

# Transliterating Methods of the Kazakh Onyms in the Arabic Language

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**Abstract**—Transliteration is frequently used especially in writing geographic denominations, personal names (onyms) etc. Proper names (onyms) of all languages must sound similarly in translated works as well as in scientific projects and works written in mother tongue, because we can get introduced with the nation, its history, culture, traditions and other spiritual values through the onyms of that nation. Therefore it is necessary to systematize the different transliterations of onyms of foreign languages. This paper is dedicated to the problem of making the project of transliterating Kazakh onyms into Arabic. In order to achieve this goal we use *scientific* or *practical* types of transliteration. Because in this type of transliteration provides easy reading and writing source language's texts in the target language without any diacritical symbols, it is limited by the target language's alphabetic system.

**Keywords**—The Arabic, Kazakh languages, onyms, transliterating

## I. INTRODUCTION

SINCE relationships are getting stronger in diverse spheres of Kazakhstan and the Arab states, Arab publishers and websites began writing about Kazakhstan, more over, Arab authors began publishing about our country and our scientists' some of these works are being translated. However, the transliteration of Kazakh onyms is not systematized, that is why they are written in diverse versions in translations and Mass media.

In the above-mentioned book the name of *Kazakhstan* [Qazaqstan] is given in some cases as كزاخستان [Kazāhstān], in other cases mostly is given as كازاخستان [Kāzāhstān], the name of our nation the **Қазақ** [Qazaq]: الكزاخي [al-kazāhī<sup>im</sup>], الكازاخي [al-kāzāhī<sup>im</sup>] and الكزاخي [al-kazāhī<sup>im</sup>] is given in three variants. Another thing to point out is the word **Kazakh** [Qazaq] is written in two different ways الكزاخي [al-kazāhī<sup>im</sup>] and الكازاخي [al-kāzāhī<sup>im</sup>]. The Capital city of Kazakhstan **Астана** [Astana]: the variant أستانه [Astānah] is given in four cases, the variant of أستانا [Astānā] is given in five cases, the variant of أستانة [Astāna<sup>u</sup>] is written in eleven cases, the variant of أستانا [Asta'nā] is given in one case (this error has probably been made by the publishing house) all are in four variants, the name of **Алматы** [Almaty], the city in South Kazakhstan is given like: ألماتا [Almātā] in one case, the variant of ألماتي [Almātī] is written in six cases, the variant of ألماطي [Almāṭī] is given three times; the variant of ألماتي [Almāṭa] is given in one case all of them are in four variants.

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The city of **Семеу** [Semei]: is given in three variants: سيمبالاتينسك [Sīmībalātīnsk], سيمبالاتينسك [Sīmībalātīnsk], سيمبالاتينسك [Sīmībalātīnsk], The city of **Қарағанды** [Qarağandy] is given in two different variants قراغندة [Qarāğanda<sup>m</sup>] and قرغندة [Qarāğanda<sup>m</sup>] on one the same page, the city of **Қызылорда** [Qyzylorda]: given like فيزيل اردة [Qizil 'Arda<sup>m</sup>], the city of **Теміртау** [Temirtau]: تيميرتو [Timirtāu], **Ақтау** [Aqtau]: اکتو [Aktāu], **Байқоңыр** [Baïqongyr]: بايکونور [Bāikānūr], **Қаскелең** [Qaskeleng]: كسكيلين [Kaskilīn], the settlement of **Шамалған** [Shamalğan]: تشمولغان [Tšimūlgān]. The River of **Есіл** [Esil]: نهر إيشيم [Nahru 'Īšim], the names of our Parties like **Алаш** [Alash], **Азамат** [Azamat] and **Отан** [Otan]: الأاش [Alāš], ازات [Azāt], عظمت [Azamāt], أتان [Atān], national currency **теңге** [tengge] is given in two variants: تنجه [Tanğah] and تنجة [Tanğā<sup>m</sup>], our traditional cuisine **қымыз** [qymyz] (horses milk), **шұбат** [shūbat] (camels milk), **құрт** [qūrt] (a snack made of milk, salty and usually very hard), **айран** [āiran] (a beverage made of sour milk) before being translated into Arabic قيميز [Qīmīz], شوبات [Šūbāt], قورت [Qūrt], أيران [Airān], **Теңіз** [Tengīz] (sea) oil platform transliterated as تينجيز [Tinğīz].

