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EVOLUTION OF HUMAN SCRIPT

Nicolas Paz

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ABSTRACT

The Human script is an alphabetic system of phonetic notation that uses the model of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The Human script is aesthetically based on the four independent writing systems: Cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphs, Maya script, and Oracle bone script. There are also influences coming from the child systems. The goal for Human script is to have an international writing system that pays homage to the four independent writing systems and its child systems, whether it is influenced aesthetically or it is directly transcribed.

Keywords: Human, Cuneiform, Egyptian, Maya, Chinese

BACKGROUND

Writing has been a part of Human history for the past 5,500 years. Throughout the years, there have been at least four writing systems that have been created independently. These writing systems come from China, Egypt, Mesoamerica, and Mesopotamia. There are a few other systems that are up for debate for being classified as an independent writing system but they are undeciphered. Many of the writing systems that followed since the birth of writing generally gained influence from the independent systems: Cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphs, Maya script, and Oracle bone script.

Today the usage of a variety of writing systems has greatly decreased due to colonization and globalism. According to Britannica, the world's five most commonly used systems are the Latin alphabet, Chinese characters, Arabic alphabet, Devanagari, and the Bengali Alphabet. The Egyptian hieroglyphs influenced four out of the five writing systems just mentioned. The Latin alphabet is used by roughly 70% of the world population today. This is largely due to European colonization that not only spread their influence throughout the world but also nearly eliminated writing systems along the way such as the Maya script.

The Human script is a writing system meant to be inclusive with a social approach by being influenced from the four independent writing systems and by the various child systems that followed. In a sense, this writing system is an attempt to combat some of the effects of colonization by using pieces of writing systems that drastically declined due to colonization. There are some aspects that are still being used such as the Latin script, particularly the model that is being used for the Human script is the International Phonetic Alphabet. One of the main focuses of the Human script is to have a letter for a phonetic sound that is not typically used in

IPA and Latin. It is a mix of symbols and many are newly developed symbols to provide a mix of aesthetic aspects in writing.

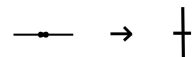
ETYMOLOGY

The name Human script is meant to provide inclusivity but it is also meant to give a sense of familiarity from a collective standpoint. The term human is a loanword that derives from Old French humain which is from Latin hūmānus. Hūmānus is an adjective of homō which means man. Man referred to the species in native English but in contemporary English it is more common to be associated with a gender. The term script in the name is much more simple, which is just a clarification of written text. The name for Human script may also translate in other languages to honor the inclusivity of the writing system itself. There will be some translations that will not directly mean Human script but the concept is the importance.

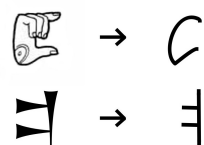
DEVELOPMENT

Creating the Human script from the four independent writing systems involved a variety of key elements. The model of the International Phonetic Alphabet is the foundation of making the Human script. A lot of the symbols used in Human script are unchanged from its source. The approach in creating this system is strongly influenced by the Latin alphabet as well. As it was mentioned earlier, the Latin alphabet is used by the majority of the world and this may be the easiest approach to spreading the Human script throughout the globe. At this moment, the Human script is only an alphabetic system of phonetic notation. It may also be used as a substitute to other alphabetic systems or simply be adopted as a writing system.

Egyptian hieroglyphs and its child systems were the easiest to keep the symbols somewhat unchanged because of its usage today. Majority of the writing systems that are used in the modern world come from some sort of Egyptian hieroglyph influence. Arabic, Coptic, Ge'ez, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and Phoenician are the Egyptian child systems that were used in the making of Human script. Some of these are syllabaries like the next two key writing systems that are used in the creation of Human script.



Cuneiform and Maya are syllabary based. The way these were transcribed were by their closest phonetic relation to the symbol it was being connected. Another method in creating a symbol came from simply rotating a newly created symbol from its closest phonetic relation. The difficulty with Cuneiform and Maya is that there are not any descendants used today. Thanks to many scholars, they have managed to decipher these scripts. There are also symbols in Human script that came from writing systems that were more difficult to transcribe and create.



