

To: Unicode Technical Committee and WG2

From: Deborah Anderson (SEI, UC Berkeley) and Peter Constable (Microsoft)

Title: Naming error for U+0709 SYRIAC SUBLINEAR COLON SKEWED RIGHT

Date: 8 May 2012

An apparent discrepancy was noted between the name and the glyph shape of U+0709 SYRIAC SUBLINEAR COLON SKEWED RIGHT.

The current (6.1) code chart for Syriac shows the following:

- 0706 : SYRIAC COLON SKEWED LEFT
 - marks a dependent clause
- 0707 : SYRIAC COLON SKEWED RIGHT
 - marks the end of a subdivision of the apodosis, or latter part of a Biblical verse
- 0708 : SYRIAC SUPRALINEAR COLON SKEWED LEFT
 - marks a minor phrase division
- 0709 : SYRIAC SUBLINEAR COLON SKEWED RIGHT
 - marks the end of a real or rhetorical question

George Kiraz, one of the authors of the original proposal for Syriac, has confirmed that the glyph shape is correct, but the code point's name is *not* correct. In order to rectify the situation, an annotation should be added explaining that the correct glyph has a skewed-left orientation, in spite of the name.

Below is information collected by Peter Constable that documents the history of the encoding of this character.

From: Peter Constable

Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 10:40 PM

To: 'George Kiraz'; Deborah W. Anderson

Cc: Paul Nelson (OFFICE INTL)

Subject: RE: Question on Syriac character U+0709

I'll start the historical review by mentioning that the glyphs in the code charts for Unicode 6.1 match those in the charts for Unicode 3.0, which was the version in which Syriac was first added.

The proposal doc in the UTC document register is L2/98-050, from March 1998. But the script was approved at the UTC meeting in February 1998. The minutes mention "a revised proposal, incorporating the errata..." – I gather that L2/98-050, dated after the UTC meeting, is that revised proposal. I can't find any info indicating what the "errata" were, so don't know if that pertains to 0709 and its glyph in any way.

Now, L2/98-050 has a code chart (page 22) with these glyphs:

006	06	SYRIAC HORIZONTAL COLON
007	07	SYRIAC COLON SKEWED LEFT
008	08	SYRIAC COLON SKEWED RIGHT
009	09	SYRIAC COLON SUPRALINEAR SKEWED LEFT
010	0A	SYRIAC COLON SUPRALINEAR SKEWED RIGHT
011	0B	SYRIAC COLON SUBLINEAR SKEWED LEFT
012	0C	SYRIAC COLON SUBLINEAR SKEWED RIGHT
013	0D	SYRIAC CONTRACTION

US comments in the ballot on the PDAM 27 draft pointed this out and requested a change:

3. Other than the character name changes noted in the Editor's note, four character names do not match the working draft. These should be corrected to:
 U+0708 SYRIAC SUPRALINEAR COLON SKEWED LEFT
 U+0709 SYRIAC SUBLINEAR COLON SKEWED LEFT
 U+0738 SYRIAC DOTTED ZLAMA HORIZONTAL
 U+0739 SYRIAC DOTTED ZLAMA ANGULAR

This comment was accepted in the disposition of comments, and so the name should have been changed in the next draft, FPDAM 27. But surprisingly, the FPDAM draft still has an incorrect name (the order of words was changed, but "right" was not corrected to "left"):

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FPDAM for ISO/IEC 10646-1: 1993/Amd. 27: 1999 (E)

TABLE 238 - Row 07: SYRIAC

dec	hex	Name	dec	hex	Name
000	00	SYRIAC END OF PARAGRAPH			
001	01	SYRIAC SUPRALINEAR FULL STOP			
002	02	SYRIAC SUBLINEAR FULL STOP			
003	03	SYRIAC SUPRALINEAR COLON			
004	04	SYRIAC SUBLINEAR COLON			
005	05	SYRIAC HORIZONTAL COLON			
006	06	SYRIAC COLON SKEWED LEFT			
007	07	SYRIAC COLON SKEWED RIGHT			
008	08	SYRIAC SUPRALINEAR COLON SKEWED LEFT			
009	09	SYRIAC SUPRALINEAR COLON SKEWED RIGHT			
010	0A	SYRIAC SUBLINEAR COLON SKEWED LEFT			
011	0B	SYRIAC SUBLINEAR COLON SKEWED RIGHT			
012	0C	SYRIAC CONTRACTION			

When the FPDAM draft was balloted, there were no comments. As a result, it went to the final draft (FDAM) and publication with that name.

So, the glyph has remained constant from the revised proposal after the February 1998 UTC meeting, L2/98-050, up to the current version of the code chart. But the name changed from having "LEFT" in L2/98-050 to having "RIGHT" in the PDAM draft of 10646, and I find no record indicating that that was intentional; and that never got changed.