

TABLE 60.17: *Avar Alphabet*

| <i>Letter</i> | <i>Translit.</i> | <i>Value^a</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Letter</i> | <i>Translit.</i> | <i>Value^a</i> | <i>Name</i> |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| А | а | a | [a] | А | а | [a] | [a] |
| Б | б | b | [b] | Р | р | r | [r] |
| В | в | w | [w] ^b | С | с | s | [s] |
| Г | г | g | [g] | Т | т | t | [t] |
| Гъ | гъ | g̣ | [ɣ] | ТI | тI | [tʰ] | [tʰe] |
| Гь | гь | gʰ | [h] | У | у | u | [u] |
| ГI | гI | gI | [ʕ] | (Ф | ф | f) | [f] |
| Д | д | d | [d] | Х | х | x | [χ] |
| Е | е | e | [je], C+[e] | Хъ | хъ | x̣ | [q:] |
| Ё | ё | ë | [jo] | Хь | хь | xʰ | [x] |
| Ж | ж | ž | [ʒ] | ХI | хI | xI | [ħ] |
| З | з | z | [z] | Ц | ц | c | [ts] |
| И | и | i | [i] | ЦI | цI | cI | [tsʰ] |
| Й | й | j | [j] ^c | Ч | ч | č | [tʃ] |
| К | к | k | [k] | ЧI | чI | čI | [tʃʰ] |
| Къ | къ | ḳ | [q:] | Ш | ш | š | [ʃ] |
| Кь | кь | kʰ | [tʃ:] | ШI | шI | šI | [ʃ:] |
| KI | кI | kI | [kʰ] | Ъ | ъ | ʔ | [ʔ] |
| Л | л | l | [l] ^d | (Ы | ы | y) | [jeri] |
| Лъ | лъ | ḷ | [ɬ] | (Ь | ь | ʔ) | [jerʰ] |
| М | м | m | [m] | Э | э | è | [e] initial |
| Н | н | n | [n] | Ю | ю | ju | [ju] |
| О | о | o | [o] | Я | я | ja | [ja] |

a. The diacritic [:] indicates an “intensive” (strong, geminate) consonant; some other consonants have intensive counterparts; the feature is sporadically indicated by doubling the corresponding simple letter, e.g. кк [k:], кIкI [kʰ:]. Gemination in the consonants [q:], [tʃ:], and dialectal [ɬ:] is nonphonemic, and there is variation in whether or not they are phonetically geminate.

b. Labialization of consonants is indicated by adding в *v* after the consonant symbol, e.g. хъв [xʷ].

c. [ja], [je], [jo], [ju] are written я, е, ё, ю. Elsewhere [j] is written й, i.e. syllable-finally and in йи [ji]; other than in Russian loans, [j] does not occur after a consonant.

d. Some dialects have an additional phoneme [ɬ:], indicated by лIлI when forms from such dialects are written.

SAMPLE OF AVAR

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----------|--------|---------|------------|
| 1. <i>Avar:</i> | Гъадида | цо | хІанил | кесек | батана. | ХІанги |
| 2. <i>Transliteration:</i> | G'adida ^a | co | xlanil | kesek | batana. | Xlangi |
| 3. <i>Transcription:</i> | ka'dida | fso | 'hanil | ke'sek | 'batana | 'hangi |
| 4. <i>Gloss:</i> | at.crow | one | of.cheese | piece | found | and.cheese |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------|-----|----------|----------|---------------------|------|
| 1. кІалдиб | ккун, | гъев | цо | гъотІоде | бахана. | Царада | гъеб |
| 2. klaldib | kkun, | g'eb | co | g'otIode | bahana. | Carada ^a | g'eb |
| 3. 'k'aldib | 'k:un | heb | fso | vo'tode | 'baχana | fsa'rada | heb |
| 4. in.mouth | having.seized | it | one | to.tree | ascended | at.fox | it |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|------|----------|
| 1. бихъана | ва | гъель | гъеб | гуккизе | къасд | гъабуна. | Цер | гъотІоде |
| 2. bix'ana | va | g'el ^a | g'eb | gukkize | k'asd | g'abuna. | Cer | g'otIode |
| 3. 'bix:ana | wa | hef: | heb | 'guk:ize | 'q':as:d | ha,buna | fser | vo'tode |
| 4. saw | and | by.it | it | to.cheat | decision | made | fox | to.tree |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------|-------------|-------|----------|-------------|
| 1. гІагарлъана | ва | рачІги | хъвагІулаго | гъель | кІалъазе | байбихъана: |
| 2. gIagarl'ana | va | račIgi | x'vagIulago | g'el' | klal'aze | bajbix'ana: |
| 3. řa'garřana | wa | 'račI':gi | 'x':ařulago | hef: | k'ařaze | 'bajbix:ana |
| 4. approached | and | and.tail | shaking | it | to.speak | began |

| | | |
|---------|-----------|--------|
| 1. —Дир | хирияб | гъедо! |
| 2. —Dir | xirijab | g'edo! |
| 3. 'dir | χ:i'rijab | 'vedo |
| 4. my | dear | crow |

'A crow found a piece of cheese and, having seized it in its mouth, ascended to a tree. A fox saw it and decided to cheat it. The fox approached the tree and, shaking its tail, began to speak: "My dear crow!"'

—B. G. Hewitt in *Comrie 1981*: 235.

Note:

^aThe locative cases гъадида, царада and the ergative case гъель indicate transitive subjects.

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