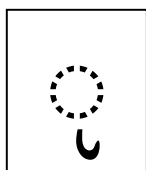


## Proposal to encode Gurmukhi Sign Yakash

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This document proposes the encoding of GURMUKHI SIGN YAKASH. This sign is used only in the Sikh holy book (the Guru Granth Sahib) and related religious literature. An initial proposal was submitted under document number L2/05-167. The result was "for Yakash, advise him that the UTC is currently evaluating it for encoding." Since this time, no further feedback has been received. The proposal has thus been slightly updated, and photographic evidence included.



### U+0A75 GURMUKHI SIGN YAKASH

Yakash is found in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib a total of 268 times<sup>1</sup>. The Yakash is commonly said to be a form of the Half Yayya character of Gurmukhi<sup>2</sup>. Yakash may take up many forms, but it is most commonly shown in Sikh religious texts as a small hook below a consonant.

Unlike the forms of Haha and Udaat, which are related to aspirated and high tones, the conjoined forms of Yaiyya have a different clarification<sup>3</sup>. The pronunciation of the Half Yayya character is less ambiguous. It represents the /y/ sound, with the inherent vowel /a/ being suppressed. The problem is related to the Yakash (Pairin Yayya).

The prevalent view among a section of Gurbani scholars<sup>4</sup> is that 'y' is to be regarded as both a *vianjan* (consonant) and an *ardh-svar* (semi-vowel). This means that 'y' represents both the sounds of /y/ and a number of sounds close to those of Gurmukhi vowels. Giani Harbans Singh (2000) has formulated it likewise that the Yakash is used at places where a semi-vowel is to be pronounced. Here is an example to illustrate this view. We use the word सिਖਿਆ ('sikhī'ā'), where the ਿ and ਯ are to be replaced by the forms of Yayya:

Yayya: ਸਿਖਯਾ should be pronounced 'sikhayā'.

Half Yayya: ਸਿਖਯਾ should be pronounced 'sikhyā'.

Yakash: ਸਿਖੁਾ should be pronounced with a semi-vowel sound as between 'sikhyā' and 'sikhīā'.

This is related to the evolution of Sanskrit words, from their *tatsam* (original) to *tadbhav* (derivated) stages. Half Yayya was to be used where writings were transcribed into Gurmukhi, however, their pronunciation remained close to the original term. The second form, with the Yakash, suggests the change in pronunciation, where the consonant sounds moved towards a semi-vowel sound. The present way of writing, where we now use vowel signs, denotes the modern pronunciation of the term.

<sup>1</sup> Thind, op.cit.

<sup>2</sup> Harkirat Singh, op.cit. p. 104.

<sup>3</sup> The information given in this part is largely based upon Giani Harbans Singh, *Gurbani Viyakaran* (2000), p. 247-50. The views presented herein should not be regarded as scholarly sound, as other writers, such as Harkirat Singh, op.cit., pp. 104-5, have presented alternative views.

<sup>4</sup> See Joginder Singh Talwara, op.cit. pp. 24-6 and 32-3, and Giani Harbans Singh, op.cit. p. 248.

It is recommended that Yakash be encoded as a separate Unicode character, with the following properties:

0A75;GURMUKHI SIGN YAKASH;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;

Yakash looks like a hook and attaches to the bottom of the bearing consonant:



Yakash, like Udaat, should push down U and UU in the same way that existing subjoined consonants do.

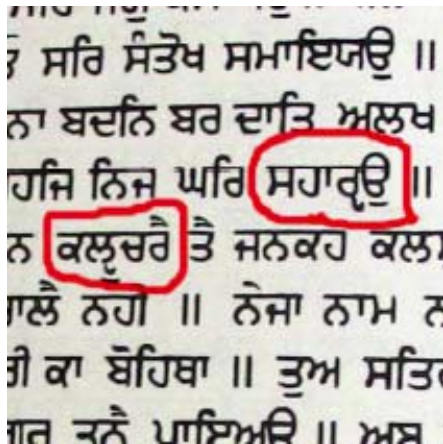


The logical ordering required for Gurmukhi determines that Yakash should come after the consonant, but before the vowel sign:

ਸਿਖਾ

0A38 0A3F 0A16 0A75 0A3E  
ਸ ਿ ਖ ੁ ਾ

In terms of sorting, GURMUKHI SIGN YAKASH should be treated as a subjoined form of /ya/.



Guru Granth Sahib page 1408 (ੴ੦੮)