

# A Review of Shifts in Gurage Orthography

Daniel Yacob\* and Fekede Menuta\*\*

\* Ge'ez Frontier Foundation, USA

\*\* Hawassa University, CSSH, DELL

## Abstract

*This note reviews the historical shifts and developments in the Gurage orthography. The aims of the review were (1) to record, and add clarity to, the history of the Gurage orthography which does not appear to have been written before, (2) to acknowledge and credit people who have developed the past orthography, (3) to provide a reference for the orthography whereby a person finding any Gurage language document from the last 50 years can refer to the note and determine what the letter is, and (4) to promote the current orthography to technical and general users by showing its continuous development, grapheme patterning and simplicity. We reviewed all religious, literary and academic texts available to us. We contacted by email the institutes and individuals responsible for some stage of the orthography development. We have arranged the history of orthography development chronologically, from the earliest to the latest. We have learnt that there were seven attempts to modernize the Gurage orthography mainly in the palatalized and labialized graphemes, giving rise to short “eras” in the orthography. We demonstrated the different stages of developments with sample texts. We have also provided the legacy and the improved versions as a historical record. Finally, we provided the implication of the changes to Ethiopic Standards, Ethiopian Standards Agency and Ethiopic Software developers.*

Key Words: *Ethiosemitic, Gurage language, orthography shift, Ethiopic, Unicode*

## 1 Introduction

The Gurage are a people of Ethiopia that use the Ethiopic script as the basis for their written language, which in its spoken form is also known as “Gurage”. Since the academic study of the Gurage language by Western scholars got underway earnestly in the 1950s, confusion over the language name has been a recurrent cause for confusion in western study. All too often the language name will be conflated with one of its seven dialects which in turn may also be identified as wholly separate languages. Adding to the confusion over the language name, the Gurage orthography has also been through refinements in this same period. This document attempts to present a clear understanding for the language name as used by native speakers and review the orthography changes and their implications to the Unicode standard.

## 2 Gurage Languages and Dialects

The term “Gurage” (“ጉራጊ” for the people and “ጉራጊኛ” for the language) has been in use since prior to the thirteenth century, to refer to the socio-linguistic group of people residing in the southwest of Ethiopia known today as the administrative “Gurage Zone”. The term is free of negative connotations and is the preferred term of the Gurage people.

Within the modern Gurage Zone language groups emerge geographically with Soddo (ሶዶ) also called ክስታኔ Kistane, Dobbi (ዶቢ) also called Gogot (ጎጎት), Mesqan (መስቃን) spoken in the North, Silt'e (ሲልጤ), Zay (ዛይ), and Wolane (ወለኔ) in the East and Sebat Bet (ሰባት ቤት) in the West. The Northern and Western region languages have unique phonological features that lead to orthographical requirements not shared with the Eastern groups. These languages and their orthography then are the focus of this paper.

The Sebat-Bet (ሰባት-ቤት) literally meaning “Seven Houses”, is a reference to the seven regions (districts) in Sebat Bet that formed a tradition of common political alliances to protect themselves from external aggressors, also corresponds to the seven dialects of the districts. The dialects of Sebat Bet are

Chaha (ቸሀ), Ezha (እዣ), Muher (ሙህር), Gura (ጉራ), Gumer (ጉመር), Inor (ኢኖር), Gyeta (ኅይታ), Endegegn (እንደገኝ) and Mesmes (መስመስ) which is now extinct, may again be used interchangeably with the parent language –a regular source of confusion of the language name.

Sebat Bet has often been transliterated in other lexical forms and is often contracted into the single word “Sebatbeit” which has been applied in the Unicode Standard in the naming of the language’s unique letters<sup>1</sup>. The two-word rendering used in this document has emerged in recent years as the prevalent form. “Sebat Bet” in turn has been used synonymously for “Gurage” in many contexts and has been a source of continued confusion over what peoples and language are encompassed by the term. The modern preference is to use the broader and more inclusive moniker “Gurage” in place of “Sebat Bet” when referring to languages and orthographic requirements across the Gurage Zone.

### 3 The Evolution of Gurage Orthography

#### 3.1 The 1966 Sahle and Wolf Orthography

Beginning in the summer of 1962 while attending graduate school at UCLA, and at the request of renowned linguist Dr. Wolf Leslau who was seeking a research corpus, Sahle Selassie Berhane Mariam begun writing a collection of short stories of Gurage village life. To capture the unique phonemes found in the Gurage language, Sahle and Leslau devised a writing convention that introduced forty-four new Ethiopic letters that were systematically derived from the established inventory. The English translation of his work would first appear in the 1964 publication “*Shinega’s Village: Scenes of Ethiopian Life*” but the Ethiopic text would not appear in print until the 1966 publication “*Ethiopians Speak Volume 2: Chaha*”<sup>2</sup>. The Ethiopic additions included four rounded labial syllable extensions made to four letter families (ሙ, በ, ፈ, and ጥ), and four palatized velars complements of the regular syllables (ቀ, ከ, ኸ, and ገ) with the Ethiopic macron, ሹ, applied. The anthology of Chaha stories would span 75 pages and exhibit highly consistent calligraphic writing with occasional instances of the macron coming in contact with the base letter (ቸ appearing as ቸ for example). In a single case, occurring on page 72, the glyph for ሙ becomes ሙ, a change from the first order ሙ as a base letter to the sixth order ሙ. In all cases of variation, the present authors have determined that the difference in appearance does not represent a difference in phoneme. The following tables present the Gurage letters introduced in the work:

Palatized Velars								
Base	IPA	ə	u	i	a	e	ɨ	o
ቀ	kʲ	ቀሹ	ቀህ	ቀዳ	ቀላ	ቀጽ	ቀጺ	ቀጻ
ከ	kʲ	ከሹ	ከህ	ከዳ	ከላ	ከጽ	ከጺ	ከጻ
ኸ	hʲ	ኸሹ	ኸህ	ኸዳ	ኸላ	ኸጽ	ኸጺ	ኸጻ
ገ	gʲ	ገሹ	ገህ	ገዳ	ገላ	ገጽ	ገጺ	ገጻ

Added Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> ɨ
ሙ	m	ሙፊ	ሙፈ	ሙጽ	ሙጺ
በ	b	በፊ	በፈ	በጽ	በጺ
ፈ	f	ፈፊ	ፈፈ	ፈጽ	ፈጺ
ጥ	p	ጥፊ	ጥፈ	ጥጽ	ጥጺ

Regular Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> ɨ
ኸ	h	ኸፊ	ኸፈ	ኸጽ	ኸጺ
ቀ	q	ቀፊ	ቀፈ	ቀጽ	ቀጺ
ከ	k	ከፊ	ከፈ	ከጽ	ከጺ
ገ	g	ገፊ	ገፈ	ገጽ	ገጺ

<sup>1</sup> Originating from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N2814R.

<sup>2</sup> The Ethiopic was re-penned by a professional scribe in Addis Ababa.

An alphabetical order of the Gurage syllabary is worth noting as it is distinct from related languages like Amharic, and we will also note some evolution in the sequence over time.

Ordered Sequence																														
ኸ	ኹ	ለ	መ	ረ	ሰ	ሸ	ቀ	ቆ	በ	ተ	ቸ	ነ	ፕ	አ	ከ	ኸ	ወ	ዘ	ዠ	የ	ደ	ጀ	ገ	ገ	ጠ	ጨ	ጰ	ፀ	ፈ	ፐ
h	h'	l	M	r	s	f	k'	k''	b	t	f'	n	n'	'	k	k'	w	z	ʒ	j	d	dʒ	g	g'	t'	f'	p'	t'	f	p

“Ethiopians Speak” was published in the United States for the academic market and would have been of interest primarily to linguists and sociologists with research interest in Gurage language and culture. The orthography is not known to have been used again outside of this one publication. A sample from the work demonstrating the new letters appears below:

ጭን፡ አንሰማ፡ ሰብ፡ ኸማ፡ እንቁስ፡ ሙነኛንም፡ ተሽፈፈረኛ  
 ም፡ ቆናኞም፡፡

ዠፐረም፡ ቦጣ፡ ኸማ፡ “ ባሜስጉክ፡ አትከፈኛ፡ በኸ  
 ረ፡ በዝ፡ ግብት፡ አልቦ/አሰየንኸሽ፡፡ ፏፏዎክ፡ ቲፍታክ፡ አር  
 ጂ፡” ባረናም፡፡ ቢሜስግና፡ ሳረናም፡ ፏፏዎክታ፡ ዎስጥ፡ ዠ  
 ፑረኛንም፡ ተገኬተኛ፡ ጭን፡ ኢፍት፡ ኢፍት፡ ታኸኔ፡ ቅመ  
 ጨኞም፡፡ እትሼወ፡ መርኬ፡ ባረም፡ ቢዎኸና፡ ምሽራ፡ ቀሪ፡  
 ቃር፡ ተድረ፡ ደርቅ፡ ተሽጋከረኛወም፡፡ የኬየነት፡ ሳደላኸታ፡  
 መናም፡ ጉነረኸታ፡ ደሽታ፡ ጉነር፡ ኸረም፡፡ ኢፍትመኸታ፡  
 ተድረ፡ ደርቅ፡ ጠቅቅ፡ ኸረወም፡፡ ጨት፡ አናዠና፡ የኸረ  
 ሜ፡ ደመረኸታ፡ ካፈተም፡፡ አዠናም፡ ቲጠፏ፡ እትሼወ፡ “ ዋፃ  
 ዠነ፡ ንዝራነ፡” ባረናምታ፡ ቲዘሮ፡ በምሽነት፡ ተወጣወ፡  
 ከረ፡ ተሳረናም፡፡ ኸትም፡ በመዘኔት፡ ደን፡ የቆናኞ፡ ዎኸር፡  
 ከረ፡ ( አርበት፡ በነ ) ሜዘረኞም፡ ታነ፡ “ ታት፡ በነ፡ አንቆ፡ አወ  
 ጣቲ፡” ባረኛንም፡፡

“ ተወጨፑ፡ ኹጅርክ፡ ስሮንኸምጭ?”

