## SLPO: A Consistent Persian Orthography Based on the Latin Script

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#### Abstract

Persian is officially written in Arabic script which causes some well-known problems in writing academic material for native and non-native speakers. In this paper we propose a standard romanization and orthography scheme for Persian named *SLPO* that is best fitted for natural language processing, learning purposes and writing academic material (but not limited to) and we claim that it is the most comprehensive and consistent scheme ever presented for this language.

Keywords: romanization scheme, Persian, natural language processing, orthography

## 1 Introduction

In Iran and Afghanistan, Persian is officially written in Arabic script that is a right to left script (RTL). In this script short vowels are usually not written, and as a result a lot of wordforms have more than one pronunciation and meaning (e.g: رسیر، بر، کرم). This fact makes writing and reading Persian hard for non-native (and even native) speakers [?]. As a result most authors prefer to use a romanized form of Persian words that is easier to read and is supported better in computer environments.

However, the absence of an accepted romanization standard caused authors to use various personal romanization schemes that in turn caused some problems. In this paper, we represent two romanization schemes for two distinct usecases. We claim that they are the most suitable schemes available to be used in general and particularly in academic cases. The first scheme is intended to be used for general applications but it is not totally reversible, and the second one is intended to be used in situations that reversibility is important. We have provided a web site that contains the Latin form of more than 350,000 Persian words and idioms. You can access it in http://vajje.com.

The structure of this paper is as follows: in the next section we draw an overview of related works. In section ?? we point to characteristics of our proposed orthography named SLPO. In sections ?? and ?? romanization and orthography issues are discussed respectively.

## 2 The Arabic Script Problems

The problems of the Arabic script for writing Persian have been investigated extensively during the two last centuries [?]. A complete review of this topic is out of the scope of this paper. Here, we point to two main enigma regarding using the Arabic script to write Persian (For a comprehensive overview of related literature refer to [?]).

## 2.1 Short Vowel Enigma

Short vowels (/æ/, /e/, /e/) are not generally represented in written Persian while changing the short vowel in a word can create a totally unrelated new word. As an example < b > represents two unrelated words: <gel>(mud) and <gol>(flower). So correct pronunciation of words which contains a short vowel is not possible without prior knowledge and if a wordform represents more that one word, the reader should choose correct pronunciation according to its context. As a real example see ?? figure. The name of a single alley could not be pronounced correctly by the mayoralty staffer and is romanized differently on two signboards in the alley.

Ezafe is a one of most important grammatical features of Persian. Ezafe is pronounced as a short vowel, /e/, and similar to other short vowels it is generally not written. If the word preceding Ezafe ends in a vowel, Ezafe will be articulated /je/ and it will have a written presentation, <¿>. Also there is no consensus on how to write the Persian indefinite article when the referent ends in /e/. As an example <¿> may be



Figure I: Two signboards in Tehran. The name of the alley, پشن>, could not be pronounced correctly and is romanized in two different forms in the same alley.

wrote as <خانهای> , <خانهای> or <خانهای> [?].

## 2.2 ZWNJ Enigma

Similar to other Semitic languages, Arabic has a nonconcatenative "root-and-pattern" morphology. The pattern can be used to read words correctly even without presenting short vowels. Compounding and derivation are not used in the Arabic language to form new words. As a result, the above two enigmas are not relevant in that language. Indeed the Arabic script only works well for writing the Arabic language.

# 2.3 Why is a standard romanization scheme necessary?

In addition to the above issues, there are some other difficulties that caused those whose first language is not Persian to use the Latin script, instead of the Arabic script during their learning course or in their publications. Unfortunately, each author uses her/his personal romanization scheme that makes reading and indexing of romanized Persian texts difficult. Even in Iran when there is a need to romanize the name of people and places, there is no unique accepted romanization scheme. Consequently different romanized forms may be used by distinct users which make searching the name of people and places hard and confusing.

## 3 Related works

In this section, we overview Persian romanization schemes that have been proposed in the past twenty years.

Maleki [?] proposed a romanization scheme which contains 29 phonemes (23 consonants and 6 vowels) named *Dabire* (formerly *eFarsi* [?]). Dabire uses a single Latin grapheme for Arabic graphemes that have the same phonology in Persian. The author provides some guidelines for writing compound words, abbreviations and foreign load words. He also describes capitalization and punctuation in his romanization scheme.

Ghayour [?] provides a romanization mapping table named *Ironic*. Using the letter <w> to represent /u:/, his scheme only includes basic Latin alphabet. In his scheme letters <a>, <e>, <o>, <i>, <u> and <w> respectively represent /æ/, /e/, /b:/, /i:/, /o/ and /u:/. Unfortunately, this caused the well-known pronunciation of letters <o>, <u>, <j> and <w> to be changed. Currently, Iranians generally pronounce these letters /o/, /u:/, /dʒ/ and /v/, respectively. Furthermore it uses a digraph for /dʒ/ and a monograph for /ʒ/ while /ʒ/ has the least frequency in Persian.

Moslehi [?] introduced a romanization scheme named IPA2 ( $P\acute{a}rsik$ ). He uses a lot of diacritics to represent aiyn and hamza (called mul in IPA2). He also used a digraph for /ʃ/ and a monograph for /ʧ/, while  $<\mathring{\infty}>$  is a frequent Persian letter and  $<_{\mathfrak{T}}>$  has very low frequency in Persian. The letter < w> is also used in some words, e.g. < > > > = < mowz>. The scheme also has some rules for writing in informal language and some other guidelines.

Mahdavi [?] proposed a strict mapping from Arabic script to Latin script that maintains all Arabic diacritics and even radical and ambiguous forms of letters (e.g. <७)>. The scheme contains almost 80 characters. Actually, adding Arabic diacritics to Persian texts is simpler to learn and use. Nevertheless his suggestion may be useful in processing the old Persian and Arabic manuscripts.

There are also some other rudimentary schemes, including: The Tajik alphabet in Latin (obsolete), Paarsi [?], UniPers [?], UN romanization of Persian for Geographical Names [?], Library of Congress/American Library Association romanization of Persian, IJMES transliteration system for Arabic, Persian, and Turkish [?], Encyclopaedia Iranica's scheme [?].

All proposed schemes suffer from at least two of the following deficiencies: (i) they use some new or modified Latin letters that make their use hard for Persian-learners. (ii) they ignore phonological rules of Persian and spell some words unnecessarily long (iii) they lack a firm rule for writing saken ayin and hamza. (iii) they do not comprehensively describe orthography of all Persian grammatical structures. (iv) they do

not suggest a romanization scheme in situations in which reversibility matters. (v) they ignore the semantic accepts of the writing system and do not provide any clues to shed light on the meaning of words (vi) they do not provide a firm regular method to spell Persian verbs.

In this paper we have proposed a new orthography scheme which addresses all of these issues.

## 4 SLPO

In this section we introduce our suggested romanization schema named *Standard Latin-based Persian orthography* abbreviated as SLPO.

In developing our romanization scheme we used some statistics data such as letter frequency and phoneme frequency. You can see Persian letter frequency in figure?? and??

SLPO is the most comprehensive and consistent Persian romanization scheme ever proposed. Some of its applications include:

- Writing academic materials such as papers and books.
- · Teaching Persian to non-native learners.
- Transliteration of geographical names
- · Natural language processing and text mining

#### 4.1 Priorities

The orthography is based on the following important priorities.

- Unequivocalness and Reversibility: The words and sentences should be unequivocal as much as possible.
   This means that a single word-form should represent as few words as possible.
- 2. Conciseness: The least amount of glyphs should be used for writing words and phrases.
- 3. Phonetic: The orthography should be highly regular and word's pronunciations could be identified by their spelling.
- 4. No new glyph: SLPO uses only basic Latin alphabets. As a result it can be entered in all computational environments without any modifications.
- 5. Easy to learn, easy to use: The proposed scheme is easy to learn and use even for new learners.

