An Extended Hepburn System

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This is the transliteration system of the Japanese *kana* syllabary into Latin alphabet with every effort to stick to the English values as far as consonants are concerned. Vowels are Continental.

The *kana* syllabary is arranged in the table called fifty-soud chart for it is made up of ten columns (*gyau*) and five rows (*dan*). Each column is called by the name of *fuon* or the paternal consonant, the representative of the consonants which the syllables situated in it share.

But the first, the sixth and the last column lack such a thing. The first is a vowel column. The sixth and the last columns have a dormant or potential consonant which is activated as a bilabial semivowel only on the first row where the vowel is most open, otherwise activated as an aspirate in the case of the sixth column if initial.

When the last or *wa* column has an active 'w' sound as in transcription of foreign words, it is rendered by   attached with a lowered *kana* vowel. This is represented by a geminate letter of 'ww'.

The consonant of the sixth or *ha* column is represented with the grave accent or reversed apostrophe (ASCII 0x60). But when initial, it is represented either with 'h' or, when the vowel is 'u', with 'f'. When it is medial, it is a dormant aspirate activated only when read by syllable. So   (ho'o) is sometimes pronounced as [hoho].   (haha) is an exception. It has no medial 'h' in it.
(ya'ata) is sometimes pronounced as [yawata] and sometimes as [yahata].

It may be interesting to note, though it is beyond the scope of EHS, that the medial 'h' can be realized as 'b' sound when the syllable is integrated to a compound word, and that when the juncture is a syllabic stop, this 'b' is devoiced.   (aki'abara) is sometimes pronounced as [akihabara], sometimes as [akiwabara] where 'w' is barely audible and sometimes as [akibahara]. Or it could be [akibappara].

Most of the so-called long vowels in the Japanese language are no more than juxtapositions of two or more vowels which should be pronounced as so many syllables. Hence it is said to be isochronic. You can use 'h' though to represent the duration marks in *katakana*.

Sokuon or the syllabic-phonemic stop   is 't' when word-final. When *sokuon* is medial, it is represented with the *fuon*. Hence the *sokuon* preceding 'j' is 'd', and that preceding 'ch' is 't'. But in the case of the *ha* column, the *fuon* is not adequate to represent stop except when the vowel is 'u'. The

consonant in this case is represented by 'f' and the same letter could be used as stop. Otherwise the post-stop 'h' is realized as a velar or palatal fricative. So it should be represented by the homo-organic stop 'k'.

Sokuon is not supposed to occur immediately before nasals, but remember that the homo-organic stop of 'n' is 't' and that of 'm' is 'p' for it is not so uncommon in southern part of Japan.

Hatsuon or the syllabic-phonemic nasal   or   in classical Japanese) is 'n'. But when followed by a bilabial, 'm' should be used provided that if the bilabial is 'w', only when *renzhau* (see below) produces 'm' sound.

Renzhau, an internal open plus juncture or internal sandhi occurs where 'w' stands: e.g.   (kinwau),   (samwi). But when it occurs without 'w', it can be expressed by a plus sign: e.g.   (kwan+on).   has an open juncture, but you can use a hyphen to designate that it is composed of two words as *sankwan-wau.*

Apostrophes should be used to disambiguate prevocalic—including the case immediately preceding a semivowel and 'h' of duration.

Note on diphthongs when applied to the traditional *kana* script: The value of "eu" is similar to that of "Europe" and palatalizes the preceding alveolars. The value of "au" is similar to that of "autumn". The rules also apply when the diphthongs have a visual 'h' in between. The hyphen should be used to disambiguate diphthong-like sequences across the morpheme boundary. e.g. "te-usu", "sono-uchi".

History;

The original version was carried by *Nihongo Gaku* January 2003 published by Meijishoin with the title of "Kwakuchau Hebonshikino Teishau". It was in Japanese.

This was made into PDF and published on the web site of by courtesy of Mr KAIDZU on March 16th, 2003. The former arrangement of the site was institutionalized systems first and then personal or original systems and I appreciate it very much that this distinction was dicarded on the arrival of EHS.

The introduction of 'h' as a boundary marker was made in *Eigo'a Nihonzhin Kyoushidakara Woshi'erareru* published by Yousensha in April 2004.

