

Shahmukhi alphabet

Not to be confused with Gurmuki, the Punjabi script used in India and other countries.

Shahmukhi	
Type	Abjad
Languages	Punjabi
Parent systems	Proto-Sinaitic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phoenician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aramaic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nabataean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arabic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shahmukhi
Unicode range	U+0600 to U+06FF ^[1] U+0750 to U+077F ^[2] U+FB50 to U+FDFF ^[3] U+FE70 to U+FEFF ^[4]

Shahmukhi alphabet	
<p>ی ء ہ و ن م ل گ ک ق ف غ ع ظ ط ض ص ش س ژ ز ر ذ د خ ح چ ج ث ت پ ا</p>	
Extended Perso-Arabic script	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Transliteration • Diacritics • Hamza • Numerals • Numeration 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	v t e ^[5]

Shahmukhi (Punjabi: شاہ مکھی, meaning literally "from the King's mouth") is a Perso-Arabic alphabet used to write the Punjabi language. It is generally written in Nasta'liq hand. Perso-Arabic is one of two scripts used for Punjabi, the other being Gurmukhi.

The Shahmukhi alphabet was first used by the Sufi poets of the Punjab; it became the conventional writing style for the Muslim populace of the Pakistani province of Punjab following the Partition of India, while the largely Sikh province of Punjab, India adopted the Gurmukhi script to record the Punjabi language.

Its' use in Indian Punjab is mainly confined to the elderly generation who lived on the other side of the border before partition, although it is also recommended to be studied for students studying at M.A level in Punjabi.

It is however, used as the main alphabet to write the Pothohari dialect in Indian Jammu and Kashmir

Shahmukhi is written from right to left, while but Gurmukhi is written from left to right. Below is the comparison of the two scripts:

ḍḍ-ਜ ج	s-ਸ ث	t-ਟ ٹ	ṭ-ਤ ت	p-ਪ پ	b-ਬ ب	a-ا-آ-ਅ
r-ਰ ر	z-ਜ਼ ذ	ḍ-ਡ ڍ	ḍ̣-ਦ د	x-ਖ਼ خ	h-ح ح	ḥ-ح ح
z-ਜ਼ ص	s-س س	ʃ-ਸ਼ ش	s-س س	z-ਜ਼ ز	z-ਜ਼ ز	[r-ḥ] ر
k-ک ک	q-ق ق	f-ف ف	ʕ-ع ع	a-ا ع	z-ਜ਼ ط	ṭ-ਤ ط
ʕ ع	h-ا-ح ه	u-و-و-و-و-و-و-و و	n-ن ن	m-م م	l-ل ل	g-گ گ
ḥ-ḍḍ-ḥ-ਤ ح	ṭ-ṭ-ṭ ط	ṭ-ṭ-ṭ ط	p ^h -ṭ-ṭ ط	b ^h -p-ṭ ب	j-ṭ-ṭ-ṭ-ṭ ج	j-ṭ-ṭ-ṭ ي
		g ^h -k-ṭ گ	k ^h -ṭ ک	ṭ-d ^h -ṭ د	ḍ ^h -ṭ-ṭ ذ	ḥ ^h -ṭ ح

- The Gurumukhi sounds ñ (ਞ), ng (ਙ), ṇ (ਣ), nh (ਲ਼) are all written with :ṇ : nun ghunna (nun without dot). In initial and medial positions, the dot is retained.
- ṇ (Bari ye) is only found in the final position, when writing the sounds e (ਏ) or æ (ਐ), and in initial and medial positions, it takes the form of ی.
- There are three signs used when indicating a short vowel: َ (ਅ), ُ (ਉ), ِ (ਇ): a, u, i.