## 5 General Romanization

The Latin script of Persian consists of 25 letters. It does not use the letter <w>. You can see the letters in table ??. There are some rules in using this alphabet as follow:

Rule I Each word contains at least one vowel letter (<a,e,i,o,u>).

Rule 2 No word begins with more than two consonants.

See section ?? to see how to pronounce words that begin with two consonants.

## 5.1 Vowels

Persian has six vowels, including: /p:/, /e/, /o/,/æ/, /i:/ and /u:/. The first three rows of table ?? show how a single word-form in the Arabic script can be pronounced differently and yet convey distinct semantics. In the following subsection we explain how to map each vowel to its equivalent in Latin script.

Table 2: Persian vowels		
Latin	IPA	Arabic
sar	/sær/	سر
ser	/ser/	سر
sor	/sor/	سر
sur	/sp:r/	سار
soor	/su:r/	سور
sir	/si:r/	سير

#### 5.1.1 A

Letter A represents the *near-open front unrounded vowel* (/x/). Table ?? shows some examples of its usage.

Table 3: Examples for A

Latin	Arabic
adab	ادب
moallem	معلّم
moarrefi	معرّفي
akkus	عكَّاس
Aruk	اراک
Alueddin	علاءالدّين

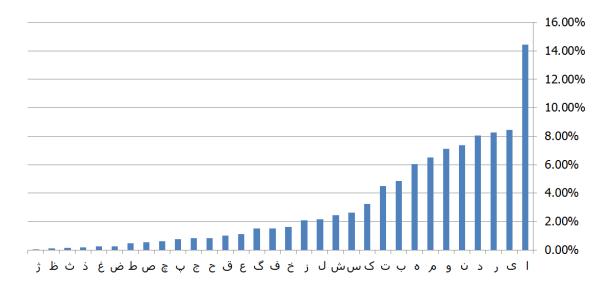


Figure 2: Relative frequencies of letters in Persian

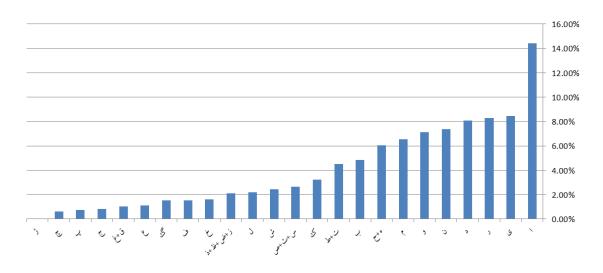


Figure 3: Relative frequencies of letters in Persian (Considering letters with the same phonetic together)

Table 1: Letters of general scheme

Latin Letter         IPA         Arabic counterparts         Cyrillic counterpart(s)           B b         /b/         5 (i) (i) (i) (i) (ii)         A a, (b)           B b         /b/         5 (i) (i) (i) (i) (ii)         B (iii)           C c         /ʃ/         iiii         iiii         A (ii)         A (iii)         A (iiii)         A (iiii)         A (iiii)         A (iiiii)         A (iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii			e i: Letters of general sci	leme
В b	Latin Letter	IPA	Arabic counterparts	Cyrillic counterpart(s)
В b	A a	/æ/	اَ ، َ ، عَ ، ئَ	А а, (ъ)
Ii       /i:/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Kk       /k/       Дил       Кк         Ll       /l/       Длл       Мм         Mm       /m/       Мм       Мм         Nn       /m//n//n/       НН       НН         Oo       /o/       ½, 3, 3       Ду         Nn       /m/       ½       Др.         Nn       (m//n)/n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n/	Вb	/b/	ں	Бб
Ii       /i:/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Kk       /k/       Дил       Кк         Ll       /l/       Длл       Мм         Mm       /m/       Мм       Мм         Nn       /m//n//n/       НН       НН         Oo       /o/       ½, 3, 3       Ду         Nn       /m/       ½       Др.         Nn       (m//n)/n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n/	Сс	/ʃ/	٠ ش	Шш
Ii       /i:/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Kk       /k/       Дил       Кк         Ll       /l/       Длл       Мм         Mm       /m/       Мм       Мм         Nn       /m//n//n/       НН       НН         Oo       /o/       ½, 3, 3       Ду         Nn       /m/       ½       Др.         Nn       (m//n)/n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n/	Dd		د	Дд
Ii       /i:/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Kk       /k/       Дил       Кк         Ll       /l/       Длл       Мм         Mm       /m/       Мм       Мм         Nn       /m//n//n/       НН       НН         Oo       /o/       ½, 3, 3       Ду         Nn       /m/       ½       Др.         Nn       (m//n)/n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n/	Еe	/e/	اِ، ئ، ع	Е е, Э э
Ii       /i:/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Kk       /k/       Дил       Кк         Ll       /l/       Длл       Мм         Mm       /m/       Мм       Мм         Nn       /m//n//n/       НН       НН         Oo       /o/       ½, 3, 3       Ду         Nn       /m/       ½       Др.         Nn       (m//n)/n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n/	Ff	/f/	ر عِ	Φφ
Ii       /i:/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Jj       /dy/       д:/ ду/       Ди, Йй, (Ёё)         Kk       /k/       Дил       Кк         Ll       /l/       Длл       Мм         Mm       /m/       Мм       Мм         Nn       /m//n//n/       НН       НН         Oo       /o/       ½, 3, 3       Ду         Nn       /m/       ½       Др.         Nn       (m//n)/n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n//n/	Gg	/g/	گ	ΓΓ
M m       /m/ /n/ /n/       м м         N n       /n//n/       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i Y y         Pp       /p/ (n/n)       i I n         Qq       /g/ (n/n)       i i n         Rr       /r/ (n/n)       y Pp         Ss       /s/ (n/n)       y pp         Ss       y pp       y pp </td <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>ه، ح</td> <td></td>		-	ه، ح	
M m       /m/ /n/ /n/       м м         N n       /n//n/       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i Y y         Pp       /p/ (n/n)       i I n         Qq       /g/ (n/n)       i i n         Rr       /r/ (n/n)       y Pp         Ss       /s/ (n/n)       y pp         Ss       y pp       y pp </td <td>Ιi</td> <td>/i:/</td> <td>ی؛ ای، ئی، عی، یی</td> <td>Ии, Йй, (Ёё)</td>	Ιi	/i:/	ی؛ ای، ئی، عی، یی	Ии, Йй, (Ёё)
M m       /m/ /n/ /n/       м м         N n       /n//n/       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i Y y         Pp       /p/ (n/n)       i I n         Qq       /g/ (n/n)       i i n         Rr       /r/ (n/n)       y Pp         Ss       /s/ (n/n)       y pp         Ss       y pp       y pp </td <td>Jj</td> <td>/dz/</td> <td>ت ج</td> <td></td>	Jj	/dz/	ت ج	
M m       /m/ /n/ /n/       м м         N n       /n//n/       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i Y y         Pp       /p/ (n/n)       i I n         Qq       /g/ (n/n)       i i n         Rr       /r/ (n/n)       y Pp         Ss       /s/ (n/n)       y pp         Ss       y pp       y pp </td <td>Kk</td> <td>/k/</td> <td>ک</td> <td>Кк</td>	Kk	/k/	ک	Кк
M m       /m/ /n/ /n/       м м         N n       /n//n/       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i H н         O o       /o/ (n/n)       i Y y         Pp       /p/ (n/n)       i I n         Qq       /g/ (n/n)       i i n         Rr       /r/ (n/n)       y Pp         Ss       /s/ (n/n)       y pp         Ss       y pp       y pp </td <td>L1</td> <td>/1/</td> <td>ل</td> <td>Лл</td>	L1	/1/	ل	Лл
O o /o/ أَ، أَ، عُ، ئُ گُرُ كُورَ الْكَارِيَّ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ اللَّه	M m	/m/	م	Мм
O o /o/ أَنُّ عُن ئُن ُ yy  P p /p/ پ Π π Q q /g/ ἐ، ٰἐ ، ٰἔ ، ٰἔ ، ٰἔ	Nn	$/n//\eta/$	ڹؗ	Нн
Qq       /g/       غ ن ق الله الله         Rr       /r/       y Pp         Ss       /s/       c C c         Tt       /t/       b T T         Uu       /b:/       d O o         Vv       /v/       g B B         Xx       /x/       x Xx         Yy       /j/       g Й й         Zz       /z/       b ن ن ن ن 3 3         Digraphs       Digraphs         oo       /u:/       ў ए, (Ю ю, Я я)         jj       /g/       ж ж	Оо		اُ ، ُ ، غُ، ئُ	Уу
Qq       /g/       غ ن ق الله الله         Rr       /r/       y Pp         Ss       /s/       c C c         Tt       /t/       b T T         Uu       /b:/       d O o         Vv       /v/       g B B         Xx       /x/       x Xx         Yy       /j/       g Й й         Zz       /z/       b ن ن ن ن 3 3         Digraphs       Digraphs         oo       /u:/       ў ए, (Ю ю, Я я)         jj       /g/       ж ж	Рр	/p/	پ	Пп
Rr       /r/       л       Pp         Ss       /s/       00       Cc         Tt       /t/       b       TT         Uu       /D:/       le       loo         Vv       /v/       g       BB         Xx       /x/       ż       Xx         Yy       /j/       g       Й й         Zz       /z/       b       33         Digraphs         oo       /u:/       ½ ()       ½ ў, (Ю ю, Я я)         jj       /3/       ж		-	ق ، غ	00,00
S s /s/ س، ث، ص C c T t /t/ ت، ط T T U u /v:/ اه أ، ئا، عا O o V v /v/ ه B B X x /x/ خ X x Y y /j/ ه اَنْ نَا، عل J		/r/	ر	Pр
U u       / D:/       ای آ، ئا، عا       O o         V v       / V/       9       B в         X x       ż       X x         Y y       / j/       ی Й й         Z z       / z/       ј й й         Digraphs       -         oo       / u:/       ј е.) ئو، عو، ؤ گ         jj       / 3/       Ж ж	Ss	/s/	س، ث، ص	
U u       / D:/       ای آ، ئا، عا       O o         V v       / V/       9       B в         X x       ż       X x         Y y       / j/       ی Й й         Z z       / z/       ј й й         Digraphs       -         oo       / u:/       ј е.) ئو، عو، ؤ گ         jj       / 3/       Ж ж	Τt	/t/	ت، ط	Тт
X x       /x/       ż       X x         Y y       /j/       ¿ Йй         Z z       /z/       ७ 3 з         Digraphs         oo       /u:/       أو، ئو، غو، وُ         jj       /3/       Жж	U u	/p:/	ا، آ، ئا، عا	Oo
Yy     /j/     ی Йй       Zz     /z/     3 3       Digraphs       oo     /u:/     او، ئو، عو، ؤُ     ¥ ӯ, (Юю, Яя)       jj     /3/     Жж	V v	/v/	و	Вв
Zz     /z/     غن، ظ     3 3       Digraphs       οο     /u:/     أي 3و، غو، وأً     ȳ ȳ, (Ю ю, Я я)       jj     /ʒ/     హ Ж ж	Хx	/x/	خ	Хх
Zz     /z/     غن، ظ     3 3       Digraphs       οο     /u:/     أي 3و، غو، وأً     ȳ ȳ, (Ю ю, Я я)       jj     /ʒ/     హ Ж ж	Yу	/j/	S	Йй
Digraphs       oo     /u:/     ў ў, (Юю, Яя)       jj     /3/     ж ж	•	*		3 з
jj /3/ ; Жж				
" II	00	/u:/	او، ئو، عو، ؤُ	
сс /ʧ/ <sub>₹</sub> Чч	jj		ژ	
	сс	/ʧ/	چ	Чч

