

### 1.1 The Tibetan Alphabet

### 1.1.1 The Alphabet

The invention of the Tibetan alphabet is credited to Thon-mi Sambhota ( $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_{\mathfrak{A}}$ ' $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}$ ' $\mathfrak{A}_{\mathfrak{A}}$ ' $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}_{\mathfrak{A}}$ ') in the eighth century. Modeled after Brahmi writing, the Tibetan alphabet consists of 30 letters and four vowel diacritics. The unit of writing is the syllable and not the word.

In the traditional alphabet chart, letters are arranged in principle according to their place of articulation (in rows) and manner of articulation (in columns). In the last three rows, the rationale for the order becomes less apparent. For example, the letters  $\mathfrak{A}$  and  $\mathfrak{A}$ , which behave just like the third-column letters in the previous five rows, are placed elsewhere. That said, the order of the alphabet is of vital importance because all Tibetan dictionaries are arranged in that order.

In the following chart, the standard Latin transcription (SLT), which is the spelling



Inscription on Bronze, the Jokhang, Lhasa

adopted by scholars to transcribe literary Tibetan, and the Amdo phonetic transcription are both given for each letter, with SLT followed by Amdo phonetic transcription in brackets. For example, the letter  $\P$  is transcribed as ga [ka]. For a description of the Amdo phonetic symbols adopted in this book, please see the explanations in section 1.2.1. Sounds represented by letters in combination with others are given in brackets marked with the circumflex: ^[ ]. These sounds will be discussed in Lesson 2.



Column I	Column II	Column III	Column IV
ka [ka] य	kha [k <sup>h</sup> a] الم	<sup>ga [ka]</sup>	nga [nga] ス
ca [ca] 3	cha [c <sup>h</sup> a] क	ja [ca] <b>5</b> ^[ja]	nya [nya] H
<sup>ta [ta]</sup> 5	tha [t <sup>h</sup> a] ち	$da [ta] = \zeta^{a}$	na [na] J
pa [pa] ム	pha [p <sup>h</sup> a] 🏹	<sup>ba [wa]</sup>	<sup>ma [ma]</sup> म्
<sup>tsa [tsa]</sup> ਤੱ	<sup>tsha [ts<sup>h</sup>a]</sup> ත්	dza [tsa] € ^[dza]	wa [Rwa] स्
zha [sha] 丙 ^[ʒa]	za [sa] a ^[za]	'a [a] ス	ya [ya]
ra [ra] エ	la [la] م <sup>^[[h</sup> a]	sha [xa]	sa [s'a] 🛪
ha [ha] 5	a [a] 🔊	<u>م</u> که	<ul><li>✓</li></ul>

Chart 1.1: The Tibetan Alphabet

#### **1.1.2** Writing (Stroke Order) of the Alphabet

There are two things to note about the writing of Tibetan letters. First, the "base" line of the letters is on top. All letters are lined-up downwards from that base line. Second, all letters are not of the same "height". As shown in the diagram below,  $\mathfrak{F}$  and  $\mathfrak{F}$ 

are almost twice as "high" as  $\overline{A}$  and  $\overline{A}$ .



Letters that resemble  $\mathfrak{F}$  and  $\mathfrak{F}$  in height are called long-legged letters. Besides  $\mathfrak{F}$  and  $\mathfrak{F}$ , there are also  $\mathfrak{F}$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}$ ,



The following chart shows the standard calligraphic stroke order of the Tibetan alphabet, taught in Amdo elementary school. Note that this is the correct stroke order when one intends to produce calligraphic quality handwriting. In casual handwriting, though, the rules loosen and the strokes are more fluid.

