

## Front material - Khowar

### Structure of an entry.

An entry in this digital dictionary consists of a Khowar word in Khowar script, followed by a phonetic transcription in a roman-based script, an abbreviation indicating the grammatical form or part of speech of the word, and an English gloss (simplified meaning). Then a Khowar sentence exemplifying the use of the entry word is given, followed by the English translation of that sentence.

### Abbreviations.

The following abbreviations for parts of speech are used:

n	noun
vi	verb, intransitive
vt	verb, transitive
adj	adjective
adv	adverb

### Phonetic symbols.

The symbols in the phonetic (roman) representations have the following values:

a - low mid vowel. Has the sound of Urdu ا (*alif*) or َ (zabar) but is not inherently long.

b - bilabial stop, voiced; as Urdu ب

č - palatal affricate, voiceless; as چ

čh - palatal affricate, voiceless and aspirated; as Urdu چھ

C - retroflex affricate, voiceless; retroflex counterpart of Urdu چ. The actual Khowar character

is ʈ which is چ modified with a small diacritic ɓ (*toye*) above two dots, rather than three

dots. This character is temporarily represented with the unicode characters for ʈ[box]

Ch - retroflex affricate, voiceless and aspirated; retroflex counterpart of Urdu چھ. Temporarily

represented with the unicode characters for ʈʰ[box]

d - dental stop, voiced; as Urdu د

D - retroflex stop, voiced; as Urdu ڊ

dz - alveolar affricate, voiced; represented with the symbol ڙ

e - mid front vowel; as Urdu ٺ

f - labio-dental fricative, voiceless; as Urdu ف

g - velar stop, voiced; as Urdu گ

G - velar fricative, voiced; as Urdu غ

h - pharyngeal fricative, voiceless; sounds as Urdu ه and ح

i - high front vowel; as Urdu ی or ِ (zer). No inherent length

j - palatal affricate, voiced; as Urdu ج

J - retroflex affricate, voiced; retroflex counterpart of Urdu ج . The

Khovar character is ڄ that is, ج modified by replacing the dot with a small diacritic ٻ

(toye). It is temporarily represented with the unicode characters ڄ[box].

k - velar stop, voiceless; as Urdu ک

kh - velar stop, voiceless and aspirated; as Urdu کھ

l - slightly palatalized liquid; as Urdu ل

L - velarized liquid; as the 'dark l' of English 'large'. This sound is represented with ڻ, which is the same character as Urdu retroflex /r/, although the Khovar sound is different.

m - bilabial nasal; as Urdu م

n - alveolar nasal; as Urdu ن

o - mid back vowel; as in Urdu دو 'two'; represented with و

p - bilabial stop, voiceless; as Urdu پ

q - post-velar stop, voiceless; as Urdu ق

r - alveolar flap; as Urdu ر

s - alveolar sibilant; sounds as Urdu س ص ش

š - palatal sibilant, voiceless; as Urdu ش

S - retroflex sibilant, voiceless; retroflex counterpart of Urdu ش. The Khovar character is wW

that is, ش modified so that the top dot is replaced by a small diacritic ʔ (*toye*). It is temporarily represented with the unicode characters for ش[box].

t - dental stop, voiceless; as Urdu ت

th - dental stop, voiceless and aspirated; as Urdu تھ

T - retroflex stop, voiceless; as Urdu ٹ

Th - retroflex stop, voiceless and aspirated; as Urdu ٹھ

ts - alveolar affricate, voiceless; represented by ٹس

u - high back vowel; as Urdu ʊ or ӯ (*pesh*); not inherently long

v - allophone of labial glide which precedes front vowels; represented by و

w - allophone of labial glide which precedes back vowels; represented by و

x - velar fricative, voiceless; as Urdu خ

y - palatal glide; consonantal value of ی

z - voiced alveolar sibilant; sounds as زذسظ

ž - palatal sibilant, voiced; as Urdu ژ

Z - retroflex sibilant, voiced; retroflex counterpart of ژ. The Khovar character is ʔ, that is, ش

modified so that the topmost dot is replaced by a small diacritic ʔ (*toye*). It is temporarily

represented by the Unicode characters for ش[box]

### **Representation of Khovar script.**

The digital dictionaries in the Digital Dictionaries of South Asia are encoded in Unicode, which means that only those characters which have been accepted by the Unicode Consortium and assigned a place and unique coding in the Unicode system can be properly displayed. Since the four Khovar letters S, C, J, and Z have not yet been included in that system, they can not yet be properly displayed in this digital dictionary. A temporary solution for this problem has been adopted in order to make the dictionary available, albeit in imperfect form, until such time as Unicode characters will be approved for the four unique Khovar consonant characters. These four Khovar characters are temporarily represented in this digital dictionary as follows:

Khovar letter    Temporary Unicode representation    Roman representation

گ	ج[box]	J
و	و[box]	C
wW	ش[box]	S
pW	ژ[box]	Z

**Spelling issues.**

The spelling of vowel sounds in Khovar is not yet completely standardized, but the spelling of consonant sounds is well established. Letters to represent for the six Khovar consonant sounds not present in Urdu or Persian were devised in 1921 by Prince Nasir-ul-Mulk when he published a suggested alphabet for Khovar. These Khovar letters have been in consistent use since that time.

There is considerable variation, however, among various writers of Khovar in the spelling of vowel sounds. Several issues are involved, among them the following. (1) Should vowel sounds be spelled as they would be if Urdu were being written, i.e. with full vowel letters only for indisputably long vowels and the diacritics *zer*, *zabar*, *pesh* for short vowels, or should their spelling reflect the different phonological system of Khovar, in which there is no phonemic distinction between long and short vowels? For example, should the "i" sound in the word *kíca* 'how' be spelled with *ye* or with *zer*, and should the final "a" sound be spelled with *aleph* or with *choTi he*? Since such questions are yet unresolved, four spellings of this word are encountered:

کچا, کچہ, کچہ, and کچہ. Should the locative ending -a 'in, at, on' be spelled with ے (*choTi he*) or

with ا (*aleph*)? From the morphophonological point of view, it would seem that this morpheme should be spelled consistently; however, some people feel that following certain letters it should be ا (*aleph*) while following certain other letters it is more properly represented as ے (*choTi he*), thus allowing for both spellings.

(2) To what extent should the spellings of borrowed words be retained? A case in point is the word for باربار or باربار 'good, fine'. This word has entered Khovar more than once: first

from Persian, then from Urdu. The original borrowing, in its Khovar pronunciation is باربار with the meaning 'good, fine'. The same Persian word borrowed into Urdu means 'equal' and is spelled برابر. The resolution of this and other similar questions will depend on the degree to which each individual word comes to be judged as a an original or thoroughly assimilated

Khowar word, or as a borrowed word; and on the degree to which preservation of the historical spelling is deemed important for each individual word. The spellings in this sample dictionary will illustrate some of these issues.

**Location and dialect represented.**

For the initial stage of this project, in order to keep usage and spelling as consistent as possible, it was decided to begin with speakers who share the same dialect. Both of the speakers whose usage and pronunciation are reflected in this digital dictionary so far are from village Zondrangram in the Terich valley in Tehsil Mulkhaw. The two speakers represented so far are Rahmat Karim Baig, Professor of English currently in Government Degree College, Booni, and Maula Nigah, currently Headmaster, Government High School, Zondrangram, Tehsil Mulkhaw.

If additional materials are added later, different dialectal variations can be represented, with appropriate indication of the source of the materials.