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Arabic Phonetic Alphabet

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Subject: Arabic Phonetic Alphabet

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I. Regrouping of the transliteration alphabet

The Arabic alphabet is composed of 28 letters:

Alif, Bā', Tā', thā', Jīm, Hā', Khā', Dāl, Dhāl, Rā', Zayn, Sīn, Shīne, Sad, Dad, Iā', Dha', 'Ayn, Ghayn, Fa', Qāf, Kāf, Lām, Mīm, Nūn, Hā', Wāw, Yā'.

The Latin alphabet is composed of 27 letters:

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

This transliteration alphabet has omitted 5 Latin letters and used the rest in different forms as follows:

1. basic simple letters without any diacritical marks, having similar sounds in both alphabets; Arabic or Latin such as:

Latin	B	T	J	D	R	Z	S	F	K	L	M	N	H	W	Y
Arabic	Bā'	Tā',	Jīm	Dāl	Rā'	Zayn	Sīn	Fa'	Kāf	Lām	Mīm	Nūn	Hā'	Wāw	Yā'

2. Five digraphs, each composed by two letters to represent Arabic letters that have no similar basic simple letters, having the same pronunciation in the Latin alphabet such as:

Latin	Th	Kh	Dh	Sh	Gh
Arabic	thā'	Khā'	Dhāl	Shīne	Ghayn

3. One Digraph underlined by a diacritical mark which is Dha' and one letter that does not have similar sound in Latin, it was represented by the letter Q

4. Letters surmounted or underlined by a diacritical marks to produce the convenient phonetic sounds: H (Ha'), S (Sād), D (Dād), I (Iā'), Ā (long opener), Ū (long closer)
Ī (long breaker), A' (Alif maqsūrah)

5. Two diacritical Marks (' , ') preceding the three vowel marks (Fathah:A, Dammah:U, Kasrah:I) and the three letters (Alif Ā, Waw Ū, Yā' Ī).

All these basic simple letters, or digraphs, or marks, or letters with marks, should be pronounced in the same way of the Arabic letters.

II. Arabic Phonetic Alphabet

To organize their pronunciation, Arabic letters were divided into nine categories:

1. **Alveolar** letters which are the vowel letters $\bar{A}, \bar{U}, \bar{I}$ and the semi-vowel or vowel marks (Fathāh: A, Dammah: U, Kasrah: I).
They are called Alveolar because they need to push air from the lungs to give the appropriate sound for the letters that they succeed.
2. **Guttural** letters which are : Ḥā' , Khā' , 'Ayn, Ghayn, and Hā' because their way out is far back from the throat.
3. **Uvular** letters which are: Kāf and Qāf because their way out is from the epiglottis which is situated at the end of the mouth.
4. **Glossal** letters which are : Rā' , Lām , and Nūn as their way out is from the sides and the end of the tongue.
5. **Palatal** letters which are: Tā' , Dāl and Ṭā' as their way out is from the upper palate of the mouth.
6. **Fricative** letters which are: Sīn , Ṣād and Zayn as you feel them on the head of your tongue when pronounced .
7. **Gingival** letters which are : Thā' , Dhāl , Dhā' as the need to put the tongue on the gingiva when pronounced.
8. **Bilabials** or lip letters which are: Bā' , Mīm , Fā' (B,M,F) as their way out is from the lips.
9. **Arboreal** letters which are Shīn , Jīm , and Ḍād as they are pronounced from the space you open between the lips when used.

III. Summary:

This table will show a summary of what was mentioned throughout the paper.

Arabic Phonetic Alphabet

<u>Type</u>	<u>Arabic</u>	<u>Romanized</u>	<u>Way out</u>
Alveolar	ا - و - ي (ـ)	Ā, Ū, Ī, A, U, I	Lungs
Guttural	هـ - ح - خ - غ - ع	H, Ĥ, Kh, Gh, ʿ	Throat
Uvular	ك - ق	K, Q	Epiglottis
Glossal	ر - ل - ن	R, L, N	Sides of the tongue
Palatal	ت - د - ط	Ṭ, D, T	Upper palate of the mouth
Fricative	س - ص - ز	S, Ṣ, Z	Head of the tongue and between the teeth
Gingival	ث - ذ - ظ	Th, Dh, Ḍh	Gingiva
Bilabials	ب - م - ف	B, M, F	Lips
Arboreal	ش - ج - ض	Sh, J, Ḍ	Space between the lips