Kasra position relative to shadda

Introduction

The *shadda* is normally drawn above the consonant it modifies, and the *kasra* is drawn below the consonant it follows. When both *shadda* and *kasra* follow a consonant, there is a difference in traditions about where the *kasra* is drawn: in some traditions, including Sindhi, the *kasra* remains below the consonant. In other traditions, including Arabic, the *kasra* is drawn above the consonant but below the *shadda*.

UTR53 implications

[Unicode Technical Report #53 (UTR53)](#) does not address the raised *kasra/kasratan* convention. As such it doesn't tell us what to do if there are other "above marks" on the base. But we can make some observations (since *kasra* and *kasratan* are treated the same, these observations just use the term *kasra*):

1. With a UTR53 implementation, in the absence of CGJ, the *kasra* will immediately follow the *shadda* (since we won't also have *damma* or *fatha*)

2. With CGJ, or in DirectWrite/Uniscribe, the results are unpredictable: the *kasra* could precede the *shadda* and there could be multiple marks between the two

3. If there is a *kasra* out beyond a CGJ, there are several possible interpretations we could make:

   1. The CGJ prevents the raised *kasra*

   2. The CGJ prevents the ligation (to allow *shadda* and *kasra* to be colored differently) but *kasra* remains raised (and just under the *shadda*)

   3. The CGJ has no impact (we go ahead and ligate *shadda+kasra* (or *kasra+shadda*) (**This is the solution SIL has gone with in their fonts**)

4. But an interpretation we cannot make is

   1. The *kasra* should -- because of the inside-out rendering assumed by UTR53 -- somehow be rendered above the *shadda*. (This cannot be correct since it would then appear to be a *fatha*)

Language preferences

Languages known to use raised *shadda+kasra* ligature: Arabic, Northern Kurdish (kmr), Kyrghiz (kir).

Languages known to leave the *kasra* lowered in the context of *shadda*: Rohingya (rhg), Sindhi (snd), Urdu (urd), Wolof (wol), and all Ajami use.

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