Rule 3 When the letter <a> is placed at the end of a word or when it is preceded by a vowel, it represents glottal stop(/?/) and so in these cases it is a consonant <sup>1</sup>

In such situations, the corresponding Arabic letter is *saken ayin*  $^2$  ( $^2$ ) or *saken hamza* ( $^2$ ). Table ?? shows some examples of this usage (the words <jame> and <jame> in this tables are only for comparison and do not contain consonant <a>).

Table 4: Examples for consonant A

Latin	Arabic
boad	بُعد
baad	بَعد
cear	شعر
roab	رعب
Saadi	سعدى
roayu	رؤيا
naal	نعل
Kaabe	كعبه
raay	رأى
nafa	نفع
nufea	نافع
jume	جامه
jumea	جامع
jumee	جامعه
joz	جز
joza	جزء
mzua³	امضاء
ncua	انشاء

Rule 4 If  $/\alpha$ / phoneme is preceded by another vowel it should be represented using two adjacent letters  $<\alpha>$ .

Look at table ?? to see some examples of this rule.

Table 5: Examples for <aa>

Latin	Arabic
coaab	شُعَب
coaarua	شعرا
zoaafu	ضعفا
biaadab	بىادب

 $<sup>^1 \</sup>text{The only exception for this rule is the word <na> (=no in English) that is pronounced: /næ/.$ 

## 5.1.2 E

Letter <E> presents the *close-mid front unrounded vowel* (/p:/). Table ?? shows some examples of its usage.

Table 6: Examples for E

Latin	Arabic
enuyat	عنايت
nume	نامه
enekus	انعكاس
peste	پسته
Eruq	عراق
eatemud	اعتماد
erue	ارائه
majmooe	مجموعه

#### 5.1.3 I

The letter <i> represents the *long lose front unrounded vowel* (/i:/). Table ?? shows some examples of its usages. <sup>4</sup>

Table 7: Examples for I

Latin	Arabic
sib	سيب
Irun	ايران
imun	ايمان
Said	سعيد
ide	ايده
id	عيد
Nuin	نايين
niuz	نياز

Notice that unlike English, in Persian two adjacent vowels do not form a digraph and they should be pronounced separately (except <00> digraph). Table ?? shows some examples of adjacent vowels.

The pronunciation of <i> when is succeeded by a vowel is comparable with the letter <i> in English.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>A consonant that is not followed by a vowel is a *saken* consonant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Section ?? explains how to use two consonants in the beginning of words.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>In all tables *Arabic* refers to the Arabic script (Perso-Arabic script) and *Latin* refers to the Latin script

Table 8: Examples for I and an adjacent vowel

Latin	Arabic	
a+i	rais	رئيس
e+i	perotein	پروتئن
o+i	moin	معين
oo+i	dastcooi	دستشويي
i+i	tabii	طبيعي
i+a	tacia	تشييع
i+e	cie	شيعه
i+o	biorze	بىعرضه
i+a	piuz	پياز
i+oo	Nioocu	نيوشا
i+i	cii	شيعى

#### 5.I.4 O

The letter <0> represents the close-mid back rounded vowel (/o/). Table ?? shows some examples of its usage.

Table 9: Examples for O

20010 ). Email	-P100 101 0
Latin	Arabic
ordak	اردک
tond	تند
bord an	بُردن
omid	اميد
Oroopu	اروپا
Oroomie	اروميه
Osetestun	استستان

## 5.1.5 U

The letter <0> represents the *long open back rounded vowel*, (/p:/). Table ?? shows some examples of its usage.

Table 10: Examples for A

Tuble 10. Emuli	Picororia
Latin	Arabic
ub	آب
ulem	عالِم
ulam	عالَمٰ
reuyat	رعایٰت
haruyene	هرآينه
uyene	آینه
Umol	آمل
Ubxuzestun	آبخازستان
Qorun	قرآن

## 5.1.6 The digraph oo

The digraph <00> is pronounced /u:/ (long close back rounded vowel). Table ?? shows some examples of its usage.

