

Ottoman Turkish Romanization Table

1997 version

Ottoman Turkish

Ottoman Turkish

RULES OF APPLICATION

1. Ottoman Turkish is meant here to mean the Turkish language as found in written records of the area controlled by the Ottoman Empire (ca. 1300 to 1919) and in use in Turkey from 1919 until the adoption of the Roman alphabet (officially introduced in 1928). Ottoman Turkish covers Turkish written in the Arabic alphabet and in other non-Roman alphabets as well (e.g., Armenian, Cyrillic, Greek, Hebrew). It does not include the other Turkic languages of Eastern Europe, the Near East and Central Asia.
2. In romanizing Ottoman Turkish the principle of *conversion* is applied as far as possible, i.e., the word, phrase, name, or title being romanized is represented, if possible, by the form it has in modern Turkish orthography, even if that means converting some letters to their modern equivalents. Foreign words, or words of non-Turkish origin that have become loan-words in Turkish, are converted like Ottoman Turkish. Modern Turkish usage in capitalization is followed.
3. Some limitations to the applicability of conversion are recognized. When the orthography of the Ottoman Turkish original reveals a conflict with modern Turkish usage, whether in pronunciation, in syntax, or in vocabulary, the letter (letters), word, or expression is romanized according to the table. Conversion as a principle is not applied to word order, which is not changed to conform to modern syntax. Obsolete terms are not replaced by their modern equivalents to reflect current terminology. Paragraphs 5-8 below provide more detailed guidance.
4. Some variations in modern Turkish orthography are found among standard publications. The reference works listed below are recommended for guidance in romanization.

Dictionaries and Spelling Guides

Büyük lûgat ve ansiklopedi ("Meydan Larousse"). 1969-1973.

Hony, H.C. *A Turkish-English dictionary.* 2nd ed. 1957.

Redhouse yeni Türkçe-İngilizce sözlük. 1968.

Türk Dil Kurumu. *Yeni imlâ kılavuzu.* 3rd ed. 1967 (And other editions)

Turkey. Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı. *Türk ilmi transkripsiyon kılavuzu.* 1946.

Specialized Works

İslâm ansiklopedisi. 1940-

Istanbul. Üniversite. Kütüphane. *İstanbul Üniversitesi Kütüphanesi Türkçe basmalar alfabe kataloğu (1729-1928).* 1956.

Koray, Enver. *Türkiye tarih yayınları bibliyografyası, 1729/1955-*

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Türkiye bibliyografyası. 1934-

Chapman, Harry W. *1939-1948 Türkiye bibliyografyası özüad indeski = A First-name index to the Türkiye bibliyografyası, 1939-1948. 1968.*

When the Turkish sources do not agree, the usage which seems predominant is followed. For certain kinds of variation, a uniform treatment is adopted. (See paragraphs 5-8 below.)

Aşık Paşa zade or Aşık Paşazade or Aşıkpaşazade

Heading: Aşıkpaşazade

When the word or expression being looked for is not found in Turkish sources, it is romanized by analogy with similar words or expressions. References are freely made when they will help to guide a user of the catalog from forms found in published sources to the form that has been adopted for the catalog. Variants from which references are made may be either names or the titles of works. References are especially useful when the title may be interpreted as being in any of several languages. Added entries may be provided instead of references when appropriate.

5. Phonetic considerations contribute to variability and inconsistency in the spelling of certain words and classes of words. For cataloging purposes, the orthography specified below is adopted in the conversion of both words and names.
- (a) Final *-p* versus final *-b*: the spelling *p* is adopted for all cases in which *p/b* variation occurs.
tip *not* tib
harp *not* harb
Ratip *not* Ratib
but Bab-i Saadet [*no variation*]
- (b) Final *-t* versus final *-d*: the spelling *t* is adopted for all cases in which *t/d* variation occurs.
mevcut *not* mevcud
Ahmet *not* Ahmed
but Belgrad [*no variation*]
- (c) Final *-k* versus final *-g*: The spelling *k* is adopted for all cases in which *k/g* variation occurs.
renk *not* reng
- (d) Final *-ç* versus final *-c*: the spelling *ç* is adopted for all cases in which *ç/c* variation occurs.
burç *not* burc
- (e) Medial *-tt-* versus medial *-dd-*: the spelling *dd* is adopted for all cases in which variation occurs.
Bedreddin *not* Bedrettin
- (f) Medial *-iy-* versus *-ıy-*: the spelling *-iy-* is adopted for all cases, whether the particular word concerned is variously spelled or not.
harbiye *not* harbiyye
cumhuriyet *not* cumhuriyyet

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6. Other variations require a standardized orthography for cataloging purposes.

- (a) *Izafet*. Final *i* or *ı* preceded by a hyphen, the combination functioning as the sign of *izafet*, may otherwise be found in the form *i* or *ı* (sometimes *yi*, *yı*) added directly to the word being modified. In converting from Ottoman Turkish, *-i* is added to the word being modified when it ends in a consonant, *-yi* when it ends in a vowel. Vowel harmony is disregarded.

Devlet-i Âliye-yi Osmaniye

Izafet is not indicated between the elements of a personal name except when it is expressly indicated in the Ottoman Turkish orthography.

- (b) The Arabic article *al*, when romanized in modern Turkish, may take various forms, among them: *al*, *el*, *ur*, *ül*, *’l*, *üs*, *ed*, *en*, and *et*. When the article functions as the middle element of a phrase or compound word or name, within a Turkish context, it is converted in accordance with the predominant usage in modern Turkish orthography for the particular word or name. It will usually happen that the component elements are combined as a single word.

alelulum	Abdüssettar
bilhassa	Abdurrahman
maalesef	Ebülgazi
darülfünun	<i>x-ref</i> from Ebül Gazi

When the Arabic article occurs in an Arabic title, it is romanized according to the rules for Arabic. (See (9) below.)

