

Guidelines for the Transcription of the Ottoman Lyrics from Arabic into Latin Characters

Table showing the consonants in Arabic characters and their corresponding Latin equivalents with their diacritics.

ا	آ
ا	A
ب	B
ت	T
ث	Ṭ
ج	C
چ	Ç
ح	Ḥ
خ	Ḫ
د	D
ذ	Ḍ
ر	R
ز	Z
ژ	J
س	S
ش	Ş
ص	Ş
ض	Ẓ
ط	Ṭ
ظ	Ẓ
ع	‘
غ	Ġ
ف	F

ق	Q
ك	K, Y, Ğ
گ	G
ڭ	Ñ
ل	L
م	M
ن	N
و	V
ھ	H
ي	Y

-ء **hemze**: when combined with the carrier letter *elif* at the beginning of a word is usually not pronounced in Turkish, so it will not be transcribed, for example (أول) will be transcribed as *evvel*. **In the middle of a word *hemze* will be transcribed as (’), even in words where it is omitted in the Ottoman orthography like in (إجزاخانه) eczā’ḥāne.**

- Words of Arabic and Persian origin only will be transcribed with the long vowels ā, ī and ū. Please note that these vowels should not be used to transcribe words of Turkish origin.

- The diphthongs (وَّ) and (يَّ) will be transcribed as *ev* and *ey*.

- The orthography of the short Turkish vowels (a, ı, o, u and e, i, ö, ü) and their harmony in pure Turkish words only will follow the modern Turkish orthography, but this rule will definitely not apply to the Arabic and Persian prefixes and suffixes attached to these words, and to the Turkish cases and suffixes listed below.

- **Ö teşdid** represent the doubling of letters in Arabic so these letters **will be always written out as two letters in our transcription** even if this is not common in modern Turkish, for example (طب) will be transcribed as ııbb and (فن) as fenn.
- Some verbs and nouns of Turkish origin are written in modern Turkish with an (i) however the letter (ye-yā'-ي) was used in the original Ottoman orthography, so **they will be transcribed with the letter e with a diacritic (è), for example** (یتک) etmek, (ویرمک) vèrmek and (کیجه) will be rendered as gèce.
- **The Ottoman locative case (ده) will be transcribed in accordance with the Ottoman orthography which consistently uses the letter (د).** It will be transcribed as **-de** and **-da** but never as **-te** and **-ta** as it is common in modern Turkish. For example, (باشده) will be rendered as başda but never as başta.
- **The Ottoman ablative case (دن) will be transcribed in accordance with the Ottoman orthography which consistently uses the letter (د) i.e. as -den and -dan** but never **-ten** and **-tan**, for example başdan and not baştan as it is common in modern Turkish.
- **The accusative case (ی) will be transcribed consistently with -i and -ı,** but the variants **-u** and **-ü** as is sometimes the case in modern Turkish will not be used.
- **The imperative of the third person singular known also as the paradigm imperative (سون) will be transcribed with -sun and -sün in accordance with the most common Ottoman orthography that uses the letter (و),** but never with **-sin** and **-sın** as is the case in modern Turkish, **for example** (برکت ویرسون) should be rendered as bereket vèrsün.

- The Ottoman verb to be in the third person singular present (دِر) will be transcribed in accordance with the Ottoman orthography i.e. as *-dir* and *-dır*, but never as is the case in modern Turkish with *-tir*, *-tır*, *-tur* or *-tür*.
- The gerund ending with (وب) will be rendered as *-ub* and *-üb* in accordance with the Ottoman orthography. But never with *-up*, *-üp*, *-ip* or *-ıp* as is the case in modern Turkish.
- The letter (و) as a conjunction will be transcribed as *ve*, except in doublets of Arabic and Persian origin then it will be rendered a separate (u) or (ü) without a hyphen, as for example (قيل وقال) *kīl u kāl*. In expressions of mixed origin like Turkish and Arabic that represent a doublet in the meaning like (صاغ وسليم) then the conjunction (و) will be transcribed as (u) or (ü) as in *şāğ u salīm*. Please also note that in some lyrics the transcription might vary between *ve* and *u* or *ü* in order not to break the meter of the verse.
- The Persian Izafet relationship between two words expressed through a *hemze* or a *kesre* will be consistently rendered as a hyphenated *-i* or *-i*. The same rule will also apply for more than two words connected through a chain of izafet relationship like in (سالنامه ولایت حلب) which will be transcribed as *sāl-nāme-yi vilāyet-i Haleb*.
- The *nisbe* suffix in Ottoman (لي) or sometimes (لى) usually added to place names will be transcribed in accordance with the Ottoman orthography i.e. as *-li* or *-lı*, but never as *-lü* or *-lu* as is common in modern Turkish. If the Ottoman orthography requires a different transcription usually in the case when the *nisbe* is added to an official title like in the case of the word (دولتلو) then it will be transcribed as *devletlü*.
- The interrogative pronoun (نه ايچون) will be transcribed according to the original orthography, i.e. in two words when it appears in this form in the

original script and it will be rendered as *ne içün*, never as *ne için* or *niçin* as is the case in the modern Turkish orthography.

- The Arabic definite article (ال) is usually pronounced as *el* in Turkish, when at an initial position, and will be transcribed as such with a hyphen to connect it to the defined word like in (الحال) it will be rendered as *el-hāl*. When it is followed by a letter from the so called sun letters it is usually assimilated with the following letter so the word (الشمس) will be rendered as *eş-şams*. In an Arabic genitive connection the first word usually ends with a Zamma ü and the *hemze* of the definite article usually loses its value, hence the letter e will also disappear from the transcription of this article and will be transcribed as such *hurūfū ş-şems* and *hurūfū l-ķamar*.

-Some Arabic words like (غير، بعض، عين) are almost exclusively used in an izafet connection so they will be transcribed as *‘ayn-ı*, *ba‘z-ı*, and *ğayr-ı*.

-Arabic preposition will be transcribed separated from the following words unlike some common practice in modern Turkish, those that are usually connected to the following words in the Arabic script will be transcribed with a hyphen for the sake of clarity.

-However hyphens will be used economically in our system, suffixes of all origins, Turkish, Arabic and Persian will not be hyphenated.

General remarks:

This transcription system benefited from the systems used in OTAP, IJMES and the İA, in it we will try as meticulously as possible to follow the Ottoman orthography with due consideration given to Turkish pronunciation. For the sake of clarity and in order to make the transcription reader-friendly Arabic

letters will be transcribed into a single Latin character with the necessary diacritics. Hyphens will be used for the *Ízafet* and the Arabic definite article.