

Poetry

From the Anglo-Saxon Rune Poem (Rune version):

ՄՏԻՒԲԻՍՐԲՄՈՐՄԻՐԲՒՄՔՄԻՐԲԻՒՆՈՒ

[illegible]

XIP·HM·PITM·PFR·MRIN↑↑M·MFMMH·HN↑↑F↑:

From *Lazamon's Brut* (The Chronicles of England, Middle English, West Midlands):

An preost wes on leoden, Lazamon was ihoten

He wes Leovenaðes sone -- liðe him be Drihten.

He wonede at Ernleȝe at æðelen are chirechen,

Uppen Sevarne stape, sel þar him þuhte,

Onfest Radestone, þer he bock radde.

(The third letter in the author's name is Yogh, missing from many fonts; [CLICK HERE](#) for another Middle English sample with some explanation of letters and encoding).

From the Tagelied of Wolfram von Eschenbach (Middle High German):

Sîne klâwen durh die wolken sint geslagen,

er stîget ûf mit grôzer kraft,

ich sih in grâwen tãgelîch als er wil tagen,

den tac, der im geselleschaft

erwenden wil, dem werden man,

den ich mit sorgen in verliez.

ich bringe in hinnen, ob ich kan.

sîn vil manegiu tugent michz leisten hiez.

Some lines of Odysseus Elytis (Greek):

Monotonic:

Τ ἡ γλώσσα μου έδωσαν ελληνική

τ ο σπίτι φτωχικό στις αμμουδιές του Ομήρου.

Μ ο ν ά χ η έγνοια η γλώσσα μου στις αμμουδιές του Ομήρου.

α π ό το Άξιον Εστί

τ ο υ Οδυσσέα Ελύτη

Polytonic:

Τ ἡ γλῶσσα μοῦ ἔδωσαν ἐλληνική

τ ὀ σπίτι φτωχικό στις ἀμμουδιές τοῦ Ὁμήρου.

Μ ο ν ά χ η ἔγνοια ἡ γλῶσσα μου στις ἀμμουδιές τοῦ Ὁμήρου.

ἀπὸ τὸ Ἄξιον ἐστί

τ ο ὕ Ὁδυσσέα Ἐλύτη

The first stanza of Pushkin's Bronze Horseman (Russian):

Н а берегу пустынных волн

С т о я л он, дум великих полн,

И вдаль глядел. Пред ним широко

Р е к а неслася; бедный чёлн

П о ней стремился одиноко.

П о мшистым, топким берегам

Ч е р н е л и избы здесь и там,

П р и ю т убогого чухонца;

И лес, неведомый лучам

В тумане спрятанного солнца,

К р у г о м шумел.

Šota Rustaveli's Vep̄xis T̄q̄aosani, Th, The Knight in the Tiger's Skin (Georgian):

ვეპ̄ხის ტყაოსანი შოთა რუსთაველი

ღმერთსი შემვედრე, ნუთუ კვლა დამხსნას სოფლისა შრომასა, ცეცხლს, წყალსა და მიწასა,
ჰაერთა თანა მრომასა; მომცნეს ფრთენი და აღფრინდე, მივჰხედუ მას ჩემსა ნდომასა,
დღისით და ღამით ვჰხედვიდე მზისა ელვათა კრთომასა.

Tamil poetry of Subramaniya Bharathiyar: சுப்ரமணிய பாரதியார் (1882-1921):

யாமறிந்த மொழிகளிலே தமிழ்மொழி போல் இனிதாவது எங்கும் காணோம்,
பாமரராய் விலங்குகளாய், உலகனைத்தும் இகழ்ச்சிசொலப் பான்மை கெட்டு,
நாமமது தமிழரெனக் கொண்டு இங்கு வாழ்ந்திடுதல் நன்றோ? சொல்லீர்!
தேமதுரத் தமிழோசை உலகமெலாம் பரவும்வகை செய்தல் வேண்டும்.

Kannada poetry by Kuvempu — ಬಾ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಭವಿಸು

ಬಾ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಭವಿಸು ಇಂದೆನ್ನ ಹೃದಯದಲಿ

ನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಅವತರಿಸ ಸತ್ಯವತಾರ

ಮಣ್ಣಾಗಿ ಮರವಾಗಿ ಮಿಗವಾಗಿ ಕಗವಾಗೀ...

ಮಣ್ಣಾಗಿ ಮರವಾಗಿ ಮಿಗವಾಗಿ ಕಗವಾಗಿ

ಭವ ಭವದಿ ಭತಿಸಿಹೇ ಭವತಿ ದೂರ

ನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಅವತರಿಸ ಸತ್ಯವತಾರ || ಬಾ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ||

I Can Eat Glass

And from the sublime to the ridiculous, here is a certain phrase¹ in an assortment of languages:

Sanskrit: काचं शक्नोम्यत्तुम् । नोपहिनस्ति माम् ॥

Sanskrit (standard transcription): kācaṃ śaknomyattum; nopahinasti mām.

Classical Greek: ὕαλον φαγεῖν δύνάμει· τοῦτο οὐ με βλάπτει.

Greek (monotonic): Μπορώ να φάω σπασμένα γυαλιά χωρίς να πάθω τίποτα.

Greek (polytonic): Μπορῶ νὰ φάω σπασμένα γυαλιὰ χωρίς νὰ πάθω τίποτα.

Etruscan: (NEEDED)

Latin: Vitrum edere possum; mihi non nocet.