Sample from page 78 of *Ethiopians Speak: Studies in Cultural Background Vol. II Chaha*.

**3.2 The 1977 Orthography of the Sudan Interior Mission**

Working in the Gurage homeland, the missionary Carolyn Ford and translator Degefe Gebremariam undertook the development of a second orthography while employed by the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM). Without awareness of the Sahle-Wolf orthography, the two began experimenting with letter shapes as early as 1974. These trials lead up to the first publication for the public distributed on January 7, 1977 coinciding deliberately with the Orthodox Christmas day. This first publication within Ethiopia was the Gospel of Matthew verses 1:18-25 and produced by the Ethiopian typewriter and replicated by mimeograph.

Building upon this success, the complete Gospel of Mathew was translated, with 50 copies then hand-cranked mimeographed and distributed around the town of Zezencho by the end of June. Shortly thereafter the team would undertake translation of the complete New Testament, an endeavor that would span another 2 ½ years into 1979. Publishing would be coordinated with the Bible Society of Ethiopia (BSE) and typesetting of the translated manuscript, in metal type, would then require another 2 ½ years before a camera-ready copy could be submitted to a printing house in South Korea in 1982. A first batch

of 10,000 copies arrived to an Ethiopian port in 1983 but were seized and barred from entry into the country until January of 1988. Surprisingly, a second batch of some 3,000 copies was able to enter into the country at the end of 1986 where they would first become available to the public.

A recipient of this first batch of books to enter the country was the aspiring author, Gebreyesus Hailemariam. Inspired, Gebreyesus would apply the new orthography to compose the first Gurage novel, “የጫሙት ሽካ” (*Yet’amut fika*) “*The Trap of Chamut*”. The novel was published by Ethiopia’s largest printing agency, the Berhanena Selam Printing Press between 1987 and 1988 (1981 in the Ethiopian Calendar which begins in September in the Gregorian system). Berhanena Selam would not develop mechanical type for the new letters however, and instead published the book in the author’s handwriting.

Developed without exposure to, or even awareness of the Sahle-Wolf orthography, Carolyn and Degefu created an orthography that differs from its predecessor primarily by applying an attached caron (or háček, ˇ) in place of the floating macron (̄) to denote palatalization. The palatized velar symbols, which followed the conventions inherited from Ge’ez orthography, were created identically to the Sahle-Wolf orthography with the exception of ፊ taking the graphic form of ፊ, and ሙ taking the form ሙ. The following tables present the letter shapes:

Palatized Velars								
Base	IPA	ə	u	i	a	e	ɨ	o
ቀ	kʲ	ቀ̣	ቀ̣	ቀ̣	ቀ̣	ቀ̣	ቀ̣	ቀ̣
ከ	kʲ	ከ̣	ከ̣	ከ̣	ከ̣	ከ̣	ከ̣	ከ̣
ኸ	hʲ	ኸ̣	ኸ̣	ኸ̣	ኸ̣	ኸ̣	ኸ̣	ኸ̣
ገ	gʲ	ገ̣	ገ̣	ገ̣	ገ̣	ገ̣	ገ̣	ገ̣

Added Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	wə	wi	wɛ	wɨ
መ	m	መ̣	ማ̣	ሜ̣	ሙ̣
በ	b	በ̣	ቦ̣	ቤ̣	ቡ̣
ፈ	f	ፈ̣	ፊ̣	ፋ̣	ፈ̣
ፐ	p	ፐ̣	ፑ̣	ፒ̣	ፒ̣

Regular Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	wə	wi	wɛ	wɨ
ኸ	h	ኸ̣	ኸ̣	ኸ̣	ኸ̣
ቀ	kʰ	ቀ̣	ቀ̣	ቀ̣	ቀ̣
ከ	k	ከ̣	ከ̣	ከ̣	ከ̣
ገ	g	ገ̣	ገ̣	ገ̣	ገ̣

**Ordered Sequence**

ኸ	ኸ̣	ለ	መ	ረ	ሰ	ሸ	ቀ	ቀ̣	በ	ተ	ቸ	ነ	ኘ	ከ	ኸ̣	ወ	ዘ	ዠ	የ	ደ	ጀ	ገ	ገ̣	ጠ	ጫ	ጸ	ፀ	ፈ	ፐ	
h	hʲ	l	m	r	s	f	kʰ	kʲ	b	t	f	N	n	ʰ	k	kʲ	w	z	ʒ	j	d	dʒ	g	gʲ	tʰ	fʰ	pʰ	tʰ	f	p

