To: UTC and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 WG2

Title: Proposal to encode ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE in the UCS

From: Lorna Priest Evans (SIL International), M. G. Abbas Malik (Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand)

Date: 1 May 2019

The Eastern Punjabi [pan] language of India is spoken by over 32 million [Ethnologue]. The Western Punjabi [pnb] language of Pakistan is spoken by over 92 million [Ethnologue]. The Eastern Punjabi language has a fairly standardized writing system using the Gurmukhi script (literally 'from the mouth of the Guru' [Dyrud, Radloff]. In Pakistan Punjabi speakers tend to be educated in either Urdu or in English. Punjabi in Pakistan is currently more a spoken language as compared to a written or published language. Despite the size of the language group, the language is not yet used as a medium of instruction (Rahman). Thus, the Western Punjabi language in Pakistan has never had a standardized alphabet. The writing system is called the Shahmukhi script (Arabic script with extended characters). Shahmukhi literally 'from the mouth of the Shah' [Dyrud, Radloff].

The language has one sound that is represented in the Gurmukhi script, but the sound is not represented in the Persio-Arabic script.

We wish to propose the addition of ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE in the "Arabic Extended-A" block. This character was first brought to the attention of Unicode through a presentation by Abbas at the 27th Internationalization and Unicode Conference in April 2005. Next, it was discussed in July 2011 in an article titled "Survey of Computational Support for Shahmukhi Script of Punjabi Language"

However, there has never been a formal proposal for this character. While these papers are academic in their discussion and there is no official use of the character (because it is not in Unicode), we have succeeded in finding examples from a manuscript from circa 1792. **See Figures 1-4.**

A description of the need for such a character is described in Gurmeet Kaur's "*Fascinating Folktales of Punjab*" where at the end of the book it says "For lack of standardization in Shahmukhi unicode fonts we had to work around many issues to include all sounds of the Punjabi language…We apologize and hope that in the future, the publishing industry and font developers will come together to solve some of the issues we had to face and are still unresolved." [Kaur]. The editor of Kaur's book, Mahmood Awan says *"*After handling ARnoon, we moved to another missing alphabet not used by Punjabi publishers and printers in Pakistan ie 'ARlaam'. ARlaam refers to the sound used in Punjabi areas while pronouncing words like 'rola', 'kaala', 'pippal', 'naal' etc. as this sound is not a 'laam' sound but an ARlaam sound. In Gurmukhi for ARlaam there is a separate alphabet called 'Lallay Pairee Bindi' (ਲ਼) ie a dot under laam. While here in Shahmukhi we don't even incorporate it and none of the above Urdu scripted fonts have this character even as a symbol. Therefore, we decided to follow the Gurmukhi rule and put a dot under laam manually and included it just in one of the stories 'ChiRi tay PippaL'."

It is clear that the dot under lam was a workaround for lack of a better solution.

As it can be seen in **Table 1**, there are other characters in Punjabi which represent retroflexed characters and those are represented with a "tah" above. Thus, to follow the current and

traditional practice, it is important to represent the *lam with tah above* and not choose some other character that is already encoded in Unicode.

Table 2 gives some minimal pairs in Punjabi which illustrate the need to have a separate character from a *lam*.

Thus, we wish to request the encoding of ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE.

Character Name and annotations

08C7	ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE
	• Punjabi language

Unicode Character Properties

Properties:

```
08C7;ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH
ABOVE;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
```

Decomposition: This character has no decomposition. Someone might suggest a decomposition of U+0644 plus U+0615. However, this does not follow the current Arabic script recommendations in Unicode "Q: How are Arabic letters represented in Unicode?" where it says "As new combinations are attested in language communities, the new letterforms are encoded as a unit in Unicode."

Sorting (allkeys.txt): This character can sort immediately after U+06BB ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH THREE DOTS BELOW

ArabicShaping.txt: This character is dual joining and should be in the LAM shaping group.

```
08C7; LAM WITH TAH ABOVE; D; LAM
```

Table 1: Comparison of Punjabi in Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi

Arab sort	Arab glyph	Arab USV	IPA	Guru sort	Guru glyph	Guru USV
C-01	ب	0628	/b/	28	ਬ	0A2C
C-02	پ	067E	/p/	26	ਪ	0A2A
C-03	ت	062A	/t/	21	ਤ	0A24
C-04	ٹ	0679	/ʈ/	16	ਟ	0A1F
C-05	ث	062B	/s/	04.0	ਸ	0A38
C-06	ج	062C	/dʒ/	13	ਜ	0A1C
C-07	چ	0686	/tʃ/	11	ਚ	0A1A
C-08	ح	062D	/ɦ/ or /h/	05.1	ਹ	0A39
C-09	خ	062E	/x/	07.1	ਖ਼	0A59
C-10	د	062F	/d/	23	ਦ	0A26
C-11	ڈ	0688	/ɖ/	18	ਡ	0A21
C-12	ذ	0630	/z/	13.1	ਜ਼	0A5B
C-13	ر	0631	/r/	32	ਰ	0A30
C-14	ڑ	0691	/ɽ/	35	ੜ	0A5C
C-15	ز	0632	/z/	13.1	ਜ਼	0A5B
C-16	ژ	0698	/zh/	13.1	ਜ਼	0A5B
C-17	س	0633	/s/	04.0	ਸ	0A38
C-18	ش	0634	/ʃ/	04.1	ਸ਼	0A36
C-19	ص	0635	/s/	04.0	ਸ	0A38
C-20	ض	0636	/z/	13.1	ਜ਼	0A5B
C-21	ط	0637	/t/	21	ਤ	0A24
C-22	ظ	0638	/z/	13.1	ਜ਼	0A5B
C-23	ع	0639	low vowel bearer	01.002	ਅ	0A05
C-24	غ	063A	/ɣ/	08.1	ਗ਼	0A5A

Arab sort	Arab glyph	Arab USV	IPA	Guru sort	Guru glyph	Guru USV
C-25	ف	0641	/f/	27.1	ੜ	**0A5E**
C-26	ق	0642	/q/	06.1	ਕ਼	0A15 0A3C
C-27	ک	06A9	/k/	06	ਕ	**0A15**
C-28	گ	06AF	/g/	08	ਗ	**0A17**
C-29	ل	0644	/l/	33	ਲ	**0A32**
C-30	ࣝ	08C7	/ɭ/	33.1	ਲ਼	0A33
C-31	م	0645	/m/	30	ਮ	**0A2E**
C-32	ن	0646	/n/	25	ਨ	**0A28**
C-34b	نگ	06BA 06AF	/ŋ/ (isolate and final)	10	ਙ	**0A19**
C-32c	نج	06BA 062C	/ɲ/ (isolate and final)	15	ਞ	**0A1E**
C-33	ݨ	0768	/ɳ/	20	ਣ	**0A23**
C-34	ں	06BA	/ŋ/		ੰ	0A70
C-35	و	0648	/v/	34	ਵ	**0A35**
C-36	ہ	06C1	/ɦ/	05.1	ਹ	**0A39**
C-37	ھ	06BE	/ʰ/		੍ਹ	0A4D 0A39
C-38	ی	06CC	/j/	31	ਯੀ	**0A2F** 0A40
C-39	ے	06D2	/j/	31	ਯ	**0A2F**
CA-01	بھ	0628 06BE	/bʰ/	29.1	ਭ	**0A2D**
CA-02	پھ	067E 06BE	/pʰ/	27	ਫ	**0A2B**
CA-03	تھ	062A 06BE	/tʰ/	22	ਥ	**0A25**
CA-04	ٹھ	0679 06BE	/ʈʰ/	17	ਠ	**0A20**
CA-05	جھ	0621 06BE	/dʒʰ/	14	ਝ	**0A1D**
CA-06	چھ	0686 06BE	/tʃʰ/	12	ਛ	0A1B
CA-07	دھ	062F 06BE	/dʰ/	24	ਧ	**0A27**
CA-08	ڈھ	0688 06BE	/ɖʰ/	19	ਢ	**0A22**

Arab sort	Arab glyph	Arab USV	IPA	Guru sort	Guru glyph	Guru USV
CA-09	ڲ	06A9 06BE	/kʰ/	07	ਖ	0A16
CA-10	ڱ	06AF 06BE	/gʰ/	09	ਘ	0A18
D-01	◌َ	064E	/ə/ (with cons)		-	
D-02, V-12	◌ِ	0650	/ɪ/ (with cons)	02.21	ਿ◌	0A3F
D-03	◌ُ	064F	/ʊ/ (with cons)		◌ੁ	0A41
D-04	◌ؕ	0615			-	
D-05	◌ً	064B	/ən/ (with cons)		ਨ	**0A28**
D-06	◌ٌ	064C	/ʊn/ (with cons)		◌ੂਨ	0A42 **0A28**
D-07	◌ٗ	0657			-	
D-08	◌٘	0658			-	
D-09	◌ٍ	064D	/ɪn/ (with cons)		ਿਨ	0A3F **0A28**
D-10	◌ّ	0651	Doubles cons		◌ੱ	0A71
D-11	◌ٓ	0653			-	
D-12	◌ٔ	0654			-	
D-13	◌ٕ	0655			-	
D-14	◌ٖ	0656			-	
D-15	◌ٛ	065B			-	
D-16	◌ٰ	0670	/ɑ/		◌ਾ	0A3E
V-01	اَ	0627 064E	/ə/ (initial)		ਅ	**0**A05
V-02	آ	0622	/ɑ/ (initial)	02.10	ਆ	0A06
V-03	اِ	0627 0650	/ɪ/ (initial)	02.20	ਇ	0A07
V-04	اِی	0627 0650 06CC	/i/ (initial)	02.30	ਈ	0A08
V-05	اُ	0627 064F	/ʊ/ (initial)	02.40	ਉ	0A09
V-06	اُو	0627 064F 0648	/u/ (initial)	02.50	ਊ	0A0A
V-07	اے	0627 06D2	/e/ (initial)	02.60	ਏ	0A0F

