

Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-05/msg01205.html>

- *From:* "Jukka K. Korpela" <jkorpela@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 27 May 2005 18:10:35 +0000 (UTC)
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Andreas Prilop <nhtcapri@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

- > But I can tell you that
- > Vietnamese has "two layers" of diacritical signs. The "first layer"
- > consists of "umlauted" letters; these are letters from Latin-1,
- > Latin-2, and "o, u with horn".

And it seems to me that the diacritics indicate qualities (e.g. "open" vs. "closed") of vowels.

- > These letters are essential to Vietnamese.

Undoubtedly, but aren't the tone marks, too?

- > The "second layer" consists of tone marks to vowels.
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- > The tone marks are (often?) omitted outside Vietnam.
- > Compare Pinyin Chinese, which is mostly written without tones.

I can see practical reasons to that all too well, but since the languages are tonal, I would expect that the tone marks would be regarded as important.

Of course we can often use Vietnamese (or French or Italian or ...) names without diacritic marks, since we usually deal with a fairly limited number of such names, so clashes are not probable, and we need not know the correct pronunciation. But still... our names could be written without vowels (drs prlp & jkk krpl would be quite understandable in some contexts), but that just wouldn't be right.

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Yucca, <http://www.cs.tut.fi/~jkorpela/>

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ **Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"**
 - ◇ *From:* Ruud Harmsen

Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"

◆ *Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"*

◇ *From:* Harlan Messinger

• *References:*

◆ *Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"*

◇ *From:* Jukka K. Korpela

◆ *Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"*

◇ *From:* Andreas Prilop

• Prev by Date: *Re: a request not language related*

• Next by Date: *Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"*

• Previous by thread: *Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"*

• Next by thread: *Re: Diacritics in the Vietnamese name "Nguyen"*

• Index(es):

◆ *Date*

◆ *Thread*