L2/18-284

Title: Preliminary proposal for encoding the Yezidi script in the SMP of the UCS (revision 1)
Authors: Erdal Karaca, Dimitri Pirbari, and Andrij Rovenchak

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This is the revision of the document L2/18-238

1. Introduction.
The Yezidi script has a long history. According to some data, it dates back to the 13–14th centuries, while some scientists place the creation of this writing system in the 17–18th centuries (Amoêv 1999). The author of the script is unknown. The Yezidi script was used to write two manuscripts, *Maṣḥaf Raš* and *Ktébī J̌alwe̱h*, first published by Anastase Marie (1911), see samples in Figs. 1–2, while earlier manuscripts of the same titles were known in Arabic.

Texts in the Yezidi script are in the Kurmanji language known also as Northern Kurdish (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Kurdish; https://www.ethnologue.com/language/kmr)
A decade ago, an attempts was made in Iraq to revive the script, even a Yezidi-Arabic dictionary was published. Unfortunately, in view of complex political and social situation the Yezidis live in, this idea has not been developed further.

In 2013, the Spiritual Council of Yezidis in Georgia decided to revive the Yezidi script and use it to write prayers, sacred books, on the organization letterhead (see Fig. 3), in the Yezidi heraldry, etc. For this purpose, two orientalists and specialists, Kêrîm Amoêv and Dimitri Pirbari, modernized the Yezidi alphabet and adapted it to the phonetic features of the modern Yezidi language. The book *Yezidi script* was published (Pirbari & Amoêv 2013), where each letter and its phonetic value are described in detail. Today the Yezidi script is used by clergymen in the Yezidi temple in Tbilisi. On the walls of the temple, the names of saints are also written in this alphabet (see Figs. 4–5). A book of prayers *Dua'yêd Êzdiyan* in the Yezidi script has been published recently (see sample pages in Figs. 6–7).

2. Structure. Yezidi is an alphabetic script written right to left in horizontal lines. Modern version of the alphabet includes letters both for consonants and vowels. Letters are written apart, unlike the Arabic script. In historical texts, some ligatures occur: ⊥ (l-t), ⊿ (l-c), ⊣ (l-q), ⊢ (l-k), ⊓ (l-y), ⊥ (l-v); see Fig. 1. Such ligatures are not used in the modern version of the Yezidi alphabet, but the joining behavior can be specified as an optional feature of the font.

In Yezidi, some diacritics inherited from the Arabic scripts are used in words of the Arabic origin. These are HAMZA ⟨ ʻ ⟩ (denoting a glottal stop) and MADDA appearing over ELIF ⟨ ʼ̄ ⟩ to denote long /a/ at the beginning of some words. Similarly to Arabic, HAMZA can be also used as a separate letter.

Comparison of different script to write Yezidi is shown in Table 1.

3. Collating order. Collation order is that in the code chart. It is based on that proposed in the book by Pirbari & Amoêv (2013). Historical letters no longer used in the modern script (SE, ZE, DAL, ZAL) are placed after the main sequence. Note that the original order of letters was based on the Perso-Arabic script, cf. Fig. 8, where the classical version of the Yezidi alphabet is shown.

The newly created letters are: ⟍ ، ⊓ ، ⊿ , ⊿ ، ⋚ ، ⋙ ، ⋛ ، ⋛ ، ⋚ ، ⋙ ، ⊓.

4. Character names. The usual UCS conventions are used. Glottalization is marked by H (PE versus PHE).
ꓭ YEZIDI LETTER YOT serves to denote the consonant [j] or vowel [i] (in the Roman orthography, ⟨y⟩ and ⟨ î ⟩, respectively. This letter serves to denote a vowel if placed at the beginning of a word before a consonant or after the ELIF.
ꓮ YEZIDI LETTER ET serves to denote the vowel [e], which is written as ⟨ê⟩ in the Roman orthography.

5. Linebreaking. Letters and digits behave as do the letters and numbers in Arabic. However, YEZIDI HYPHENATION MARK can be placed above the last letter in the line to denote word breaks. In old texts, this mark also appears at the beginning of the following line (right-most position, see Fig. 2).

6. Punctuation and digits. No script-specific punctuation is known in Yezidi, ⟨ ، ⟩ ARABIC COMMA (U+060C), ⟨ ؛ ⟩ ARABIC SEMICOLON (U+061B), and ⟨ ؟ ⟩ ARABIC QUESTION MARK (U+061F) can be used additionally to ordinary FULL STOP and COLON. Arabic digits (U+0660…U+0669) are applied (cf. Anastase 1911).

