PESHITTA INSTITUTE

A GUIDE TO THE TRANSLITERATIONS TO BE USED IN THE BIBLE OF EDESSA

General

In the introductions and footnotes to the volumes of the Bible of Edessa, all languages written in different scripts will be transliterated. This is because the translation is aimed at 'a general educated audience'.¹

It is important to enter transliterated texts in Unicode. The best way to work is to enter *all* text in a Unicode-compliant font that contains all necessary symbols, such as the Brill typeface (that is, the font of this document, in which your book will eventually also be typeset) or Gentium. Both fonts can be downloaded for free. For the Brill typeface, see <u>http://www.brill.nl/brill-typeface</u>, for Gentium <u>http://scripts.sil.org/Gentium</u>.

Hebrew

Consonants

х	د .	מ	m
ב	<i>b</i>	נ	n
z	g	ס	S
Т	d	ע	¢
п	h	อ	p
١	W	Y	Ş
T	Z	ק	q
п	ķ	٦	r
υ	ţ	Ÿ	Ś
7	У	שׁ	Š
ב	k	ת	t
5	l		

No distinction is made between the two realizations of the *bgdkpt*.

Vowels

਼	ā	਼	ē
਼	a	਼	е
Ģ	i	ं	ō (ḥolem)
1/्	u	្	o (qāmeṣ qāṭān)

¹ See K.D. Jenner *et al.*, <u>'The New English Annotated Translation of the Syriac Bible (NEATSB): Retrospect and Prospect</u> (<u>Peshitta Institute Communication 23</u>)', *Aramaic Studies* 2 (2004), pp. 85–106, esp. p. 98.

No distinction is made between 'shwa mobile' and 'shwa quiescens' (both are not indicated).

The 'compound shwas' or *hāṭēp* vowels are indicated by the use of superscript type: נְשָׁמִי becomes no[®]mi.

Vowel length (which seems to have played an important role in earlier phases of Hebrew but is not represented in the Tiberian vocalization system) is not indicated.

The presence of *matres lectionis* is not indicated (whether or not they functioned originally as consontants that became silent).

Example

brēšit bārā *lōhim 'ēt haššāmayim w'ēt hā'āreş. whā'āreş hāytā tōhu wābōhu whōšek 'al pnē thōm

Syriac

Consonants

۲	>	7	l
J	<i>b</i>	ת	m
7	g	د	n
7	d	8	8
က	h	2	c
٥	w	٩	p
١	Z	ห	ş
u	h.	۹	<i>q</i>
\mathcal{F}	ţ	ì	r
>	У	¥.	š
2	k	ል	t

No distinction is made between the two realizations of the *bgdkpt*.

Doubling of consonants should be indicated.

Silent word-internal *alaph* is not represented: '*alāhā* but *lalāhā*; š*arrirā'it* but *tēklun*. The same is true for the silent *alaph* in جند *hrēnā* and *hrēnā*, for silent *yod* in *ak*, and for silent *he* in *yab*. A *nun* or *lamad* that has become assimilated to the following or preceding letter is visible only in the doubling of the latter letter: جديد *mdittā*, *atton*, *stattā* (<'*atttā*; cf. Nöldeke's grammar, §§ 26 and 28), and *k* atto

In contrast to these cases, letters that have become silent in $\prec \circ \infty$ or a pronoun used enclitically are placed between brackets: $\prec \circ \infty \rightarrow whewyā$ 'rim (h)wā and $\wedge akli(n$ ')tton. The silent final waw and yod in certain forms of the perfect and imperative, as well as the silent yod of the 1st person possessive pronoun and $\cdot \infty$ - of the 3rd person masculine possessive are likewise put between brackets: $\prec \infty \rightarrow ktab(w)$, $\prec \infty \rightarrow amm(y)$, These letters are important for the morphological determination of the word in question.

Vowels

Based on the East Syrian system (historically older and more diversified):

்	ā	¢.	ē
;	a	;	е
Ļ	i	à	0
Ģ	u		

As \bar{e} and e are not distinguished in West Syrian vocalization and o became u, the use of a dictionary that follows the East Syrian system (Sokoloff's English version of Brockelmann) or the mixed system (the original Brockelmann) as well as of the vocalized Mosul or Urmia Bibles is recommended. Also note cases like $\pm e\bar{e}p\bar{a}$ and $\pm e\bar{e}$

The absence of a vowel should not be indicated even if in pronunciation there was a shwa.

Matres lectionis are not transliterated at all.

Personal names and place-names that are well known are given in their usual English form (that is, as in the NRSV), unless the Syriac form is clearly different. Thus one should use David without further ado, but write Rubel instead of Ruben. Names that are less familiar or unique to the Syriac version should be transliterated according to the eastern pronunciation, taking the Mosul or Urmia Bibles as guideline. Macrons and other symbols should be omitted from such transliterations. When in doubt, please send a question to the Peshitta List.