Arab sort	Arab glyph	Arab USV	IPA	Guru sort	Guru glyph	Guru USV
V-08	اَے	0627 064E 06D2	/æ/ (initial)	02.70	ਐ	0A10
V-09	او	0627 0648	/o/ (initial)	02.80	ਓ	0A13
V-10	اَو	0627 064E 0648	/ɔ/ (initial)	02.00	ਔ	0A14
V-11b	¹ا	0627	/ɑ/ (medial or final)	02.11	ਅ, ੦ᵀ	0A3E
V-11a	ا	0627	/ə/ (initial)	02.11	ਅ, ੦ᵀ	0A3E
V-13	ِی	0650 06CC	/i/ (with cons)	02.31	ੀ	0A40
V-14	ُ	064F	/ʊ/ (with cons)	02.41	ੁ	0A41
V-15	ُو	064F 0648	/u/ (with cons)	02.51	ੂ	0A42
V-16	ے	06D2	/e/ (final)	02.61	ੇ	0A47
V-17	َے	064E 06D2	/æ/ (with cons)	02.71	ੈ	0A48
V-18	و	0648	/o/	02.81	ੋ	0A4B
V-19	َو	064E 0648	/ɔ/ (with cons)	02.00	ੌ	0A4C
V-20	ء	0621	/ɪ/ (with cons)	01.003	ਇ	0A07
V-30	عا	0639 0627	/ɑ/ (initial)	02.10	ਆ	0A06
V-30			Back vowel bearer	01.001	ੲ	**0A73**
V-30			Front vowel bearer	01.003	ੲ	0A72

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¹ Vowel representation in the Punjabi (Shahmukhi) script is highly context sensitive. Please Malik 2006.

Table 2: Minimal Pairs

Gurmukhi Panjabi	IPA	Shahmukhi Panjabi	English
ਵਲ	vəl	ول	toward / side direction / vine?
ਵਲ਼	vəɭ	وَلؕ	twist
ਵਲੀ	vəli	ولی	strong, powerful
ਵਲ਼ੀ	vəɭi	وَلؕی	a long stick of wood, a pole
ਵਲਾਉਣਾ	vəlauɳa	ولاوݨا	to amuse, divert, entertain
ਵਲ਼ਾਉਣਾ	vəɭauɳa	وَلؕاوݨا	to cause to be wrapped; to wheedle, to deceive; to cause to be surrounded
ਗਾਲ	gəl	گل	talk
ਗਾਲ਼	gəɭ	گَلؕ	throat
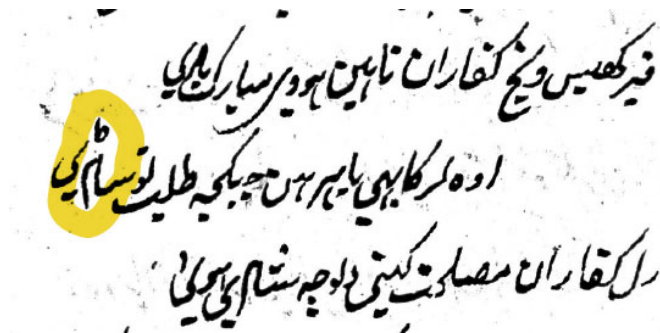
Figures

Figure 1. ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH (*Afarinish Nama*). سلؕاسي (*seen rlam alef seen yeh*) [sallasi] {ਸਲ਼ਾਈ} meaning "get sewed"

Figure 2. ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH (*Afarinish Nama*). اسْلاابمي (*alef seen rlam alef alef heh goal meem yeh*) [isllami] {ਇਸਲ਼ਾਮੀ} meaning "Islamic or of Islam" (this is our best deciphering of this word).