The SIM and BSE would continue to collaborate in publishing selected excerpts from the Bible using the orthography. An obstacle to publishing in the era was that the Ethiopian government’s censorship office had no staff that spoke the Gurage language, and so could not authorize printing. A sample from the 1982 Gurage New Testament is seen in the following sample:

የሱስ በባር ፎር እምቦርቢት አቋመም

23. የሱስ በባር ፎር ቢያር መርከብ ቲገባ ተማሪዎቻ ተኸተረዊም ገፍም ። 24. በባር ፎር ቲያሮ ኸመጋ እምቦርቢት በባር ፎር ተረሳም ። የባር መርከብ ቲያትፏፏን ዳር የባር እኻ እቅረቀረም ። የሱስ ጭን ንዩም ባነ ። 25. ተማሪዎቻ ተቆነቦም ታነ « ሻታንዶ አነቅነም ፤ አትርፍንደ » ባሮም በሬተታ ነሰዊም ። 26. ኹትም « አኹ በጌታ ተመመሮት የቆመናኹ ሰብ ፣ ትሰርፎ የንቃሩ ? » ባረኖም ። ተኸንቆ ተረሳም ። ንፋስ ተባር አጥራቀረም ቍስ በሮ ባረም ። ንፋስም ባር አቸም ገብ ባሮም ። 27. ሰብኸኖ « ዝኸ ምር ኤነት ሰቡ ? ንፋስ ተባር ይታዘዘነ » ቲብሮ ወጉ ባሮም ።

Sample from page 24 of *ገደር ጉርዳ በጉራጊና*.

ዛዛ ዮንዣት አርብ ከርታዊ ሻድተም በጉ ማረ የባዘነት ሄት ስረ አተረም ታነ ቤተታ ተዠፕ ረም ። ኤማ ቲያሮ ሄቶም በሃረዊ አህር ቃር ባሚ ና ቲያቆባፕሮ ፡— ተኸምበቶ በጦ በሦስት ስራሁና ባነ ጉማረ የሰኖ ።

Sample from page 49 of *ተኪትነት-አጂነት፡-አገኪ* depicting ‘ኸ’ as ‘ሄ’.

« ኸቆማኹ የኸናኹ የሰናንኩ ቃር አመሰፊ! አቸ አትኸርወ ፣ ዱድቅ የባረባ ቃር የኸረቼ ሚኒም ቃር ትዘንግም ምስ ታትየቆብንደሽ አንኸረ ትብረ ዊያነ ? ወኼ ቃር አማጥኸማን አጂ » ባረኛም ብት ቁራደስ ፡— « ባይሽ የባራኽ እክሽ በሮተና አንኸረ! ታት ሰብ ኸት ሦስት ኹርም ያትዋጀቦ ዘንጋ ያሻግር

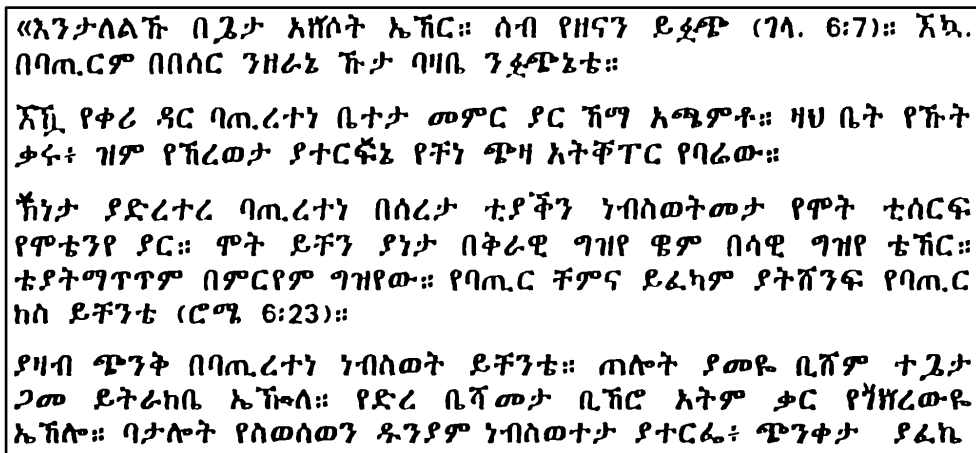
Sample from page 28 of *የጫሙት ሸካ* depicting ‘ኸ’ as ‘ኸ’.

**3.3 The 1997 Orthography of All Nations Gospel Publishers**

The first Gurage language publications that employed a computer font are found in the early second half of the 1990s. The SIM, now rebranded as the Society of International Ministries, in partnership with Pretoria based All Nations Gospel Publishers produced the tract “*ቤታኹ ኤቴው?*” (*Betahu Etew?*) or “*Where is Your Home?*” in 1996-7. The tract is something of a curiosity in that it diverged from the previous convention in use by the SIM in two clear cases with the replacement of the ፎ glyph for ፋ, and ቆ used in the Tigrinya language substituted for ቆ.