- (c) *Diacritics*. A dieresis (◌̈) is retained if found to be commonly used in Turkish in the particular word concerned, even if it is not used consistently. A circumflex (◌̂) is retained where found in modern Turkish usage. It is always placed over the final long *i* of the relative adjective (*nisbe*) and names derived from it.
- (d) An apostrophe (') is inserted between a proper noun, or a number, and a suffixed inflection.
- Mustafa'nin vakfi
1975'te
1976'de

7. Non-Turkish titles. Rarely, an Ottoman Turkish work will be found to bear a title that is entirely non-Turkish. "Non-Turkish" should not be taken to refer to any word or phrase that is only foreign in origin but has been accepted as belonging to Turkish. (This caveat is particularly necessary for words and expressions that derive from Arabic, the majority of which have become Turkish.) As already indicated in the present scheme, Turkish lexicographic sources will settle most such questions. In the very rare case when a title is non-Turkish (i.e., the words and phrases used have not been accepted into the Turkish language), then the title may be romanized according to the rules for the language involved.

8. General notes.

- (a) Word divisions follow predominant usage in modern Turkish. Where word division in the original varies decidedly from modern style and it is desirable to reflect the presentation in the publication being cataloged, the Ottoman Turkish word division may be retained.

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(b) The Arabic word *ibn*, "son of", occurring in names of the Islamic type, usually appears in modern Turkish orthography as *Ibn* at the beginning of a name and as *bin* (often abbreviated *b.*) in the middle of a name. The Ottoman Turkish form is romanized so as to maintain this distinction uniformly, but the abbreviation *b.* is not used.

9. When conversion is impractical because the word or words to be romanized are not part of the lexicon of modern Turkish and cannot be documented in Turkish sources in roman orthography, and analogous forms are not available for guidance, the original is romanized letter by letter, as prescribed by the rules for romanization of the alphabet concerned. When a title is being romanized and the language of the title is not identifiable with certainty, the title is romanized as from Ottoman Turkish according to the table. It should be noted that letter-by-letter romanization is applied *only* to the word or expression which cannot be converted to modern Turkish orthography. It may only be necessary to transliterate a single letter or group of letters within a word which is otherwise convertible to modern Turkish. The associated words in a context are, as far as possible, romanized according to the principles of conversion.

If the Ottoman Turkish original is written in the Arabic alphabet, the consonants are romanized as in the Ottoman Turkish table presented in this section.

The vowels and orthographic symbols other than vowel signs (*hemze, şedde, medde, tenvin*) are romanized according to the rules for Arabic or Persian, as appropriate. They are supplied if omitted from the Turkish original. (Systematic romanization in these cases promotes reversibility. See the romanization tables for Arabic and Persian.) No attempt is made to represent the Ottoman Turkish pronunciation of vowels beyond what is conveyed by the orthography of the original.

10. The romanization table for Ottoman Turkish (presented on the next two pages) is based on the romanization system published by Eleazer Birnbaum in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, volume 87 (1967). A few slight modifications have been introduced.

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10. Romanization Table for Ottoman Turkish

NOTE: Use table if principle of conversion cannot be applied. See 2. in RULES OF APPLICATION.

Letters of the Alphabet

Initial	Medial	Final	Alone	Romanization
ا	ا	ا	ا	omit (see Note 1)
ب	ب	ب	ب	b
پ	پ	پ	پ	p
ت	ت	ت	ت	t
ث	ث	ث	ث	ṡ
ج	ج	ج	ج	c
چ	چ	چ	چ	ç
ح	ح	ح	ح	h
خ	خ	خ	خ	ḫ
د	د	د	د	d
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	z
ر	ر	ر	ر	r
ز	ز	ز	ز	z
ژ	ژ	ژ	ژ	j
س	س	س	س	s
ش	ش	ش	ش	ʃ
ص	ص	ص	ص	ṡ
ض	ض	ض	ض	z
ط	ط	ط	ط	t
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	z
ع	ع	ع	ع	' (ayn)
غ	غ	غ	غ	ġ
ف	ف	ف	ف	f
ق	ق	ق	ق	k
ک	ک	ک	ک	k
گ	گ	گ	گ	g (see Note 2)
ـ	ـ	ـ	ـ	ñ (see Note 3)
ل	ل	ل	ل	l
م	م	م	م	m
ن	ن	ن	ن	n
و	و	و	و	v (see Note 4)
ه	ه	ه	ه، ه	h (see Note 5)
ی	ی	ی	ی	y (see Note 6)

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Notes

1. For orthographic uses of this letter, see the Arabic and Persian romanization tables.
2. Frequently written without the distinguishing upper strokes.
3. Frequently written without the distinguishing dots.
4. For the uses of this letter other than to represent the consonantal sound *v*, see the Persian romanization table.
5. For the distinction between *o* and *ö* see the Arabic romanization table.
6. For the uses of this letter other than to represent the consonantal sound *y*, see the Persian romanization table.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

<i>Special Characters</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i>
´	soft sign (prime)	A7
’	alif	AE
‘	ayn	B0
ı	Turkish i (small)	B8

<i>Character Modifiers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i>
á	acute	E2
â	circumflex	E3
ã	tilde	E4
ä	macron	E5
å	breve	E6
â	dot above	E7
ë	umlaut (dieresis)	E8
ç	cedilla	F0
¸	dot below	F2
	underscore	F6
	upadhmaniya	F9