Chinese characters are entirely based on logograms. In order to pay homage to the Oracle Bone script was to expand the usage on its descendants such as Bopomofo and Kana. These writing systems are phonetic based unlike the Chinese characters. The symbols that are derived from Chinese are translated by the first or dominant phonetic sound in the word the character represents for example, 女 first phonetic sound is 'n' from the Chinese word nǚ(female), thus, 女 is 'n' in the Human script.

GUIDELINES

The Human script follows two different guidelines depending on the purpose. Human script is greatly influenced by the International Phonetic Alphabet and the primary function follows similar rules. It typically reads from left to right but this may vary in other languages that use right to left. Depending on the languages, diacritics may be used that are not used in the Human script. The Human script does not have any original diacritics just like most of the symbols that are used but many may be borrowed. Another major difference is that the letters in the Human script can be used as substitutes. For example, completely replacing the Latin alphabet is a possibility.

< > angles	[] square
// slashes	" " quotations

The brackets used in the Human script are similar from brackets used in the International Phonetic Alphabet with one major difference, the purpose of the angles and slashes are switched in the Human script. The letters inside angle brackets are abstract so they indicate phonemic transcription. The letters inside slash brackets are typically letters that would be shown as the orthography would have written them. The square brackets indicate a phonetic transcription. The double quotes vary in linguistic works as it does in the Human script with no standard rule. The brackets doesn't need to surround just one word but it can also be placed in the beginning and the

end of an entire paragraph if the words are spaced apart similar to in English and many other languages.

· comma	: period
— · question	! exclamation

The punctuation marks in Human script are slightly different compared to English. Particularly the comma and period marks are represented with dots as shown on the image above. The question mark has a horizontal line and dot beneath it. The exclamation mark is similar to an English exclamation mark. Another difference is that there is a space before and after the punctuation marks. The punctuation marks are also centered instead of being near the bottom as it is in English.

CONSONANTS

The creation and modifications of the constants are placed in a similar table model used by the International Phonetic Association. The top horizontal row is the place of articulation. The first vertical row on the table is the manner of articulation. This table is used to assist with understanding these new and unfamiliar letters. Along with the table there are the explanations of how the letters came to be and how they are used. Some letters are unchanged and others were modified. There are currently 57 consonants in the Human script.

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	ㄅ ㄆ		ㄷ ㄸ			ㄲ ㄳ	ㄺ ㄻ	ㄼ ㄽ	ㄾ ㄿ		ㅁ
Nasal	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㄴ			ㄺ	ㄻ	ㄼ	ㄾ		
Trill	ㄹ		ㄴ						ㄾ		
Tap or Flap						ㄹ					
Fricative	ㅍ ㅑ	ㅃ ㅅ	ㅈ ㅊ	ㄷ ㄹ	ㅌ ㅍ	ㄺ ㄻ	ㄼ ㄽ	ㄾ ㄿ	ㅁ ㅂ	ㅅ ㅈ	ㅊ ㅌ
Lateral fricative			ㄴ								
Approximate		ㅂ	ㄴ			ㄺ	ㅅ	ㅈ			
Lateral approximate			ㄴ			ㄺ	ㅅ	ㅈ			

- ㅍ this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic 𐎶 which means “pa”


phonetically. For the purpose of the Human script, “pa” was reduced to “p” to simplify


the phonetic notation, therefore, ㅍ means **p** in the International Phonetic Alphabet

(IPA).

- ㅂ this letter derives from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic 𐎶 which means “ba”. The


“ba” lost the “a” so ㅂ means **b** in IPA.






- **ד** this Hebrew letter is the same as in Human script with the phonetic notation **d**. In Hebrew, the name for this letter is “Dalet” and the letter is a descendant of the Aramaic alphabet. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and these symbols  may be the direct ancestor of **ד**.