Analyzing Kazakh proper names, we realize that the situation of their transliteration is the same. For instance, surname of the President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev **Назарбаев** [Nazarbaev] is given in three variants: نزارباييف [Nazārbāiīf], نزارباييف [Nazarbāiīf], نزارباييف [Nāzārbāiīf]. These all are taken from only one book [2].

At first it is necessary to dwell on sound systems and alphabets of Arabic and Kazakh languages to systematize the transliteration of Kazakh onyms in Arabic texts.

The sound can be uttered, and heard, as for a letter, it can be written and read. We use symbols to designate sounds. Every nation has its own symbols to designate sounds. For instance, the Kazakh alphabet has managed to change for several times, at first it was based on Arabic graphics, then changed to Latin, and then it turned Russian Cyrillic graphical symbols. Nowadays the most widespread writings are based on Latin, Cyrillic, Arabic, Chinese (hieroglyphs) symbols.

The number of sounds and the amount of letters are not always equal. For example, in words like **ашы** [ashshy] (a-sh-sh-y), **аяқ** [aīak] (a-ū-a-q [a-ī-a-q]) there are more letters than sounds, but in words like **альбом** [al'bom], **руль** [rul'], **съезд** [s'ezd] there are more letters than sounds [23. p22.].

Like wise, in such Arabic words as **درس**, [dars<sup>im</sup>], **بيت**, [baī<sup>im</sup>], **كتاب**, [kitāb<sup>im</sup>] the sounds are more than the letters.

In modern Kazakh language there are shown 38 sounds. They are: *a, ə, б, в, г, з, д, е, ж, з, и, ұ, к, қ, л, м, н, ң, о, ө, п, р, с, m, y* (vowel), *у* (consonant), *Ү, Ұ, Ф, х, h, ы, ч, u, ы, і, э*. Here is to note:

- The symbols used to designate *ё, ю, я* are additional sounds (diphthongs), they are the combinations of *й+о* [ī+o] (*ё* [īo]), *й+у* [ī+u] (*ю* [īu]), *й+а* [ī+a] (*я* [īa]), that is why they are not considered separately.
- Sounds like *ч* [ts] (*m+c* [t+s]), *ч* [tch] (*m+u* [t+ch]), *у*

[shsh] (*u+u* [sh+sh]) consisting of the words borrowed from Russian, given as separate sound, in Kazakh language the last sound in words like (*u*) *ашшы* [ashshy], *тұшы* [tūshshy] is used instead of combined *u* (*u+u*) sound.

- Usually, the sound “y” [u] is considered to be one sound. Actually the consonant “y” [u] is a different sound (e.g. *тауда* [tauda], *қарауында* [qarauynda]) and vowel “y” [u] is different (e.g. *уран* [uran], *Убайдулла* [Ubaiddulla]), the latter “y” is pronounced like– *ұу* [ūu], *үу* [ūū] as diphthong. Likewise the sound *u* [i], being as *үй* [yī] and *йү* [īī] (e.g. *сыыр* [siyr], *оқиды* [oqidy]) is described as diphthong. Therefore if the sound *u* [i] is considered as separate, the sound *y* [u] might also be separate.

There are 34 sounds in Arabic:

ب، ت، ث، ج، ح، خ، د، ذ، ر، ز، س، ش، ص، ض، ط، ظ، ع، غ، ف،  
ء، a long vowel ا [ā], a long vowel و [ū], a long vowel ي [ī], as short vowel *fatha* – [a], a short vowel *damma* – [u], a short vowel *kasra* – [i].

To the contrary, there are less letters in Arabic than sounds. Because the sound of consonant hamza ء [ʾ] is sometimes written separately, it is not included in the alphabet due to the fact that in some cases it takes *و، ي* letters as carrier letter, and is perched over or under it. Consonant sounds like *و* [u] and *ي* [i] can render the role of long vowels and [ū] and [ī]. As for short vowels [a], [u], [i] they are not included in the alphabet as they are marked by symbols *fatha* (–), *damma* (˘), *kasra* (◌) written over and under the consonant. The Arabic letters have four forms depending on their initial, medial, final and isolated positions. So there are 28 letters in Arabic alphabet.