T Row















র্ড Row













vowel diacritics:

5

# 1.1.3 Different Writing Styles

The style of the alphabet we introduce here is called *Wuchan* (5,5,3,5,3). The style used in all printed material, *Wuchan* is also the style studied in elementary schools throughout the Amdo region. In the U-Tsang region, elementary school children learn a different style called *Wumed* (5,5,3,5). Only in higher grades do they learn to read *Wuchan*, but at that time, they also learn to write in a cursive script called *Chu* (3,5,7,5). It is probably safe to say *Wuchan* is by far the most important and practical style to master in reading, if not also in writing. The photographs on the next page are textbooks showing the different styles: *Wuchan* taught in Qinghai (mainly Amdo) and



Language, Book I, Qinghai



Language, Book I, Lhasa

*Wumed* taught in U-Tsang.

When it comes to calligraphy as a traditional art, there are many more different styles (or rather sub-styles). See the cultural notes in Lesson 5 for a brief introduction to Tibetan calligraphy and some examples.

### 1.2 Writing System vs. Sound System

Any two sounds in a language that serve the purpose of contrasting with each other to make a meaningful distinction are called phonemes, such as the sounds /s/ and /z/ in a pair of words like *seal* and *zeal*. The two phonemes /s/ and /z/ are represented by the individual letters *s* and *z* in this case, but phonemes are not always represented in such a straightforward fashion in a writing system. For instance, the phonemes /sh/, /ch/, / $\theta$ /, and / $\delta$ / are usually represented by a combination of letters in writing, such as *shirt*, *church*, *thin*, and *there*. In some cases, different spellings can represent the exact same phoneme, such as the /f/ sound in <u>photo</u>, <u>fun</u> and <u>effort</u>; in others, the same letter in writing can represent different sounds, usually depending on the immediate sound environment. For example, the letter *t* in *nation*, *native* and *question* is pronounced differently depending on the preceding sound. Amdo Tibetan has its fair share of complexity in the connection between the writing system and the sound system. In this regard, Amdo Tibetan is similar to English in a number of ways:

- (1) the same sound can be represented by different letters, either an individual letter or a combination of letters. E.g., the /k/ sound in *sic*, *sick*, and *like*.
- (2) a combination of letters can represent new sounds such as the sh in shoe and

the *ch* in *chin*, or existing sounds such as the *gh*/f/ in *laugh* and the *ch*/k/ in *mechanic*.

(3) the same letter can represent different sounds depending on the environment it appears in such as the letter *a* in *car*, *cat*, *any*, and *lake*.

Fortunately, the pronunciation of Amdo Tibetan is highly regular. The connection between the writing and the pronunciation can be accounted for by a few simple rules and a very small number of exceptions. The following sections in this lesson introduce the inventory of the consonants and vowels of Amdo Tibetan. There are several sounds that will be entirely unfamiliar to English speakers (but not necessarily to speakers of other languages such as Chinese). If the reader finds himself at a loss as to how to pronounce a certain sound in this chart, he should listen to and imitate the sound recording.

Letter	Sound Description	Adopted Phonetic Symbol	IPA Equivalent	Examples
या	non-aspirated voiceless velar stop	k	k	k in <i>sky</i> (English); c in <i>caro</i> (Spanish); <i>gao</i> 'tall' (Chinese)
لكا	aspirated voiceless velar stop	k <sup>h</sup>	k'	c in <i>cake</i> (English), <i>kai</i> 'open' (Chinese)
म	<i>۲</i>	k	k	identical to the sound of ग
ע	velar nasal	ng	ŋ	ng in <i>long</i> and <i>singer</i> (English), can appear syllable-initially
ઝ	non-aspirated alveo-palatal affricate	с	tø	j in <i>jia</i> 'home' (Chinese)
в	aspirated alveo- palatal affricate	$c^h$	tç'	q in <i>qi</i> 'seven' (Chinese), ch in <i>chair</i> (English) without [round] feature
Ъ	ઝ	с	tø	identical to the sound of $\mathfrak{F}$
B	palatal nasal	ny	р	ñ in <i>niño</i> (Spanish); gn in <i>oignon</i> (French)

