

Feedback : Noto Sans Thaana font

A modern thaana font is very much needed for the Maldivian community. So first of all i would like to welcome the initiation by the guys at Google.

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There already exists number of Thaana fonts, over 250 fonts have been identified by my college Jawish : <http://www.jawish.org/blog/archives/351-Thaana-Common-Fonts-Research.html>

His research gives us the most popular thaana fonts, which are

1. Mv Boli (by Microsoft)
2. A_Faseyha
3. A_Waheed

note : 2 & 3 are non-unicode fonts

entire list here : - <http://labs.jawish.org/cfr/>

Mv Boli

Even though MV Boli is the most popular Thaana font, it is widely hated by the community for the cheap handwritten style, in fact we recently have seen a petition to replace it with a better alternative. The petition has been signed by almost 500 supporters.

<http://www.change.org/petitions/microsoft-corporation-replace-the-default-mv-boli-font-with-a-better-alternative>

A_Faseyha & A_Waheed

These two fonts are not unicode, but we have seen the unicode version of these two fonts named as MV Faseyha & MV Waheed.

A_Faseyha / MV Faseyha is commonly used as a body font nad A_Waheed / MV Waheed is used for titles mostly due to its bolder weight.

Comparisons

MV Boli

اے سر سو سر سری دے سوئے را گتی ہے، اے سر سو سری فرمائیں

A_Faseyha

A_Waheed

وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَرْجُو أَنْ يُنْزَلَ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ، وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَرْجُو

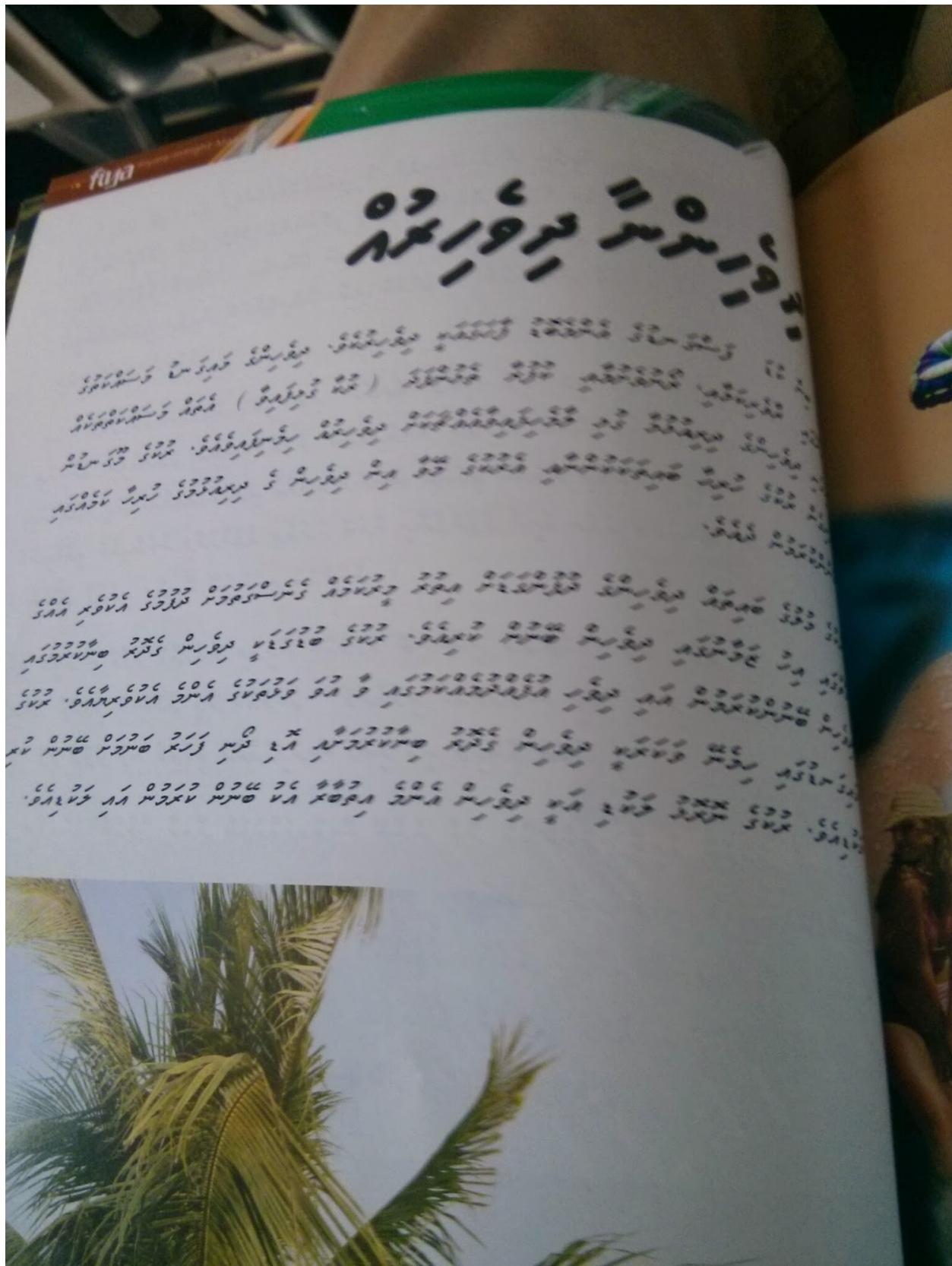
Noto Sans Thaana Regular

و سرگو سرگو برادرتی مونا، و سرگو سرگو خواهرتی مونا

Comparison of the three fonts with Noto Sans Thaana



A bold font used as a header in local news paper



A font like A_Faseyha used in the body of a local inflight magazine.

My Conclusion

Noto Sans Thaana font still looks like a hand drawn artistic font, it needs modern cleaner glyphs. Quite frankly it looks just a little better than the ugly MV Boli font. Noto sans needs a lot of work before it can be used by the community.

Questionnaire answers :

In general, how legible/readable is the Noto Sans Thaana font?

- not upto the standard, noto sanns need lots of improvement

Is the Noto Sans Thaana document font suitable for extended text reading? Imaging reading a large Wikipedia article in this font before answering this question.

- have to say no with the current version of the font.

Is the Noto Sans Thaana font too modern or too traditional?

- its handwritten!

What do you like about the Noto Sans Thaana font? Why?

- love the initiation by google to create a thaana font, what i lik

What do you not like about the Noto Sans Thaana font? Why?

- current glyphs looks ugly and is not yet suitable for applicational use.

Could you see this font working on an Android phone, computer screen (ChromeOS device and other OS), tablet, etc.?

- i see lots of potential in the font, if the font is improved to the standard, it can be used everywhere

In the section of the design proposal titled ‘Comparison of the new design with some similar designs,’ which font do you like be best? Which font do you like the least?

- both the compared fonts are good, Mv Eaman for title and MV Faseyha for body copy

Are the weights (Regular and Bold) and styles (Sans Document) sufficient for this language/script? Should we develop more styles (Sans UI and Serif Document) and/or weights (Light, Extra Bold)? Does it make sense to have ‘Italic’ styles for the Thaana script?

- weights are important, right now we are using different fonts for different weights. but italic and sans, that we will need to run some experiments.

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