Table 1

Yezidi	Arabic	Latin	Cyrillic	IPA	Proposed Unicode name
𐺀	ا	A a	А а	a	YEZIDI LETTER ELIF
𐺁	ب	B b	Б б	b	YEZIDI LETTER BE
𐺂	پ	P p	П п	p	YEZIDI LETTER PE
𐺃		P’ p’	П’ п’	p’	YEZIDI LETTER PHE
𐺄	ت	T’ t’	Т’ т’	t’	YEZIDI LETTER THE
𐺅	ج	C c	Щ щ	ʤ	YEZIDI LETTER CIM
𐺆	چ	Ç ç	Ч ч	ʧ	YEZIDI LETTER CHIM
𐺇		Ç’ ç’	Ч’ ч’	ʧ’	YEZIDI LETTER CHHIM
𐺈	ح	H’ h’	Ҥ’ ҥ’	ħ	YEZIDI LETTER HHA
𐺉	خ	X x	Х х	x	YEZIDI LETTER XA
𐺊	د	D d	Д д	d	YEZIDI LETTER DAL
𐺋	ر	R r	Р р	r	YEZIDI LETTER RA
𐺌	ڕ	R’ r’	Р’ р’	r’	YEZIDI LETTER RHA
𐺍	ز	Z z	З з	z	YEZIDI LETTER ZA
𐺎	ژ	J j	Ж ж	ʒ	YEZIDI LETTER JA
𐺏	س	S s	С с	s	YEZIDI LETTER SIN
𐺐	ش	Ş ş	Ш ш	ʃ	YEZIDI LETTER SHIN
𐺑	ط	T t	Т т	t	YEZIDI LETTER TA
𐺒	ع	’ / E’ e’	Ә’ ә’	ʔ	YEZIDI LETTER EYN
𐺓	غ	X’ x’	Г’ г’	ʕ	YEZIDI LETTER XHEYN
𐺔	ف	F f	Ф ф	f	YEZIDI LETTER FA
𐺕	ص	ṣ		sˤ	YEZIDI LETTER SAD
𐺖	ڤ	V v	В в	v	YEZIDI LETTER VA
𐺗					YEZIDI LETTER VA ALTERNATE FORM
𐺘	ق	Q q	Q q	q	YEZIDI LETTER QAF
𐺙	ك	K k	К к	k	YEZIDI LETTER KAF
𐺚		K’ k’	К’ к’	k’	YEZIDI LETTER KHAF

Yezidi	Arabic	Latin	Cyrillic	IPA	Proposed Unicode name
𐺘	گ	G g	Г г	g	YEZIDI LETTER GAF
𐺙	ل	L l	Л л	l	YEZIDI LETTER LAM
𐺚	م	M m	М м	m	YEZIDI LETTER MIM
𐺛	ن	N n	Н н	n	YEZIDI LETTER NUN
𐺜	و	U u	Ö ö	u	YEZIDI LETTER UM
𐺝	وو	Û û	У у	uː	YEZIDI LETTER UUM
𐺞	و	W w	Ẇ ẇ	w	YEZIDI LETTER WAW
𐺟	ۆ	O o	О о	o	YEZIDI LETTER OW
𐺠	ێ	E e	Ә ә	ə	YEZIDI LETTER EW
𐺡	ه	H h	Һ һ	h	YEZIDI LETTER HAY
𐺢	ي	Î î / Y y	И и / Й й	j	YEZIDI LETTER YOT
𐺣	ێ	Ê ê	Е е	e	YEZIDI LETTER ET
𐺤	ث	s		s	YEZIDI LETTER SE
𐺥	ظ	z’		z’	YEZIDI LETTER ZE
𐺦	ض	ḍ		dˤ	YEZIDI LETTER DAD
𐺧	ذ	ẓ		zˤ	YEZIDI LETTER ZAL
𐺨	ئ			ʔ	YEZIDI LETTER HAMZA
		I i	Ь ь		(no equivalent in other scripts, palatalization mark in foreign words)

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7. Unicode Character Names.