1.2.1 Consonant sounds represented by individual letters

5	non-aspirated voiceless alveolar stop	t	t	t in <i>sty</i> (English), t in <i>tener</i> (Spanish); d in <i>dai</i> 'to bring' (Chinese)
গ্র	aspirated voiceless alveolar stop	t <sup>h</sup>	ť	t in <i>tie</i> (English), t in <i>tai</i> 'too' (Chinese)
5	5	t	t	identical to the sound of $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$
व	alveolar nasal	n	n	n in <i>no</i> (English)
<b>ц</b>	non-aspirated voiceless bilabial stop	р	р	p as in <i>spot</i> (English); p in <i>pan</i> 'bread' (Spanish); <i>bai</i> 'white' (Chinese),
ধ	voiceless bilabial stop aspirated	$p^h$	p'	p as in <i>pot</i> (English)
Д	bilabial glide	W	w	w as in <i>we</i> (English)
ম	bilabial nasal	m	m	m as in <i>my</i> (English)
र्उ	non-aspirated voiceless alveolar affricate	ts	ts	z in zou 'go' (Chinese)
ર્સ	aspirated voiceless alveolar affricate	ts <sup>h</sup>	ts'	z in Zeit (German), c in ca 'wipe' (Chinese), ts in lets (English), can appear syllable initially
É	र्ड	ts	ts	identical to the sound of $\vec{\mathfrak{s}}$
रम	voiced uvular fricative	RW	RM	r and the /w/ sound in <i>roi</i> (French), r in euro (French, German), no trill
a	voiceless alveo- palatal fricative	sh	Q	xia 'blind' (Chinese), sh in <i>she</i> (English) without [+round] feature
ন	voiceless alveolar fricative	S	s	s in <i>sun</i> (English), similar to the sound of ♥, with less aspiration
ત	no phonetic value	(a)	(a)	N/A

শ	palatal glide	у	j	y in <i>yes</i> (English)
к	alveolar retroflex liquid	r	z / r	word initially, r in <i>rang</i> 'let' (Chinese), word internally, r in <i>pero</i> (Spanish), just tap, no trill.
ন	alveolar lateral liquid	1	1	l in <i>let</i> (English)
φ	voiceless velar fricative	Х	x/ç	ch in <i>Bach</i> and <i>ich</i> (German) in similar phonological distribution
ĸ	(aspirated) voiceless alveolar fricative	s'	s'	s in <i>sun</i> (English); pronounced with strong aspiration
57	voiceless glottal fricative	h	h	h as in <i>hello</i> (English)
জ	no phonetic value	(a)	(a)	N/A

Chart 1.2: Sounds represented by individual letters

Among the 30 letters of the Tibetan alphabet, two ( $\mathfrak{A}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}$ ) are used as a "space filler" in Tibetan orthography for an onsetless syllable and do not have any consonantal (or any phonetic) value. That is, they are used for syllables without an initial consonant so that the diacritic can be written above or under them like a regular syllable.  $\mathfrak{A}$ , in addition, can be used as a prefix (representing a nasal sound) or suffix (no phonetic value), to which we will return in Lessons 2 and 3. Of the remaining 28 letters, only 23 sounds, or phonemes, are represented, summarized in the consonant charts below. Chart 1.3A uses the phonetic symbols adopted in this book. Chart 1.3B shows the corresponding Tibetan letters for each sound.

	labial	alveolar	alveo- palatal	palatal	velar/uvular	glottal
stops [-voice]	p, p <sup>h</sup>	t, t <sup>h</sup>			k, k <sup>h</sup>	
fricatives [-voice]		s, s'	sh		Х	h
fricatives [+voice]					RW	

affricates [-voice]		ts, ts <sup>h</sup>	c, c <sup>h</sup>			
nasals	m	n		ny	ng	
liquids		l, r				
glides				У	W	

Chart 1.3A: Consonants represented by single letters in Amdo Tibetan (Phonetic Symbols)

	labial	alveolar	alveo- palatal	palatal	velar/uvular	glottal
stops [-voice]	ୟ, ୟ	দূ = ད, ঀ			শ] = শ], শি	
fricatives [-voice]		<b>a</b> , <b>x</b>	a		<b>P</b>	5
fricatives [+voice]					स	
affricates [-voice]		₹= <i>Ę</i> , £	₹= <i>Ę</i> , æ			
nasals	R	ע		Ŗ	ц	
liquids		સ, મ				
glides				শ	ת	

Chart 1.3B: Consonants represented by single letters in Amdo Tibetan (Tibetan Letters)

difficulty, as the position in which a letter appears in the syllable usually (but not always) indicates which letter is possible. We will return to this issue in Lesson 2.