Table II: Examples for digraph <00>

Latin	Arabic
rooz	روز
poost	يوست
ĥoloo	هلو
moosiqi	موسيقى
noocid an	نوشيدن
raoof	رئوف
masool	مسئول
00	او
ood	عود
hayoolu	هيولا
yooz	يوز
Yoosof	يوسف
Yoonun	يونان

### 5.2 Consonants

The Latin alphabet of Persian is consists of 20 consonant letters, as described below. Most of the examples that follow are intended to be used as a pattern for writing other Persian words.

## 5.2.1 B

The letter <br/>
stop (/b/) (like most other languages that use Latin Scripts). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <-->. Table ?? shows some examples of its usage.

Table 12: Examples for B

Latin	Arabic
babr	ببر
morabbu	مرّبا
bomb	بمب
tarbiat	تربيت
Birjand	بيرجند

## 5.2.2 C

When this letter is not used in the digraph <cc> it is always used to represent the *voiceless palato-alveolar fricative* (/ʃ/). (Similar to its usage in Zhuang and Kabyle alphabets.) Its

counterpart in Arabic script is <ش>. Table ?? shows some examples of its usage.

Table 13: Examples for C

1
Arabic
شير
شكلات
تشكّر
انشاالله
شيرين
شيرين
شوش

#### 5.2.3 D

The letter D always represents the *voiced alveolar plosive* (/d/), (like nearly all languages using the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <>> . Some examples of its usage are shown in table??.

Table 14: Examples for D

ipics for D
Arabic
دوغ
دار
در
تردّد
مؤدّب
دوشنبه
دوشنبه

## 5.2.4 F

The letter <f> always represents the *voiced alveolar plosive* (/f/), (like most languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <i>> . Some examples of its usages are shown in table ??.

Table 15: Examples for F

	_1
Latin	Arabic
fardu	فردا
Furubi	فارابي
tafuvot	تفاوت
tafakkor	تفكّر
foroodguh	فرودگاه
foot	فوت

#### 5.2.5 G

The letter <g> always represents *voiceless labiodental fricative* (/g/), (like a lot of languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <گ>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

voiced velar stop

Table 16: Examples for G

Latin	Arabic
gol gel gelooguh sag Gilun gooc garm	گل گل گلوگاه سگ گیلان گوش گرم
geram	گرَم

#### 5.2.6 H

The letter <h> always represents the *voiceless glottal transition* (/h/), (like English, Faroese, German, Swedish etc. alphabets). Its counterparts in Arabic script are <>> and <>>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 17: Examples for H

1
Arabic
هدهد
حوله
تحمّل
تهديد
ماه
نگاه
محراب

## 5.2.7 J

When this letter is not used in the digraph <jj>, it always represents the *voiced palato-alveolar affricate* (/dz/), <sup>5</sup> (like English, Portuguese and Turkmen alphabets). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <¬> . Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$ In this paper we use /dz/ to represent  $/d\overline{z}/$ .

Table 18: Examples for J

Latin	Arabic
jun tajaddod Jukurtu jagure hejdah	جان تجدد جاکارتا جگاره
joo jo jav	هجده جو جو جو

### 5.2.8 K

The letter  $\langle k \rangle$  always represents the *voiceless velar stop* (/k/) (like most languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is  $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle$ . Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 19: Examples for K

Table 19. Examples for It	
Latin	Arabic
kooh	كوه
kuk	کاک
keyk	کیک
morakkab	مركّب
gerufik	گرافیک
kare	كره
korre	کرّه
kore	كره
korh	كره
dokme	دُکمه
tekme	تكمه
Akbar	اكبر
Kubol	كابل
Alluhoakbar <sup>6</sup>	الله اكبر

#### 5.2.9 L

The letter <l> always represents the *alveolar lateral approximant (/l/)* (like most languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <\u00c3>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 20: Examples for L

Latin	Arabic
laqzid an	لغزيدن
lule	لاله
Lule	لاله
Leylu	ليلا
talaalo	تلألو

## 5.2.10 M

The letter <M> always represents the *bilabial nasal (/m/)* (like a lot of languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is . Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 21: Examples for M

	1
Latin	Arabic
mur	مار
mudar	مادر
talammoz	تلمّز
moaasser	مؤثّر
mozuik	موزائيك

#### 5.2.II N

The letter  $\langle n \rangle$  when preceded by letters  $\langle K \rangle$  or  $\langle G \rangle$  represent *velar nasal*  $(/\eta/)$  and in all other cases represents *alveolar nasal* (/n/) (like a lot of languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is  $\langle \upsilon \rangle$ . Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 22: Examples for N

	1
Latin	Arabic
nunvu	نانوا
Nijerie	نيجريه
moaannas	مؤنث
noxost	نخست

#### 5.2.12 P

The letter always represents voiceless bilabial stop (/p/) (like most of the languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <\$\psi\$>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Common Arabic short sentences are written as a word in Persian

Table 23: Examples for P

	1
Latin	Arabic
pu	پا
pool	پول
Pursi	پارسى
toop	توپ
pecc-pecc	پچپچ
poocuk	پوشاک
poocak	پوشک

### 5.2.13 Q

The letter  $\langle q \rangle$  always represents the *voiced velar fricative*  $(/q/)/^7$  Its counterpart in Arabic script is  $\langle \ddot{\upsilon} \rangle$ . Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 24: Examples for Q

Latin	Arabic
qur	غار کلاغ
kaluq	كلاغ
qaltun	غلتان
qucoq	قاشق
reqqat	رقت
Quen	قائن

### 5.2.14 R

The letter <r> always represents the alveolar trill (/r/) (like a lot of languages written in Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <,>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 25: Examples for R

- r
Arabic
روستا
مهر
رُبِ انار
سالاًر
مربّا
رضا

## 5.2.15 S

The letter <s> always represents *voiceless alveolar sibilant (/s/)* (like almost all languages that use the Latin script). Its coun-

terparts in Arabic script are حس>, حس> and حث>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 26: Examples for S

Latin	Arabic
asus	اساس
saboon	صابون
lase	لثه
seture	ستاره
staxr	استخر
sfenuj	اسفناج
stexure	استخاره
stebdud	استبداد
Sfand	اسفند

## 5.2.16 T

The letter <t> always represents *voiceless alveolar plosive (/t/)* (like the English, German and Norwegian languages). Its counterparts in Arabic script are <-> and <->. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 27: Examples for T

Latin	Arabic
toot	توت
morattab	مرتّب
tar	تر
tur	تار
tooti	طوطي
Oturod	عطارد
tarak	ترک
tark	ترک
tork	ترک
Tork	ترک

## 5.2.17 V

The letter <v> always represents the *voiced labiodental fricative (/v/)* (like a lot of languages that use the Latin script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is <y> (when it is used as a consonant). Some examples of its usage are shown in table??.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>According to dialects and words it also may be pronounced *voiceless uvular stop IGI* or *voiced uvular stop I*<sub>3</sub>*I*.

Table 28: Examples for V

Latin	Arabic
vorood	ورود
vazaq	وزغ
nuv	ناو
Davood	داوود
navid	نويد

## 5.2.18 X

The letter  $\langle x \rangle$  always represents voiceless velar fricative (/x/) (It's similar to Chi in the Greek script and Kha in the Cyrillic script). Its counterpart in Arabic script is  $\langle \dot{\tau} \rangle$ . Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Rule 5 The letter <v> after the letter <x> is not pronounced.

Notice this rule is important to satisfy the second priority. (see section ??)