Though a computer has been used in the publication, some compromises are evident. With few exceptions, Ethiopic fonts at this time used decomposed diacritical symbols as a strategy to encode the entire Ethiopic syllabary into approximately 220 available positions of address space. This technique proved advantageous when it came to supporting the Gurage labiovelars. For instance, the available diacritic ጐ as a separate entity could be applied against any letter; thus, ጐ and ጐ together would form ጐጐ which would be acceptable in lieu of the more optimized single character ጐጐ. In some cases,

however, the spatial alignment of the free diacritical symbol with the base character would not be visually satisfactory and so the diacritical symbol would instead be written in by hand at some stage of the publishing process. This appears to have also been the case with the caron marks used for the palatized syllables where new letters were not introduced into the font but were handwritten instead. We assume here then that the available **ቆ** glyph in the font was found to approximate **ቆ̣** satisfactorily. The use of **ቆ̣** in place of **ቆ** may have been due to a diacritic alignment issue as well as an early attempt to distinguish between the <sup>w</sup>i and <sup>w</sup>ị order diacritical marks (e.g. <sup>w</sup>ጎ vs <sup>w</sup>ጎ̣) which can be challenging to render clearly in handwriting.



Sample from page 3 of *ጌታኹ ኤቴው?* showing ‘ቆ̣’ in the form of ‘ቆ̣’.

### 3.4 The 1998 New Testament Orthography (Second Edition)

Building upon the experience with the 1977 orthography, the SIM and BSE worked with the SIL to develop a computer font in 1998-1999 in preparation for a republication of the Gurage New Testament and an original translation of the Old Testament. Refinements for greater clarity were made to the extended labialized forms in <sup>w</sup>i and <sup>w</sup>ị throughout and in a single case in the <sup>w</sup>e form where **ፌ** became **ፌ̣**. In the <sup>w</sup>i (or ninth) order the diacritical symbol, <sup>w</sup>ጎ, is lowered to help distinguish letters from the traditional twelfth order (e.g. **ጎ** to **ጎ̣** to avoid confusion with **ጎ**). The glyphs for the twelfth order, <sup>w</sup>ị, were further modified where the letter base became the sixth order (e.g. **ግ** in place of **ጎ**) with the <sup>w</sup>ጎ̣ diacritical symbol, <sup>w</sup>ጎ̣, applied (e.g. **ጎ** becomes **ጎ̣**). These revisions are depicted in the following table:

Palatized Velars								
Base	IPA	ə	u	i	a	e	i	o
ቀ	k <sup>j</sup>	ቀ̣	ቀሬ	ቀሬ	ቀሬ	ቀሬ	ቀሬ	ቀሬ
ከ	k <sup>j</sup>	ከ̣	ከሬ	ከሬ	ከሬ	ከሬ	ከሬ	ከሬ
ኸ	h <sup>j</sup>	ኸ̣	ኸሬ	ኸሬ	ኸሬ	ኸሬ	ኸሬ	ኸሬ
ገ	g <sup>j</sup>	ገ̣	ገሬ	ገሬ	ገሬ	ገሬ	ገሬ	ገሬ

Added Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> ị
መ	m	መ̣	መሬ	መሬ	መሬ
በ	b	በ̣	በሬ	በሬ	በሬ
ፈ	f	ፈ̣	ፈሬ	ፈሬ	ፈሬ
ፐ	p	ፐ̣	ፐሬ	ፐሬ	ፐሬ

Regular Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> ị
ኸ	h	ኸ̣	ኸሬ	ኸሬ	ኸሬ
ቀ	k'	ቀ̣	ቀሬ	ቀሬ	ቀሬ
ከ	k	ከ̣	ከሬ	ከሬ	ከሬ
ገ	g	ገ̣	ገሬ	ገሬ	ገሬ



Ordered Sequence																														
ኸ	ኸ	ለ	መ	ረ	ሰ	ሸ	ቀ	ቅ	በ	ተ	ቸ	ነ	ኘ	አ	ከ	ኸ	ወ	ዘ	ዠ	የ	ደ	ጀ	ገ	ኘ	ጠ	ጨ	ጰ	ፀ	ፈ	ፐ
h	h <sup>j</sup>	l	m	r	s	f	k'	k <sup>j</sup>	b	t	ʃ	n	ɲ	'	k	k <sup>j</sup>	w	z	ʒ	j	d	dʒ	g	k <sup>j</sup>	t'	f'	p'	t'	f	p

This refined orthography became the basis for the ES 781:2002 standard in 2002 and later adopted into the Unicode 4.1 standard in 2004. The BSE would publish a number of small works with the orthography before the complete Gurage Bible was published in 2010.

