

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 ̄ | ꠞꠞꠞꠞ | takma | to freeze (water, milk) |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ | ta:kma | to hold |
| | | | |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞ | tapma | medal |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ | ta:pma | to bring |
| | | | |
| I ̄ | ꠞꠞꠞꠞ | khimma | to stick, paste |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ | khi:mma | greed, avarice |
| | | | |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞ | ning | poison / thatch |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ | ni:ng | throat, neck, windpipe |
| | | | |
| U ̄ | ꠞꠞꠞꠞ | khumma | to tame |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ | khu:mma | to rob, steal |
| | | | |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞ | hukma | thumb, big toe |
| | ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ | hu:kma | to bellow, howl |
| | | | |

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