- **𐤃** the Phoenician letter “tāw” is the same in Human script. It stems from the Egyptian hieroglyphs  and the phonetic notation is **t**.

- **ㄉ** the Bopomofo symbol originally means **t** but for the Human script it represents **t** because of its close proximity.



- **ㄉ** this letter derives from Kana but in Kana it phonetically represents **d** but in the Human script it means **d**.

- **Ɔ** this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “ke” but in the Human script it is **C**.



- **J** this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “ke” but in the Human script it is **J**.
- **H** this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is pronounced “ka”. The newly developed symbol represents **k** in the Human script.
- **G** this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is pronounced “ga”. The newly developed letter represents **g** in the Human script.
- **Q** this Arabic letter is the same as in Human script with the phonetic notation **Q**. In Arabic, the name for this letter is “qāf”. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and the symbol  may be the direct ancestor of **ق**.
-  this Egyptian hieroglyph is the same as in the Human script. The consonant it represents in the Human script is **G**.

-  this Arabic letter is the same as in Human script representing the glottal stop . In



Arabic, the name for this symbol is “hamza”.

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original



Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “mo” but in the Human script it is **m**.

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original



Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “mo” but in the Human script it is **mj**.




-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original


Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “ne” but in the Human script it is **n**.


-  this Human script letter originates from the Chinese character . This means

female in Chinese and is pronounced “nü” but in the Human script it represents **n̄**.



- **に** this letter derives from Kana and it represents **ɲ** so its unchanged from its origin.
- **ん** this letter derives from Kana and it represents **ŋ** so its unchanged from its origin.
- **𐌆** this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is pronounced “na”. The newly developed symbol represents **N** in the Human script.
- **B** this letter is unchanged from the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- **𐤁** the Phoenician letter is unchanged with the same phonetic significance **ɾ**. The ancestral influence is believed to originate from the Egyptian hieroglyph .
- **R** this letter is unchanged from the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- **[** this letter is unchanged from the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- **に** this letter derives from Kana and it represents **ɸ** so its unchanged from its origin.
- **𐌆** this letter derives from the Kana syllabogram **に** and it represents **β** in the Human script.

- **ϥ** the Coptic letter is the same as in Human script with the phonetic notation **f**. The name for this letter is “fai”. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and the symbol  may be the direct ancestor of **ϥ**.
- **ב** the Hebrew letter is the same as in the Human script with the phonetic notation **V**. In Hebrew, the name for this letter is “Bet” and the symbol is a descendant of the Aramaic alphabet. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and the symbol  may be the direct ancestor of **ב**.
- **ㄊ** the Bopomofo symbol originally means **th** but for the Human script it represents **θ** because of its similarity.
- **ㄗ** this letter derives from Kana and it’s originally associated with the letter **Z** but in the Human script, it represents **ð** because of its similar fricative phonetic notation.
- **ʃ** this letter is unchanged from the ancient Egyptian hieroglyph representing **S**.
- **ʒ** this letter is originates from the ancient Egyptian hieroglyph  representing **Z**.

-  this Human script letter is aesthetically unchanged from the Chinese character




. This means mountain in Chinese and is pronounced “shān” but in the Human script




it represents .



-  this Human script letter is flipped and it comes from the Chinese character .


This means mountain in Chinese and is pronounced “shān” but in the Human script it



represents .



-  this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is pronounced “sa”. The newly developed symbol represents  in the Human script.



-  this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is pronounced “sa”. The newly developed letter represents  in the Human script.



-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original



Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “sa” but in the Human script it is .

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “sa” but in the Human script it is **s**.

-  this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is pronounced “hà”. The newly developed letter represents **X** in the Human script.



-  this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is pronounced “gá”. The newly developed letter represents **Y** in the Human script.



-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “he” but in the Human script it is **X**.



-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “he” but in the Human script it is **B**.