The rumble is produced by the air coming out from lungs and encountering articulatory system. Owing to such participation of sounds and rumble the sounds of language are divided into vowel and consonant [3].

#### A. The project of Kazakh onyms in the Arabic texts being transliterated

The academician T. Zhanuzak in his work dedicated to systematizing transliteration of Kazakh proper names into Russian referred to L.V. Sherba who says: “It is always necessary to pay attention to the initial form of the pronunciation of a given name. We should not distort the Dutch surnames according to German or an English pronunciation” [4]. N.M. Rsalieva who systematized the transliteration of Kazakh onyms into English said she used weakened form of transliteration [5]. In the 19<sup>th</sup> article of Law about the language of Republic of Kazakhstan: “The names of localities, streets, squares, moreover names of geographic objects, historical and traditional Kazakh names must be given in another language according to the rules of transliteration [6].

For the correct pronunciation of Kazakh onyms in the Arabic texts Kazakh names should be transmitted by sounds which are similar to the sounds of Kazakh or which are closer in sounding, using all the capabilities of Arabic language and keeping transliteration rules. To accomplish this, comparing sounds in both languages, we divide it into two parts “Kazakh sounds having equivalents in Arabic” and “Kazakh sounds lacking equivalent in Arabic”.

## II. TRANSLITERATING METHODS

### A. Transmission method of Kazakh vowel sounds which have equivalents in Arabic

Being transmitted in Arabic Kazakh onyms's short vowels are not pointed out in writing, therefore it is convenient to fix long vowel instead. For instance, let's assume we convey a person's name *Балғын* [Balğyn] writing vowel sounds *a* [a], *u* [y] contained in this word by the help of short vowel sounds, writing it like *بلغن*. This word is unfamiliar for Arab people. Since it is not an Arabic word, diacritics are not certain either. They might read this name as [Balğan], [Bilğan], [Bulğan], [Balğun], [Bilğun], [Bilğin], [Bulğun] as they wish. In order to make its pronunciation correct, it is appropriate to use Arabic long vowel sounds instead of Kazakh vowel sounds. If we write the name *Balğyn* as *بالغين*, Arab people would pronounce it as [Bālğīm] without any hesitation which is closer to its pronunciation in Kazakh.

As Arabic words do not start with vowel sound, when transliterating Kazakh onyms we should use consonant sound that is hamza. Thus, according to the rules pertaining to hamza and consonants, vowels in Kazakh onyms must be written as follows:

Kazakh vowel sounds having equivalents in Arabic:

- “a” [a] (“ə” [á]) – *fatha* – and *alif* ʾ [ā],
- “u” [i] – *kasra* – [i] and *ي* [ī],
- “y” [u] – *damma* – [u] and *و* [ū].
- Non-labialised vowel sound “a” [a] in literary Arabic language corresponds to long firm vowel sound ʾ [ā] and short firm vowel *harakat fatha* – [a]. If long *alif* ʾ and *harakat fatha* – comes after consonant sounds emphatic firm *ق، خ، غ* is sounded by a glide (close to firm “a” [a] in Kazakh). Therefore it is convenient to transmit Kazakh onyms beginning with «a» [a] into Arabic as ʾ [ā] by fathatic *hamza* ʾ [ʾ] and adding long vowel sound ʾ [ā] to fathatic *hamza*. For example: *Абау* [Abau] – *أباي* [ʾAbāi], *Алғабас* [Alğabas] – *الغاباص* [ʾĀlğābās]. It is proper to transfer long vowel ʾ [ā] after firm consonants and transfer by ʾ [ā] after soft consonants if the sound «a» is in the middle and in the end of the name.
- Non-labialised vowel sound “ə” [á] in the Arabic literary language corresponds to long vowel sound ʾ [ā] which comes after soft consonant sounds and corresponds to *fatha harakat* – [ə]. That is why Kazakh onyms beginning with “ə” [á] must be transmitted by fathatic *hamza* ʾ [ʾ] or transmitting it by adding long vowel sound ʾ [ā] to fathatic *hamza*. For example, *Алғашоқы* [ʾĀlğāshoqy] – *ألكشوقي* [ʾĀlğāshūqī], *Әбиу* [ʾAbīsh] – *أبيش* [ʾAbīš]. If sound «ə» [á] comes in the end and in the middle of the name it is correct to transmit it by long vowel ʾ [ā]. For example, *Кәкен* [Kāken] – *كاكين* [Kākīn], *Ділде* [Dīldā] – *ديدا* [Dīldā];
- Non-labialised vowel sound “u” [i] in the Arabic literary language corresponds to long vowel sound *ي* [ī] and *kasra* vowel *harakat* – [i]. Therefore, it is proper to transmit Kazakh onyms beginning with the sound of “u” [i] into Arabic as *ي* [ī] by adding long vowels sound *ي*. For example, *Игісін* [Iğīsīn] – *إكيسين* [ʾĪkīsīn], *Итжон* [Itzhon] – *إتجون* [ʾĪtğūn]. If vowel sound “u” [i] is in the middle or in the end of a definite entitlement, then it would be correct