The English version was first written on December 11. It was a working paper. I made several copies of it and distributed among some of my friends. Dr KATSURA Shigetoshi, Professor Emeritus of physics, Tohoku[1] University critisized severely differentiation of   and   by case and suggested the digraph 'ww' instead. to which I yielded. It was the revised version of EHS which was published on the same site December 19 of the same year.

Sokuon seldom occurs before nasals. But in KAGOSHIMA, you can hear *kagotmaben*   or *sutnawonago*   . The stipulation was added in December 2009.

Renzhau is a phenomenon usually masked by *kanzhi* logographs and *kana*

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[1]This should be *Touhoku* in our scheme.

rendering in reformed script fails to capture it. It was at the end of November 2010 that the author noticed mispronunciation caused by this on radio. I do not know whether the text was in reformed script or not, but the reader obviously took the *kana* string statically and missed its dynamics. Hence generalization of *renzhau* to cover the implicit cases.

Sample transcription:*iroha-uta*

> Iro'a ni'o'edo chirinuruwo Wagayo tarezo tsunenaramu
> Uwino okuyama ke'u koete Asakiyumemizhi we'imosezu

The medial "h" of the inverted apostrophe should be pronounced as "h" and the voiced *kana* as the unvoiced counterpart when read by syllable.

Comparison of methods

(EHS is on the historical *kana* script

	fuji	"	"	"	"	"	huzi	hudi
	fuzhi	fuji	"	"	"	"	huzi	"
	hanaji	"	"	"	"	"	hanazi	hanadi
	hizumi	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	hidzume	hizume	"	"	"	"	"	hidume
	iwau	iō	ioh	iou	ioo	io	iô	"
	riukiu	ryūkyū	ryukyu	ryūkyū	ryuukyuu	ryukyu	ryûkyû	"
	jowau	joō	jooh	joou	jooo	joo	zyoô	"
	kouji	kōji	kohji	kouji	kooji	koji	kôzi	"
	ka'uotsu	kōotsu	kohotsu	kouotsu	koootsu	kootsu	kôotu	"
	o'oguro	ōguro	ohguro	ōguro	ooguro	oguro	ôguro	"
	i'ida	īda	ida	"	iida	ida	îda	"
	teufu	chōfu	chohfu	choufu	choofu	chofu	tyôhu	"
	sampo	"	sanpo	"	"	"	"	"
	samwi	sammi	sanmi	"	"	"	"	"
	han+ou	hannō	hannoh	hannou	hannoo	hanno	hannô	"
	kinwau	kinnō	kinnoh	kinnou	kinnoo	kinno	kinnô	"

As for the method of   , cf   made by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan in 2009.

The   method was adopted by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan in 2006.

Romanization Chart

a	i	u	e	o				
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	kya	kyu	(kye)	kyo
ga	gi	gu	ge	go	gya	gyu	(gye)	gyo
sa	shi (si)	su	se	so	sha	shu	(she)	sho
za	zhi (zi)	zu	ze	zo	zha	zhu	(zhe)	zho
ta	chi (ti)	tsu (tu)	te	to	cha	chu (tyu)	(che)	cho
da	ji (di)	dzu (du)	de	do	ja	ju (dyu)	(je)	jo
na	ni	nu	ne	no	nya	nyu	(nye)	nyo
ha	hi	fu	he	ho	hya	hyu	(hye)	hyo
ba	bi	bu	be	bo	bya	byu	(bye)	byo
pa	pi	pu	pe	po	pya	pyu	(pye)	pyo
ma	mi	mu	me	mo	mya	myu	(mye)	myo
ya		yu	(ye)	yo				
ra	ri	ru	re	ro	rya	ryu	(rye)	ryo
wa (wwa)	wi (wwi)		we (wwe)	wo (wwo)				
kwa	kwi		kwe	kwo				
gwa	gwi		gwe	gwo				
tsa	tsi		tse	tso				
fa	fi		fe	fo		fyu		fyo
va	vi	vu	ve	vo		vyu		vyo

Parenthesized syllables and those of the last three lines are used only in transcription of foreign words overtly written in *katakana*.