1ED50		YEZIDI LETTER ELIF
1ED51		YEZIDI LETTER BE
1ED52		YEZIDI LETTER PE
1ED53		YEZIDI LETTER PHE
1ED54		YEZIDI LETTER THE
1ED55		YEZIDI LETTER CIM
1ED56		YEZIDI LETTER CHIM
1ED57		YEZIDI LETTER CHHIM
1ED58		YEZIDI LETTER HHA
1ED59		YEZIDI LETTER XA
1ED5A		YEZIDI LETTER DAL
1ED5B		YEZIDI LETTER RA
1ED5C		YEZIDI LETTER RHA
1ED5D		YEZIDI LETTER ZA
1ED5E		YEZIDI LETTER JA
1ED5F		YEZIDI LETTER SIN
1ED60		YEZIDI LETTER SHIN
1ED61		YEZIDI LETTER TA
1ED62		YEZIDI LETTER EYN
1ED63		YEZIDI LETTER XHEYN
1ED64		YEZIDI LETTER FA
1ED65		YEZIDI LETTER SAD
1ED66		YEZIDI LETTER VA
1ED67		YEZIDI LETTER VA ALTERNATE FORM
1ED68		YEZIDI LETTER QAF
1ED69		YEZIDI LETTER KAF
1ED6A		YEZIDI LETTER KHAF
1ED6B		YEZIDI LETTER GAF
1ED6C		YEZIDI LETTER LAM
1ED6D		YEZIDI LETTER MIM

1ED6E	𞺮	YEZIDI LETTER NUN
1ED6F	𞺯	YEZIDI LETTER UM
1ED70	𞺰	YEZIDI LETTER UUM
1ED71	𞺱	YEZIDI LETTER WAW
1ED72	𞺲	YEZIDI LETTER OW
1ED73	𞺳	YEZIDI LETTER EW
1ED74	𞺴	YEZIDI LETTER HAY
1ED75	𞺵	YEZIDI LETTER YOT
1ED76	𞺶	YEZIDI LETTER ET
1ED77	𞺷	YEZIDI LETTER SE
1ED78	𞺸	YEZIDI LETTER ZE
1ED79	𞺹	YEZIDI LETTER DAD
1ED7A	𞺺	YEZIDI LETTER ZAL
1ED7B	𞺻	YEZIDI LETTER HAMZA
1ED7C	◌𞺻	YEZIDI COMBINING HAMZA MARK
1ED7D	◌̃	YEZIDI COMBINING MADDA MARK
1ED7E	‘	YEZIDI HYPHENATION MARK
1ED7F		(reserved)

8. Bibliography

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Dua'yêd Êzdiyan = Дöа'йед Эздийан = 𞺵𞺸𞺺𞺷𞺶 𞺸𞺶𞺵𞺻𞺱𞺹. 2018 (T'bîlîsî: Publishing House "UNIVERSAL").

Marie, A. 1911. La découverte récente des deux livres sacrés des Yézîdis. *Anthropos* 6(1): 1–39.