Old French: Je puis mangier del voirre. Ne me nuit.

French: Je peux manger du verre, ça ne me fait pas mal.

Provençal / Occitan: Pòdi manjar de veire, me nafrariá pas.

Québécois: J'peux manger d'la vitre, ça m'fa pas mal.

Walloon: Dji pou magnî do vêre, çoula m' freut nén mǎ.

Champenois: (NEEDED)

Lorrain: (NEEDED)

Picard: Ch'peux mingi du verre, cha m'foé mie n'ma.

Corsican/Corsu: (NEEDED)

Jèrriais: (NEEDED)

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haiti): Mwen kap manje vè, li pa blese'm.

Basque: Kristala jan dezaket, ez dit minik ematen.

Catalan / Català: Puc menjar vidre, que no em fa mal.

Spanish: Puedo comer vidrio, no me hace daño.

Aragonés: Puedo minchar beire, no me'n fa mal .

Aranés: (NEEDED)

Mallorquín: (NEEDED)

Galician: Eu podo xantar cristais e non cortarme.

European Portuguese: Posso comer vidro, não me faz mal.

Brazilian Portuguese (8): Posso comer vidro, não me machuca.

Caboverdiano/Kabuverdianu (Cape Verde): M' podê cumê vidru, ca ta maguâ-m'.

Papiamentu: Ami por kome glas anto e no ta hasimi daño.

Italian: Posso mangiare il vetro e non mi fa male.

Milanese: Sôn bôn de magnà el véder, el me fa minga mal.

Roman: Me posso magna' er vetro, e nun me fa male.

Napoletano: M' pozz magna' o'vetr, e nun m' fa mal.

Venetian: Mi posso magnare el vetro, no'l me fa mae.

Zeneise (Genovese): Pòsso mangiâ o veddro e o no me fà mâ.

Sicilian: Puotsu mangiari u vitru, nun mi fa mali.

Campinadese (Sardinia): (NEEDED)

Lugudorese (Sardinia): (NEEDED)

Romansch (Grischun): Jau sai mangiar vaider, senza che quai fa donn a mai.

Romany / Tsigane: (NEEDED)

Romanian: Pot să mănânc sticlă și ea nu mă rănește.

Esperanto: Mi povas manĝi vitron, ĝi ne damaĝas min.

Pictish: (NEEDED)

Breton: (NEEDED)

Cornish: Mý a yl dybry gwéder hag éf ny wra ow ankenya.

Welsh: Dw i'n gallu bwyta gwydr, 'dyw e ddim yn gwneud dolur i mi.

Manx Gaelic: Foddym gee glonney agh cha jean eh gortaghey mee.

Old Irish (Ogham):

Old Irish (Latin): Con·iccim ithi nglano. Ním·géna.

Irish: Is féidir liom gloinne a ithe. Ní dhéanann sí dochar ar bith dom.

Ulster Gaelic: Ithim-sa gloine agus ní miste damh é.

Scottish Gaelic: S urrainn dhomh gloinne ithe; cha ghoirtich i mi.

Anglo-Saxon (Runes): **l̥k·m̥f̥x·x̥l̥f̥h·m̥f̥t̥f̥t̥·f̥t̥m̥·h̥l̥t̥·t̥m̥·h̥m̥f̥r̥m̥l̥f̥þ̥·m̥m̥:**

Anglo-Saxon (Latin): Ic mæg glæs eotan ond hit ne hearmiað me.

Middle English: Ich canne glas eten and hit hirtip me nouzt.

English: I can eat glass and it doesn't hurt me.

English (IPA): [aɪ kæn i:t glɑ:s ænd ɪt dez nɒt hɜ:t mi:] (Received Pronunciation)

English (Braille): ⠠⠏⠞⠨⠦⠢⠒⠶⠼⠠⠑⠗⠽⠸⠡⠤⠲

Jamaican: Mi kian niam glas han i neba hot mi.

Lalland Scots / Doric: Ah can eat gless, it disnae hurt us.

Glaswegian: (NEEDED)

Gothic (4): 𐌲𐌹𐌶𐌰 𐌲𐌹𐌶𐌰𐌰 𐌰𐌶𐌲𐌹𐌶, 𐌲𐌹𐌶 𐌲𐌹𐌶𐌰 𐌲𐌹𐌶 𐌲𐌹𐌶𐌰𐌰 𐌲𐌹𐌶𐌰𐌰𐌰𐌰𐌰.

Old Norse (Runes): Mᚢ XMᚦ MᚦI ᚩ XIᚓR ᚿᚦ ᚩᚓᚕᚕ ᚼᚩ ᚾᚓ Rᚩᚼ ᚕᚼR

Old Norse (Latin): Ek get etið gler án þess að verða sár.

Norsk / Norwegian (Nynorsk): Eg kan eta glas utan å skada meg.

Norsk / Norwegian (Bokmål): Jeg kan spise glass uten å skade meg.

Føroyskt / Faroese: Eg kann eta glas, skaðaleysur.

Íslenska / Icelandic: Ég get etið gler án þess að meiða mig.

Svenska / Swedish: Jag kan äta glas utan att skada mig.

Dansk / Danish: Jeg kan spise glas, det gør ikke ondt på mig.

Sønderjysk: Æ ka æe glass uhen at det go mæ naue.

Frysk / Frisian: Ik kin glêse ite, it docht me net sear.

