

**Title:** Proposal to include Balti alphabet ARABIC LETTER GRAF  
**Action:** For consideration by UTC and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2  
**Author:** Lateef Sagar Shaikh  
**Date:** 28-May-2019

### Introduction


Balti language is spoken in Pakistan’s Gilgit-Baltistan region and is written in Arabic and Tibetan/Yugi scripts. Mr Yousuf Hussainabadi has been working for some decades on Holy Quran’s Balti translation and Arabic script of the language also Khowar Academy (which is a nonprofit organization) is also working on standardizing Balti and other languages spoken in the region.

There is one alphabet in this language’s Arabic script which are currently not supported in Unicode. In this proposal I want to present this character to Unicode teams for its inclusion.





### Requests

The author requests the encoding 1 new alphabet used in Balti language.


### Character name and shape

Shape	Code Point	Name
	U+08C8	ARABIC LETTER GRAF

### Character forms

Isolated	Initial	Medial	Final
			

### Pronunciation, Tibetan equivalent and letter name in Balti

Pronunciation	Tibetan equivalent	Name in Balti
Gra		Graf

## Challenges in publishing this alphabet in Balti books

The second edition of Holy Quran's translation in Balti language (2011) Mr. Yousuf Hussainabadi has put following note regarding difficulty of publishing this alphabet (page 13 of Holy Quran Translation in Balti, link is in reference section):

### نوٹ برائے اشاعت دوم

اللہ تعالیٰ کا شکر ہے کہ بلتی ترجمہ قرآن مجید کو دوبارہ چھپوانے کی توفیق عنایت ہوئی۔ پہلی اشاعت کے وقت کوئی ایسا کمپیوٹر پروگرام دستیاب نہ تھا جس میں سارے بلتی حروف دستیاب ہوں۔ اس لئے وہ سارے حروف ہاتھ سے بنانا پڑے جس میں کئی مہینے لگ گئے۔ اب یونی کوڈ میں یہ سارے حروف دستیاب ہیں سوائے ایک حرف "گ" کے جس کے لئے اب پرانے طریقے کے مطابق "گر" (gra) استعمال کیا گیا۔ اس کے علاوہ جہاں جہاں ترجمے میں ابہام محسوس ہوا وہاں ترجمے میں تبدیلی کی گئی ہے۔ بعض مقامات پر الفاظ میں مناسب تبدیلی کی گئی ہے اور بعض جگہوں پر مفسرین کے دوسرے اقوال کو اختیار کیا گیا ہے۔ اس اشاعت کو ہر قسم کی خامیوں اور کمزوریوں سے پاک کرنے کی پوری کوشش کی گئی ہے۔

Translation:

#### Note for second edition

By the grace of almighty Allah, I am able to get the Holy Quran's Balti translation published again. During first edition no computer program was available which had all Balti alphabets. Therefore all those alphabets were written by hand which took many months. Now all alphabets are available in Unicode except one "گ" which is handled by using old method of replacing it with "گر" (gra). Apart from this, the translation is changed where ever there was any issue. At some places different words are used and at other places different quotes of Quran Explanation Experts (mufasreen) are adopted. I have tried my best to remove all shortcomings and weaknesses from this translation.

Here is an example of Quran translation where گ is used (chapter 1, verses 20 and 22. Page 26 of Holy Quran Translation in Balti, link is in reference section):

یوڊی ان (19) دے هلق پو بی سی کھوئی میگ کن ستر قچا یو، دو بی سی کھون له سن بے ہر ژیس  
 پو کھون دَوین درولید، تہ کھون له ٹھوب گوانہ کھون ڈان لئسید، تہ پقری خدا له کھوان **گرگسید**  
 سوگنہ، کھوئی کو ایو دپو نہ کھوئی تھوئمہ یو دیو، کھوسی مید پہ بے ان پہ۔ چھد کھی کھہ خدا چیز چیکوئی  
 کھہ لگی کھو دیو د کھن ان (20) لے میون، کھتائی سی بلن پھوس یوس کھتی اشی پالہ۔ دے اشی

پولہ یہ، کھوسی کھتان نہ کھتان پہ دوئی مرھون لدن چوگنی ان، کھتائی سی بزور لوکھ ییگ

زیرے (21) دے اشی پولہ یہ، کھوسی کھتی فری دی سو تھن چس بیاسے، یں دی خنم پو تھوقہ  
 بیاسے لدن چوگید، یں کھوسی، خنم له نہ چھوب چوگید، دیو نہ دو بی سنیدی کھہ کھوسی فحول کنی  
 شیدانہ کھتی فری روزی فیونسید، تہ کھتان له شیسین چی کھتائی سی خدا **گرگینپہ** سنجوس (22) تہ

پقری نیاسی تہ بلن پوئے کھہ فنی چیز پوئے لوکھ سن کھتان له تھیتھوم گوید نہ، تہ کھتائی سی دونہ  
 ژوخ سورے چگ کھوئی، یں پقری کھتائی سی کھتران زیرین یو پی ان نہ، خدا میں مہ کھتی اے

چھب بیون له سکت زیری (23)

Same translation with correct alphabet:

دے هلق پو بی سی کھوئی میگ کن ستر قچا یو، دو بی سی کھون له سن بے ہر ژیس پو کھون دَوین درولید،  
 تہ کھون له ٹھوب گوانہ کھون ڈان لئسید، تہ پقری خدا له کھوان **گیگسند** سوگنہ، کھوئی کو ایو دپو نہ  
 کھوئی تھوئمہ یو دیو، کھوسی مید پہ بے ان پہ۔ چھد کھی کھہ خدا چیز چیکوئی کھہ لگی کھو دیو د کھن ان  
 (۲۰)

