

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set  
 International Organization for Standardization  
 Organisation internationale de normalisation  
 Международная организация по стандартизации

**Doc Type:** Working Group Document  
**Title:** Proposal to encode the ARABIC ZWARAKAY in the UCS  
**Source:** Michael Everson and Roozbeh Pournader  
**Status:** Individual Contribution  
**Action:** For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC  
**Date:** 2003-04-24

In December 2002 the United Nations Development Programme Country Office for Afghanistan commissioned a report on the language support required for Pashto and Dari, Afghanistan's official languages. As a part of this report, we undertook a review of the character requirements of these languages. One character used in Pashto educational and lexicographical texts, is missing from the UCS. We propose its addition here, at U+0659.

0659 ◌ ARABIC ZWARAKAY

a diacritical mark *zi* (zawar) نورى  
 representing (a)  
 see (شورى) نورى (zawar) ع.م.ع.  
 a diacritical mark *zi* (zwarakay) نورى  
 mark representing (ə).

On the left, the entries for *zwar* [a] for *zwarakay* [ə] from Rahimi and Rohi's *Pashto-English Dictionary*, 1979, p. 246. On the right, the entry for *zwarakay* [ə] from *Pashto-Pashto Descriptive Dictionary*, 4 volumes (Department of Linguistics, Institute of Languages and Literature, Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan, 1979-1987), vol. 3, p. 2401.

The vol. 4 text to the right reads "m. sg. Weak *zwar*, light *zwar*; in Pashto and some other languages, is a diacritical mark that is neither a *zwar* (*fatha*) nor a *zer* (*kasra*); like the sound of (س) in the word پسه [psə, pusə] and the first sound in *ago* and the last sound in the word *China* in English. Usually, the [ə] symbol is used to represent this sound in phonemic and phonetic systems.

زورکى (zwarakay) نرم.  
 خفيف زور ، سپک زور ، په  
 پښتو او چينو لورو تر لورکې يو  
 حرکت دی چې نه زور (فتحه) دی  
 اونه زېر (کسره) ، لکه دپسه  
 [psə, pusə] په کلمه کې د(س) حرکت  
 اود انگليسي په ago کې لومړی حرکت  
 اود china په کلمه کې وروستی حرکت.  
 ددې حرکت دتمثيل دپاره په فونيمیک  
 اوفونيتیک سیستم کې د [ə] سمبول  
 کارېږي.

نورې نخښې : ۸ دساکن نورې دښوولو دپاره او — دزورکې دپاره استعمال شوی دی.  
 په موسيقي کې (۵) دخالي غښه ، (۶) دسم غښه او (۷) دتالي غښه ده . همدارنگه د لگه ،  
 گر ، پلټ ، درت ، برام ، لگه برام اوله برام ، درت برام او اُنډرت دښوولو دپاره په  
 ترتيب سر دغه غښې کار شوي دي : ا ، ٤ ، ٥ ، آ ، ٥ ، ٥

Front matter from vol. 3, p. م (above) and vol. 4, p. غ (right) from *Pashto-Pashto Descriptive Dictionary*, 4 volumes (Department of Linguistics, Institute of Languages and Literature, Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan, 1979-1987). The vol. 3 text reads "Other Symbols: SUKUN is used to show the *sukun* letter and ZWARAKAY is used for *zwarakay*."

نورې نخښې : په موسيقي کې (۵) دخالي غښه ، (۶) دسم غښه او (۷) دتالي غښه ده . همدارنگه د لگه ،  
 گر ، پلټ ، درت ، برام ، لگه برام اوله برام ، درت برام او اُنډرت غښې دي : ا ، ٤ ، ٥ ، آ ، ٥ ، ٥  
 ۸ يا ۹ دساکن نورې غښه  
 — زورکى  
 ۱۰ د( « يعنې ايضاً) پځاى  
 ۹ دستونيز تمېدنگ (glottal stop) غښه بلکه په gur'an کې.  
 د شک غښه ؟  
 \* دشري په پای کې پايلىک وگورئ .  
 ... اوداسې نور ، دوام لري ، صرف نظر  
 # ديز  
 b بيول  
 ۱۱ پکار ، ناټوريل

## A. Administrative

### 1. Title

Proposal to encode the ARABIC ZWARAKAY in the UCS.

### 2. Requester's name

Michael Everson and Roozbeh Pournader

### 3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Individual contribution.

### 4. Submission date

2003-04-24

### 5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

N2581

### 6. Choose one of the following:

#### 6a. This is a complete proposal

Yes.

#### 6b. More information will be provided later

No.

Examples of ZWARAKAY in use: بَل

[bəl] 'other' vs بَل [bal] 'ablaze'.

زِرَّه [zara] 'old f.' vs زِرَّه [zrə]

'heart'.

## B. Technical -- General

### 1. Choose one of the following:

#### 1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

No.

#### Proposed name of script

#### 1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

Yes.

#### 1b. Name of the existing block

Arabic.

### 2. Number of characters in proposal

1

### 3. Proposed category (see section II, Character Categories)

Category A.

#### 4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see clause 14, ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)

Level 3.

#### 4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Yes.

#### 4c. If YES, reference

Combining characters.

#### 5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

#### 5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the character naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000?

Yes.

#### 5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

#### 6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Michael Everson.

#### 6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, Fontographer.

#### 7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes.

#### 7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

No.

#### 8. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

No.

9. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode

normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

This character is very similar in behaviour to the ARABIC FATHA (U+064E), and may possibly appear together with an ARABIC SHADDA over a base letter. We recommend the following Unicode Character Properties to be assigned to the proposed character:

General Category: Mn  
Canonical Combining Class: 37  
Bidi Class: NSM  
Bidi Mirrored: N

## C. Technical -- Justification

**1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.**

No.

**2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?**

Yes.

**2b. If YES, with whom?**

The Pashto experts Dr Habibullah Rafi (the editor of the popular magazine *Kelid* published in Kabul), and Mr Said Marjan Zazai (a Pashto computerization expert from the Afghan Assistance Coordination Authority)

**2c. If YES, available relevant documents**

**3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?**

Pashto-speaking educators among others.

**4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)**

To represent the schwa sound in Pashto.

**4b. Reference**

**5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?**

Yes.

**5b. If YES, where?**

Educational materials.

**6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document (a WG 2 standing document) must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?**

Yes.

**6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?**

Yes.

**6c. If YES, reference**

Keep with other Arabic signs.

**7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?**

**8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?**

No.

**8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?**

**8c. If YES, reference**

**9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?**

No.

**9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?**

**9c. If YES, reference**

**10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?**

Yes. There are other more-or-less horizontal bars in the standard.

**10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?**

Yes.

**10c. If YES, reference**

This character behaves as other Arabic combining vowel signs do.

**11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?**

Yes.

**11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?**

Yes.

**11c. If YES, reference**

It is a combining character.

**12a. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?**

No.

**12b. If YES, reference**

**13a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?**

No.

**13b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)**

**14a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?**

No.

**14b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?**