to transmit it by long vowel sound ي [ī]. For example, *Қирабау* [Qirabāi] – قيراباي [Qīrābāi]. If consonant sound “ū” [ū] is in the beginning, in the middle and in the end, it corresponds to the sound of ي. For example, names *Бағара* [Bağara], *Адау* [Adai] are written in the way of باغارا [Bāğārā] آدای [‘Ādāi];

- Labial vowel sound “y” [u] in Arabic corresponds to long sound و [ū] and to the sound of damma ُ [u] harakat. It is correct to transmit Kazakh onyms beginning with the sound of “y” [u] into Arabic as أو [‘ū] by adding long vowel sound and [ū] to dammic hamza. For example *Уранбек* [Uranbek] is written as أورانبك [‘Ūrānbīk]. If vowel sound “y” [u] is in the middle and in the end of definite entitlement, it would be proper to transmit long vowel by و. For instance, *Туғанбау* [Tuğanbaı] طوغانباي [Tūğānbāi], *Жемісу* [Zhetisu] – جيتيسو [Gītīšū]. As for consonant “y” [u] it is pointed out by sound و [u] whether it is in the beginning, in the middle or in the end. For example, names *Тәукебау* [Tāukebaı], *Уатау* [Uataı], *Алау* [Alau] are written as تاوکيباي [Tāukībāi] واطاي [Uāṭāi], آلاؤ [‘Ālāū].

#### B. Transmission method of Kazakh sounds lacking equivalent into Arabic

Kazakh vowels that have no equivalents in Arabic are: ы [y], і [ī], ҫ [ū], ү [ū], е [e], э [é], о [o], ө [ó].

There is no sound in the literary Arabic language equal to non-labialised firm vowel sound as “ы” [y]. However, kasra harakat – [i] and long sound ي [ī] sounds similar to firm vowel sound “ы” [y]. Therefore we offer to transmit Kazakh definite entitlements beginning with the sound of “ы” [y] as إـ [‘uu] by adding long sound ي [ī] to kasric hamza, if it is in the middle and in the end of the word then would be transmitted by ي [ī]. For instance, *Ынтымақ* [Yntymaq] – إنطيماق [‘Inṭimāq], *Жыланды* [Zhylandy] – جيلاندي [Gīlāndī];

- In the Arabic literary language there is no similar sound to soft vowel sound “і” [ī]. The closest letter to this sound is kasra harakat – [i] and long sound of ي [ī]. Therefore it is proper to transmit Kazakh onyms beginning with the sound of “і” [ī] as إـ [‘ī] by adding long sound of ي [ī] to kasric hamza, and if it is in the middle and in the end of the word, then it would be transmitted by the sound of ي [ī].

