

Origins of the Thai Alphabet

Alphabets are groups of symbols that represent spoken language. Whether the Thai alphabet, originally known as Lai Sue Thai, was created before or after the Sukhothai Period and the reign of King Ramkhamhaeng the Great is debatable. However, scholars believe that the Thai alphabet was derived from the Pallava alphabet of southern India. Despite the marked changes in form, the sequence starting with the letter "ก" [kor] is the same that appears in the stone inscription.

Today, the Thai alphabet is comprised of 44 consonants, 29 vowels, 4 forms of intonation, and 4 symbols that represent syllables derived from the Sanskrit floating vowels namely, ก ฦ ฦๅ ฦๆ ฦ็.