- **ح** the Arabic letter is the same as in the Human script with the phonetic notation **ħ**. In Arabic, the name for this letter is “ḥā”. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Phoenician letter “Ḥēt” **𐤇** and may be the direct ancestor of **ح**.
- **J** this letter derives from the Kana symbol **ほ** and it’s originally associated with the letter **h** but in the Human script, it represents **ç** because of its similar fricative phonetic notation.
- **U** this letter comes from the Ge’ez script and the phonetic notation is **h**. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and the symbol **𐀀** may be the direct ancestor of **U**.
- **ㄐ** the Bopomofo symbol originally means **X** but for the Human script it represents **ħ** because of its similar fricative phonetic notation.
- **ɸ** this letter is unchanged from the International Phonetic Alphabet.

- **ɓ** this letter is unchanged from the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- **ɓ** this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “ba” but in the Human script it is **ɓ** because it is close in proximity of the place of articulation.
- **人** this Human script letter originates from the Chinese character **人**. This means person in Chinese and is pronounced “rén” but in the Human script it represents **ɹ**.
- **日** the Bopomofo symbol is modified from the seal script which is a form of **日** ri (day/sun). In the Human script it represents **ɹ**.
- **や** this letter derives from Kana and it represents **j** so its unchanged from its origin.
- **わ** this letter derives from Kana and it represents **ɥ** so its unchanged from its origin.

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “le” but in the Human script it is **l**.

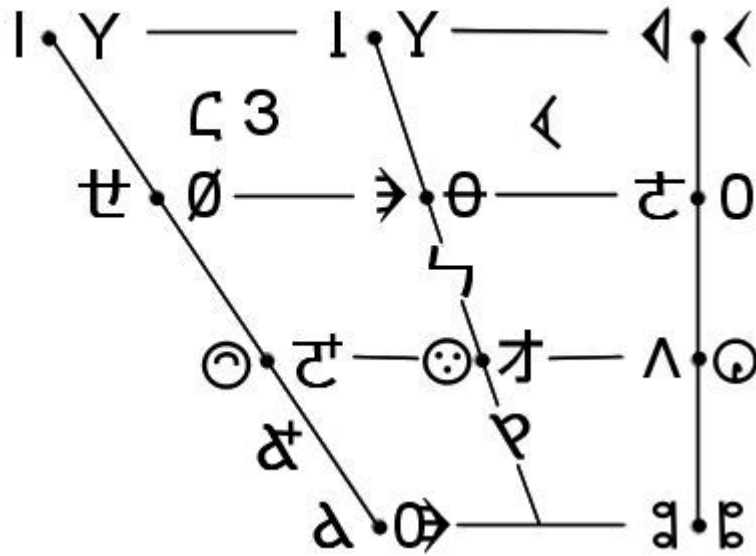
-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “le” but in the Human script it is **ll**.

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “ye” but in the Human script it is **y**.

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The original Maya syllabic glyph is pronounced “la” but in the Human script it is **L**.

VOWELS

The image below is similar to the vowel chart that was created by the International Phonetic Association. The diagram is a representation of the human mouth and the tongue positioning. The location of the vowels is the point of articulation. Below are more explanations of each letter. There are currently 28 vowels in the Human script.





- **I** this Greek letter is the same as in Human script with the phonetic notation **ī**. In


Greek, the name for this letter is “Iota” and it was derived from the Phoenician letter “Yodh”. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and these symbols \ \ 𐀀 may be the direct ancestors of **I**.



- **Y** this Greek letter is the same as in Human script with the phonetic notation **y**. In

Greek, the name for this letter is “Upsilon” and it was derived from the Phoenician letter






“Waw”. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and these symbols  may be the direct ancestors of **Y**.

- **I** this letter is slightly modified from the Greek letter **I**. In the Human script it represents the phonetic notation **i**. The name for **I** is “Iota” and it was derived from the Phoenician letter “Yodh”. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and these symbols  may be the direct ancestor of **I**.


- **Y** this letter is slightly modified from the Greek letter **Y**. In the Human script it represents the phonetic notation **u**. The name for **Y** is “Upsilon” and it was derived from the Phoenician letter “Waw”. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and these symbols  may be the direct ancestor of **Y**.

