

Transcription Conventions and Documentation

Emirati Language Acquisition Corpus (EMALAC)

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Dimitrios Ntelitheos Dimitrios_N@uaeu.ac.ae

The transcription of the longitudinal data collected in this project is completed through later versions of the CLAN software (<http://childes.psy.cmu.edu/clan/>), which allow entering and analyzing Unicode CHAT files on Windows (98, NT, 2000, XP). This requires installing one or more Unicode fonts from the website's Library/Fonts area. Arial Unicode is selected as the default font (but other Unicode fonts may also be used). Older files can also be converted into UTF format using CLAN's CP2UTF program.

The font used in this project is **Arial Unicode MS (ARIALUNI.TTF)**, which allows the display of characters in most languages and includes a complete IPA extension. The font is included free in Microsoft Office Professional (or can be purchased from www.fontmarketplace.com for around \$29.95). The font is a very large file (around 23.0 MB) and includes 51,180 different characters.

The following tables illustrate the IPA symbols used in the transcription. The first column contains the IPA symbol, the second the IPA description of the corresponding sound, while columns three and four contain examples and their gloss.

1. Consonants

PHONEME	IPA DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE	GLOSS
b	Voiced bilabial plosive	babaah	“father”
t	Voiceless alveolar plosive	təʕab	“she is playing”
d	Voiced alveolar plosive	daray	“stair”
m	Bilabial nasal	mħammad	“Mohammed”
n	Alveolar Nasal	nʕaal	“slipper”
f	Voiceless labiodental fricative	fatʕmah	“Fatima”
ð	Voiced dental fricative	haaða	“this”
θ	Voiceless dental fricative	θalaaθa	“three”
s	Voiceless alveolar fricative	sayaara	“car”
z	Voiced alveolar fricative	ʕziiz	“Aziz”

ʃ	Voiceless postalveolar fricative	ʃuu	“what”
r	Alveolar trill	raaḥ	“he left”
l	Alveolar lateral approximant	leeʃ	“why”
k	Voiceless velar plosive	kuurah	“ball”
g	Voiced velar plosive	ɡalam	“pen”
x	Voiceless velar fricative	ʔaxdʰar	“green”
ɣ	Voiced velar fricative	məɣrəfa	“spoon”
q	Voiceless uvular plosive	ḥadiiqa	“park”
ʔ	Voiceless glottal plosive	ʔana	“I am”
h	Voiceless glottal fricative	hnaak	“there”
ʕ	Voiced pharyngeal fricative	nʕaal	“slipper”
ħ	Voiceless pharyngeal fricative	ḥaraami	“robber”
dʰ	Emphatic voiced alveolar plosive	dʰruus	“teeth”
sʰ	Emphatic voiceless alveolar fricative	t-sʰiḥiin	“you are crying”
tʰ	Emphatic voiceless alveolar plosive	tʰəmaatʰ	“tomato”
tʃ	Voiceless postalveolar affricate	b-aʃtʰiitʃ	“I will give you”
dʒ	Voiced postalveolar affricate	maʃdʒuun	“toothpaste”
w	Bilabial approximate	ḥilwa	“beautiful”
y	Palatal glide	waayəd	“a lot”

2. Vowels

PHONEME	IPA DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE	GLOSS
a	Open front	ʔana	“I am”
i	Close front	ʔənti	“you”

e	Close-mid front	beet	“house”
u	Close back	juu	“what”
ə	Mid central, schwa	dəktuur	“doctor”

Geminate consonants and long vowels are represented as double sounds. For example:

ddaray	“the stair”
waayəd	“a lot”