

Unicode request for modification of VoQS character

Kirk Miller, kirkmiller@gmail.com

Martin Ball, m.j.ball@bangor.ac.uk

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This is a request for modification of one VoQS (Voice Quality Symbol) character. The 2017 JIPA article on the 2016 revision of the VoQS is publicly available online from Cambridge University Press. (See references.)

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Modifier letter small capital H with stroke (𐌆)

U+A7F8 in the Latin Extended-D block has been assigned to this character, which is used for ‘faucalized voice’. It is defined by Unicode as MODIFIER LETTER CAPITAL H WITH STROKE. This would make it the modifier version of superscript U+0126 <𐌆> LATIN CAPITAL LETTER H WITH STROKE. However, in VoQS is actually a *petite capital* 𐌆, just as all IPA and extIPA capital variants are petite capitals. This can be seen both in the original 1995 JIPA article introducing the VoQS and in the 2017 JIPA update article, and is confirmed by Martin Ball, author of both articles.

V ^j	palatalized voice	V ^ɣ	velarized voice
V ^ɸ	uvularized voice	V ^ɤ	pharyngealized voice
V ^{ɣ̥}	laryngo-pharyngealized voice	V ^𐌆	faucalized voice

Figure 1. Ball et al. (1995), p. 74. This is the original JIPA publication of the VoQS. The top serifs of the main and modifier letters in <V^𐌆> align, as do those of <V^ɣ> and <V^ɸ>, demonstrating that the modifier letters all have the same x-height. The tops of the modifier letters in <V^j> and <V^{ɣ̥}>, on the other hand, rise above the top of the <V>, as would be expected (but not found) for <𐌆> if it were a full capital.

V ^j	palatalized voice	V ^ɣ	velarized voice
V ^ɸ	uvularized voice	V ^ɤ	pharyngealized v
V ^{ɣ̥}	laryngo-pharyngealized voice	V ^𐌆	faucalized voice

Figure 2. Ball et al. (2017), p. 169. The x-height alignment of the modifier letter is maintained in the 2016 revision of the VoQS.

From informal discussion by Miller with the Unicode *ad hoc* committee on 2019 Dec 06, it would seem that, because there is no base letter SMALL CAPITAL LETTER H WITH STROKE in Unicode, the correction can be made in the character description and does not require a new code point.

Note that the Unicode description should perhaps point to MODIFIER LETTER SMALL CAPITAL H <^h>, the modifier variant of U+029C <H>. This does not currently have a Unicode assignment, but Miller will be requesting it in a separate proposal for IPA modifier letters, as it is well-attested in the transcription of pharyngealized click consonants in Khoisan languages.

Question 1 for ad hoc committee: If we don't need code points for Latin yeris (ѣ and ѥ), because Cyrillic characters can be mixed in Latin text, do we need a 'modifier small capital letter H' <^h>, because the graphic equivalent in Cyrillic, U+2DE9 'combining Cyrillic letter en' (^h), is defined differently? **[clarify that IPA usage is Latin-based. The Cyrillic should be noted in the description as a homograph.]**

Question 2: There are two Unicode points for modifier letter reversed glottal stop, U+02C1 <^ʀ> and U+02E4 <^ʁ>. These are identical in some fonts, though there is an apparent (though spurious) difference between them in the 1995 and 2016 VoQS charts above. Should there be an analogous pair for modifier glottal stop, or is the distinction of reversed glottal stops redundant / duplicate characters? **[no, one code point is sufficient]**

References

Ball, Martin J., John H. Esling & B. Craig Dickson. 1995. The VoQS system for the transcription of voice quality. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 25, 61–70.

Ball, Martin J., John H. Esling & B. Craig Dickson. Revisions to the VoQS system for the transcription of voice quality. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, doi:10.1017/S0025100317000159. Published online by Cambridge University Press, 13 April 2017.