

To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Yannis Haralambous
Date: 27 December 2019
Subject: Comments on [L2/19-306](#) Arabic additions for Quranic orthographies

[The following email was addressed to Roozbeh Pournader and Deborah Anderson, as co-authors of [L2/19-306](#) Arabic additions for Quranic orthographies. Please also see comments from Azzeddine Lazrek in [L2/19-393](#) Comments about "Arabic additions for Quranic orthographies" proposition]

Azzeddine kindly shared with me his proposal for the various Quranic hamza characters.

I agree with him that combining marks should be used for higher, middle and bottom stroke even though they only occur in front of the alif. I can understand that you want to avoid people using these diacritics with letters other than alif, but it is against the simplicity principle of Unicode to multiply the number of alifs with diacritic combinations.

It would be much simpler to have a combining higher stroke, a combining middle stroke, a combining lower stroke, and all the other combining characters suggested by Azzeddine, this will allow all possible combinations and will make searching Quranic text easier.

You can always add a comment to these characters: "to be used only with letter alif".

I just wanted to share my opinion with you.

With friendly greetings,

Yannis