

## Organization of the dictionary

Roman representations are phonemic, including those of words spelled with و, whose pronunciation varies significantly between [v] and [w] depending on its immediate environment. و is pronounced more like [v] in the vicinity of front vowels and preceding /r/, and more like [w] in other environments. Despite dispute over the phonological status of the voiced dental affricate /dz/ ذغ, it is included, because of its salience and importance in the speech of many Khovar speakers. These transcriptions (\*not transliterations\*) of the Khovar words represent the pronunciation of the words as spoken by the two authors. The transcription system used is a variant of the traditional Indological system used in much of the literature about South Asian languages. It is laid out in the table below.

The letters are presented in their traditional alphabetical order (as in Persian and Urdu) with the Khovar special characters inserted following the letters of the same shape class.

### Consonants

Perso-Arabic letter	Phonetic description of sound	Roman transcription system used here
ب	voiced bilabial stop	b
پ	voiceless bilabial stop	p
پھ	voiceless aspirated bilabial stop	ph
ت	voiceless dental stop	t
تھ	voiceless aspirated dental stop	th
ٹ	voiced post-alveolar (retroflex) stop	ṭ
ٹھ	voiced aspirated post-alveolar (retroflex) stop	ṭh
ث	voiceless denti-alveolar fricative (in Persian or Arabic words only)	s
ج	voiced palatal affricate	j
جھ	voiced retroflex affricate	j
چ	voiceless unaspirated palatal affricate	č
چھ	voiceless aspirated palatal affricate	čh

<b>Perso-Arabic letter</b>	<b>Phonetic description of sound</b>	<b>Roman transcription system used here</b>
چ	voiceless unaspirated retroflex affricate	ç
چھ	voiceless aspirated retroflex affricate	çh
ح	glottal fricative	h
خ	voiceless velar fricative	x
تس	voiceless denti-alveolar affricate	ts
تسھ	voiceless aspirated denti-alveolar affricate	tsh
دس	voiced dental affricate	dz
د	voiced dental stop	d
ڌ	voiced post-alveolar (retroflex) stop	ɖ
ر	apico-alveolar tap	r
ز	voiced alveolar fricative	z
ڙ	voiced velarized lateral	ɽ
ڙھ	voiced palatal fricative	ʒ
ڙھ	voiced retroflex fricative	ʐ
س	voiceless alveolar fricative	s
ش	voiceless palatal fricative	ʃ
سھ	voiceless post-alveolar (retroflex) fricative	ʂ
ص	voiceless alveolar fricative (in Persian or Arabic origin words only)	s
ض	voiced alveolar fricative (in Persian or Arabic origin words only)	z
ط	voiceless dental stop (in Persian or Arabic origin words only)	t

<b>Perso-Arabic letter</b>	<b>Phonetic description of sound</b>	<b>Roman transcription system used here</b>
ظ	voiced alveolar fricative (in Persian or Arabic origin words only)	z
ع	in Persian or Arabic origin words only; does not correspond to an indigenous Khowar sound	various vowel letters
غ	voiced velar fricative	ɣ
ف	voiceless labio-dental fricative	f
ق	voiceless post-velar stop	q
قه	voiceless post-velar stop, aspirated	qh
ک	voiceless velar stop	k
که	voiceless aspirated velar stop	kh
گ	voiced velar stop	g
ل	apico-alveolar lateral	l
م	bilabial nasal	m
ن	dental-alveolar nasal	n
و	labio-dental semivowel	v
ه	glottal fricative	h
ه	used only to indicate aspiration	h
ی	palatal semivowel	y

## Vowels

Khovar has a five-vowel system, usually represented as /i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, and /u/. They are shown in the table below.