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10. Figures

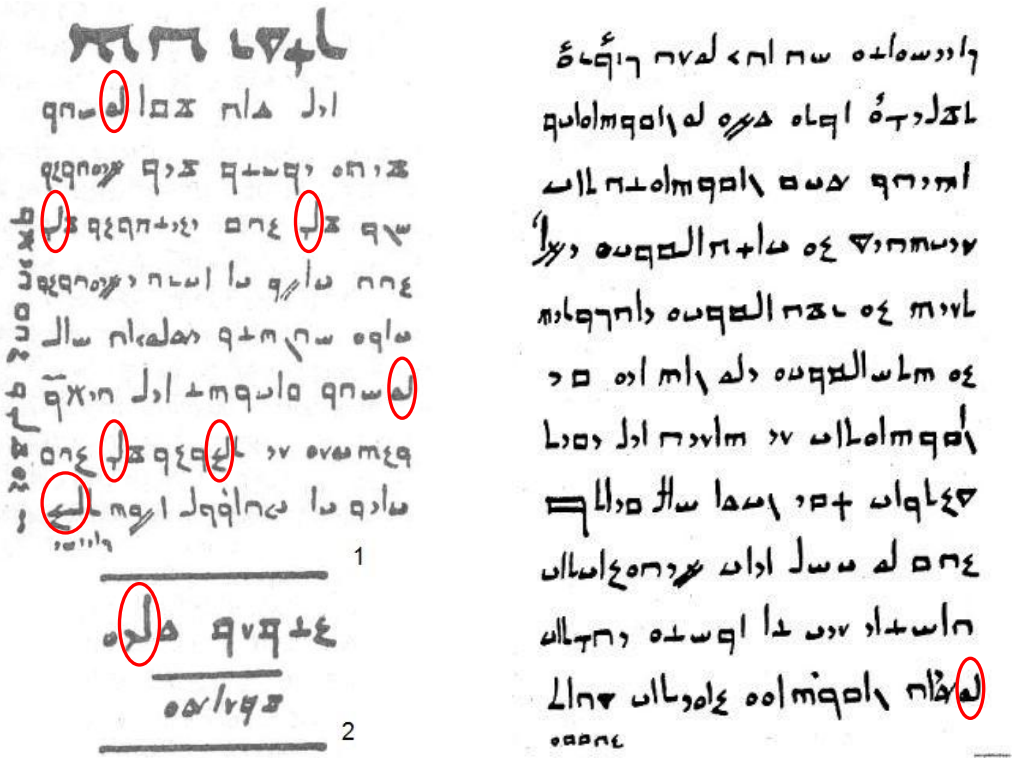
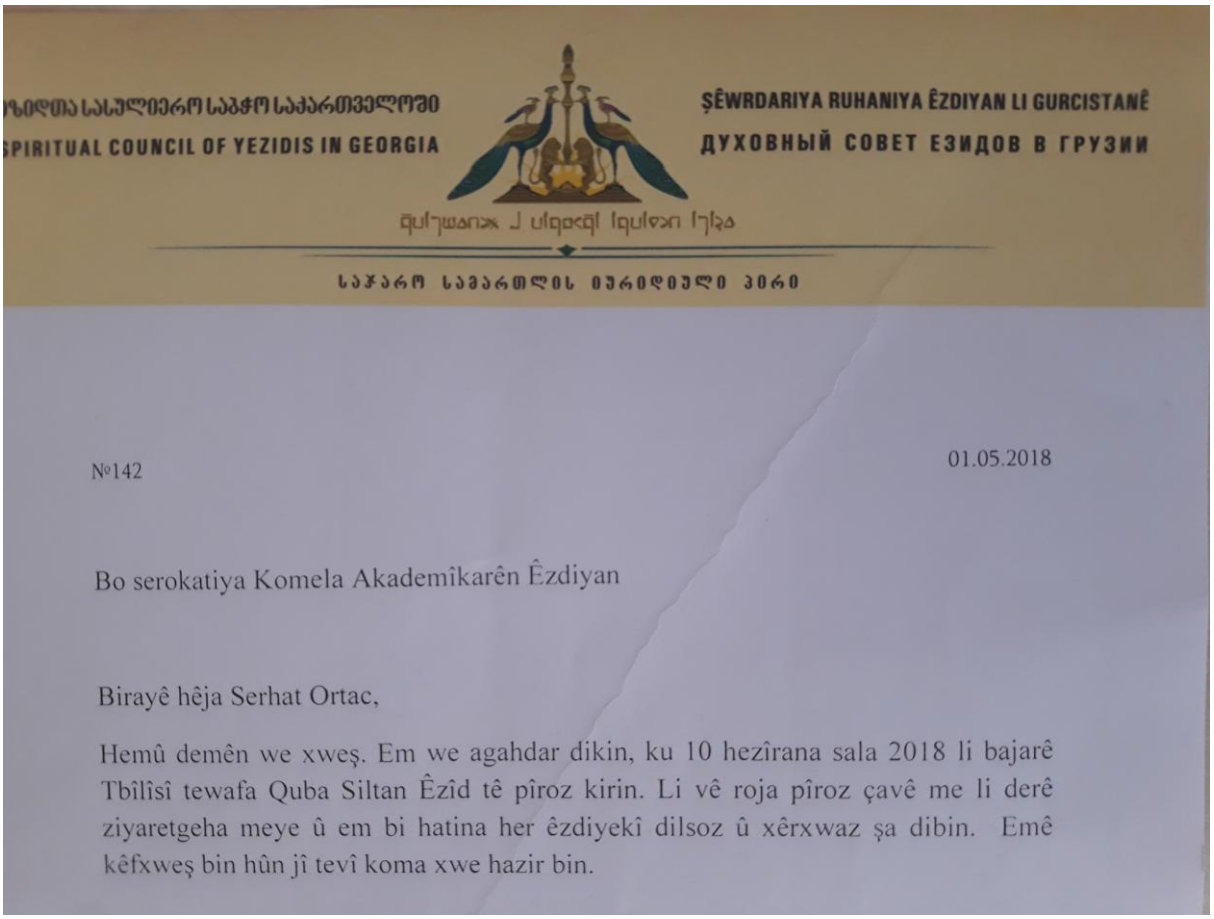


Figure 1: Yezidi manuscript samples (Marie 1911). Ligatures are encircled in red.



Figure 2: Yezidi manuscript sample.

