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Title: Comments on Resolutions from Meeting 56 (and the 3rd edition) concerning Koranic characters (N3791)

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With respect to ISO WG2's resolution on the Koranic characters (M56.08, item j, as documented in N3804) and Roozbeh Pournader's proposal (N3791), I would like to comment – during the ISO ballot period – on the following 3 Koranic characters:

08F0 ARABIC OPEN FATHATAN
. ARABIC SUCCESSIVE FATHATAN

08F1 ARABIC OPEN DAMMATAN
. ARABIC SUCCESSIVE DAMMATAN

08F2 ARABIC OPEN KASRATAN
. ARABIC SUCCESSIVE KASRATAN

1. Name

For the name, the Arabic translation for the SINGLE terminology used for this sign “تتابع” is SUCCESSIVE and not OPEN. In addition, the SUCCESSIVE adjective is more descriptive than OPEN.

2. Shape

For the ARABIC SUCCESSIVE FATHATAN shape, the two shapes – proposed by Roozbeh Pournader and Quran Printing Complex – are in use. However:

A. Clear evidence shows that the glyph shape proposed by Quran Printing Complex is more widespread and common than the one shown by Roozbeh Pournader. Indeed, the Quran Printing Complex glyph is systematically used for printed Quran in many Riwayah (Warsh, Qalun, ...) and sometimes for others Riwayah (Hafs). However, Roozbeh Pournader's glyph is only sometimes used for Riwayah (Hafs).

B. In Arabic calligraphy, the Quran Printing Complex proposition shape is composited more “naturally”, which is confirmed by Arabic Calligraphers. Indeed, to draw ARABIC SUCCESSIVE FATHATAN by hand, we start by drawing a first Fatha, and then shift the hand to the left for drawing up the second Fatha, consistent with the direction of Arabic script from right to left.

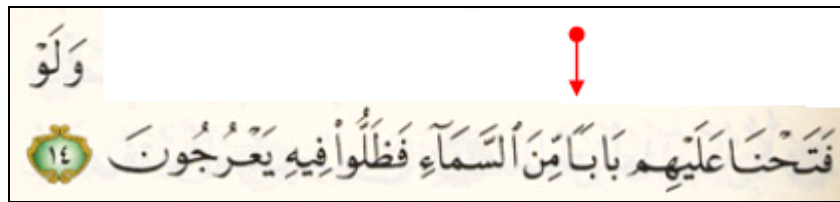
C. The Quran Printing Complex, which is the greatest Quran Printer in the world and follows the lead of Saudi Arabia (which adopted the Hafs Riwayah), frequently used the proposed glyph as given in Roozbeh Pournader's proposal. However, the Quran Printing Complex recently decided not to use this glyph for electronic impression any longer, but to replace it with the corrected one. This decision was taken after a departmental study by The Quran Printing Complex's scientific research department, which has well-qualified professors in Arabic language and Calligraphy.

Even though it is noted that characters in Unicode/ISO 10646 can have various shapes, that the shapes that appear in the charts are only considered to be "representative", and that fonts can be used to reflect various shapes of the characters, the representative charts' shapes are surely used. The adoption of the Quran Printing Complex proposition will certainly help to correct this situation.

3. References

More evidence from the Quran (in diverse Riwayah as printed in various countries) is shown in: <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3816.pdf>

Another sample is:



(Sourat Al-Hijr : Ayat 14), pp. 262, by Mushaf in Riwayah Hafs, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2004.