፩ ተክ ለክቆ የርጉስኩት ወርም ዝካ ባረደም፥ «ንጉስ ዳርዮሱ! ለክ የዘላለም ንበር! 7 በመንገስታክ ለተደርት ሜና ደነ ተቆጣጣሪም ዳም ለኝም የትሰማሜኑ ለት ዘንጋ ነረ፤ ኹትም ተኪ ቀነሰም ሳሳ ከረ ስኝ ደኸሪ የሚላም ገቴንዮ ዌም ሰቤንዮ ጠሎት ሌደሙራኸማ ለዋጅ ታቶደው፤ ዘም ለዋጅ ይጠስ ሰብ ቢረብር በዘፕ ጉጸ ይኹሪ ኸማ ለዘዘ። 8 ኹታ ንጉሱ! ዘክ ለዋጅ የሚደገም የፋርሶም ቅጫኸማ የጠበጠቀም ሌትሸጋከርም ኸማ ፈርም።»

9 በዘም ሌነት ንጉስ ዳርዮስ ለዋጅኩት በፈርማ ለትቋመረም። 10 ዳኤል ለዋጅኩት ፈረም፡፡ የትቋመረኸማ በካሪ ግዝየ ይረብርወ ቤት ገፓም፤ ይረብርወም ቤት ተየሩሳሌም ይፍት ይፍት የትከፈቶም መስኮት ባነበዌ፤ ተዘ ይፍቴ ደሚንም የረፈረኸማ በጉርበተታ ሰጁት ወካም የገታታ ሸኩርት ቴደትቆንብ በዋጋ ሶስት ግዝየ ጠሎት ደሚ ባነ።

Dot Matrix Printer Sample from the *Book of Daniel* in Gurage.

**የእስራኤል ሰብ ታረማዊ ሰብ ጋሙ ተቅራቀርም**

8 ለግዘር ዝካ ይብር፥ «የእስራኤል ሰብ ታረማዊ ሰብ ጋሙ ተቅራቀርም! በዘም የቸነ ኸኖ አንኸቧፊሪ ውላኸማ ኤያዝሮቃር ኸርም! 9 ገበር የኸርኸኖ የቸተዊ በኖፖም! ኸኖ ጭን አንኸረዊ! በግርዝና ወቅጠኹና ያትየሽ ሽበት ነግቦም! ኸኖ ጭን አንኸረዊ።

10 የእስራኤል ሰብ ተኃኃኸነተኹና በገግመኹና ይምሰክርብ ዘም ለንም ቴኸር ይያኼ የኃታኹኔ አንትዠፕርም አንላቦንም።

11 የእስራኤል ሰብ የቡንየት ኸማ ኃራም ቀልብም ኤነኖ ሰብ ኸርም! ለገዠ ይረኸቦዩ አት ግዝየ ግብፅ ዠፕርም ይጠር! አት ግዝየም አላር ዠፕርም ያር። 12 ቢያርፑም መደር ለንም ሸካና አቸኪትኹ አፍ ኸማ ሸጠብፕኖቴ! በቸተዊም ምፕፕ ሜና ሸቀጣኖቴ።

Sample from page 10 of *የኸሌእ ትንቢት በጉራጊና*.

### 3.5 The 2013 Orthography of Fekede Menuta

During his doctoral research (2010-2013) Fekede Menuta of Hawassa University revisited the problem of Gurage orthography in his investigation “*Intergroup Communication Among Gurage*”. In the course of his research survey work, Fekede introduced a number of practical graphic simplifications to the previous orthography making it easier to learn and use. The new orthography repurposes a number of existing letters in use for other languages under different phonemes.

While labialized letters were not modified from the 1999 orthography, all palatalized phonemes are reassigned to different letters. The *k<sup>j</sup>* phoneme would be assigned to **ቅ** (used for *k<sup>h</sup>* in Tigrinya and related languages), deprecating **ቅ**. The *k<sup>j</sup>* phoneme would be assigned to **ኸ** (used for *x* in Tigrinya and related languages), deprecating **ኸ**. The *h<sup>j</sup>* phoneme would be assigned to **ኸ**, considered a typeface change to **ኸ**. The *g<sup>j</sup>* phoneme would be assigned to **ኘ** (used for *η* in Blin and related languages), deprecating **ኘ**. The convention for the writing of two glottal vowels were also revised. The vowel letter for **አ** would now be written with the first order **አ**, and **አ** under the new practice would be written with

the fourth order ኢ. This shift in rendering the glottal vowels along stricter phonemic conformance with the Ethiopic syllabary aligns Gurage with the orthographic conventions of many of its neighbors.