Table 29: Examples for X

	P100 101 1
Latin	Arabic
Xodu	خدا
xerad	خِرَد
nax	نخ
taxayyol	تخيّل
xiul	خيال
ceyx	شيخ
xerxere	خِرخِره
xar	خر
xur	خار
xvur	خوار
xun	خان
xvun	خوان
xust an	خاستن
xvust an	خواستن
xvubid an	خوابيدن
xorcid	خُورشيد
xord	خرد
xord	خورد
xvic	خویش 
xic	خیش ۱۰
Xvurazm	خوارزم
Xordud	خرداد

#### 5.2.19 Y

The letter  $\langle y \rangle$  always represents the *voiced palatal approximant* (/j/) (like English). Its counterpart in Arabic script is

<l

Table 30: Examples for Y

Latin	Arabic
yus	 ياس
yek	یک
Rey	ری
rey	رى
yur	يار
ccuy	چاي
raiyyat	رعيّت

## 5.2.20 Z

The Letter <z> always represents *voiced alveolar fricatives (/z/)* (like almost all languages that use the Latin script). Its counterparts in Arabic script are <غ>, <خ>, <خ⇒> and <غ>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 31: Examples for Z

Latin	Arabic
gozurdan	گزاردن
zanboor	زنبور
soozan	سوزن
arziz	ارزيز
Zohre	زهره
zahre	زهره
Zamin	زمين
zamin	زمين
Zanjun	زنجان
zorrat	ذرت
zolm	ظلم
tazud	تضأد
zoozanaqe	ذوزنقه

## 5.3 Digraphs

SLPO has two digraphs for presenting /ʒ/ and /ʧ/ both of which are phonemes with the least frequency in Persian.

## 5.3.1 Jj

The digraph  $\langle jj \rangle$  represents the *voiced palato-alveolar fricative* (/z/). Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 32: Examples for <jj>

	1 "
Latin	Arabic
pajjmord an	پژمردن
mojjde	مژده
perojje	پروژه
Pejjmun	پژمان
jjimnustik	ژیمناستیک
Jjupon	ژاپن
Jjule	ژالُه
Ajji	اژی
ajjdahu	اژدها

#### 5.3.2 Cc

The digraph <cc> represents the voiceless palato-alveolar affricate (/ʧ/)<sup>8</sup>. Some examples of its usage are shown in table ??.

Table 33: Examples for C

Latin	Arabic
ccup	چاپ
ссар	چپ
ccakuvak	چکاوک
moccule	معاله
ccelccele	چلچله
ccacm	چشم

#### 5.4 Other Rules

## 5.4.1 Two consonant in the beginning of words

Rule 6 If a word begins with two consonants, the first consonant is pronounced by adding /e/ at its beginning and the second consonant is pronounced using the vowel succeeding it.

Such words include a lot of Persian originated words (which begin with حاسه), a large number of Arabic loan words (in particular, words derived from these forms: انفعال and انفعال) and a considerable number of other Indo-European load words e.g. حاسكيت > (=skate). Examples of these words are presented in table ??.

Notice that rule ?? causes letter <e> to appear in the begging of some words e.g. <ecq> = حشق>, <esm>= (اسم> = <enekus>= (انعكاس> = <enekus>= (انعكاس> = <enekus = <

#### 5.4.2 Ayin

As is obvious in the previous sections, Arabic letters ayin and hazma are not written when they are not saken (ساكن). When

Table 34: Two consonants in the beginning of words

Latin	Arabic
btekur	ابتكار
cqul	اشغال
dbur	ادبار
ftexur	افتخار
gzemu	اگزما
hsun	احسان
jbur	اجبار
ktesub	اكتساب
lzum	الزام
mcab	امشٰب
nfejur	انفجار
psilon	اپسيلون
qruq	اغراق
rtebut	ارتباط
staxr	استخر
ttehud	اتّحاد
yvun	ايوان
xruj	اخراج
zterub	اضطراب

they are saken, they are always preceded by a vowel letter. In this situation, they are written as <a>.

#### 5.4.3 Compound words

Persian has a lot of compound words. In Latin script, no space should be used between the building blocks of a compound word. Table ?? shows some examples of Persian compound words

## 6 Reversible Romanization

If you want to map some texts in Arabic script to the Latin script and the reversibility of the result is your concern, you should use the *reversible alphabet* which adds a number of diacritics to the *general alphabets*. The new letters and diacritics are shown in table ?? <sup>9</sup>

 $<sup>^8</sup>$ In this paper, /tf/ have been used to represent /tf/.

<sup>9</sup>Also if necessary you can use <□> character (U+2423, OPEN BOX) to denote a space character that does not have a counterpart in Arabic text e.g. < ربيخش>< be⊡baxc>.

Similarly you can denote a zero width non-joiner character in Arabic script using  $\langle , \rangle$  (U+02CC, Modifier Letter Low vertical line) e.g.  $\langle u+v \rangle \rightarrow \langle tan,hu \rangle$  and  $\langle u+v \rangle \rightarrow \langle tanha \rangle$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>Actually only three in-use words have مشن». They are: مشناقه -<*muaocçair*», بشناشه -<*bacçuc*» and ماءالشعير» -<*cocçuq*». So you seldom see <cç».

Table 36: Reversible alphabet and their general alphabet counterparts

Tabl	e 35: Compound	1 words
Latin	Arabic	note
xocbarxord	خوشبرخورد	
raftoumad	رفتوآمد	
costocoo	شستشو	costecoo
didobuzdid	ديدوبازديد	
goftogoo	گفتگو	<del>goftegoo</del>
rixtopuc	ريختوپاش	
zadoband	زدوبند	
faruzonacib	فرازونشيب	
Siosepol	سىوسەپل	
Beytolmoqaddus	بيتالمقدّس	
Maxzanolasrur	مخزنالسرار	
mottafeqolqol	متّفقالقول	
kisehavu	كيسههوا	airbag
dastrasipaziri	دسترسىپذيرى	accessibility
hezurpuyun	هزارپایان	
jastegorixte	جستهگريخته	
siuhsefid	سياهسفيد	
bolandqumat	بلندقامت	
qunoongoriz	قانونگريز	
hasticenusi	هستىشناسى	ontology
giuhcenusi	گیاهشناسی	
spanddoodkon	اسپنددودكن	
ubgarmkon	آبگرمکن	
budumhendi	بادامهنٰدي	
pestecumi	پستەشامى	
mahallisuzi		localization
beynolmelalisuzi	بينالمللىسازى	internationalization

Arabic	General	Reversible
عُ ع ع ع ع عى ع	a	a '
عَـ	a	'а
عِ	e	ʻa ʻe ʻo
عُـ	O	°o
عا	u	ʻu
عو	00	°oo
عی	i	ʻi
e e	a	a <sup>°</sup>
ءَ	a	°a
ءِ	e	'a 'e 'o 'u
å \$	O	°o
ئا	u	'u
ئو	00	°00
ئى	i	'i
٥	Нh	Нh
	Ηh	Η̈́ψ
ت	Τt	T t
ط	Τt	Ţţ
ä	Τt	Ţţ
غ	Qq	Qġ
ق	Qq Zz Zz	Q q Q q Z z Z <u>z</u> Z <u>z</u>
j	Ζz	Ζz
ذ	Zz	$\bar{\mathbf{Z}}\bar{\mathbf{z}}$
ض	Zz	Ζ̈́z
ئى ئ ئى ئ ئى ئ ئى ئ ئى ئ ئى ئ ئى ئ ئى ئ	Ζz	z Ż S s
	Ss	Ss
<del>ں</del> ص	Ss	Ş ş
- ث	Ss	S <sub>s</sub>
شّ	сс	cç <sup>10</sup>
 ۇ	0	ó
<u> </u>	(a/e/o/)[1]	(ā/ē/ī)[l]

Table 37: Examples for the reversible alphabet

37 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u> </u>
Arabic	Latin
امارت	'emurat
عمارت	<sup>'</sup> emurat
غذا	<b>ġ</b> a <u>z</u> u
قضا	qa <u>z</u> u
متوجّه	motevajje
حيات	ḥayut
حياط	ḥayuṭ
قضا متوجّه حیات حیاط تألّم	ta'aallom
تالم تعلّم معاصر مَآثر	tá aallom
معاصر	mó ușer
مَآثر	ma'user
بُعد	boé d
بُعد بَعد رأی دُر	baá d
رأى	raa'y
در	dorr
دور دور خُرد	dọr
دور	door
خُرد	xord
خورد	xọrd
روغن آمدوشد	rọqan
آمدوشد	umadocod
فوقالعاده	foqōluʻade
ابوالفضل	Abōlfazl
بالاخره	bēlaxare
بيتالمال	beytōlmul
عبدالرّحمان	'Abdōrraḥmun
عبدالله	'Abdōlluh
دايرةالمعارف	duyeratolmå uref
متفقالقول	mottafeqolqol
علاءالدّين	'Alu'ēddin

When you are transliterating from the Latin script to the Arabic script and encounter a vowel with a macron (¬) above, you should immediately place a letter <|> (Alef) in its place, if it was followed by two adjacent moon letters ¬, you should also add a letter <|> (Lam) after inserted <|> (Alef).

