

## Is *LHA* a Cluster in Pali Language ?

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### Introduction

It is obvious that the medieval Indo Aryan era inherent letter in the Pali language is the letter *ḷha* written as *ha* by binding *ḷa*. When we look at it outwardly we can see it at a glance as a cluster. But in the linguistics research, it is seen as an individual letter. The objective is to inquire in to it.

### Objectives and methodology

Though both the letter *ḷa* and *ḷha* can be seen in the Pali language, it does not appear in the classical Sanskrit. But there is evidence found in *R̥gveda* that indicates it is present in the Vedic Sanskrit. Linguists say that the vowel centered *ḍa* is pronounced as *ḷa* and *ḍha* as *ḷha*. In the charm of “*Agnimiḷe purohitam*” *ḷe* is created from the derivation of the root *ḷḍ* the letter *ḷaḷ* *lakāra ātmanepada* is used as the first person singular. It’s documentary form should be *ḷḍe* because it is located in the middle of the two vowels (i+ḍ+e) and it is pronounced as *ḷa*. In other instances the letter *ḍha* is pronounced in the same way. In the place of ‘*ḷḍyo nūta nairuta*’ though *ḷḍyo* is from the root *ḷḍ*, it doesn’t seem that the letter *ḷa* is the letter *o*. It is not centered there. Thus the form of the letter is such. The version ‘*tama āsīḷ gūḷha magre*’ *gūḷha* is the pronunciation of *gūḍha*. Since the *ḍha* is in the centre of the vowel it has become *ḷha* (g+ū+ḍ+a). Mac Donnell has introduced *ḷha* as the aspirated letter of *ḷa*. This *ḷa* is voiced as *ḷha* when *ḷa* and *ḍha* are pronounced together. But that pronunciation isn’t received from auditory means. It is very clear from the above examples that it can be received only by means of visual media.

In the *Tipitaka* written in Pali language we can find *ḷha* when it is considered by way of linguistic, *ḍa* has become *ḷha* When it was derived from *ḍa*. According to the characteristics of the language evolution there can be *ḷha* after long or short vowel. In Sanskrit *ḍha* which is followed by long vowel becomes as *ḷha* in Pali.

1. After a long vowel- *ḍa*>*ḷha*

*gāḍha*>*gāḷha*

*rūḍha* > *rūḷha*

*mūḍha*>*mūḷha*

2. After a short vowel - *ḍa*>*ḷha*

*ḍṛḍha*>*ḍaḷha*

It can be decided as the cluster or non-cluster of *ḷha* based on both of these evolutions. Specially in the Pali language, there is no long vowel before the cluster. However, we should not forget that it is used very rarely. But it can be seen that there is no such occurrence in the words given as examples from Pali. The second example shows that after the short vowel the *ḷha* is used. That is the only example we come across in the Pali language. But that is the only word which expresses a meaningful idea that can’t be expressed by any other word and it is the great enlightenment that the Pali language has received. The reason for its important is that in the letter *ḷha* the same vowel and its shortness decides the cluster and non cluster nature of *ḷha*.

After the short letter the words of *ḷha* occurring to the version of poetry when enquiring the Metre. If the letter *ḷha* a cluster existing before it should be shorten. The reason for this is that it is considered as the long letter before the cluster. The long letter can be a definite long letter when there is a definite or indefinite long letter. It can not be considered as long when it is used in place of the definite long letter. When it is a short letter, it can’t be a cluster when *ḷha* is used after the short letter.

### Conclusions

It can be proved that it is obvious, according to the features of language evolution and features of classic Metre that the letter *ḷha* is not a cluster. So it can be incorporated in the traditional Pali alphabet.