Nederlands / Dutch: Ik kan glas eten, het doet mij geen kwaad.

Kirchröadsj/Bôchesserplat: Iech ken glaas èèse, mer 't deet miech jing pieng.

Afrikaans: Ek kan glas eet, maar dit doen my nie skade nie.

Lëtzebuergesch / Luxemburgish: Ech kan Glas iessen, daat deet mir nët wei.

Deutsch / German: Ich kann Glas essen, ohne mir zu schaden.

Ruhrdeutsch: Ich kann Glas verkasematuckeln, ohne dattet mich wat jucken tut.

Langenfelder Platt: Isch kann Jlaas kimmeln, uuhne datt mich datt weh dääd.

Lausitzer Mundart ("Lusatian"): Ich koann Gloos assn und doas dudd merr ni wii.

Odenwälderisch: Iech kann glaasch vorschachteln ohne dass es mir ebbs daun doun dud.

Sächsisch / Saxon: 'sch kann Glos essn, ohne dass'sch mer wehtue.

Pfälzisch: Isch kann Glass fresse ohne dasses mer ebbes ausmache dud.

Schwäbisch / Swabian: I kå Glas frässa, ond des macht mr nix!

Deutsch (Voralberg): I ka glas eassa, ohne dass mar weh tuat.

Bayrisch / Bavarian: I koh Glos esa, und es duard ma ned wei.

Allemannisch: I kaun Gloos essen, es tuat ma ned weh.

Schwyzerdütsch (Zürich): Ich chan Glaas ässe, das schadt mir nöd.

Schwyzerdütsch (Luzern): Ech cha Glâs ässe, das schadt mer ned.

Plautdietsch: (NEEDED)

Hungarian: Meg tudom enni az üveget, nem lesz tőle bajom.

Suomi / Finnish: Voin syödä lasia, se ei vahingoita minua.

Sami (Northern): Sáhtán borrat lása, dat ii leat bávvččas.

Erzian: Мон ярсан суликадо, ды зыян эйстэнээ а ули.

Northern Karelian: Mie voin syvvä lasie ta minla ei ole kipie.

Southern Karelian: Minä voin syvvä st'oklua dai minule ei ole kibie.

Vepsian: (NEEDED)

Votian: (NEEDED)

Livonian: (NEEDED)

Estonian: Ma võin klaasi süüa, see ei tee mulle midagi.

Latvian: Es varu ēst stiklu, tas man nekaitē.

Lithuanian: Aš galiu valgyti stiklą ir jis manęs nežeidžia

Old Prussian: (NEEDED)

Sorbian (Wendish): (NEEDED)

Czech: Mohu jíst sklo, neublíží mi.

Slovak: Môžem jesť sklo. Nezraní ma.

Polska / Polish: Mogę jeść szkło i mi nie szkodzi.

Slovenian: Lahko jem steklo, ne da bi mi škodovalo.

Croatian: Ja mogu jesti staklo i ne boli me.

Serbian (Latin): Ja mogu da jedem staklo.

Serbian (Cyrillic): Ja могу да једем стакло.

Macedonian: Мојам да јадам стакло, а не ме штета.

Russian: Я могу есть стекло, оно мне не вредит.

Belarusian (Cyrillic): Я магу есці шкло, яно мне не шкодзіць.

Belarusian (Lacinka): Ja mahu jeści škło, jano mne ne škodzić.

Ukrainian: Я можу їсти скло, і воно мені не зашкодить.

Bulgarian: Мога да ям стъкло, то не ми вреди.

Georgian: მინას ვჭამ და არა მტკივნა.

Armenian: Կրնամ ապակի ուտել և ինձի անհանգիստ չըներ:

Albanian: Unë mund të ha qelq dhe nuk më gjen gjë.

Turkish: Cam yiyebilirim, bana zararı dokunmaz.

Turkish (Ottoman): طوقونمز ضرری ب گاب لورم یه جام

Bangla / Bengali: আমি কাঁচ খেতে পারি, তাতে আমার কোনো ক্ষতি হয় না।

Marathi: मी काच खाऊ शकतो, मला ते दुखत नाही.

Kannada: ನನಗೆ ಹಾನಿ ಆಗದೆ, ನಾನು ಗಜನ್ನು ತಿನ್ನಬಹುದು

Hindi: मैं काँच खा सकता हूँ और मुझे उससे कोई चोट नहीं पहुंचती.

Tamil: நான் கண்ணாடி சாப்பிடுவேன், அதனால் எனக்கு ஒரு கேடும் வராது.

Telugu: నేను గాజు తినగలను మరియు అలా చేసినా నాకు ఏమి ఇబ్బంది లేదు

Sinhalese: මම වීදුරු කෑමට හැකියි. එයින් මට කිසි හානියක් සිදු නොවේ.

Urdu(3): -پوتے نہ ہیں تہ کل یف مجھے اور ہوں سدک تاک چاک انچ میں

Pashto(3): خوروي نه ما هغه شم، خورلې شېشه زه

Farsi / Persian(3): ب خورم شېشه درد ادساس بدون ت وادم می من.

Arabic(3): .يؤلمني لا هذا والزجاج أكل على قادر أنا

Aramaic: (NEEDED)

Maltese: Nista' niekol il-ħġieġ u ma jagħmilli xejn.