## 6.1 Germination

In the Arabic script the germination can be denoted by shaddah (<i>). In SLPO a germinated letter is written twice e.g. < $\downarrow$  $\rightarrow$   $\rightarrow$  epelle. Also notice that the second letter of two-letter Arabic loan words are always germinated regardless of their position in the sentence, e.g. < $\leftarrow$  $\rightarrow$  $\rightarrow$  $\rightarrow$  $\rightarrow$ hadd>, < $\rightarrow$  $\rightarrow$  $\rightarrow$  $\rightarrow$ haqq> (Arabic words with duplicated root).

The geminated jim (<¸>) in the Latin alphabet is represented by <dj> digraph. See table ?? for some examples.

Table 38: Examples for <dj>

Latin	Arabic
tavadjoh	توجّه
motevadjeh	متوجه
sadjude	سجّاده
nadjur	نجارِ
zadje	ضجه

## 7 Orthography

After introduction of the letters, we are ready to discuss some issues related to orthography.

## 7.1 Punctuation

In this section, usages of hyphen and apostrophe in SLPO are described.

## 7.1.1 Hyphen

Hyphen usage is like its usage in English (in particular to join ordinarily separate words into single words to make some new technical or context-specific terms, but for general compound words no hyphen is used. See section ??).

A hyphen is also used in some interjection words, as you see in table ??.

Table 39: Interjection

		,
Latin	Arabic	note
qol-qol	غُلغُل	sound of boiling water
teq-teq	تغتغ	clack
qur-qur	غارغار	croak
tik-tuk	تیکتاک	ticktack
0-0	عوعو	bark
mio-mio	ميوميو	miaou
cor-cor	شُرشُر	gurgle
baa-baa	بعبع	bleat

## 7.1.2 Apostrophe

Apostrophe has the following usages:

As a mark of contraction: Omission of one or more sounds (such as a vowel, a consonant, or a whole syllable) in a word or phrase to make easier pronunciation is very common in colloquial Persian and some times in Persian poetry. The omitted letters in a contraction are replaced by an apostrophe.

As a mark of elision: Elision has no influence on writing, but in poetry, theater text and other similar situations to show the actual speech of a character you can omit some characters and use an apostrophe instead.

Vocative form <'a> can be used to make vocative form nouns (vocative case). See table ??. Notice that the <'a> particle is pronounced/jp:/ if the word ends in a vowel and /p:/ in other cases.

Table 40: Vocative form

Latin	Arabic
Xodu'u Parvardegur'u bozorg'u	خدایا پرودگارا بزرگا
Saadi'u	سعديا

#### 7.2 Plural nouns

To form a plural noun add the <-hu> suffix to a singular noun. For example <sib>+<hu>→<sibhu> (<uببها>).

Also for words that refer to humans you can form plural by adding the <-un> suffix. If the noun ends in a vowel it may be changed before adding <un>. See table ?? to see some examples [?].

Table 41: Using <an> to form plural form

Table 41. Comp tally to form plant form		
کارمندان	karmand+un → karmandun	
دانشآموزان	dunecamooz+un → dunecamoozun	
معلّمان	moallem+un → moallemun	
استادان	ostad+un → ostadun	
آشنایان	ucna+yun → ucnayun	
بانوان	bunoo $\rightarrow$ bunov+ un $\rightarrow$ bunovun	
خستوان	$xastoo \rightarrow xastov+un \rightarrow xastovun$	

This suffix can also be added to some words to make new nouns that refer to a particular group. <giuh>+<un>-><giuhun>=<گیاهان> (refer to plants as a category).

For some Arabic loan words suffixes <-at> and <-in> can also be used to form plural nouns.

#### 7.3 Ezafe

Ezafe has a wide range of uses in Persian, most importantly for making possessive and adjective phrases. [?,?,?], Ezafe should be written as a word in the Latin script: <e>. If the last letter of its previous word is a vowel, it is pronounced /je/, otherwise it is pronounced /e/. See table ?? and the following examples.

Table 42: Ezafe examples

كتاب درسي	ketub e darsi
سيب َشيرين	sib e cirin
خانەكى ويلايى	xune e vilui
آهوي زيبا	uhoo e zibu
پرتوی ِماً،	parto e muh
جوي آب	joo e ub
جای خالی	ju e xuli

Example 1 Mohammad ccuy ru dar qoori e bozorg i ke az jens e rooy bood rixt va roo e miz gozuct.

Example 2 Be ju e negahduri e mohemmut zarrudxune mi ooo'and.

#### 7.3.1 Comparison

You can use suffixes <-ar> (the "comparative") and <-tarin> (the "superlative") for comparison. Table ?? provides three examples.

## 7.4 Indefinite article

The Persian indefinite article is <i> that is placed after the referent. See table ?? for some examples. Note that in Arabic script the indefinite noun is formed by adding <3 > suffix and in Latin script it is a word.

Table 44: Indefinite article

de	finite	inde	finite
معرفه	maarefe	نكره	nakare
کتابها خانه	ketub ketubhu xune xunehu	کتابهایی خانهای	ketub i ketubhu i xune i xunehu i

Example 3 *Har gerd i gerdoo nist.* هر گردی گردو نیست.

Table 43: Comparison

Po	sitive	Con	parative	Sup	erlative
		تر-	-tar	- ترین-	-tarin
بزرگ	bozorg	بزرگتر	bozorgtar	بزرگترين	bozorgtarin
زيبا	zibu	زيباتر	zibutar	زيباترين	zibatarin
پاک	puk	پاکتر	puktar	پاڪترين	paktarin

Example 4 Ali zarf i az zeytoon be man dud. على ظرفي از زيتون به من داد.

Dunu i muru nejut dud. Example 5 دانایی مرا نجات داد. A wise person saved me.

Dunui maru nejut dud. Example 6 دانایی مرا نجات داد. The wisdom saved me.

## 7.5 Possessive Adjectives

Possessive suffixes in the Arabic Script are written as a word in SLPO. Please look at table ??

Table 45: Possessive Adjectives

ام	am	مان	mun
ات	at	تان	tun
اش	ac	شان	cun
	Exa	ımple 1	
كتابم	ketub am	كتابمان	ketub mun
کتابم کتابت	ketub at	كتابتان	ketub tun
كتابش	ketub ac	كتابشان	ketub cun
	Exa	mple 2	
خانهام	xune am	خانەمان	xune mun
خانهات	xune at	خانەتان	xune tun
خانەاش	xune ac	خانەشان	xune cun

## 7.6 Verbs

All Persian Verbs in contemporary Persian can be built using three principal parts:

- · Present stem
- · Past stem
- · Past participle

The past stem of a lot of Persian verb can be built by adding <-id> to the end of the corresponding present stem. Additionally, the past participle can be formed by adding <-e> to the end of the past stem. To construct verbs, person suffixes are added to the three principal parts and if necessary some grammatical particles precede or secede the result. Verb suffixes (<نهی>, <نهی>) and person suffixes in the Arabic script, are written as a separate word in SLPO. Verbal person pronouns (person suffix in the Arabic script) are listed in table ??.