Examples: قلم (ਕਲਮ) qalam-pen ڀڻ (ਘੁਪ) ghup-dense لحاظ (ਲਹਿਾਜ) lihāz-consideration

- at the beginning of a word, short vowels are written as follows: َ, ُ, ِ
- Long vowels are expressed with ِ, ِ, ِ and ِ as follows:

Initial- َ (ਅ): َ (ਏ ਐ): e, æ ُ (ਉ): ِ (ਈ): ِ (ਔ ਓ) au, o Medial- ِ Final- ِ

- Consonants are doubled with ّ ex: ّ (ਅੱਲਾਹ): Allāh ّ (ਕੱਚਾ): Kachchā: unripe

Additional letters

There are a few additional letters that are occasionally used. This unicode is approved in 2006. They are:

- ḥ bbe -ਬ
- ḥ jje -ਜ
- ḥ ḍḍe -ਡ
- ḥ ggaf -ਗ
- ḥ moonh -ਣ

Loanwords

In Punjabi there are many Arabic and Persian loanwords. There are some sounds in these words which were not previously found in South Asian languages before the influence of Arabic and Persian, and these are therefore represented by introducing dots beneath specific Gurmukhi characters. Since the Gurmukhi alphabet is phonetic, any loanwords which contained pre-existing sounds were more easily transliterated without the need for characters modified with subscript dots beneath.

ذ – ਜ਼

ص – ਸ਼

ض – ਜ਼

ط – ਤ

ظ – ਜ਼

غ – ਗ਼

ح – ਹ

ث – ਥ

گ – ਗ਼

چ – ਚ

پ – ਪ

ز – ਜ਼

خ – ਖ਼

ز – ਜ਼

ف – ਫ਼

ق – ਕ਼

ع – this is often transliterated in many ways due to its changing sound in various Arabic/Persian words.

References

- [1] <http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U0600.pdf>
- [2] <http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U0750.pdf>
- [3] <http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/UFB50.pdf>
- [4] <http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/UFE70.pdf>
- [5] http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Arabic-script_sidebar&action=edit

External links

- Shahmukhi to Gurmukhi Transliteration System: A Corpus based Approach (<http://www.cicling.org/2008/RCS-vol-33/12-Saini.pdf>)
- The Western Panjabi Alphabet (<http://www.user.uni-hannover.de/nhtcapri/western-panjabi-alphabet.html>)
- Learn Shahmukhi (<http://www.apnaorg.com/shahmukhi/>)
- Likhari in Shahmukhi (<http://www.likhari.org/shahmukhi.htm>)
- Kalam-e-Baba Nanak (<http://apnaorg.com/poetry/nanak/>)
- Punjabi and Punjab (<http://www.punjabiandpunjab.com/>)
- E-Book on Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi (<http://www.apnaorg.com/books/hazarasingh/>)
- PDF on Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi (<http://www.saanjhpunjab.org/>)

Article Sources and Contributors

Shahmukhi alphabet *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=613284544> *Contributors:* Aarp65, Abdullah Geelah, Alai, AlexanderKaras, Ali-Rana-77, Angr, AnonyLog, Anupam, Arjayay, Arvind Iyengar, AyyoubW, Basawala, Bogdan Nagachop, ChrisGualtieri, DaGizza, DePiep, Derek R Bullamore, Dijan, Drmcreeedy, Everttype, Firsfron, Gareth Griffith-Jones, Golbez, Harisingh, Hendrick 99, Indiantrumpet, Io Herodotus, Islescape, John of Reading, Jonsafari, JøMa, Katangoori, Kate, Khalid Mahmood, Kwamikagami, Leewonbum, Lethe, Lfdder, Lockley, Mar4d, Mchakra, Meh.ahd, Mirajbibi, RaviC, Ruakh, Sajidnch, ShakirButtar, Si Gam, Sohailstyle, Stallions2010, Strider11, Sukh, Tahmasp, TalkChat, Thomas Milo, Tslocum, Varolay, Vpendse, Wamiq, Widefox, Wiki Wikardo, Yuje, Zaheen, Zidi-jattt, Zulfikkur, خالد حسني, राजेन्द्र मणि, 48 anonymous edits

Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

Image:Shahmukhi1.JPG *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Shahmukhi1.JPG> *License:* Public Domain *Contributors:* Varolay

License

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0
[//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)