

Proposal to Encode Arabic Letter Teh with Small Teh Above for Bravanese

To: UTC
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Live Doc: <http://goo.gl/R3wtef>

Background

Previously in 2013 a proposal by Banafunzi et al. (L2/13-178)¹ requested five Arabic script character to be encoded for Bravanese (Chimini). During UTC meeting #137 in November 2013, encoding of these five characters were discussed and four of them were accepted for encoding²:

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08B6;ARABIC LETTER BEH WITH SMALL MEEM ABOVE  
08B7;ARABIC LETTER PEH WITH SMALL MEEM ABOVE  
08B9;ARABIC LETTER REH WITH SMALL NOON ABOVE  
08BA;ARABIC LETTER YEH WITH TWO DOTS BELOW AND SMALL NOON ABOVE
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Since information provided for a fifth character (ARABIC LETTER TEH WITH CURL) was not adequate for encoding purposes, the UTC decided to postpone encoding the character until receiving the needed information.

Objective

The objective of this document is to provide the missing information and propose this additional character to be incorporated into the Unicode Standard.

Discussion

The character originally proposed by Banafunzi et al. as ARABIC LETTER TEH WITH CURL appears as an Arabic letter ﺕ with an added curl added by hand under the dots of typesetted letter:

¹ Banafunzi, Banafunzi, and Nuur. (L2/13-178)

² Pournader, "Proposal to encode four Arabic characters for Bravanese".

مَسْكَ يَمِعْرَا جِ (ثِل) جَنَا نِ
 مَهْتَّ نَدْمَجِيَّتْ وَيَتَّ (مَعَال) مَعَالِ
 نَحْرِسِ نَدْمَجِيَّتْ نَأْمَا نِ
 وَوِثْوَى يَمِرْ سَلِ نَأْمَا نَبِيَا
 يَتَّ (ت) يُوْسُفُ كَأَجْمَا لِ

Research by Banafunzi and Vianello³ notes this character among adaptations to Arabic letters to express sounds specific to Chimini language and describes it as “ت with another small ت above it”.

وَوِثْوَى يَمِرْ سَلِ نَأْمَا نَبِيَا
 نَأْمَا نِ يَوَانَتَّ إِحْسَانِ

In the introduction to *The Arabic Script in Africa*⁴ (in which the work of Banafunzi and Vianello appears), Mumin and Versteegh name the character “*tā'* with superimposed *tā'*” and provide the following shape for it:

ت

Considering these information, the authors propose this character to be encoded with properties as provided in the following sections.

Properties

UnicodeData.txt

08B8;ARABIC LETTER TEH WITH SMALL TEH ABOVE;Lo;0;AL;;;;N;;;;

ArabicShaping.txt

08B8; DOTLESS BEH WITH TEH ABOVE; D; BEH

³ Banafunzi and Vianello, pp. 302, 309.

⁴ Mumin and Versteegh, p. 15.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank Thomas Milo who pointed us to the book *The Arabic Script in Africa* that helped clarify the characteristics of the character in discussion and hence facilitate the proposal for encoding.

Bibliography

- Banafunzi, Bana, and Vianello, Alessandra. “Chimi:ni in Arabic Script: Examples from Brava Poetry”. In Mumin and Versteegh (ed.), p. 293.
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- Mumin, Meikal, and Versteegh, Kees (ed.). *The Arabic Script in Africa*. Leiden: Koninklijke Brill NV, 2014. ISBN 978-90-04-25679-8.