Example: Gen 3:1-6 in East and West Syrian vocalizations and our transliteration

- 3 مَعْبَ فِيَجُد دَبْكَنْهُ وَجَحَبْحِهُم وَفُوَدْهَمْ، يَعْجُدَ نُكُمْهُ وَكَهْ هِ مِدْمِكْمٍ. عَدْه هِمَبْدَتِم. كِه وَكَهْ هممِمِه.
 - 4 مڍخذ ڀمٽ کنتمڏد. کد محم محمم. 4
- ميك بنيس بسمينين ساير مسببين. 5 - ميك بنيز بنكة، بابنين يتكوّه، يتبعن، ميره، ميره، ميم بني بنكوّه، بني بنكوّه، تبغت تكتبر مجبعيًا.
 - 6 فِسْفَى بُتَمَمَّة دِجْعَبْد دَبْكَتْه كَمِدْجَك مَدْكَمَّ آبَه كَجْتَدِه. فِدَجْبَك دَبْكَتْه كَمَسْدَ تِه. ميعجَم مِي قِدْقُمَّ مَدْحَكِم. مَيْعَجُم نُف كَجْحَكْه خُمَّة مَدْجُك.
- 1 مثما حزَّىم معامل من حُحمة من من أراد برَّحان برّحمان برّحمان المحمان من من حَمان المحمان ا المحمان ا المحمان المحم المحمان المحم المحمان ا المحمان محمان المحمان المحم المحم المحمان محمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحم المحمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحمان المحما
 - 2 ةُاهناً أَبِيلاً إِلَّا حَسْماً. وَهَى قَارَتُ إِنْحَيْا وَحِفَنَ عَلَمَ مُحَمَّى ثَامِهِ ...
 - 3 مَضْ قَانَى أَبْ حُنّا بِحَمر مَن فَنَ بِعُمر إِلَّا إِنْحَمَ اللَّا إِنْحَامَ مَا إِلِمَ حَم بِال المَعْدَى ...
 - 4 ةَامَح: تَمَارُ لِلْالْمَارْا. لِلْ صَصْلاً لَمَصْلاً مُعَالًا مُ
- ٢- ٢٠،٠٠ عسر يومير، ۾ عسم يعميرون. 5 هُهُلا بُنَبِّ اِلْحُمُا. بَجتَمعُل بُامحِي اِيلان هُنْه. هُلافِلاتُ حُتَّىفن. ٥٥هُمان اِس اِحُقًا. بُحَت لُجلاًا ٥جَـعلاًا.

- 1. whewyā 'rim (h)wā. men kollāh hayyutā ddabrā da'bad māryā 'alāhā. wemar hewyā lattā. šarrirā'it 'emar 'alāhā. dlā tēklun men kol 'ilānay pardaysā.
- 2. wemrat 'attā lķewyā. dmen pēray 'ilānē dabpardaysā kollhon nēkol.
- 3. wmen pēray 'ilānā dbamṣa'tēh dpardaysā. 'emar 'alāhā dlā tēklun menēh. wlā tetqarrbun lēh dlā tmutun.
- 4. wemar ķewyā lattā. lā mmāt tmutun.
- 5. mețțol dyāda' 'alāhā. dabyawmā dākli(n ')tton menēh. metpathān 'aynaykon. whāwētton 'ak 'alāhē. yād'ay țābtā wbištā.
- 6. waḥzāt 'attā dšappir 'ilānā lmēkal wregtā (h)w l'aynē. wargig 'ilānā lamḥār bēh. wnesbat men pēraw(hy) weklat. wyehbat 'āp lba'lāh 'ammāh wekal.

Greek

Consonsants and vowels

α	a	ν	n
β	b	کر	x
γ	g	0	0
δ	d	π	p
٤	е	σ	S
ζ	z	τ	t
η	ē	υ	u
θ	th	φ	ph
ι	i	χ	ch
κ	k	ψ	ps
λ	l	ω	ō
μ	m		

Iota subscriptum becomes adscriptum.

Rho in beginning of the word is rh: *rhomphaia* (but not within a word: *surreo*).

Accents are not represented.

Examples

en archēi epoiēsen ho theos ton ouranon kai tēn gēn kai eipen ho theos genethētō phōs kai egeneto phōs

pantes hoi logoi egkopoi ou dynēsetai anēr tou lalein

Arabic

For Arabic, see http://www.brill.nl/downloads/Simple Arabic transliteration.pdf

Other Languages

In case it is necessary to quote other languages written in different scripts, please consult the Editorial Board, preferably via the Peshitta List, as this will allow all contributors to follow the discussion.

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