

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 <http://www.brill.nl/brill-typeface>, for Gentium <http://scripts.sil.org/Gentium>.

Hebrew

Consonants

מ	’	מ	<i>m</i>
ב	<i>b</i>	נ	<i>n</i>
ג	<i>g</i>	ס	<i>s</i>
ד	<i>d</i>	ע	‘
ה	<i>h</i>	פ	<i>p</i>
ו	<i>w</i>	צ	<i>ṣ</i>
ז	<i>z</i>	ק	<i>q</i>
ח	<i>ḥ</i>	ר	<i>r</i>
ט	<i>ṭ</i>	שׁ	<i>ś</i>
י	<i>y</i>	שׂ	<i>š</i>
כ	<i>k</i>	ת	<i>t</i>
ל	<i>l</i>		

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

Vowels

◌ֵ	<i>ā</i>	◌ִ	<i>ē</i>
◌ֶ	<i>a</i>	◌ֵ	<i>e</i>
◌ִ	<i>i</i>	◌ֹ	<i>ō</i> (<i>ḥolem</i>)
◌ֹ/◌ֻ	<i>u</i>	◌ֹ	<i>o</i> (<i>qāmeṣ qāṭān</i>)

¹ See K.D. Jenner *et al.*, ‘The New English Annotated Translation of the Syriac Bible (NEATSB): Retrospect and Prospect (Peshitta Institute Communication 23)’, *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 *ḥāṭēp* vowels are indicated by the use of superscript type: נִּמְיִּ becomes *no^omi*.

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 consonants that became silent).

Example

brēšit bārā^x lōhim ’ēt haššāmayim w’ēt hā’āreš. whā’āreš ḥāytā tōhu wābōhu wḥōšek ’al pnē thōm

Syriac

Consonants

ܐ	’	ܠ	l
ܒ	b	ܡ	m
ܓ	g	ܢ	n
ܕ	d	ܫ	s
ܫ	h	ܥ	’
ܘ	w	ܦ	p
ܙ	z	ܨ	ṣ
ܚ	ḥ	ܩ	q
ܛ	ṭ	ܪ	r
ܝ	y	ܫ	š
ܟ	k	ܛ	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*; *šarrirā’it* but *tēklun*. The same is true for the silent *alaph* in ܠܪܝܢܐ *ḥrēnā* and ܠܪܝܢܐ *ḥrāy*, for silent *yod* in ܐܟܐ *ak*, and for silent *he* in ܝܒܐ *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: ܡܕܝܬܬܐ *mdittā*, ܐܬܬܢܐ *atton*, ܐܬܬܐܬܐ *’attā* (<’*attā*; cf. Nöldeke’s grammar, §§ 26 and 28), and ܐܝܙܝܬܐ *’ezzet*.

In contrast to these cases, letters that have become silent in ܐܘܪܝܢܐ or a pronoun used enclitically are placed between brackets: ܐܘܪܝܢܐ ܪܝܢܐ ܠܘܪܝܢܐ *whēwyā ’rim (h)wā* and ܐܘܪܝܢܐ ܕܐܟܠܐ *dākli(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 ܐܘܪܝܢܐ of the 3rd person masculine possessive are likewise put between brackets: ܟܬܒܐ *ktab(w)*, ܐܡܡܐ *amm(y)*, ܐܘܪܝܢܐ *pēraw(hy)*. These letters are important for the morphological determination of the word in question.

1. *wḥewyā 'rim (h)wā. men kollāh ḥayyutā ddabrā da'bad māryā 'alāhā. wemar ḥewyā lattā. šarrirā'it 'emar 'alāhā. dlā tēklun men kol 'ilānay pardaysā.*
2. *wemrat 'attā ḥewyā. dmen pēray 'ilānē dabpardaysā kollhon nēkol.*
3. *wmen pēray 'ilānā dbamša'tēh dpardaysā. 'emar 'alāhā dlā tēklun menēh. wlā tetqarrbun lēh dlā tmutun.*
4. *wemar ḥewyā lattā. lā mmāt tmutun.*
5. *meṭṭol dyāda' 'alāhā. dabyawmā dākli(n ')tton menēh. metpathān 'aynaykon. whāwētton 'ak 'alāhē. yād'ay ṭābtā 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

Consonants and vowels

α	<i>a</i>	ν	<i>n</i>
β	<i>b</i>	ξ	<i>x</i>
γ	<i>g</i>	ο	<i>o</i>
δ	<i>d</i>	π	<i>p</i>
ε	<i>e</i>	σ	<i>s</i>
ζ	<i>z</i>	τ	<i>t</i>
η	<i>ē</i>	υ	<i>u</i>
θ	<i>th</i>	φ	<i>ph</i>
ι	<i>i</i>	χ	<i>ch</i>
κ	<i>k</i>	ψ	<i>ps</i>
λ	<i>l</i>	ω	<i>ō</i>
μ	<i>m</i>		

Iota subscriptum becomes adscriptum.

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

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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