دے اشی پولہ یہ، کھوسی کھتی فری دی سَو تہن چس بیا سے، ین دی خنم پو تھوقسہ بیا سے لدن چو گسیدن،  
 ین کھوسی، خنم لہ نہ چھوَب چو گسید، دیونہ دوی سیدی کہہ کھوسی فخمول کنی شیدانہ کھتی فری  
 روزی فیونسید، تہ کھتان لہ شیسین چی کھتانی سی خدا لہ گینپہ مچوس (۲۲)

## History of Balti alphabets

(Translation of text in Tareekh-e-Baltistan page 322-323)

The original script of Balti language was seen for the first time after some centuries in 1984 in 'Baltistan par aik nazar' (an eye on Baltistan). The native speakers are completely unaware of this old script. Another fact is that, Balti language is being written in Farsi alphabets during some centuries therefore there is a treasure of Balti literature in this script and it is impossible to leave it.

But there are seven sounds in Balti language which are not recognized in Farsi alphabets. In 1973 Molvi Khalil-ur-Rehman from Ghawri Khaplu made a Balti Qaida (Balti primer book) with this incomplete script.

In 1988 new alphabets were introduced in this script for doing translation of Holy Quran in Balti, which were approved on September 1990 in a meeting of 'Halqa-e-Ilm-o-Adab Baltistan' (Baltistan circle of literature) with minor variations.

In November 1990 a primer book of original and Farsi script was published with the name of 'Balti Zaban' (Balti Language). In the Farsi script following new alphabets were introduced by adding dots on existing alphabets:

ج	چ	ز	ش	گ	ن	ن
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Apart from these a new combination alphabet 'چھ' was also created and 'ژ' and 'ژھ' are already used for two sounds in Balti.

In September 2001 a group of four Balti writers made a pictorial Balti primer under the leadership of Haji Fida Mohammad Naashad (Deputy Chief Executive (then) Northern Areas Pakistan), which was published by Professor Fateh Mohammad Malik (president National Language Authority) in May 2002. In 2002 same people also worked for creating a software for this script of Balti language. In December 2001 Tibet Foundation London published a primer for old script.

## Acknowledgement

I am very thankful to Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Hussainbadi for providing me with the translation of Holy Quran in Balti, Tareekh-e-Baltistan and Balti Qaida. And helping me in understanding Balti sounds.

## Figures



*Balti Qaida – page 20*

آ ا  
 ب پ ت ٹ ث  
 ج ج چ چ ح خ د  
 ڈ ذ ر ژ ز ر ژ س  
 ش ش ص ص ض ط ظ ع  
 غ ف ق ک گ **گی**  
 ل م ن ن ٹ ٹ  
 و ہ ہ ہ  
 ی عے

Balti Qaida – page 23

۳۲

**گی**      **گا**      **گی**

Balti Qaida – page 32

## Reference

1. Balti Qaida ([http://karachvi.com/books/6/Balti\\_qaida.pdf](http://karachvi.com/books/6/Balti_qaida.pdf)) - 2004

Published by: Muqtadra Qaumi Zaban (<http://nlpd.gov.pk/>)

Written by: Mohammad Yousuf Hussainabadi, Raja Mohammad Ali Shah Saba, Mohammad Qasim Naseem, and Mohammad Hassan Hasrat.

2. Tareekh-e-Baltistan (<http://karachvi.com/books/5/Tareekh-e-Baltistan.pdf>) – 2009

Published by: Baltistan Book Depot

Written by: Mohammad Yousuf Hussainabadi

3. Holy Quran Translation in Balti (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19yc54nPLkv13A3W3gJmmyry-irJPOSf0/view?usp=drivesdk>) – 2011

Published by: Baltistan Book Depot

Translated by: Mohammad Yousuf Hussainabadi

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2  
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS  
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646<sup>1</sup>.**

**Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.**

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest *Roadmaps*.

**A. Administrative**

1. **Title:** Proposal to include Balti alphabet

2. Requester's name: Lateef Sagar Shaikh

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

4. Submission date: 28-May-2019

5. Requester's reference (if applicable):

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal:

(or) More information will be provided later:

**B. Technical – General**

1. Choose one of the following:

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

Proposed name of script: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of the existing block: Arabic Extended-A

2. Number of characters in proposal: 1

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary  B.1-Specialized (small collection)  B.2-Specialized (large collection)

C-Major extinct  D-Attested extinct  E-Minor extinct

F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic  G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? Yes

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

5. Fonts related:

a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? Lateef Sagar Shaikh

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): Lateef Sagar Shaikh lateef\_sagar@yahoo.com

6. References:

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

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

7. Special encoding issues:

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)? Yes

See the section titled Character name and shape

**8. Additional Information:**

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/reports/tr44/> ) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

<sup>1</sup> Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)



### C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	No
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	No
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	Yes <i>Baltistan Pakistan, There are around 1.8 Million native speakers in Pakistan</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Common <i>The proposed alphabets are very common in Balti books published in Pakistan</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes <i>Most of recent published Balti books use this character</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	Yes Yes <i>Character could be kept with their counterparts in Arabic block</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	Yes
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference:	No
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:	No