For example, *Інжу* [Īnžu] – إنجو [‘Īngū], *Бердібек* [Berdībek] – بيرديبك [Bīrdībīk], *Көкпеки* [Kókpekti] – كوكبيكتي [Kūkbīktī];

- In the Arabic literary language there is no pertained sound like a soft lip consonant “γ” [ū]. The closest sounds to the sound of “γ” [ū], except soft consonant sounds, is long sound of و [ū] and damma harakat ُ [u]. Therefore it is proper to transmit Kazakh onyms beginning with the sound of “γ” [ū] as أو [‘ū] by adding long sound of و [ū] dammic hamza أ [‘u] in the beginning of the word, and if it is in the middle and in the end, then by long sound و [ū]. For example, *Үржар* [Ūrzhār] – أورجار [‘Ūrğār], *Жүрсін* [Jürsīn] – جورسين [Gūrsīn];

- There is no correspondent sound in the Arabic literary language to non-labialised soft vowel sounds as “e” [e] and “э” [é]. However, except soft consonant sounds, the closest sounds to the sounds “e” [e] and “э” [é] are kasra harakat – [i] and long sound of ي [ī]. Therefore Kazakh onyms beginning with sounds like “e” [e] and “э” [é], in the

beginning of the word, should be transmitted as إـ [‘ī] by adding long sound of ي [ī] to the kasric hamza إ [‘i], and if it is in the middle and in the end, we should transmit by long sound of ي [ī]. For instance, *Есіркеп* [Esirkep] – ديربيسالي [‘Īsīrkīb], *Дербісәлі* [Derbīsālī] – ديربيسالي [Dīrbīsālī], *Көкөбе* [Kókóbe] – كوكتوبى [Kūktūbī].

#### C. Transmission method of Kazakh consonant sounds having equivalents into Arabic

The list of Kazakh deaf consonant sounds having equivalent in Arabic languages below: м [t] – ت [t] (ط [t]), қ [q] – ق [q], к [k] – ك [k], с [s] – س [s] (ص [s]), ш [sh] – ش [š], ф [f] – ف [f], х [kh] – خ [h], һ [h] – ه [h]. This has minor distinctions in sounding system; it refers to the list of consonant sounds which is considered to be common for both languages. If in Kazakh onyms consonant sound “m” [t] is weakened and in Arabic it would be ت [t], if it is firm then it would correspond to ط [t] consonant sounds. For instance, *Түлкібау* [Tūlkībaı] – تولکيباي [Tūlkībāi], *Бектөре* [Bektóre] – بيكتوري [Bīktūrī], *Келбет* [Kelbet] – كيلبيت [Kīlbīt], *Тыныштық* [Tynyshtyq] – طينيشطيقي [Tīnīšṭīq], *Алматы* [Almaty] – الماطي [‘Ālmāṭī], *Қосақат* [Qosaqat] – قوصاقاط [Qūšāqāt]. The sound of “қ” [q] in Kazakh can be designated by the sound of ق [q] «qaf» in Arabic. For example, *Арқалық* [Arqalyq] – أرفالليق [‘Arqālīq], *Қонай* [Qonai] – قوناي [Qūnāi]. Therefore it would be close to our pronunciation if we write *Қазақстан* [Qazaqstan] as قازاقستان [Qāzāqīstān], *Қазақ* [qazaq] as قازاق [Qāzāq]. The versions of *Қазақстан* [Kāzāhstān] and *казак* [Kāzāh] is taken from Russian *Казакхстан* [Kazakhstan] and *казак* [Kazakh]. It would be closer to writing in Kazakh if Russians wrote these words as *Казакстан* [Kazakstan] and *казак* [Kazak].

However, due to the fact that there were lots of names of Don Cossacks’ as *Казакөв* [Kazakov], *Казакөва* [Kazakova], it needed to be separated from them. All the world knows that scripts in English *Kazakhstan*, *kazakh* were borrowed directly from Russian. We would accept it as *Qazaqstan*, *qazaq* according to world-wide experience. Due to all the denominations beginning with the sound of ق (qaf) is pointed out by the letter “q” in Arabic.

For instance, *Қатар* [Qatar] – قطر [Qāṭar], *العراق* [al-‘Irāq] – *al-Iraq*, *القرآن* [al-Qur‘ān] – *al-Quran* and etc. The sound of “к” [k] is pointed out by Arabic symbol ك [k]. For example, *Кентау* [Kentaı] – كينطاؤ [Kīntāū], *Еркін* [Erkīn] – إيركين [‘Īrkīn], *Берік* [Berīk] – بيريك [Bīrīk].

