	အို	အို:

* **NOTE:** Since these vowels are not spelled with *byee-twe* (combining consonents), they are sorted as killers (devowelizers).

Although the above approach submitted by Zaw Htut is based on

အအိအုအေအဲအောအံအို

Myanmar Language Commission's approach (widely taught in schools today), according to many printed references, is based on

အအိအုအေအဲအောအံအို