#### 1.2.2 Additional consonantal phonemes in the system

The chart, 1.3A or 1.3B, given in the previous section only shows the sounds represented by single letters. These 24 sounds, in fact, are a subpart of the entire Amdo consonant inventory, which varies slightly among sub-dialects, but usually has a total number of phonemes no less than 38. For our purposes and without investigating the details of Amdo dialectology, we shall treat the following chart, Chart 1.4, of 38 contrastive consonantal phonemes as the complete inventory of Amdo consonants. The 14 new sounds that are not represented by individual letters in the previous chart are shown in bold. Note that there are two additional sounds, namely [f] and [v], which are included in this chart. We shall come to these two sounds shortly.

	labial	alveolar	alveo- palatal	palatal	velar	glottal
stops [-voice]	p, p <sup>h</sup>	t, t <sup>h</sup>			k, k <sup>h</sup>	
stops [+voice]	b	d			g	
fricatives [-voice]	(f)	s, s'	sh		х	h, <b>hw</b>
fricatives [+voice]	(v)	Z	zh		<b>R</b> , RW	
affricates [-voice]		ts, ts <sup>h</sup>	c, c <sup>h</sup>			
affricates [+voice]		dz	j			
nasals	m	n		ny	ng	
retroflexives		tr, tr <sup>h</sup> dr, sr				
liquids		l, r				
aspirated liquids		l				
glides				у	W	

Chart 1.4: Complete inventory of consonants in Amdo Tibetan

Note that the /R/ is similar to the uvular fricative /R/ in French *reine* 'queen'. Since Amdo Tibetan does not contrast velar sounds with uvular sounds, the authors place the /R/

in the column for velars. The reason that the combination /RW/ is written as a single phoneme is that, according to Amdo speaker's intuition, the combination /RW/, represented by a single letter  $\mathfrak{A}$ , is considered a single consonant, which contrasts with another phoneme /R/, represented by the combination of the two letters  $\Im \mathfrak{A}$ . /RW/ as a single phoneme is similar to the German intuition that treats the combination of /ts/, represented by a single letter *z* such as in *Zeit* 'time', as a single sound (phoneme). The same consideration applies to the combination [hw], which is also listed as a single phoneme in the chart. [hw] in orthography is written as  $\Im \mathfrak{A}$ .

In English when letters are put together, the combination may represent new sounds such as *ch*, *sh*, *th*, etc. Sometimes, it does not have to take a combination of letters. A single letter in different sound environments can have different pronunciations, such as the *c* in *ice* and *cook*. In Amdo Tibetan, the situation is very similar. Of the additional 14 sounds, we may group most of the new sounds into two large categories: voiced obstruents (i.e., stops, fricatives, and affricates) and retroflexes. The voiced obstruents include /b/, /d/, /g/, /z/, /zh/, /dz/, /j/. The retroflexes are /tr/, /tr<sup>h</sup>/, /dr/, /sr/. The remaining three additional consonants are the aspirated /l<sup>h</sup>/, the single uvular fricative /R/, and the combination /hw/. The following chart describes the additional 14 consonants: the circumflex marks the root letter as prefixed or superjoined, which will be discussed in detail in Lesson 2. For this lesson, one simply needs to know what sounds the symbols represent.