-  this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic  and the logo-syllabic is means **u**. The newly developed symbol represents **u** in the Human script.

- this letter is unchanged and derives from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic and the logo-syllabic is means **U**.
- this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph which means **i** but in the Human script it represents **I**.
- **3** this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph which means “yu” but in the Human script it represents **Y**.
- this letter comes from the Cuneiform logo-syllabic and the logo-syllabic is means **U**. The newly developed letter represents **U** in the Human script.
- the Bopomofo symbol means **e** and remains unchanged in the Human script.
- this letter derives from the Maya glyph and the IPA letter **Ø**. The Maya glyph originally represents the pure vowel **O** but for the Human script it means **Ø**.


-  the letter comes from the Cuneiform logogram  and the logogram is a pure vowel **e**. The newly developed symbol represents **ə** in the Human script.
- **ə** this letter derives from the Maya glyph  and the IPA letter **ə**. The Maya glyph originally represents the pure vowel **o** but for the Human script it means **ə**.
- **ㄝ** the Bopomofo symbol means **ɤ** and remains unchanged in the Human script.
- **o** this letter is somewhat unchanged and derives from the Maya glyph  and the glyph means **o**.
- **ㄣ** the Bopomofo symbol means **ə** and remains unchanged in the Human script.
- **ㄉ** this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The Maya glyph originally represents the pure vowel **e** but for the Human script it means **ɛ**.















- **ㄘ** this letter is modified from two Bopomofo symbols: **ㄘ** which means **ɣ** and the second Bopomofo symbol is **ㄝ** which means **e**. **ㄘ** means **œ** in the Human script.

- **ㄊ** this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The Maya glyph originally represents the pure vowel **e** but for the Human script it means **3**.

- **ㄛ** this letter derives from Katakana and it's originally associated with the letter **O** but in the Human script, it represents **3**.



- **Λ** this letter is unchanged from the International Phonetic Alphabet.

- **ㄊ** this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The Maya glyph originally represents the pure vowel **O** but for the Human script it means **3**.



-  this letter derives from the Coptic letter  which means **a** but in the Human script it represents **e**. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and the glyph  may be the direct ancestor of .
-  this letter derives from the Coptic letter  which means **a**. Another symbol that this is influenced by is the Bopomofo symbol  which means **e**. The Human script symbol is modified by both symbols and represents **æ**.
-  the Coptic letter  means **a** and it remains unchanged in the Human script. This particular lineage eventually goes back to the Egyptian hieroglyphs and the glyph  may be the direct ancestor of .
-  this letter derives from the Maya glyph  which originally represents the pure vowel **O**. Another symbol that this is influenced by is the Cuneiform logo-syllabic 

which means **e**. The Human script letter is modified by both symbols and represents

œ.

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The Maya glyph

originally represents the pure vowel **a** but for the Human script it means **ɑ**.

-  this Human script letter originates from the Maya glyph . The Maya glyph

originally represents the pure vowel **a** but for the Human script it means **ɒ**.

EVOLUTION

The Human script gets its start with some of the earliest writing systems such as Egyptian hieroglyphs and Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform. Other elements derive from East Asia and Mesoamerica. The influences come from nearly every continent humans have inhabited for a long duration. There are borrowed symbols from East Africa to Japan and newly developed symbols influenced from the Americas. At its current form, the Human script has 85 letters. This paper of the Human script is the base for improvement and it is not the completion.

The foundation of the Human script is meant to allow growth and may move away or branch off from an alphabetic system as it evolves. Writing systems throughout history evolved into newer ones and this should be no different. Human script may not be as universal as it could be but the goal is to try to get as close to it as possible as it evolves. The importance of this script is the unity of writing systems from phonetic sounds to aesthetics. New symbols may emerge or new methods may be used. Whatever the future holds for the Human script, hopefully the main goal remains of paying homage to the four independent writing systems and the child systems that followed.

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