Figure 3. ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH (*Afarinish Nama*) نسْلااي (*noon seen rlam alef yeh*) [nasllai] {ਨਸਲ਼ਾਈ} meaning "of forefather or from generation".

Figure 4. ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH (*Afarinish Nama*) نسْلااي (*noon seen rlam alef yeh*) [nasllai] {ਨਸਲ਼ਾਈ} meaning "of forefather or from generation".

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PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[2] **Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.** **Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from** http://www.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://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html**.** **See also** http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest *Roadmaps*.**

A. Administrative

1. **Title:**	Proposal to encode ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE in the UCS

2. Requester's name: *Lorna Priest Evans, M. G. Abbas Malik*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Individual contribution*
4. Submission date: *14-Apr-2019*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
   This is a complete proposal: *Yes*
   (or) More information will be provided later: *No*

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): *No*
      Proposed name of script:
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *Yes*
      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 ☒ **x**   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?
      SIL International
   b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):

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)?

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.

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[2] 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? *No*
     If YES explain
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.)? *Yes*
          If YES, with whom?   Farooq Bajwa, Abbas Malik
          If YES, available relevant documents: *Examples in document were provided by them.*
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example:
     size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? *Yes*
     Reference: *See proposal*
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) *Yes*
     Reference: *See proposal*
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? Yes
     If YES, where? Reference: *See proposal*
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely
     in the BMP? *Yes*
          If YES, is a rationale provided? *Yes*
               If YES, reference: *See proposal*
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? *n/a*
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing
     character or character sequence? *No*
          If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
               If YES, reference:
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either
     existing characters or other proposed characters? *Yes*
          If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
               If YES, reference: *See proposal*
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? *No*
          If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
               If YES, reference:
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? *No*
     If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
          If YES, reference:
     Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? *No*
          If YES, reference:
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as
     control function or similar semantics? *No*
          If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? *No*
     If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?
          If YES, reference:

Government of Pakistan
National History & Literary Heritage Division
Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage
Pakistan Academy of Letters

Director General

No. PAL/DG-1(2)/2019
March 15, 2019

To: Unicode Consortium

We have learned of the efforts to encode in the Unicode Standard the ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE (rlam) for use in the Punjabi language of Pakistan. We are happy to learn of these efforts and wish to confirm our desire that the rlam be encoded in Unicode so that the use of the Punjabi language in Pakistan will not be handicapped.

We are happy to learn of these efforts and support them fully.

Yours Sincerely,

(Dr. Rashid Hameed)

I Parveen Malik, secretary Pakistan Punjabi Adbi Board Lahore, agree with the proposal to encode "Arabic letter lam with small arabic letter tah above" in the UCS as detailed in the attached proposal.

Character Name and annotations

08xx	ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE
	• Punjabi language

Arab sort	Arab glyph	Arab USV	IPA
C-30	ڵ		/ɭ/

I will appreciate if attached proposal can be accepted and approved by the consortium in its next meeting.

Parveen Malik

Secretary, Pakistan Punjabi Adbi Board

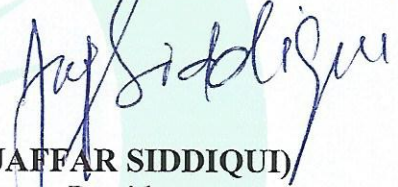pakistanpunjabiadbiboard@gmail.com

0300 - 4117262

No. PAP/ISB/4/2019
March 14, 2019

To: Unicode Consortium

We have learned of the efforts to encode in the Unicode Standard the ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE (rlam) for use in the Punjabi language of Pakistan. We are happy to learn of these efforts and wish to confirm our desire that the rlam be encoded in Unicode so that the use of the Punjabi language in Pakistan will not be handicapped.

We are happy to learn of these efforts and support them fully.

Yours Sincerely,

(JAFFAR SIDDIQUI)
President,
Punjabi Adabi Parchar (Regd),
Islamabad-Pakistan

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خط پترلئی

To, **Unicode Consortium.**

Subject: Proposal to encode ARABIC LETTER LAM WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE in the UCS

Dear Sir/madam,

We have learned of the efforts to encode in the Unicode Standard the ARABIC LETTER LAM

WITH SMALL ARABIC LETTER TAH ABOVE (rlam) for use in the Punjabi language of Pakistan. We

are happy to learn of these efforts and wish to confirm our desire that the rlam be encoded in

Unicode so that the use of the Punjabi language in Pakistan will not be handicapped. We are

happy to learn of these efforts and support them fully.

President

Punjabi Parchar

Lahore , Pakistan