In table ?? you can see conjugation of indicative present of <raft an> (حرفتن>). Note that in the case of 3rd person singular, no suffix is added to the *past stem*; <ad> is added to *present stem* and <ast> is added to *past participle*.

Table 46: Verbal Person Pronouns

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	am	im
2nd	i	id
3rd	\$\phi^{12} / ad / ast	and

Table 47: Conjugation of indicative present <raft an> (<رفتن>)

Person	Singular	Plural
ıst 2nd 3rd	mi rav'am mi rav'i mi rav'ad	mi rav'im mi rav'id mi rav'and
314	IIII I av ad	iiii rav alid

In table ?? examples of various tenses are presented.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> φ= nothing.

Table 48: Examples of various tenses of <did an>

خواهم ديد	xvuh'am did
ميخواهم ببينم	mi xvuh'am be bin'am
دارم میبینم	dur'am mi bin'am
ديده باشم	dide buc'am
ديده شدمٰ	dide cod'am
دیده میشوم	dide mi cav'am

The general structure of Persian active verbs are demonstrated in figure ??. Beginning from colored nodes (green nodes) and ending in dashed nodes, a verb group can be constructed. The figure can be used to form fifteen active types of Persian verbs. If a path contains any dashed edge (------------------), this means that type is not in active use any longer.

To construct the passive type counterpart of an active type, use  $\langle cod\ an \rangle$  ( $\langle in\ figure\ ??\ and\ add\ the\ past\ participle\ part\ of\ the\ main\ verb\ to\ it.\ e.g.\ <math>\langle duct'am\ mi\ did'am\ o\ ducat'am\ dide\ mi\ cod'am\ >.$ 

The general structure of Persian passive verbs are demonstrated in figure??. A verb can be constructed beginning from colored nodes (oranges nodes) and ending in dashed nodes. The figure can be used to form 15 passive types of Persian verbs. If a path contains any dashed edge (--+), this means that type is not in active use any longer.

A full description of Persian verbs is out of the scope of this paper. We will only show some examples here as a guide to write verbs in this orthography.

Table 49: Examples of three principal parts of some Persian verbs

VELDS			
Infinitive	Present stem	Past stem	Past Participant
بودن	buc	bood	boode
داشتن	dur	duct	ducte
خواستن	xvuh	xvust	xvuste
رفتن	rav	raft	rafte
شستن	cuy	cost	coste
زيستن	zi	zist	ziste
آمدن	u	umad	umade
انديشيدن	andic	andicid	andicide
فهمیدن	fahm	fahmid	fahmide
دويدن	dav	david	davide
دواندن	davun	davunad	davunde
ناميدن	num	numid	numide
زنگيدن	zang	zangid	zangide

#### 7.6.1 Infinitive form

The infinitive form of a verb is constructed by placing <an> after the past stem of the verb. e.g. <did>+<>+<an>→<did an> (حیدن>). e.g. "Lotfan feal e 'zist an' ru sarf kon."

Notice when it is used as a noun instead of infinitive, no space is placed between past stem and <an> suffix. e.g. "Ali az didan e tabiat xaste nemi cav'ad."

#### 7.6.2 Imperative mood

Imperative is formed by preceding the present stem by <be> or <br/> <bi> particles (later used when the stem begins with a vowel).

Negated imperative is formed by preceding the present stem by <na> or in historical texts by <ma>. Table ?? shows some examples.

Table 50: Examples of imperative mood

	imperative	negated i	mperative
بخور	be xor	نخور	na xor
بنشين	be necin	ننشين	na necin
بيانديش	bi andic	نيانديش	na andic
برو	be ro	نرو	na ro
ببين	be bin	نبين	na bin
بيا	bi u	نیا	na u
بشور	be coor	نشور	na coor
بخند	be xand	نخند	na xand
بفرما	be farmu	نفرما	na farmu
بده	be deh	نده	na deh

## 8 Ease of Acquiring

To measure how much time is required to learn SLPO, we conducted two experiments. In the first experiment we ask 14 native Persian speakers to read out a poem which was typeset in the Arabic script (each participant was isolated from others). After that we ask them to read the same poem written in SLPO. We counted the number of errors in their reading in both scripts. The figure shows the number of errors. It is obvious that the number of errors when reading a text in SLPO is dramatically less than reading the same text in the Arabic script. The test participants were trained less than five minutes to be familiar with SLPO. The age of the participants were between 12 and 50. Their education levels were between secondary school students and masters degree. Additionally, notice the errors in reading SLPO were the result of reading carelessly while the mistakes in reading the Arabic script were the result of its deficiencies.

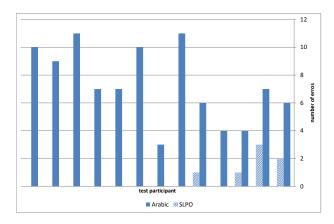


Figure 6: Total of errors among participants in the first experiment

To measure the time length required to learn SLPO >In the second experiment, we prepared a three-page manual for SLPO. We asked another 22 participants to read the manual and convert a given sentence in the Arabic script to SLPO and to convert another sentence in SLPO to its counterpart in the Arabic script. We requested from the participants to declare the time length it took them to read the manual and write down the answers. Analyzing the answers, we discovered they could map SLPO to the Arabic script perfectly. They also could convert the Arabic script to SLOP near-perfectly. In average, the time required for learning and using SLPO was 20.4 minutes among the participants.

## 9 Conclusions

In this paper we introduced a novel romanization and orthography scheme for Persian that is easy to learn and use, consistent and applicable in a lot of scenarios, particularly in writing academic materials (NLP and linguistics) and language learning. Here is a summary of its characteristics that make it superior to other proposed schemes:

(1) Using only the basic Latin alphabet that consequently makes SLPO usable in almost all computer environments without any configuration. (2) Persian has a lot of long words and phrases. Writing vowels in the Latin scripts make them even longer, to abate this issue: (i) Persian consonants and vowels are mapped to graphs and digraphs by considering their relative frequencies in the Persian language vocabulary (ii) using Persian language phonology rules and avoiding to write vowels in some situations, yet the pronunciation of words are completely identifiable by their spelling. As a result, the romanized text will be as short as possible (3) A clear and consistent rule is proposed to write the saken ayin. (4) The orthography scheme covers all Persian grammatical structures. (5) A complementary reversible romanization scheme is

provided for situations reversibility is required. Texts that are romanized by the reversible scheme, can be converted to the general scheme only by removing the diacritics. (6) According to our experiments, SLPO is easy to learn and use. A native speaker who has problems in reading classic Persian poetry can read them error-free when they are written in SLPO. Indeed SLPO can also help them to comprehend the poem more correctly. (7) The scheme has regular firm rules for writing verbs. (8) SLPO provides some clues to show some semantic aspects of texts. (9) A database of nearly all Persian words in SLPO is also available that can be easily used to create SLPO spell checker.

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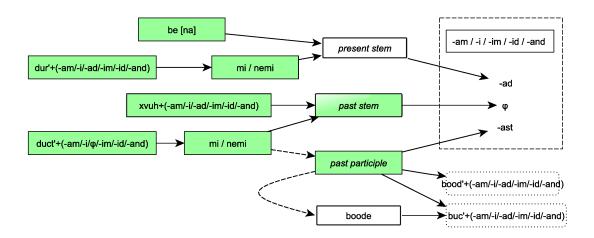


Figure 4: General pattern of Persian active verbs

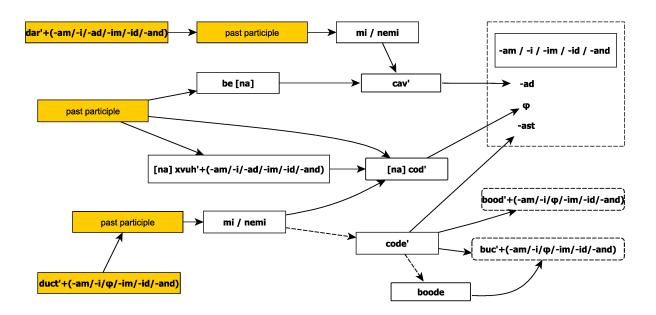


Figure 5: General pattern of Persian passive verbs

## A Additional Examples

In this section we provide some important groups of words to be used as a reference and a learning material.