Letter(s)	Sound Description	Adopted Phonetic Symbol	IPA equivalen t	Examples
৾শ	voiced velar stop	g	g	g in go (English)
^ Ę	voiced alveo- palatal affricate	j	dz	j in <i>joy</i> (English), lips stretched, without [+round] feature
^ ۲:۳	voiced alveolar stop	d	d	d in <i>day</i> (English)
^ ۲	voiced bilabial stop	b	b	b in <i>bus</i> (English)

ŕĘ	voiced alveolar affricate	dz	dz	ds in <i>ads</i> (English), can appear syllable initially
്ര	voiced alveo- palatal fricative	zh	3	j in <i>je</i> (French), s in <i>pleasure</i> (English), without [+round] feature
~ <b>m</b>	voiced alveolar fricative	Z	z	z in zeal (English)
1, 3 column stop + $\pi$	non-aspirated voiceless alveolar retroflex	tr	tr	zh in <i>zhidao</i> 'know' in Chinese
2nd column stop + $\pi$	aspirated voiceless alveolar retroflex	tr <sup>h</sup>	tr'	ch in <i>chi</i> 'eat' (Chinese)
prefixed 3rd column stop $+ \pi$	voiced alveolar retroflex	dr	dz	close to dr in <i>draw</i> (English), with lips stretched, without [+round] feature
হ'শ	voiceless alveolar retroflex	sr	ş	sh in <i>shi</i> 'teacher' (Chinese)
55	voiceless glottal fricative + [w]	hw	hw	wh in <i>where/which</i> (English dialect where h is pronounced), contrasts with [h]
ন্ন	voiced uvular fricative	R	R	r in <i>route</i> (French), contrasts with [RW]
ताः स्टिय	aspirated voiceless lateral fricative	l <sup>h</sup>	ł	no close equivalent in familiar languages; try pronounce [l] simultaneously with lots of air

Chart 1.5:	Fourteen sounds	not represented l	by	individual l	etters
------------	-----------------	-------------------	----	--------------	--------

Do not worry about how the letters are put together to represent new sounds for the missing 14 consonants. This will be the main focus of Lesson 2, where we will learn the writing of subjoined, superjoined, and prefixed letters, as well as the phonological rules that create all 38 consonantal phonemes.

#### 1.2.3 The Vowels Represented by Vocalic Diacritics

The four vocalic diacritics represent the vowels: /i/, /u/, /e/, /o/. Adding the null, or default, diacritic that represents the vowel /a/, we have the original five-vowel system of

Classical Tibetan. The Amdo dialect has undergone significant changes from this fivevowel system and has evolved into a new seven-vowel system.

A. The Five-Vowel System of Classical Tibetan (preserved in writing)

Classical Tibetan has a five-vowel system, represented by vocalic diacritics, except for the vowel [a], which is unmarked (a sort of default vowel in the writing system), the other four, namely [i, u, e, o] are represented by  $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$ ,  $\mathfrak{R}$ ,  $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$ , and  $\tilde{\mathfrak{R}}$ . Note that the letter  $\mathfrak{R}$  is only a space filler and not a part of the diacritics. The four diacritics are called  $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$ [kə.kə],  $\mathfrak{R} \mathfrak{R}$ ,  $\mathfrak{R}$  [shab.cə] or colloquially [sham.cə],  $\mathfrak{R} \mathfrak{R} \mathfrak{R}$ , [dreng.wə] or colloquially [drəng.e], and  $\mathfrak{R} \mathfrak{K}$  [na.ro], in that order.



B. Basic Four-Vowel System (actual basic vowels in Modern Amdo Tibetan)

The five-vowel system has evolved in Amdo Tibetan into a basic four-vowel system, with শী'শ্য and জনশ্ৰ শ্ৰু merging into one: the central mid vowel [ə] known as schwa. For example, the vowel diacritic শী'শ্য (জি) itself is pronounced as [kəkə] in Amdo (as opposed to [kiku]).





That the high vowels [i] and [u] have merged to [ə], vacating the original spots, makes it possible for many speakers to shift their mid vowels [e] and [o] upward towards [i] and [u], which resembles the English dialect where *pen* is pronounced close to *pin*. For learners of Amdo Tibetan, it is important to know that, even though some vowels are pronounced between [e] and [i] or between [o] and [u], their underlying forms are still  $\Re$  [e] and  $\Re$  [o]. (That is, native speakers think they are pronouncing  $\Re$  and  $\Re$ .)