As a consequence of assigning the simpler ኸ to replace ኸ, a new letter base would be needed for the *h* phoneme. The existing letter family ሐ was selected over other candidates such as ሀ or ኅ in part to maintain phonetic and glyph correspondence with ሐ, but also to avoid confusion with ሀ from Amharic where the first and fourth orders occur frequently under phonetic rules that would be different in Gurage use. The ኅ would also be much less familiar to Gurage users and is too readily confused with the ኃ letter family. The selection of ሐ then gives rise to the need for five labial velar forms, only one of which was available (ሐ, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> form in <sup>w</sup>a). This requirement leads to the introduction of four new letters indicated in the following tables:

Palatized Velars								
Base	IPA	<i>a</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>o</i>
ቆ	<i>kʲ</i>	ቆ	ቆ	ቆ	ቆ	ቆ	ቆ	ቆ
ኸ	<i>kʲ</i>	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ	ኸ
ሐ	<i>hʲ</i>	ሐ	ሐ	ሐ	ሐ	ሐ	ሐ	ሐ
ኻ	<i>gʲ</i>	ኻ	ኻ	ኻ	ኻ	ኻ	ኻ	ኻ

Added Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> <i>a</i>	<sup>w</sup> <i>i</i>	<sup>w</sup> <i>e</i>	<sup>w</sup> <i>i</i>
መ	<i>m</i>	መ	መ	መ	መ
በ	<i>b</i>	በ	በ	በ	በ
ፈ	<i>f</i>	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ	ፈ
ፐ	<i>p</i>	ፐ	ፐ	ፐ	ፐ

Regular Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> <i>a</i>	<sup>w</sup> <i>i</i>	<sup>w</sup> <i>e</i>	<sup>w</sup> <i>i</i>
ሐ	<i>h</i>	ሐ	ሐ	ሐ	ሐ
ቀ	<i>kʰ</i>	ቀ	ቀ	ቀ	ቀ
ከ	<i>k</i>	ከ	ከ	ከ	ከ
ገ	<i>g</i>	ገ	ገ	ገ	ገ

**Ordered Sequence**

ሐ	ሐ	ለ	መ	ረ	ሰ	ሸ	ቀ	ቆ	በ	ተ	ቸ	ነ	ኘ	አ	ከ	ኸ	ወ	ዐ	ዘ	ዠ	የ	ደ	ጀ	ገ	ኻ	ጠ	ጨ	-	ጸ	ፈ	ፐ
<i>h</i>	<i>hʲ</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>kʰ</i>	<i>kʲ</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>ʃ</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>ɲ</i>	<i>ʔ</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>kʲ</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>ʔ</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>ʒ</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>dʒ</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>gʲ</i>	<i>tʰ</i>	<i>ʃʰ</i>	<i>pʰ</i>	<i>tʰ</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>p</i>

ቃር በጉራጊና ብዙ ትርጉም ነረነ። አትም ባማሪና ‘ድምጥ’ (voice) ዌም ‘ቃል’ (word) በሮቱ። ቃር ትንጉድ ቃር ቲደምጂ ጋመ ብዙ ፍቺ ነረን። ምሳሌ፤ ቃር አውጣ ‘ብሐ’ ፣ ቀሪ ቃር ‘እርስየ ዘንጋ’ ቃር ቃር ባረም ‘ተርሳሳም’፣ እንጉድም። አታት ሰብ ቃር ያማሪና ‘ቋንቋ’ ሐማም ይትኸኸሮቹ። ብዙ ሰብ ያማሪና ‘ቋንቋ’ አምፍ ይውን የሐሬ በዝ መጣፍ ያማሪና ‘ቋንቋ’ አምፍ ቲውሪ ቃል ዌም ድምጥ በጉራጊና ቃር ባረም። በጉራጊና የቋንቋ ትርጉም ‘ጣንባ’ ዌም ‘ሐለት’ በሮቱ።

ቃረንዳ ጣፎት የቀነሰሎን ተሰስት ዘበር ይፍቱ በ2000 የምረት ዘበር ባነ። ትንቁርስንም ባማሪና ፊደል ያነቦ ጅንረ ቀሪ ጥናት ትናጠና አት ዘንጋ በሕና ገጋም። ‘አችባ ያሕር ቅንቅት ቤነታ ታነ ሓሕርወት በሰብ ኤን ያነ ቅንቅት ያኸ’ ይብር ወማካ። አፍ የፈታሕወ አምፍ አቸም አንጣፎ እያ ባት በትራቀ ቋንቋ ያነ አቃቋር አውጣ ባሕም። የሕር ባንሐሬ ያማሪና ጥናትሐት የዝ አሏ የጣፍሎን ቃረንዳ መንሸ ዌም ሸት ሐረም። ይፍትወረር አሳበና የፊደር ይወደረ ብቻ በፖስተር ሐማ አተምሎም ያንባቢ አሰራይ ኤላሕም ባነ። ያንቆ ፊደርሎኖ መምር ያነቡዮ ሐማ፣ መምር ይሸከሞችዮ ሐማ አተዞት ያነቢ ሐማ ገፎም። ዝም የሐሬ በመጣፍ ኤነት ጣፍሎንም።

Sample from page 1 of ቃረንዳ፣ የጉራጊና አምፍስራት / Our Voice: Guragina Grammar.



