

Limbu minimal pairs involving vowel length

Vowel	Word	Roman	Gloss
[inherent]	ꠞꠞ	y[a]k	fort
	ꠞꠞꠞ	y[a:]k	plenty
	ꠞꠞꠞ	l[a]pma	to swallow
	ꠞꠞꠞꠞ	l[a:]pma	to take out, drive out
A ̣	ꠞꠞꠞ	takma	to freeze (water, milk)
	ꠞꠞꠞꠞ	ta:kma	to hold
	ꠞꠞꠞ	tapma	medal
	ꠞꠞꠞꠞ	ta:pma	to bring
I ̣	ꠞꠞꠞ	khimma	to stick, paste
	ꠞꠞꠞꠞ	khi:mma	greed, avarice
	ꠞꠞꠞ	ning	poison / thatch
	ꠞꠞꠞꠞ	ni:ng	throat, neck, windpipe
U ̣	ꠞꠞꠞ	khumma	to tame
	ꠞꠞꠞꠞ	khu:mma	to rob, steal
	ꠞꠞꠞ	hukma	thumb, big toe
	ꠞꠞꠞꠞ	hu:kma	to bellow, howl

E	ဲ	လဲၼ်	khepma	to escape, evade
		လဲၼ်	khe:pma	to hang up, suspend
		လဲၼ်	lengma	to instigate / to reverse / to smear
		လဲၼ်	le:ngma	to slip
oo	ိၼ်	Not true minimal pairs – 2 nd word has double ‘m’		
		လိၼ်	khoma	to get, obtain, find
		လိၼ်	kho:mma	to pierce, prick
		လိၼ်	toma	hospitality
		လိၼ်	to:mma	to correct, reform