

Unicode request for Vithkuqi annotations II

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This request is for changes to the annotations in the Vithkuqi block.

The corpus of the Vithkuqi script is primarily two primers written by the inventor of the script. In the first, Veqilharxhi (1844), most running text is in Greek. In the second, Veqilharxhi (1845), all running text is in Albanian in Vithkuqi, with some Greek glosses also written in the Vithkuqi script.

The publication of these primers, inspired by the ideas of European Enlightenment, marks for many historians the beginning of the Albanian National Awakening (*Rilindja Kombëtare*). Shortly afterward, sometime between 1846 and 1849, the author died. No other work is known to have been written in the script. Later sporadic uses and mentions, which [L2/20-187R2 Proposal for encoding the Vithkuqi script in the SMP](#) partly relied upon, are secondary and do not always adequately reproduce the glyphs used in the original works. (As a consequence, several of the representative glyphs on the Unicode chart do not match the primers very well and in our opinion should be redrawn. However, this goes beyond the scope of our present proposal.)

Annotations

Green: additions.

Red: deletions.

1057D ꝥ VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER HHA

~~*used in 19th-century orthography~~

1057F Ꝧ VITHKUQI CAPITAL LETTER IJE

~~*used in 19th-century orthography~~

10596  <reserved>

105A4 ꝥ VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER HHA

~~*used in 19th-century orthography~~

105A6 Ꝧ VITHKUQI SMALL LETTER IJE

~~*used in 19th-century orthography~~

105BD  <reserved>

Discussion

Redundant annotations

The codepoints for <ɥ> *hha* (U+105A4, U+1057D) and <ɨ> *ije* (U+105A6, U+1057F) currently have an annotation “used in 19th-century orthography.” This caveat is not necessary, as the entire script was used exclusively in the 19th century. [L2/20-187R2](#) showed some revivalist attempts that omit these letters and add new letters in the reserved points, but those were deemed too negligible to be encoded, and in any case they are too irregular to think that other revivals could not use these two letters.

Reserved codepoints

The Unicode chart for the Vithkuqi block leaves several gaps. These are reserved for future expansion of the script, as Vithkuqi used digraphs for the modern digraphs *Gj gj*, *Rr rr*, *Xh xh* and *Zh zh*, and modern revivals of the script have added these four letters. (See p. 4–6 in [L2/20-187R2](#).) In the table accompanying the Unicode chart, *Gj*, *Rr*, *Xh* and lowercase *gj*, *rr*, *xh* are noted as ‘reserved.’ However, *Zh zh* are not so noted. Although the chart leaves a gap at U+10596 for *Zh*, there is no indication that the corresponding lowercase U+105BD isn’t available for other things.

References

Gjystina Shushka (1994) “Sistemi grafik-fonetik i zanoreve dhe i bashkëtingëlloreve në veprën e Naum Veqilharxhit.” *Gjurmime Albanologjike* (24), pp. 147–160.
<https://albanica.al/gjurmealbanlogjike/article/view/9087>.

Rexhep Qosja (1983) “Ëvetari (1845) i Naum Veqilharxhit dokument i rëndësishëm i Rilindjes Kombëtare.” *Gjurmime Albanologjike* (13), pp. 217–274.
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Luan Tetaj (2026) “Idetë iluministe të Naum Veqilharxhit.” *Kosova* (50), pp. 159–172.
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Naum Veqilharxhi (1844), <Երկուսի և Երեւելիս ի ձեռնարկին յայտօսեալ թիւն> *Fort i shkurtër e i përdorshim ëvetar shqip* = Νέον ἁλβανικὸν ἀλφαβητάριον, ἥτοι τὰ νῦν πρῶτον νεοφανῆ ἁλβανικὰ στοιχεῖα γραμμάτων. Vithkuq, pp. 8. [https://wikisource.org/wiki/Index:Veqilharxhi_-_Procheiron_\(1844\).djvu](https://wikisource.org/wiki/Index:Veqilharxhi_-_Procheiron_(1844).djvu).

Naum Veqilharxhi (1845), <Զատն ի Եւ յայտօսեալ թիւն ձեռնարկին ի յետեւի> *Fare i ri ëvetar shqip për Djelm Nismëtorë*. Vithkuq, pp. 51. [https://wikisource.org/wiki/Index:Veqilharxhi_-_%C3%8Bvetar_\(1845\).djvu](https://wikisource.org/wiki/Index:Veqilharxhi_-_%C3%8Bvetar_(1845).djvu).

Unicode chart

Reserved codepoints are highlighted in yellow. Grey Latin letters in parentheses are modern orthography for consonants the cells are reserved for. This is only for orientation: we do not propose placing anything in these cells on the Unicode chart.

Vithkuqi
10570 105BF

	1057	1058	1059	105A	105B
0	Ა	Ბ	Გ	Დ	Ე
1	Ვ	Ზ	Თ	Ი	Კ
2	Მ	Ნ	Ო	(gj)	(rr)
3	Ჟ	Რ	(Xh)	Ს	Ტ
4	Ფ	Ქ	Ღ	Ყ	Შ
5	Წ	Ჭ	Ხ	Ჯ	Ჰ
6	Ჲ	Ჳ	(Zh)	Ჴ	Ჵ
7	Ჷ	Ჸ	Ჹ	Ჺ	᲻
8	Ჽ	Ჾ	Ჿ	᳀	᳁
9	᳃	᳄	᳅	᳆	᳇
A	᳉	᳊	᳋	᳌	(xh)
B	(Gj)	(Rr)	᳎	᳏	᳐
C	᳒	᳓	᳔	᳕	᳖
D	᳘	᳙	᳚	᳛	(zh)
E	᳝	᳞	᳟	᳠	
F	᳡	᳢	᳣	᳤	