Hebrew(3): .לי מזיק לא זהו זכוכית לאכול יכול אני

Yiddish(3): .אויי נישט מיר טוט עס און גלאז עסן קען איך

Judeo-Arabic: (NEEDED)

Ladino: (NEEDED)

Gə'əz: (NEEDED)

Amharic: (NEEDED)

Twi: Metumi awe tumpan, ɔnyɔ me hwee.

Hausa (Latin): Inā iya taunar gilāshi kuma in gamā lāfiyā.

Hausa (Ajami) (2): لَا فِئَا عَمَّا إِن كُمُ غِلَاشٍ تَوَنَّرَ إِيَّ إِنَّا

Bislama: Mi save kakae glas, hemi no save katem mi.

Hebrew(2): לי מזיק לא וזה זכויות לאכול יכול אני:

Yiddish(2): אויך נישט מיר טוט עס און גלאַז עסן קען איך.

Arabic(2): يولممني لا هذا والزجاج أكل على قدر أنا.

Japanese: 私はガラスを食べられます。それは私を傷つけません。

Thai: ฉันกินกระจกได้ แต่มันไม่ทำให้ฉันเจ็บ

Notes:

The "I can eat glass" phrase and initial translations (about 30 of them) were borrowed from Ethan Mollick's I Can Eat Glass page (which disappeared on or about June 2004) and converted to UTF-8. Since Ethan's original page is gone, I should mention that his purpose was to offer travelers a phrase they could use in any country that would command a certain kind of respect, or at least get attention. See Credits for the many additional contributions since then. When submitting new entries, the word "hurt" (if you have a choice) is used in the sense of "cause harm", "do damage", or "bother", rather than "inflict pain" or "make sad". In this vein Otto Stolz comments (as do others further down; personally I think it's better for the purpose of this page to have extra entries and/or to show a greater repertoire of characters than it is to enforce a strict interpretation of the word "hurt"!):

This is the meaning I have translated to the Swabian dialect. However, I just have noticed that most of the German variants translate the "inflict pain" meaning. The German example should read:

"Ich kann Glas essen ohne mir zu schaden."

rather than:

"Ich kann Glas essen, ohne mir weh zu tun."

(The comma fell victim to the 1996 orthographic reform, cf. <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/reform/e3-1.html#P76>).

You may wish to contact the contributors of the following translations to correct them:

Lëtzebuergesch / Luxemburgish: Ech kan Glas iessen, daat deet mir nët wei.

Lausitzer Mundart ("Lusatian"): Ich koann Gloos assn und doas dudd merr ni wii.

Sächsisch / Saxon: 'sch kann Glos essn, ohne dass'sch mer wehtue.

Bayrisch / Bavarian: I koh Glos esa, und es duard ma ned wei.

Allemannisch: I kaun Gloos essen, es tuat ma ned weh.

Schwyzerdütsch: Ich chan Glaas ässe, das tuet mir nöd weeh.

In contrast, I deem the following translations *alright*:

Ruhrdeutsch: Ich kann Glas verkasematuckeln, ohne dattet mich wat jucken tut.

Pfälzisch: Isch kann Glass fresse ohne dasses mer ebbes ausmache dud.

Schwäbisch / Swabian: I kå Glas frässa, ond des macht mr nix!

(However, you could remove the commas, on account of <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/reform/e3-1.html#P76> and <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/reform/e3-1.html#P72>, respectively.)

I guess, also these examples translate the wrong sense of "hurt", though I do not know these languages well enough to assert them definitely:

Nederlands / Dutch: Ik kan glas eten; het doet mij geen pijn. (This one has been changed)

Kirchröadsj/Bôchesserplat: Iech ken glaas èèse, mer 't deet miech jing pieng.

In the Romanic languages, the variations on "fa male" (it) are probably wrong, whilst the variations on "hace daño" (es) and "damaĝas" (Esperanto) are probably correct; "nocet" (la) is definitely right.

The northern Germanic variants of "skada" are probably right, as are the Slavic variants of "škodi/шкоди" (se); however the Slavic variants of "boli" (hv) are probably wrong, as "bolena" means "pain/ache", IIRC.

That was from July 2004. In December 2007, Otto writes again:

Hello Frank, in days of yore, I had written:

> "Ich kann Glas essen ohne mir zu schaden."

> (The comma fell victim to the 1996 orthographic reform,

cf. <http://www.ids-mannheim.de/reform/e3-1.html#P76>.

The latest revision (2006) of the official German orthography has revived the comma around infinitive clauses commencing with *ohne*, or 5 other conjunctions, or depending from a noun or from an announcing demonstrative (<http://www.ids-mannheim.de/reform/regeln2006.pdf>, §75). So, it's again: *Ich kann Glas essen, ohne mir zu schaden*.

Best wishes,

Otto Stolz

The numbering of the samples is arbitrary, done only to keep track of how many there are, and can change any time a new entry is added. The arrangement is also arbitrary but with some attempt to group related examples together. Note: All languages not listed are wanted, not just the ones that say (NEEDED).

Correct right-to-left display of these languages depends on the capabilities of your browser. The period should appear on the left. In the monospace Yiddish example, the Yiddish digraphs should occupy one character cell.

Yoruba: The third word is Latin letter small 'j' followed by small 'e' with U+0329, Combining Vertical Line Below. This displays correctly only if your Unicode font includes the U+0329 glyph and your browser supports combining diacritical marks. The Lingala and Indic examples also include combining sequences.

Includes Unicode 3.1 (or later) characters beyond Plane 0.

The Classic Mongolian example should be vertical, top-to-bottom and left-to-right. But such display is almost impossible. Also no font yet exists which provides the proper ligatures and positional variants for the characters of this script, which works somewhat like Arabic.

Taiwanese is also known as Holo or Hoklo, and is related to Southern Min dialects such as Amoy. Contributed by Henry H. Tan-Tenn, who comments, "The above is the romanized version, in a script current among Taiwanese Christians since the mid-19th century. It was invented by British missionaries and saw use in hundreds of published works, mostly of a religious nature. Most Taiwanese did not know Chinese characters then, or at least not well enough to read. More to the point, though, a written standard using Chinese characters has never developed, so a significant minority of words are represented with different candidate characters, depending on one's personal preference or etymological theory. In this sentence, for example, "-tàng", "chiáh", "mā" and "bē" are problematic

using Chinese characters. "Góa" (I/me) and "po-lê" (glass) are as written in other Sinitic languages (e.g. Mandarin, Hakka)."

Wagner Amaral of Pinese & Amaral Associados notes that the Brazilian Portuguese sentence for "I can eat glass" should be identical to the Portuguese one, as the word "machuca" means "inflict pain", or rather "injuries". The words "faz mal" would more correctly translate as "cause harm".

Burmese: In English the first person pronoun "I" stands for both genders, male and female. In Burmese (except in the central part of Burma) kyundaw (ကျွန်ုပ်တို့) for male and kyanma (ကျွန်းမတို့) for female. Using here a fully-compliant Unicode Burmese font -- sadly one and only one Padauk Graphite font exists -- rendering using graphite engine. [CLICK HERE](#) to test Burmese characters.

From Louise Hope, 22 November 2010: I decided to have a go at an Inuktitut rendering, mainly in hopes of shaming someone who actually knows the language into coming up with something better. Meanwhile, try this:

၎င်းတို့၏ စာလုံးပုံများကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအတိုင်း ဖော်ပြပါမည်။

aliguq nirijaraangakku suranngittunnaqtunga


Loosely: I am able not to hurt myself whenever I eat glass.

aliguq >> glass (uninflected because it is the patient of a transitive verb in an ergative language)

nirijaraangakku >> "I eat him/her/it" in Frequentative mood (all one verb with inflectional ending, no affixes whatsoever)

surangittunnaqtunga >> suraq (do permanent harm) + nngit (verb-negator) + tunnaq (ability) + tunga (intransitive ending, making the verb passive or reflexive)

See above about someone who knows the language, et cetera.

Script trivia: the syllable ^ᐅᐅ is a single unicode character representing the two elements ^ᐅ (syllable-final n) and ^ᐅᐅ (syllable ngi). I think they just did it that way because it looks tidier than the expected ^ᐅᐅ. If your operating system didn't come with Euphemia (all-purpose UCAS font), you can download Pigiarniq. It comes with a jolly little inuksuk  that the Unicode Consortium is trying to make into a squatter.

The Quick Brown Fox... Pangrams

The "I can eat glass" sentences do not necessarily show off the orthography of each language to best advantage. In many alphabetic written languages it is possible to include all (or most) letters (or "special" characters) in a single (often nonsense) pangram. These were traditionally used in typewriter instruction; now they are useful for stress-testing computer fonts and keyboard input methods. Here are a few examples (SEND MORE):

English: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Jamaican: Chruu, a kwik di kwik brong fox a jomp huova di liezi daag de, yu no siit?

Irish: "An bfuil do croí ag bualadh ó fáitíos an grá a meall lena póg éada ó slí do leasa tú?" "D'fuascail íosa Úrmac na hÓige Beannaite pór Éava agus Ádairn."

Dutch: Pa's wijze lynx bezag vroom het fikse aquaduct.

German: Falsches Üben von Xylophonmusik quält jeden größeren Zwerg. (1)

German: Im finfteren Jagdſchloß am offenen Felsquellwaffer patzte der affig-flatterhafte kauzig-höfliche Bäcker über feinem verlifften kniffligen C-Xylophon. (2)

Norwegian: Blåbærsyltetøy ("blueberry jam", includes every extra letter used in Norwegian).

Swedish: Flygande bäckasiner söka strax hwila på mjuka tuvor.

Icelandic: Sævör grét áðan því úlpan var ónýt.

Finnish: (5) Törkylempijävongahdus (This is a perfect pangram, every letter appears only once. Translating it is an art on its own, but I'll say "rude lover's yelp". :-D)

Finnish: (5) Albert osti fagotin ja töräytti puhkuvan melodian. (Albert bought a bassoon and hooted an impressive melody.)

Finnish: (5) On sangen hauskaa, että polkupyörä on maanteiden jokapäiväinen ilmiö. (It's pleasantly amusing, that the bicycle is an everyday sight on the roads.)

Polish: Pchnąć w tę łódź jeża lub osiem skrzyń fig.

Czech: Příliš žluťoučký kůň úpěl ďábelské kódy.

Slovak: Starý kôň na hŕbe kníh žuje tíško povädnuté ruže, na stĺpe sa dáteľ učí kvákať novú ódu o živote.

Greek (monotonic): ξεσκεπάζω την ψυχοφθόρα βδελυγμία

Greek (polytonic): ξεσκεπάζω τὴν ψυχοφθόρα βδελυγμία

Russian: Съешь же ещё этих мягких французских булок да выпей чаю.

Russian: В чашах юга жил-был цитрус? Да, но фальшивый экземпляр! ёъ.

Bulgarian: Жълтата дюля беше щастлива, че пухът, който цъфна, замръзна като гьон.

Sami (Northern): Vuol Ruoŋa geđggiid leat máŋga luosa ja čuovžža.

Hungarian: Árvíztűrő tükörfúrógép.

Spanish: El pingüino Wenceslao hizo kilómetros bajo exhaustiva lluvia y frío, añoraba a su querido cachorro.

Portuguese: O próximo vôo à noite sobre o Atlântico, põe freqüentemente o único médico. (3)

French: Les naïfs ægithales hâtifs pondant à Noël où il gèle sont sûrs d'être déçus en voyant leurs drôles d'œufs abîmés.

Esperanto: Eĥoŝanĝo ĉiuĵaŭde.

Hebrew: בגן טוב עץ קרפד תנצח איך לשמוע סתם כיף זה.

Japanese (Hiragana):

いろはにほへと ちりぬるを

わがよたれぞ つねならむ

うゑのおくやま けふこえて

あさきゆめみじ ゑひもせず (4)

Notes:

Other phrases commonly used in Germany include: "Ein wackerer Bayer vertilgt ja bequem zwei Pfund Kalbshaxe" and, more recently, "Franz jagt im komplett verwahrlosten Taxi quer durch Bayern", but both lack umlauts and esszet. Previously, going for the shortest sentence that has all the umlauts and special characters, I had "Grüße aus Bärenhöfe (und Öechtringen)!" Acute accents are not used in native German words, so I was surprised to discover "Öechtringen" in the Deutsche Bundespost Postleitzahlenbuch:

It's a small village in eastern Lower Saxony. The "oe" in this case turns out to be the Lower Saxon "lengthening e" (Dehnungs-e), which makes the previous vowel long (used in a number of Lower Saxon place names such as Soest and Itzehoe), not the "e" that indicates umlaut of the preceding vowel. Many

thanks to the Óechtringen-Namenschreibungsuntersuchungskomitee (Alex Bochannek, Manfred Erren, Asmus Freytag, Christoph Päper, plus Werner Lemberg who serves as Óechtringen-Namenschreibungsuntersuchungskomiteerechtschreibungsprüfer) for their relentless pursuit of the facts in this case. Conclusion: the accent almost certainly does not belong on this (or any other native German) word, but neither can it be dismissed as dirt on the page. To add to the mystery, it has been reported that other copies of the same edition of the PLZB do not show the accent! UPDATE (March 2006): David Krings was intrigued enough by this report to contact the mayor of Ebstorf, of which Oechtringen is a borough, who responded:

Sehr geehrter Mr. Krings,

wenn Oechtringen irgendwo mit einem Akzent auf dem O geschrieben wurde, dann kann das nur ein Fehldruck sein. Die offizielle Schreibweise lautet jedenfalls „Oechtringen“.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Der Samtgemeindebürgermeister

i.A. Lothar Jessel

From Karl Pentzlin (Kochel am See, Bavaria, Germany): "This German phrase is suited for display by a Fraktur (broken letter) font. It contains: all common three-letter ligatures: ffi ffl fft and all two-letter ligatures required by the Duden for Fraktur typesetting: ch ck ff fi fl ft ll fch fi ff ft tz (all in a manner such they are not part of a three-letter ligature), one example of f-l where German typesetting rules prohibit ligating (marked by a ZWNJ), and all German letters a...z, ä,ö,ü,ß, f [long s] (all in a manner such that they are not part of a two-letter Fraktur ligature)." Otto Stolz notes that "'Schloß' is now spelled 'Schloss', in contrast to 'größer' (example 4) which has kept its 'ß'. Fraktur has been banned from general use, in 1942, and long-s (f) has ceased to be used with Antiqua (Roman) even earlier (the latest Antiqua-f I have seen is from 1913, but then I am no expert, so there may well be a later instance." Later Otto confirms the latter theory, "Now I've run across a book "Deutsche Rechtschreibung" (edited by Lutz Mackensen) from 1954 (my reprint is from 1956) that has kept the Antiqua-f in its dictionary part (but neither in the preface nor in the appendix)."

Diaeresis is not used in Iberian Portuguese.

From Yurio Miyazawa: "This poetry contains all the sounds in the Japanese language and used to be the first thing for children to learn in their Japanese class. The Hiragana version is particularly neat because it covers every character in the phonetic Hiragana character set." Yurio also sent the Kanji version:

色は匂へど 散りぬるを

我が世誰ぞ 常ならむ

有為の奥山 今日越えて

浅き夢見じ 酔ひもせず

Finnish pangrams from Mikko Ristilä.

Accented Cyrillic:

(This section contributed by Vladimir Marinov.)

In Bulgarian it is desirable, customary, or in some cases required to write accents over vowels. Unfortunately, no computer character sets contain the full repertoire of accented Cyrillic letters. With Unicode, however, it is possible to combine any Cyrillic letter with any combining accent. The appearance of the result depends on the font and the rendering engine. Here are two examples.

Т о ѝ видя бялата коса по главата ѝ и коса на рамото ѝ, и рече да ѝ рече: "Пара́та по́ па́ри от па́рата, не ща па́ри!", но си помисли: "Хей, помисли́ си! А́ ѝ река, а́ е скочила в тази река, която щеше да тече́, а не те́че."

П о пъ́тя пъту́ват кю́рди и югослава́ни.

HTML Features

Here is the Russian alphabet (uppercase only) coded in three different ways, which should look identical:

А Б В Г Д Е Ж З И Й К Л М Н О П Р С Т У Ф Х Ц Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ь Э Ю Я (Literal UTF-8)

А Б В Г Д Е Ж З И Й К Л М Н О П Р С Т У Ф Х Ц Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ь Э Ю Я (Decimal numeric character reference)

А Б В Г Д Е Ж З И Й К Л М Н О П Р С Т У Ф Х Ц Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ь Э Ю Я (Hexadecimal numeric character reference)

In another test, we use HTML language tags to distinguish Bulgarian, Russian, and Serbian, which have different italic forms for lowercase б, г, д, п, and/or т:

Bulgarian: [бгдпт] [бгдпт] Мога да ям стъкло и не ме боли.

Russian: [бгдпт] [бгдпт] Я могу есть стекло, это мне не вредит.

Serbian: [бгдпт] [бгдпт] Мору јести стакло а да ми не шкоди.

Credits, Tools, and Commentary

Credits:

The "I can eat glass" phrase and the initial collection of translations: Ethan Mollick. Transcription / conversion to UTF-8: Frank da Cruz. Albanian: Sindi Keesan. Afrikaans: Johan Fourie, Kevin Poalses. Anglo Saxon: Frank da Cruz. Arabic: Najib Tounsi. Armenian: Vaçe Kundakçi. Belarusian: Alexey Chernyak, Patricia Clausnitzer. Bengali: Somnath Purkayastha, Deepayan Sarkar. Bislama: Dan McGarry. Braille: Frank da Cruz. Bulgarian: Sindi Keesan, Guentcho Skordev, Vladimir Marinov. Burmese: "cetanapa". Cabo Verde Creole: Cláudio Alexandre Duarte. Catalán: Jordi Bancells. Chinese: Jack Soo, Wong Pui Lam. Chinook Jargon: David Robertson. Cornish: Chris Stephens. Croatian: Marjan Baće. Czech: Stanislav Pecha, Radovan Garabík. Dutch: Peter Gotink. Pim Blokland, Rob Daniel, Rob de Wit. Erzian: Jack Rueter. Esperanto: Franko Luin, Radovan Garabík. Estonian: Meelis Roos. Faroese: Jón Gaasedal. Farsi/Persian: Payam Elahi. Finnish: Sampsa Toivanen, Mikko Ristilä. French: Luc Carissimo, Anne Colin du Terrail, Sean M. Burke, Theo Morelli. Galician: Laura Probaos. Georgian: Giorgi Lebanidze. German: Christoph Päper, Otto Stolz, Karl Pentzlin, David Krings, Frank da Cruz, Peter Keel (Seegras), Elias Glantschnig. Gothic: Aurélien Coudurier. Greek: Ariel Glenn, Constantine Stathopoulos, Siva Nataraja, Christos Georgiou. Hebrew: Jonathan Rosenne, Tal Barnea. Hausa: Malami Buba, Tom Gewecke. Hawaiian: na Hau'oli Motta, Anela de Rego, Kaliko Trapp. Hindi: Shirish Kalele, Nitin Dahra. Hungarian: András Rácz, Mark Holczhammer. Icelandic: Andrés Magnússon, Sveinn Baldursson. International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA): Siva Nataraja / Vincent Ramos. Inuktitut: Louise Hope. Irish: Michael Everson, Marion Gunn, James Kass, Curtis Clark. Italian: Thomas De Bellis. Jamaican: Stephen J. Cherin. Japanese: Makoto Takahashi, Yurio Miyazawa. Kannada: Sridhar R N, Alok G. Singh. Karelian: Aleksandr Semakov. Khmer: Tola Sann. Kirchröadsj: Roger Stoffers. Kreyòl: Sean M. Burke. Korean: Jungshik Shin. Langenfelder Platt: David Krings. Lao: Tola Sann. Lëtzebuergesch: Stefaan Eeckels. Lingala: Denis Moyogo Jacquerye (Nkóta ya Kóngó míbalé) (Nkóta ya Kóngó míbalé). Lithuanian: Gediminas Grigas. Lojban: Edward Cherlin. Lusatian: Ronald Schaffhirt. Macedonian: Sindi Keesan. Malay: Zarina Mustapha. Maltese: Kenneth Joseph Vella. Manx: Éanna Ó Brádaigh. Marathi: Shirish Kalele. Marquesan: Kaliko Trapp. Middle English: Frank da Cruz. Milanese: Marco Cimarosti. Mongolian: Tom Gewecke. Neapolitano: Diego Quintano. Navajo: Tom Gewecke. Nórdicg: Ywlyan Rott. Nepali: Ujjwol Lamichhane, Rabi Tripathi. Norwegian: Herman Ranes, Håvard Kvålen. Odenwälderisch: Alexander Heß. Old Irish: Michael Everson. Old Norse: Andrés Magnússon. Papiamentu: Bianca and Denise Zanardi. Pashto: N.R. Liwal. Pfälzisch: Dr. Johannes Sander. Picard: Philippe Mennequier. Polish: Juliusz Chroboczek, Paweł Przeradowski, Włodzisław Kostecki. Portuguese: "Cláudio" Alexandre Duarte, Bianca and Denise Zanardi, Pedro Palhoto Matos, Wagner Amaral. Québécois: Laurent Detillieux. Roman: Pierpaolo Bernardi. Romanian: Juliusz Chroboczek, Ionel Mugurel. Romansch: Alexandre Suter. Ruhrdeutsch: "Timwi". Russian: Alexey Chernyak, Serge Nesterovitch. Sami: Anne Colin du Terrail, Luc Carissimo. Sanskrit: Siva Nataraja / Vincent Ramos. Sächsisch: André Müller. Schwäbisch: Otto Stolz. Scots: Jonathan Riddell. Serbian: Sindi Keesan, Ranko Narancic, Boris Daljevic, Szilvia Csorba, O. Dag. Sinhalese: Abdul-Ahad

(ASM). Slovak: G. Adam Stanislav, Radovan Garabík. Slovenian: Albert Kolar. Spanish: Aleida Morel, Laura Probaos. Swahili: Ronald Schaffhirt. Swedish: Christian Rose, Bengt Larsson. Taiwanese: Henry H. Tan-Tenn. Tagalog: Jim Soliven. Tamil: Vasee Vaseeharan, Vetrivel P. Telugu: Arjuna Rao Chavala. Tibetan: D. Germano, Tom Gewecke. Thai: Alan Wood's wife. Turkish: Vaçe Kundakçı, Tom Gewecke, Merlign Olnon. Ukrainian: Michael Zajac, Oleg Podsadny. Ulster Gaelic: Ciarán Ó Duibhín. Urdu: Mustafa Ali. Vietnamese: Dixon Au, [James] Đỗ Bá Phước 杜伯福. Walloon: Pablo Saratxaga. Welsh: Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru (Andrew). Yiddish: Mark David. Zeneise: Angelo Pavese.

Tools Used to Create This Web Page:

The UTF8-aware Kermit 95 terminal emulator on Windows, to a Unix host with the EMACS text editor. Kermit 95 displays UTF-8 and also allows keyboard entry of arbitrary Unicode BMP characters as 4 hex digits, as shown [HERE](#). Hex codes for Unicode values can be found in [The Unicode Standard](#) (recommended) and the [online code charts](#). When submissions arrive by email encoded in some other character set (Latin-1, Latin-2, KOI, various PC code pages, JEUC, etc), I use the TRANSLATE command of C-Kermit on the Unix host (where I read my mail) to convert the character set to UTF-8 (I could also use Kermit 95 for this; it has the same TRANSLATE command). That's it -- no "Web authoring" tools, no locales, no "smart" anything. It's just plain text, nothing more. By the way, there's nothing special about EMACS -- any text editor will do, providing it allows entry of arbitrary 8-bit bytes as text, including the 0x80-0x9F "C1" range. EMACS 21.1 actually supports UTF-8; earlier versions don't know about it and display the octal codes; either way is OK for this purpose.

Commentary:

Date: Wed, 27 Feb 2002 13:21:59 +0100

From: "Bruno DEDOMINICIS" <b.dedominicis@cite-sciences.fr>

Subject: Je peux manger du verre, cela ne me fait pas mal.

I just found out your website and it makes me feel like proposing an interpretation of the choice of this peculiar phrase.

Glass is transparent and can hurt as everyone knows. The relation between people and civilisations is sometimes effusional and more often rude. The concept of breaking frontiers through globalization, in a way, is also an attempt to deny any difference. Isn't "transparency" the flag of modernity? Nothing should be hidden any more, authority is obsolete, and the new powers are supposed to reign through loving and smiling and no more through coercion...

Eating glass without pain sounds like a very nice metaphor of this attempt. That is, frontiers should become glass transparent first, and be denied by incorporating them. On the reverse, it shows that

through globalization, frontiers undergo a process of displacement, that is, when they are not any more speakable, they become repressed from the speech and are therefore incorporated and might become painful symptoms, as for example what happens when one tries to eat glass.

The frontiers that used to separate bodies one from another tend to divide bodies from within and make them suffer.... The chosen phrase then appears as a denial of the symptom that might result from the destitution of traditional frontiers.

Best,

Bruno De Dominicis, Paris, France

Other Unicode pages onsite:

Frank's Compulsive Guide to Postal Addresses (especially the Index)

Peace in All Languages

Kermit 95 кліента SSH (Kermit 95 SSH Client documentation in Belarusian)

Representing Middle English on the Web with UTF-8

The Kermit Bibliography (in UTF-8)

Interchange of Non-English Computer Text (UTF-8 math and box-drawing)

Unicode Table (in UTF-8)

Unicode samplers and resources offsite:

Unicode Code Converter (converts among different Unicode encoding forms and notations).

Confusables (every silver lining has a cloud).

Seigniorage (Central Banks worldwide).

Michael Everson's Bibliography of Typography and Scripts

Does your browser support Unicode English? (James Kass)

I don't know, I only work here

Anyone can be provincial!

Example Unicode Usage for Business Applications

UTF-8 and Unicode FAQ for Unix/Linux

Unicode fonts:

Code 2000 (James Kass)

Unicode Fonts for Windows Computers (Alan Wood)

Unicode Fonts and Tools for X11 (Markus Kuhn)

Everson Mono (Michael Everson)

Agfa Monotype (now fonts.com)

[Kermit 95] [K95 Screen Shots] [C-Kermit] [Kermit Home] [Display Problems?] [The Unicode Consortium]

UTF-8 Sampler / The Kermit Project / Columbia University / kermit@columbia.edu