The flower-shaped symbol in the first and last lines is a decorative element for aesthetic purposes only



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SPIRITUAL COUNCIL OF YEZIDIS IN GEORGIA

ŞÊWRDARIYA RUHANIYA ÊZDIYAN LI GURCISTANÊ
ДУХОВНЫЙ СОВЕТ ЕЗИДОВ В ГРУЗИИ

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№142 01.05.2018

Bo serokatiya Komela Akademîkarên Êzdiyan

Birayê hêja Serhat Ortac,

Hemû demên we xweş. Em we agahdar dikin, ku 10 hezîrana sala 2018 li bajarê Tbîlîsî tewafa Quba Siltan Êzîd tê pîroz kirin. Li vê roja pîroz çavê me li derê ziyaretgeha meye û em bi hatina her êzdiyekî dilsoz û xêrxwaz şa dibin. Emê kêfxweş bin hûn jî tevî koma xwe hazir bin.

Figure 3: Letterhead of the Spiritual Council of Yezidis in Georgia.



Figure 4: Yezidi inscription on the walls of the Yezidi temple in Tbilisi.



Figure 5: Yezidi inscription in the Yezidi temple in Tbilisi.

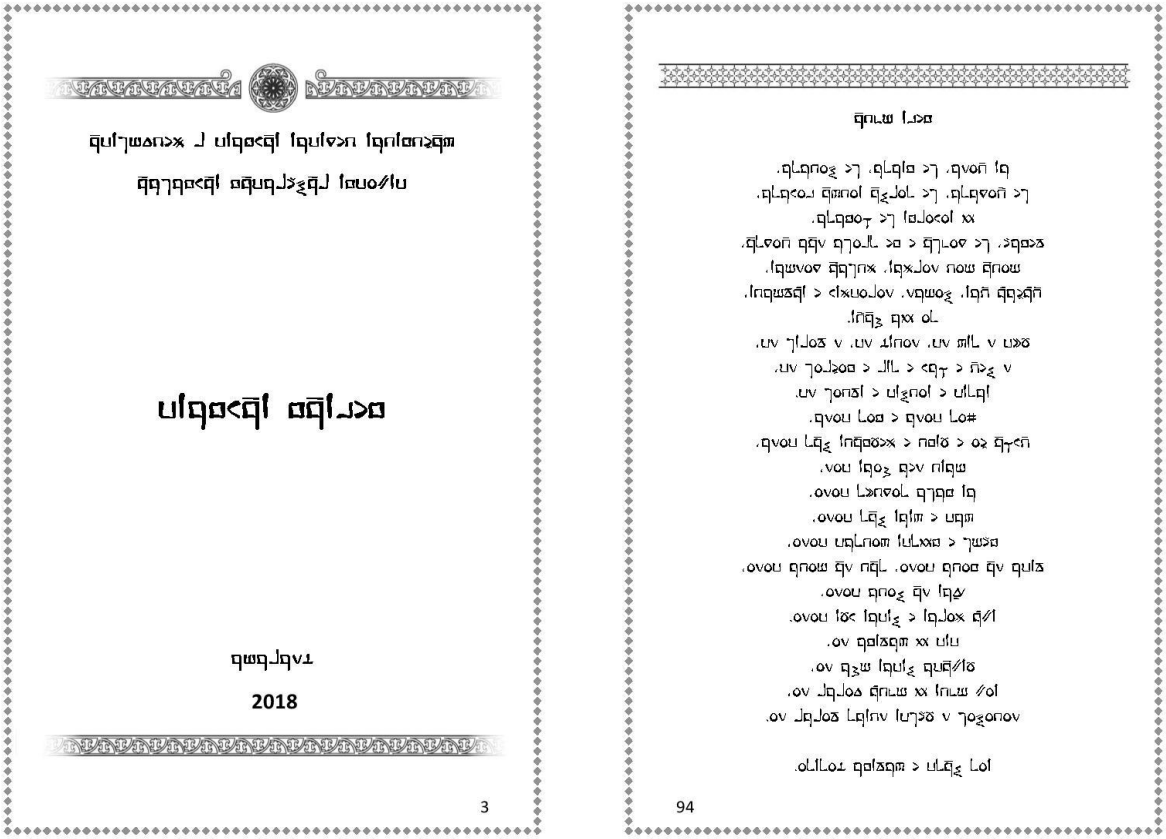

Figure 6: Title page and a sample page from the book of prayers *Dua'yêd Êzdiyan* (2018).

Figure 7: Samples from the book of prayers *Dua'yêd Êzdiyan* (2018) in Yezidi.

Figure 8: Yezidi alphabet from Marie (1911).