



## Lontara and Buginese scripts

### Origin

The Lontara and Buginese scripts are descended from the **Brahmi** script of ancient India. The name *lontara* derives from the Malay word for the Palmyra palm, *lontar*, the leaves of which are the traditional material for manuscripts in India, South East Asia and Indonesia.

### Notable features

- Type of writing system: syllabic alphabet/alphasyllabary
- Direction of writing: left to right in horizontal lines
- In common with other **Brahmi**-derived syllabic alphabets, each consonant has an inherent vowel [a], other vowels are indicated by adding diacritics above or below a consonant.
























### Used to write:

Bugis or Buginese (ꦧꦸꦒꦶꦱ ꦧꦸꦒꦶꦱ), Makasar and Mandar, Austronesian languages spoken on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. Bugis, Makassar and Mandar are the coastal tribes of southern Sulawesi.

Both scripts were once used to write laws, treaties, maps, etc in Bugis, but are now only used for marriage ceremonies. The Buginese script is still widely used to write Bugis, although the **Latin** alphabet is officially favored.

## Buginese Lontara consonants

Buginese have a single punctuation (ᮊ). It is (and why the scripts) called “pallawa”

 Ka [ka]	 ga [ga]	 nga [ŋa]	 ngka [ŋka]	 pa [pa]	 ba [ba]	 ma [ma]	 mpa [mpa]
 Ca [ca]	 ja [ja]	 nya [ɲa]	 nca [nca]	 ta [ta]	 da [da]	 na [na]	 nra [nra]
 Ya [ya]	 ra [ra]	 la [la]	 wa [wa]	 sa [sa]	 a [a]	 ha [ha]	

### Sample of Vowel diacritics

 mi [mi]	 mu [mu]	 me [me]	 mo [mo]	 m [Mé]
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## Sample text in the Buginese script

### Script

ᮊᮧᮒᮧᮒ ᮊᮧ ᮊᮧᮒ ᮊᮧᮒ  
ᮊᮧᮒᮧᮒ ᮊᮧᮒ ᮊᮧᮒ  
ᮊᮧᮒᮧᮒ ᮊᮧᮒᮧᮒ

### Transliteration

Sengéka rimula wénni  
Kubali sengé tokko  
Ri giling tinroku

### Free Meaning

Remember me on the starting night  
I will remember you too  
even in my whole dreaming

Ingatlah (rindukan) aku sejak permulaan malam  
'kan kuingat juga dikau  
Hingga ke dalam tidurku (mimpiku) ☺