In order to reflect native Amdo speakers' intuition about the underlying vowels of words, we will consistently mark the pronunciation of  $\mathfrak{R}$  and  $\mathfrak{K}$  as [e] and [o] in this book.

When a syllable has a final consonant, known as a suffix in Tibetan writing, the quality of the vowel preceding it may change. This suffixation in writing, in fact, creates three more vowels and complicates the four-vowel system represented in writing to a seven-vowel system. This will be the focus of Lesson 3.

### \* 1.3 Oral Spelling (I): Simple Syllables

A simple syllable consists of a single consonant and a single vowel. The consonant is known as the root letter  $(\widehat{\mathfrak{A}} \subset \widehat{\mathfrak{A}})$  in Tibetan orthography. The vowel can be either [a], which is unmarked, or [i], [e], [o]  $(\widehat{\mathfrak{A}}, \widehat{\mathfrak{A}})$ ,  $\widehat{\mathfrak{A}})$ , which are written on top of the root letter, or [u]  $(\mathfrak{A})$ , written underneath the root letter. Note that the simple [i] and [u] are pronounced the same as [ə]. When a vowel takes a suffix in the syllable, their pronunciation may be altered by the suffix in different ways. We will discuss suffixes in Lesson 3.

The custom of spelling out a syllable orally is unique to the Tibetan language. Unlike English, which spells out words in a letter-by-letter fashion, Tibetan spells out syllables in a "progressive-staged" fashion. Take the word *knight* for example. English employs a straightforward K-N-I-G-H-T oral spelling. Tibetan's progressive-staged fashion works like this: K-N reads N, plus I becomes NEE, plus GH becomes NIE, plus T results in NITE. This may sound complicated and difficult, but it is not. In the Amdo region, anyone who has had a couple of years of formal education at a Tibetan elementary school knows this spelling method like the back of their hand and can do it in rapid rhythm. Often, when asked by someone how a word is written, a native speaker will immediately perform the oral spelling. Therefore, it is practical to learn this method well, and we will learn it in the first three lessons.

For a simple syllable, one reads the name of the root letter followed by the name of the vowel, i.e.,  $\widehat{\mathfrak{A}}$ ,  $\widehat{\mathfrak{A}$ ,  $\widehat{\mathfrak{A}}$ ,  $\widehat{\mathfrak{A}}$ 

(1) गी spells [ka kəkə kə] (गा गी स्] गी)



- (2)  $\tilde{\Xi}$  spells [nga naro ngo] ( $\Xi \tilde{\Im} \tilde{\Xi} \tilde{\Xi}$ )
- (4)  $\hat{\Xi}$  spells [t<sup>h</sup>a drəng.e t<sup>h</sup>e] ( $\Xi' \mathcal{A} \mathfrak{A} \mathcal{A} \mathcal{A} \mathfrak{A} \mathcal{A}$

When the vowel is [a], one simply spells with the name of the letter, which contains

the vowel [a] by default. This is the simplest oral spelling. Examples:  $5^{-5}$ ,  $5^{-5}$ , q, etc.

For syllables without an initial consonant, either  $\mathfrak{A}$  or  $\mathfrak{A}$  is used to serve as a "space filler" to carry the vowel diacritic (or in the case of [a], to represent the entire syllable). The choice between the two letters is lexically decided, considered as part of the orthography of that word, so it needs to be memorized. Examples:

- (5)  $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}$  spells [a naro o] ( $\mathfrak{A}$ : $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}$ : $\tilde{\mathfrak{A}}$ )
- (6) दे spells [a drəng.e e] (२.२.१८२२)

A multisyllabic word is spelt out syllable by syllable before the whole word is repeated. Examples:

- (7)  $\sqrt[n]{3}$  'apple' spells [ka shamcə kə | xa shamcə xə | kəxə]
- (8) तु.सें 'younger sister' spells [na shamcə nə | ma naro mo | nəmo]
- (9) ゔ゙.゙゙ 'sun' spells [nya kəkə nyə | ma | nyəma]
- (10)  $\Im$  'older sister' spells [a | ca drəng.e ce | ace]

### ✤ 1.4 Exercises

1.4.1 The Alphabet: Write the Tibetan alphabet and circle the long-legged letters

CD-R

CD-R

DISC-1

**1.4.2 Pronunciation Drill:** Repeat each word after the recording

(1)	तु'र्यो	<ol> <li>(11) बैंग्से।</li> </ol>	(21) हैं: <del></del> शु	(31) <del>க</del> ்க்
(2)	ने'र्कें	(12) র্বি:মা	(22) J'ãí	(32) अ.उ
(3)	ক্ট'মা	(13) รี ซ์ ซ์ จ	(23) झु.मॅ	(33) आहे।
(4)	W.21	(14) র্ধিমা	(24) <del>지</del> 제	(34) ج. ه
(5)	ष्णःप्पे	(15) র্ক্রিমা	(25) थें मे	(35) <b>क्रे</b> सेंग
(6)	ল নি মাঁ	(16) (মৃ: َ بَنْهُ)	(26) <sup>또</sup> 제	(36) الم۲
(7)	बेंगी	(17) - 9.31	(27) <i>ธ</i> ์ ัจ <i>์</i>	(37) र्दे.म.स)
(8)	র্নি	(18) कें में	(28) कें भे	(38) র'মা
(9)	<u> </u> ઉ.વા	(19) آآ کا	(29) <i>শ</i> ुःश	(39) अर्चि रे हिंग्रे
(10)	শ্বর্মা	(20) र्र्ड'सु'स।	(30) ੱੱ. ਪੱ	(40) आसे.म.म

#### 1.4.3 Sound Discrimination: Listen to the recording and circle the sound you hear

A. aspirated vs. non-aspirated consonants

(1)  $\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}^{\mathbf{h}}$  (2)  $\mathbf{t} - \mathbf{t}^{\mathbf{h}}$  (3)  $\mathbf{ts} - \mathbf{ts}^{\mathbf{h}}$ 

(4) $c - c^h$	(5) p - p <sup>h</sup>					
B. palatal vs. non-palatal consonants						
(6) ny - n	(7) z - zh	(8) w - y				
C. nasal vs. non-nasal consonants						
(9) p - m	(10) t - n	(11) k - ng				
(12) c - ny						

**1.4.4 Transcription:** Transcribe the following syllables to Tibetan according the standard Latin transcription given on page 2.

e.g., a-ma: आय

(1) yi-ge	 (11) sa-cha	
(2) ma-mo	 (12) za-ma	
(3) a-pa	 (13) lo-tho	
(4) za-ma	 (14) nu-bo	
(5) ne-le	 (15) ha-go-ba	
(6) ya-ru	 (16) zhe-gi	
(7) zhi-la	 (17) ga-ge-mo	
(8) bzo-pa	 (18) ngo-tsha	
(9) khe-tse	 (19) na-ro	
(10) khu-shu	 (20) gi-gu	

## 1.4.5 Oral Spelling

e.g.,  $\overline{a}$ '  $\mathfrak{A}$ ' 'orange' spells: [ts<sup>h</sup>a | la shamcə lə | ma | ts<sup>h</sup>a lə ma]

(1) भै'सु 'rope' spells:	(6) キ゚ヂ゙ 'mountain' spells:
(2) 됫 ㅋ 'older brother' spells:	(7) कु <sup>•</sup> र्चे water' spells:
(3) ゔ゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙゙ ゙゙゙゙゙゙ ゙゙゙゙ ヾ 'to buy' spells:	(8) .सु.सु 'lamb' spells:
(4) उँ'सु 'rat' spells:	(9) 휙ོརུ 'colt' spells:
(5) র্বি:ম 'milk' spells:	(10) (지·직·지·driver' spells: