

NEW VISION FOR ZAGHAWA LANGUAGE ORTHOGRAPHY

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The Zaghawa (Beria, Belia and Bera) language is in the eastern Saharan group of Nilo-Saharan languages [2]. It is spoken in Sudan's Darfur region in the southwestern part and in the Sudanese cities of Al Fashir, Nyala, El Daein and Omdurman, as well as in Chad and Libya [6; 7; 10; 11; 12]. Zaghawa speakers estimated to be 750,000 and 1,350,000 (W <http://fr.13.wikipedia.org.wiki.z>). There are four main dialects, with variations within each: (a) Twer in Sudan. (b) Kobe (i) kuba, Department of Kobe in Chad (Kapka, Kuba and Mige (c) Guruf-Dirong (Biltine, Matadjana, Ebiri, Tronga Bakaore.Mardebe, Tronga); (d) Touba (tiba,biria,bilia) (i)Bilia (Ennedi Est region) (ii) Borogat (Endi ouest).Zaghawa has no standardized orthography before the last version of beria giray erfe it was written by Euro-latin alphabets since 1912 by Mr.McMihael,then Mr Tubiana 1963[10;11;18]. The characters now used are: a â b c d e ê f g h i î j k l m n o ô p g r t s t u û w z æ ṭ ṇ ʃ ɲ (2,4,5,9,18). The other form of writing is Beria Giray Erfe: The idea was first introduced by a school teacher called Adam Tajir [1]; then Improved by Siddick Adam Issa ; the characters chosen by him were introduced in computer by the aid of David Faris, SIL and Technical work of Seonil Yun; I have named the alphabet set (Beria Giray Erfe) which are traditional animal brands attested on rocks of the desert and caves of North Darfur (Idogeli, Idobe Hattani and Manikiri [1;10;11;18]. Zaghawa phonology has nine to ten vowels divided into two groups: /i e ə o u/ and /ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʊ/ [4; 13;17], with the vowels of affixes harmonizing with set of vowels in the stem and with /a/ functioning in both groups. The tenth vowel /ə/ plays a role of advanced tongue root (+ATR) counterpart of /a/ in some dialects. Zaghawa has five diphthongs: /ei/, /əu/, /iə/ and /ia/, /au/, and /oi/ [2; 4; 17]. Rhotics represented by ṭ and r in the Latin orthography (r) as in ire (hit), ure (valley), ture (monkey) [2; 9; 18]. -r does not occur at the initial position but can occurs on post-position as preposition in other languages and between vowels or before consonants in the middle of the word as in torfu 'bird', korfu 'shrub', or gurfu 'hill' [17]. The /p/ phoneme occurs at the end of some words as in tap 'clap', but I suggest that (p) at the beginning: pirr 'gourd', pi 'catch' pirke (acasia sp) a further study needed. Beria has five tones: high, low, mid, falling and rising [13]. Tones are used to distinguish between words (lexical tones) as well as between grammatical categories (plural, perfective) [2]; [5]; [18]. We double the last or the middle tone to indicate plural as di>dii (camel).hirde > hirdee. Bur >buur (boy) we use French accents marks to distinguish some words [2; 5]. H pharyngeal= (h) as in hiry (mark) (ɲ) as in ɲari (okra) ʃ or (š) as in ʃibe (eagle), ṭ rhotic as in goregore (ball like), ure (valley) ire (to hit).mure (to wash).gure (he calls) [2]. Concerning the writing of dialects everybody can write directly his dialect by the same alphabet all the letters to be used are included , French punctuations are incorporated within Erfe and doubling of vowels also proposed to distinct between similar words. In addition changing fonts is proposed so that the capitals are written in line with the bottom of the lower case characters rather than with top as a hanging font, so following improvement is sent for inclusion:

The characters currently included in the Beria Giray Erfe font are as follows.

Lower case: ㄨ ㄛ ㄝ ㄟ ㄠ ㄡ ㄣ ㄤ ㄥ ㄦ ㄨㄛ ㄨㄝ ㄨㄟ ㄨㄠ ㄨㄡ ㄨㄣ ㄨㄤ ㄨㄥ ㄨㄦ

Capitals: ጸዋቻ፣ ኃይለማርያም

In this paper, I propose and explain the following substitutions: capital /a/ \mathbb{A} > \mathbb{A} , small /a/ \mathbb{a} > \mathbb{a} , capital /f/ \mathbb{F} > \mathbb{F} , capital /l/ \mathbb{L} > \mathbb{L} , and small /m/ \mathbb{M} > \mathbb{M} . Lastly, I suggest the following additions: /c/ capital \mathbb{C} , small \mathbb{c} , /s/ capital \mathbb{S} , small \mathbb{s} (with previous /s/ characters now representing /ʃ/), /z/ capital \mathbb{Z} , small \mathbb{z} , /x/ capital \mathbb{X} , small \mathbb{x} , pharyngeal /ħ/ capital \mathbb{H} , small \mathbb{h} , and retroflex rhotic /ɻ/ capital \mathbb{R} , small \mathbb{r} .

At last, a comparison between all the alphabets of Zaghawa language can illustrate the difference and viability of Beria Giray Erfe.

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