ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR PASHTO
BGN/PCGN 1968 System

This system was adopted in 1968 for the romanization of Pashto geographic names in Afghanistan. Persian names in Afghanistan are romanized in accordance with the Romanization System for Persian (BGN/PCGN 1958 System), shown on pages 87- 92.

The Pashto alphabet utilizes Arabic script and displays the same characters as the Persian alphabet with the addition of seven consonant characters and one vowel character. Since both Pashto and Persian are official languages in Afghanistan, the same conversion values are used for all consonant characters which are common to the two languages. The seven additional Pashto consonant characters (shown below) are represented by Roman-script conversion values which suggest approximate pronunciations and which, in six instances, bear submacrons.

ټ خ ځ ډ ړ ږ ڼ

The Pashto system of vowel pointing resembles that of both Arabic and Persian but contains additional features found in neither language. As in other Arabic-script writing systems, the vowel points and some of the diacritical marks are generally omitted from both manual and machine writing and where used are not always consistent from text to text. Consequently, correct identification of the words which appear in any particular name and knowledge of their standard Pashto spelling, including proper voweling, are essential. It is also necessary to insure elimination of dialectal and idiosyncratic variations..

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Pashto				Romanization	Examples and Remarks
	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent		
1	ا			ا	not romanized in word-initial position	(See note 1.)
2	ـب	ـبـ	بـ	ب	b	بوهره Bowhara
3	ـپ	ـپـ	پـ	پ	p	پوتکی Pow_takay
4	ـت	ـتـ	تـ	ت	t	تنگی Tangay
5	ـټ	ـټـ	ټـ	ټ	ṯ	ټولی کلی Ṯowlay Kêlay

	Pashto				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
6	ـث	ـثـ	ثـ	ث	s̄	ثابر	S̄ābir
7	ـج	ـجـ	جـ	ج	j	جلۍ	Jalêy
8	ـچ	ـچـ	چـ	چ	ch	چمبر	Chambar
9	ـڅ	ـڅـ	څـ	څ	ts	څکی غر	Tsakay Ghar (See note 2.)
10	ـځ	ـځـ	ځـ	ځ	dz	ځای کلا	Dzāy Kalā (See notes 2 and 3.)
11	ـح	ـحـ	حـ	ح	ḥ	حیدر خونې	Ḥeydar Khūnē
12	ـخ	ـخـ	خـ	خ	kh	خټ کندۍ	Khut Kandêy
13	ـد			د	d	د تنگې کاربز	De Tāngē Kārēz
14	ـډ			ډ	ḏ	ډرانگ	Ḏrāng
15	ـڼ			ڼ	z̄	ڼواکې غر	Z̄êwākē Ghar
16	ـر			ر	r	رضوان	Riẕwān
17	ـړ			ړ	r̲	رنگان	R̲angān
18	ـز			ز	z	زواکه	Zwākah
19	ـژ			ژ	zh	ژوره کنده	Zhawarah Kandah
20	ـږ			ږ	z̲h	ږیرین	Z̲hiyarayn

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Romanization	Pashto	Examples and Remarks
21	ـس	ـسـ	سـ	س	s	سپينه	Sêpīnah
22	ـش	ـشـ	شـ	ش	sh	شنه وړی	Shnah Wuṟay
23	ـبﺶ	ـبﺸ	بﺸ	بﺶ	s̲h̲	بﻨكته چكاو	S̲hkattah Chakāw
24	ـص	ـصـ	صـ	ص	ş	صفدر كلـى	Şafdar Kalay
25	ـض	ـضـ	ضـ	ض	z̲	ضامن كلا	Z̲āmin Kalā
26	ـط	ـطـ	طـ	ط	ţ	طويل كلا	Ţawīl Kalā
27	ـظ	ـظـ	ظـ	ظ	z̧	ظاهر كلا	Z̧āhir Kalā
28	ـع	ـعـ	عـ	ع	ʽ	عمر خان	ʽUmar Khān
29	ـغ	ـغـ	غـ	غ	gh	غوى	Ghway
30	ـف	ـفـ	فـ	ف	f	فاضل كلا	Fāz̲il Kalā
31	ـق	ـقـ	قـ	ق	q	قندهار	Qandahār
32	ـگﻚ	ـكـ	كـ	گﻚ	k	كناتى	Kunātay
33	ـگﻚ	ـگـ	گـ	گﻚ	g	گروال	Garwāl (See note 4.)
	ﮒ	ﮔ	ﮔ	ﮒ			
34	ـل	ـلـ	لـ	ل	l	للمو لگد	Lalmow Lgad
35	ـم	ـمـ	مـ	م	m	مردان زائى	Mardān Zā'ī
36	ـن	ـنـ	نـ	ن	n	نغر	Nghar
37	ـڼ	ـڼـ	ڼـ	ڼ	n̲	توكنڼى	Towkan̲ay