## A.1 Name of months

Month's names are capitalized in the orthography. Table ?? shows the names of Solar Hiji months in Latin script. Month's names and their 3-letter abbreviation are shown in table ??

Table 51: Name of months

Table 31. I value of infolicits		
Arabic	Latin	Latin Abr.
فروردين	Farvardin	Frv
ارديبهشت	Ordibehehect	Ord
خرداد	Xordud	Xrd
تير	Tir	Tir
مرداد	Mordud	Mrd
شهريور	Cahrivar	Chr
مهر	Mehr	Mhr
آبان	Ubun	Ubn
آذر	Uzar	Uzr
دى	Dey	Dey
بهمن	Bahman	Bhm
اسفند	Sfand	Sfn

## A.2 Week days

Names of weekdays should be capitalized in SLPO. Table ?? shows the names and their 1-letter and 3-letter abbreviations.

Table 52: Week days

Arabic	Latin	1-letter abr.	3-letter abr.
شنبه	Canbe	С	Cnb
يكشنبه	Yekcanbe	Y	Ykc
دوشنبه	Docanbe	D	Doc
سەشنبە	Secanbe	S	Sec
چهارشنبه	Ccurcanbe	R	Ccu
پنجشنبه	Panjcanbe	P	Pnc
آدينه/جمعه	Udine/Jome	U/J	Udn / Jom

## A.3 Pronouns

## A.3.1 Subject pronouns

Table 53: Subject pronouns			
من	man	ما	mu
تو	to	شما	comu
او	00	ايشان	icun

#### A.3.2 Object Pronouns

Table 54: Object pronouns			
مرا	maru	مارا	mura
ترا	toru	شمارا	comuru
او را	ooru	ايشانرا	icunru

## A.4 Demonstrative pronouns

Table 55: Demonstrative pronouns

in
un
inhu
unhu
inun
unun

*<Inan>* and *<anan>* are usually used only for humans.

## A.5 Interrogative words

Table 56: Interrogative words

Tuble jet Interroguerte words		
cce (cci)	what	
cceru	why	
ccegoone	how	
ccand	(how much)	
ccandtu	how many	
cceqadr	how much	
ki	who	
key	when	
koju	where	
	cceru ccegoone ccand ccandtu cceqadr ki key	

## A.6 Numbers

## A.6.1 Cardinal numbers

Table ?? lists cardinal numbers. As an example 684,541,213,251 in letters is:

cecsad o hactud o ccur bilyun o punsad o ccel o yek milioon o devist o sizdah hezur o devist o panjuh o yek.

## A.6.2 Ordinal numbers

Table ?? contains the first five ordinal numbers.

Table 58: Ordinal numbers

English	number+om		nun	nber+min
ıst	Iom	yekom/naxost	ımn	naxostin
2nd	20m	dovom	2mn	dovomin
3rd	30m	sevom	3mn	sevomin
4th	40m	ccurom	4mn	ccuromin
5th	50m	panjom	5mn	panjmin

## A.7 Poetry

Tables ?? and ?? represent two poems by Hufez and Saadi.

О	sefr
I	yek
2	do
3	se
4	ccur <sup>13</sup>
5	panj
6	cec
7	haft
8	hact
9	noh
IO	dah
II	yuzdah
12	davuzdah
13	sizdah
14	ccurdah
15	punzdah
16	cunzdah
17	hefdad
18	hejdah
19	noozdah
20	bist
2.I	bist o yek
:	:
29	bist o noh
30	si
40	ccehel
50	panjuh
60	cast
70	haftud
8o	hactud
90	navad
IOO	sad
200	devist
300	sisad
400	ccursad
500	punsad
600	cecsad
700	haftsad
800	hactsad
900	nohsad
1,000	hezur
1,000,000	milioon
1,000,000,000	bilyoon/bilyurd
1,000,000,000,000	tirilyoon

Table 57: Cardinal numbers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Also <ccehur>

## Table 59: An example of poetry in Latin script (by Saadi)

بنی آدم اعضای یکدیگرند که در آفرینش ز یک گوهرند چو عضوی به درد آورد روزگار دگر عضوها را نماند قرار تو کز محنت دیگران بیغمی نشاید که نامت نهند آدمی Baniudam aazu e yekdigar'and Ke dar ufarinec ze yek gohar'and Cco ozv i be dard uvar'ad roozgar Degar ozvhu ru na mun'ad qarur To k'az mehnat e digarun biqam'i Na cuy'ad ke num at nah'and udami

Table 60: An example of poetry in the general and reversible schemes (Hufez's 64th sonnet)

زبان خموش ولیکن دهان پر از عربیست Agarcce arz e honar pic e yur biaadabi'st Agarcce 'arz e honar pic e yur biaadabi'st بسوخت ديده ز حيرت كه اين چه بوالعجبيست Pari nahofte rox o div dar kerercme e hosn Pari nahofte rox o div dar kerercme e hosn چراغ مصطفوی با شرار بولهبیست Dar in ccaman gol e bixur kas na ccid; uri Dar in ccaman gol e bixur kas na ccid; uri که کام بخشی او را بهانه بیسببیست Sabab ma pors ke ccarx az cce sefleparvar cod Sabab ma pors ke ccarx az cce sefleparvar cod مراکه مصطبه ایوان و پای خم طنبیست Be nim jo na xaram tuq e xunequh o rebut Be nim jo na xaram ṭuq e xunequh o rebuṭ که در نقاب زجاجی و پردهی عنبیست Jamul e doxtar e raz noor e ccacm e mu'st magar Jamul e doxtar e raz noor e ccacm e mu'st magar کنون که مست خرابم صلاح بیادبیست Hezur aql o adab ductam man ey xvuje Hezur 'aql o adab ductam man ey xvuje به گریهی سحری و نیاز نیمشبیست Biur mey ke cco Hufez hazur'am stezhur Biur mey ke cco Ḥufez hazur'am stezhur

اگرچه عرض هنر پیش یار بیادبیست Zabun xamooc valikan dahun por az Arabi'st Zabun xamooc valikan dahun por az 'Arabi'st پری نهفته رخ و دیو در کرشمهی حسن Be sooxt dide ze heyrat ke in cce bolajab i'st Be sooxt dide ze heyrat ke in cce bol ajab i'st در این چمن گل بیخار کس نچید؛ آری Cceruq e mostavafi bu carur e boolahabi'st. Cceruq e mostavafi bu carur e boolahabi'st. سبب مپرس که چرخ از چه سفله پرور شد Ke kumbaxci e oo ru bahune bisababi'st Ke kumbaxci e oo ru bahune bisababi'st به نیم جو نخرم طاق خانقاه و رباط Maru ke mastabe eyvun o pu e xom tanab'ist. Maru ke maṣṭabe eyvun o pu e xom ṭanab'ist. جمال دختر رز نور چشم ماست مگر Ke dar nequb e zojuji o parde e enabi'st. Ke dar nequb e zojuji o parde e 'enabi'st. هزار عقل و ادب داشتم من؛ اي خواجه Konoon ke mast e xarub'am saluh biadabi'st. Konoon ke mast e xarub'am şaluh biadabi'st. بیار می که چو حافظ هزارم استظهار Be gerye e sahari o niuz e nimcab i'st. Be gerye e sahari o niuz e nimcab i'st.