Perso-Arabic letters used to represent vowels	Phonetic description of sound	Roman transcription system used here
ا	low back unrounded vowel	a
آ (final position only)	low back unrounded vowel	a
اِ اِي	high-front unrounded vowel high-front unrounded vowel mid-front unrounded vowel	i (initial position) i (medial and final positions) e (medial position)
آ (final position only)	mid-front unrounded vowel	e (final position only)
اُ او	high-back rounded vowel lower-mid, back rounded vowel	u (initial position) o (initial position)
و	lower-mid, back rounded vowel	o
ع	no indigenous Khovar sound	various vowel letters

Khovar vowels are distinguished by stress, which can be phonemically contrastive, rather than by length as in Urdu. For this reason, in the roman representations in this dictionary vowels in stressed syllables are marked with the acute accent symbol; thus /é/ means stressed /e/. Since length is not phonemically significant in Khovar, the letter  $\bar{a}$ , which represents long a /ā/ in Urdu, is not included in the Khovar character set here although some writers have included it for use with borrowed words. However, even Urdu words used regularly in Khovar and often spelled with  $\bar{a}$ , like  $\bar{a}m$  ‘mango’ are not pronounced with the long /ā/ of Urdu. A few words have a phonemically distinctive low tone; the vowels in such words are indicated with a doubled vowel symbol with an acute accent symbol on the second symbol. In some words the low tone is phonemic, for example, *doón* ‘ghee’, in contrast to *don* ‘tooth’. In others words, although a low tone is heard it is not contrastive. These audible low tones are also represented in this dictionary.

## Alphabetical order

The alphabetical order used in this dictionary is as follows:

ا، ب، پ، پھ، ت، تھ، ٹ، ٹھ، ث، ج، جھ، چ، چھ، چھ، ح، خ، ش، شھ، غ، د، ڈ، ذ، ر،  
ڑ، ز، ژ، س، ش، شھ، ص، ض، ط، ظ، ع، غ، ف، ق، قھ، ک، کھ، گ، ل، م، ن، و، ہ،  
ی۔

The special Khowar characters not present in the Urdu alphabet, are placed immediately after the character whose shape (and sound) they are closest to. Thus, for example, جھ /j/ immediately follows ج /j/.

Digraphs representing the unvoiced aspirated consonants, since they represent a single sound, are treated as one letter. Thus قھ، شھ، چھ، چھ، ٹھ، تھ and کھ are treated as single letters, and follow their unaspirated counterparts.

Sequences of a vowel followed by ء (hamza) follow the plain vowel in alphabetizing according to the second position in a word. The diacritics َ *zabar*, ِ *zer*, and ُ *peš*, representing /a/, /i/, and /u/, respectively, are not taken into account in alphabetizing.

Since this approximately 1,000-word dictionary is a pilot project, its goal is proof of concept, rather than completeness. The reader will find that no words beginning in some of the letters listed, i.e. ث، ذ، ط، and ظ occur in this small dictionary. Since these letters are found only in Arabic-origin words, there are not many words in Khowar that begin with them. This is not to say that words beginning with these letters are not used in Khowar, just that most of them are not among the frequently used words perceived as originally Khowar. A few, however, are; for instance, the words ظلم /zulum/ ‘cruelty’ and طالب pronounced /thalip/ in Khowar, ‘religious student’ are found in Naji Khan Naji’s *Khowar Urdu Lughat* [Khowar Urdu Dictionary]. Also, the aspirated voiceless consonant قھ /qh/ apparently does not appear word-initially, although it is found word-medially.

## Orthography

Although the character set of Khowar has been established, and fairly standardized for some time, spelling is not and varies widely among people who write in Khowar. The main problematic areas concern the spelling of vowel sounds. Work on standardization of spelling has been going on for many years, and the hope is that this dictionary may provide some further impetus and help toward this goal.

## Structure of an entry

Each entry contains the following elements: entry word in Khowar script, icon linking to the audio recording of the entry word, roman representation of the entry word, abbreviated indication of part of speech, English gloss(es), example sentence in Khowar script, icon linking

to the audio recording of the example sentence, and English translation of the example sentence. Readers using the online version of the dictionary can hear the audio by clicking on the speaker icons. If the dictionary PDF file is downloaded, readers can also hear the linked audio but only if they are using a computer connected to the Internet. The printed, hard copy, version of the dictionary contains the speaker icons merely to indicate where the electronic editions have audio available.

Abbreviations used to indicate the part of speech are: *n* noun, *adj* adjective, *adv* adverb, *vi* intransitive verb, and *vt* transitive verb. “*lit.*” indicates the literal meaning, which in many cases does not convey the intended sense.

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