		Pashto			Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
38	ـو			و	w	ودک	Waduk
39	ـه	ـهـ	هـ	ه	h	هودکی	Hawdakay
40	ـى	ـيـ	يـ	ى	y	يخناز	Yakhnāz
	ـي	ـيـ	يـ	ي	y		

VOWEL CHARACTERS AND DIACRITICAL MARKS

	Pashto	Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
1	◌َ	a	زور	Zawar
2	اَ◌	ā	خاډل	Khāḍal
			دوا	Dawā
3	◌ِ	i	دوال گی	Diwāl Gay
4	◌ِى	ī	میلی	Mīlī
5	◌ِي	ī	مندي سار	Mandī Sār
6	◌َیْ	ay	سیدان	Sayyidān
7	◌ِیْ	ey	میدان	Meydān
8	ئ	ey	کوئ	Kawey
9	ې	ē	ترکې کلاچه	Tarakē Kalāchah
10	◌ِو	ew	الژگرو	Alizhgrew
11	◌ٔ	ê	ذواکې	Ẕêwākē

82

	Pashto	Romanization	Examples and Remarks
12	ـّى	êy	ملـخى غنـدى Malikhêy Ghun<u>d</u>êy
13	□ُ	u	خمبر Khumbur
14	□ُو	ū	زور کلى Zū<u>r</u> Kilay
15	□ُوْ	ow	غوزي Ghowzī
16	□ُوى	ūy	اندوى Andūy
17	آ	ā	آداگي دبنته Ādāgī Da<u>sh</u>tah
18	□ء□	'	هوائى دگر Hawā'ī <u>D</u>agar (See note 6.)
19	□ّ	doubling of consonant letter	سيد Sayyid (See note 11.)

NUMERALS

•	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Although Perso-Arabic script is written from right to left, numerical expressions, e.g., ١٩٦٨ → **1968**, are written from left to right.

NOTES

1. *Alip* (١) should be romanized as follows:

   a. In word-initial position, *alip* should not be romanized.

   b. In word-initial position, *alip* with *maddah* (آ) should be romanized ā. (See the vowel table.)

   c. In word-medial and word-final position, *alip* should be romanized ā. (See the vowel table.)

d. In word-medial and word-final position in words of Arabic origin, *alip* may serve as a bearer of *hamzah*, e.g., رَأس → **ra's**. (See note 6.)

2. The characters *tsē* (څ) and *dzē* (ځ) may be romanized **t̄s** and **d̄z** when for special reasons it is desired that confusion be avoided between ت plus س and between د plus ز , respectively.

3. The character *dzē* (ځ) is sometimes written ج .

4. The character *gāp* (ګ) is sometimes written ك .

5. Occasionally the character sequences که , زه , سه , and گه occur. They may be romanized **k·h**, **z·h**, **s·h**, and **g·h** in order to differentiate those romanizations from the digraphs **kh**, **zh**, **sh**, and **gh**, which are used to represent the characters خ , ژ , ش , and غ .

6. *Hamzah* (ء) should be romanized as follows:

   a. In word-initial position, it should not be romanized. In all other positions, however, it should be romanized by an apostrophe, e.g., جزء → **juz'**.

   b. *Yē* with *hamzah* (ئ) should be romanized **ey**.

7. The division of words utilized in Pashto writing is followed in romanization, except that the elements **ābād** and **ollāh** are always romanized as part of the preceding word, e.g., **Raḥmatābād** and **'Abdollāh**. Also, Persian derivational endings such as **vand** and endings of Turkish origin such as **lar**, **lī**, and **lū** should be written together with the preceding word.

8. The Pashto article بﹴ should be romanized **de**, in agreement with its pronunciation, despite the fact that it is pointed with *zīr*.

9. The word اللّٰه , meaning God, should always be romanized **allāh**, except as specified in note 7.

10. In names of Arabic origin, the **l** of the definite article **al** is assimilated before the "sun letters" **t, s̄, d, z̄, r, z, s, sh, ṣ, ẓ, ṭ, ẓ**, and **n**. In romanization, the article should be separated from the name it precedes and should not be capitalized except at the beginning of a name, e.g., دار السلام **Dār as Salām**.

11. In names of Arabic origin, a consonant character which would ordinarily be written with a *shaddah* (ّ) in Arabic should be romanized by writing the equivalent consonant letter twice, e.g., محمد → **Muḥammad**.