The list of Kazakh ringing consonant sounds having equivalents in Arabic: б [b] – ب [b], г [g] – غ [g], д [d] – د [d], ж [zh] – ج [g], з [z] – ز [z]. They have slight distinctions; refer to the list of ringing consonant sounds which is considered to be common for both languages. The list of Kazakh sonorant consonant sounds owning equivalents in Arabic: м [m] – م [m], н [n] – ن [n], р [r] – ر [r], л [l] – ل [l], ү [i] – ي [i], у [u] – و [u]. They have minor distinctions; refer to the list of sonorant consonant sounds which is considered to be common for both languages.

Kazakh consonants which have no equivalents in Arabic: Kazakh consonants lacking equivalents in Arabic are given in the following list: в [v], г [g], ң [ng], н [n], ы [ts], ч [ch], ш [shsh]. The closest Arabic sound to “в” [v] is dental-labial sound ف [f].

The sound «в» [v] which is encountered in Kazakh onyms is given in Arabic by the letter ف [ff]. For example: Вилнұр [Vilnūr] – فيلنور [Fīlnūr]. The closest Arabic sound to “з” [g] is palatal, explosive consonant ك [k]. The sound “з” [g] observed in kazakh onyms is transferred into Arabic by the letter ك [k]. for example: Гүлмира [Gūlmira] – كولميرا [Kūlmīrā], Аўғұл [Aūğūl] – أوكول [ʿĀikūl], Шигілек [Shīgīlek] – شيكيليك [Šīkīlīk]. The closest sound in Arabic to the Kazakh sound “ж” [zh] is considered to be the sound ج. The sound “ж” [zh] in Kazakh onyms is transferred into Arabic by the letter ج [ġ]. For example, Жыланды [Zhylandy] – جيلاندي [Ġīlāndī], Ақжарқын [Aqzharqyn] – أقجارقین [ʿĀqġārġīn]. The closest Arabic sound to Kazakh sound “н” [ng] is nasal, dento-alveolar Arabic consonant ن [n]. This can be defined by the fact that in tajwid according to the rule ihfa’ (الإخفاء) ن [n] with sukun and tanwin can be pronounced as “н” [ng] when they precede particular 15 letters. The slight distinction from its Kazakh equivalent is that the sound is produced with the participation of oral cavity and nostril. Those 15 letters are following: ك، ق، ف، ط، ظ، ص، ض، ش، س، هـ. so, the sound «н» [ng] in Kazakh onyms is transferred to Arabic by the letter ن [n].

### III. CONCLUSIONS

For proper writing and pronunciation of Kazakh onyms in Arabic texts, both languages’ sounding systems were discovered, corresponding sounds were found. For example, Kazakh vowel sounds having equivalents in Arabic: “а” [a] (“ә” [ā]) – fatha – and alif [ā], “и” [i] – kasra – [i] and ي [ī], “у” [u] – damma – [u] and و [ū]; Kazakh consonant sounds having equivalent in Arabic: m [t] – ت [t] (ط [t]), қ [q] – ق [q], к [k] – ك [k], с [s] – س [s] (ص [s]), u [sh] – ش [š], ф [ff] – ف [ff], x [kh] – خ [h], h [h] – هـ [h], б [b] – ب [b], з [ġ] – غ [ġ], д [d] – د [d], ж [zh] – ج [ġ], з [z] – ز [z], м [m] – م [m], н [n] – ن [n], р [r] – ر [r], л [l] – ل [l], ү [i] – ي [i], у [u] – و [u]., Kazakh vowel sounds lacking equivalents in Arabic: ы [y], і [ī], ұ [ū], ү [ū], е [e], ә [ē], о [o], ө [ó]; Kazakh consonant sounds lacking equivalent in Arabic: в [v], з [g], ң [ng], н [n], ы [ts], ч [ch], ы [shsh]. Instead of Kazakh sounds lacking equivalent in Arabic, there were chosen Arabic sounds with similar sounding. As a result, the project of transliterating Kazakh onyms in Arabic texts was made on the basis of practical, weakened transliteration types.

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