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MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ROMANIZATION SYSTEMS

Geographical Names Romanization  
in Pakistan

Asia South-West Division

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Submitted by Maj(R) Muhammad Ilyas CH, Pakistan

Diacritical signs used in Pakistan

(a) The 'Zabar', ( —̣ ):

This is expressed by 'a' and is pronounced as in 'woman' or 'u' in 'gun' in English. This is placed over a preceding consonant or an initial 'alif'.

EXAMPLES:—

دَشت	Dasht
پَلک	Palak
اَللّٰہ	Allāh

(b) The 'Zer', ( —̣̣ ):

This is expressed by 'i' and is pronounced as in English words 'bit', 'kit', etc. It is placed below the preceding consonant or an initial 'alif'.

EXAMPELS:—

کِتاب	Kitāb
بِسْمِ	Bismil
اِسْلَام	Islām

(c) The 'Pesh' ( —̣̣̣ ):

This is expressed by 'u' and is pronounced as in English words 'fut', 'pull' etc. This is placed over a preceding consonant or an initial 'alif'.

EXAMPLES:—

چُغہ	Chughā
خُدا	Khuda
اُردو	Urdu

(d) The 'Madd' (ـَ):

This is used over 'alif' and is expressed by long 'a' (ā) sounding in English word 'Father'.

EXAMPLE:—

آباد	Ābād
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(e) The 'Tashdid', (ـَـ):

The consonants marked with 'ـَـ' are doubled in their Roman characters.

EXAMPLES:—

اَللّٰه	Allāh
بَلَل	Balla
فَيَّاز	Fayyāz

(f) The 'Jazm', (ـْ):

There is usually a vowel for uniting two consonants in a word. But, if there is none and also short vowels i.e. 'ـْ' do not exist, the preceding consonant is marked with (ـْ) and the succeeding one is regarded as 'Sākin', but is pronounced and as such its Roman equivalent character appears in transliteration.

EXAMPLES:—

وَقْتْ	Waqt
پُشْتْ	Pusht
عِلْمْ	Ilm

(g) The 'Hamza', (ء):

(i) The mark 'Hamza' is used to separate a syllable ending with a vowel from another commencing with a vowel. It is thus used, as a hyphen is used in English word 're-open'. It is transliterated by a hyphen. But this hyphen is not used in the body of maps.

EXAMPLES:—

فَايِدَه Fā-ida

كَوْن Ga-on

پَاوْن Pā-on

(ii) The mark 'Hamza' is also used with or without 'اَ' to form the persian genitive case (Kasra-i-Izifat) in some instances e.g., چشمائے مالک = Chashmā-i-Mālik or چشمه مالک = Chashmā-i-Mālik.

(iii) When 'آ' falls at the end of a word it is neglected, e. g.

ضِيَا Ziya (Zia)

(h) The 'Tanwin', (ـِ)

The sign 'ـِ' appearing over an 'alif' at the end of words of Arabic origin expresses adverbial 'n'. e.g.

اِتِّفَاقًا Ittifaqan

مِثْلًا Maslan

(i) The 'alif maqsūra', (آ):

This is a short 'alif' and is placed over a final 'ي' or 'اَ' to indicate that it sounds like 'ā'.

EXAMPLES:—

مُوسَى Mūsa

مُصْطَفَى Mustafa

(j) The definite article 'AL', (ال):

The Arabic definite article 'ال' often occurs in the words or names of Arabic origin and is treated as follows:—

(i) 'alif' in the article will be transliterated into the short vowels 'a', 'i', or 'u', corresponding to (اَ) (اِ) or (اُ) appearing on or below the consonant preceding 'ال'.

EXAMPLES :—

هَارُونَ الرَّشِيد	Hārūnarrashīd
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ	Bismillāh
شَطَّ الْعَرَبِ	Shattul Arab
صَلَاتِ حَ الدِّينِ	Salāhuddīn

- ( ii ) It may be noted that 'ال' is silent in هَارُونَ الرَّشِيد and صَلَاتِ حَ الدِّينِ and also does not appear in their respective transliteration in Roman, but in ( شَطَّ الْعَرَبِ ), it sounds and also appears in its Roman transliteration. That is, when 'ال' occurs before 'ر' or 'د' it is silent and when precedes 'ع' it sounds. Other letters, before which 'ال' is silent, are ت ث ذ ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ن and will accordingly be assimilated in the corresponding Roman version by doubling the letter following 'ال'
- ( iii ) The sign 'IVasla', 'ص' appearing on the 'alif' of 'ال', in such names, is to show union with the preceding vowel.

2. Vowels and Diphthongs, with Explanatory Notes, USED IN PAKISTAN 11

URDU LETTERS WHEN OCCURRING AS				EXAMPLES OF USE AS			
Letter	Initial		Medial		ROMAN	PRONUNCIATION	Final
	Name	Letter	Name	Letter			
(i) آ	Zabar alif	ا	Zabar	آ	a	as in woman	Akbar
(ii) ا	alif medd	ا	alif, medd	ا	a	" " father	Adam
(iii) ا	zer alif	ا	zer	ا	i	" " bit	Islam
(iv) اے	zer alif ye	اے	zer ye	اے	i	" " machine	Istigha
(v) آ	pesh alif	آ	pesh	آ	u	" " put	Urdu
(vi) او	pesh alif wāo	او	pesh wāo	او	o	" " rule	Orcha
(vii) ای	zer alif ya i-majhūl	ای	ye, zer ya-i-majhūl	ای	e	" " grey	Ewan
(viii) اے	alif ye	اے		اے	e	" " Ek	Ek
(ix) او	zabar alif ye	او	zabar ye	او	ai	" " aisle	Almanabad
(x) او	pesh alif wāo majhūl	او	pesh wāo majhūl	او	o	" " hole	Oktra
(xi) او	zabar alif wāo	او	same as initial	او	au	as 'ot' in house (nearly), a combined sound of o & u (diphthong)	Aurangzeb
(xii) اے	ain	اے		اے	'(inverted comma)	Guttural, slightly aspirated	'Ali Kifin 'Umar Kot 'Jisli 'Oman

\* See note (ii) on page '13'

† See note (i) on page '13'

‡ The letters اے, اے and او where marked with 'o' indicate that these are inactive (مجبورول).

•• has consonantal value (ا) when preceded by long vowel as in اے (Rāh).