### 3.6 The 2013 Orthography Adopted in the Gurage Zone

After defending his thesis in June of 2013, Fekede Menuta submitted the orthography for consideration to the Gurage Zone Tourism and Communication Office (GZTC). The bureau formed an internal committee to review and debate the orthography and by December produced the conclusive “*Gurage Language Study Report*”.

The language development committee, which included Fekede, did make further refinements to the labial velar shapes with the aim of regularizing them under a common diacritical symbol. To this end, the <sup>w</sup>ə (eighth) order diacritical symbol, <sup>w</sup>, was applied as mnemonic marker for general labialization. This convention impacted fourteen of the labialized letters in the <sup>w</sup>i (ninth) and <sup>w</sup>e (eleventh) orders. The twelfth order glyph of the  $\Phi$  family was also refined where its diacritical symbol was raised from the base of the central stroke up to the side of the central ring (e.g. from  $\Phi$  to  $\Phi^w$ ).

Palatized Velars								
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> u	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> a	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> o
$\Phi$	<i>kʲ</i>	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$
$\Psi$	<i>kʲ</i>	$\Psi^w$	$\Psi^w$	$\Psi^w$	$\Psi^w$	$\Psi^w$	$\Psi^w$	$\Psi^w$
$\Lambda$	<i>hʲ</i>	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$
$\Gamma$	<i>gʲ</i>	$\Gamma^w$	$\Gamma^w$	$\Gamma^w$	$\Gamma^w$	$\Gamma^w$	$\Gamma^w$	$\Gamma^w$

Added Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> i
$\sigma$	<i>m</i>	$\sigma^w$	$\sigma^w$	$\sigma^w$	$\sigma^w$
$\Pi$	<i>b</i>	$\Pi^w$	$\Pi^w$	$\Pi^w$	$\Pi^w$
$\Delta$	<i>f</i>	$\Delta^w$	$\Delta^w$	$\Delta^w$	$\Delta^w$
$\Upsilon$	<i>p</i>	$\Upsilon^w$	$\Upsilon^w$	$\Upsilon^w$	$\Upsilon^w$

Regular Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> i
$\Lambda$	<i>h</i>	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$	$\Lambda^w$
$\Phi$	<i>q</i>	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$	$\Phi^w$
$\mathfrak{h}$	<i>k</i>	$\mathfrak{h}^w$	$\mathfrak{h}^w$	$\mathfrak{h}^w$	$\mathfrak{h}^w$
$\mathfrak{g}$	<i>g</i>	$\mathfrak{g}^w$	$\mathfrak{g}^w$	$\mathfrak{g}^w$	$\mathfrak{g}^w$

In 2017 (2009 EC) the GZTC approached Wolkite University to develop a computer font and keyboard for the orthography. The first computer font for the orthography, “*Yetenbi*” (meaning “*Welcome*”), was created in the same year. In 2019, the Gurage Zone Administration Council, the region’s highest authority, endorsed the orthography and it was later introduced into the public school system at the start of the 2013 EC school year (September 2020).

### 3.7 The 2020 Minor Revisions to the Gurage Zone Orthography

When reviewing promotional materials for the 2013 orthography, the present authors identified three letters whose glyph structure remained inconsistent with the regularized mode where the <sup>w</sup>ə (eighth) order diacritical symbol, ᵛ, is applied to the non-labialized base letter. The glyph bases of ፈ, ፊ, and ሐ were then updated accordingly in the revision as highlighted in the following tables:

Palatized Velars								
Base	IPA	ə	u	i	a	e	i	o
ቆ	kʲ	ቆᵛ	ቆᵛ	ቆᵛ	ቆᵛ	ቆᵛ	ቆᵛ	ቆᵛ
ኸ	kʲ	ኸᵛ	ኸᵛ	ኸᵛ	ኸᵛ	ኸᵛ	ኸᵛ	ኸᵛ
ሐ	hʲ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ
ኘ	gʲ	ኘᵛ	ኘᵛ	ኘᵛ	ኘᵛ	ኘᵛ	ኘᵛ	ኘᵛ

Added Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> i
መ	m	መᵛ	መᵛ	መᵛ	መᵛ
በ	b	በᵛ	በᵛ	በᵛ	በᵛ
ፈ	f	ፈᵛ	ፈᵛ	ፈᵛ	ፈᵛ
ፐ	p	ፐᵛ	ፐᵛ	ፐᵛ	ፐᵛ

Regular Labialized Velars					
Base	IPA	<sup>w</sup> ə	<sup>w</sup> i	<sup>w</sup> e	<sup>w</sup> i
ሐ	h	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ	ሐᵛ
ቀ	kʰ	ቀᵛ	ቀᵛ	ቀᵛ	ቀᵛ
ከ	k	ከᵛ	ከᵛ	ከᵛ	ከᵛ
ገ	g	ገᵛ	ገᵛ	ገᵛ	ገᵛ

The refinement was submitted to the Gurage Zone Administration Council in August of 2020. A number of new computer fonts have since been developed with the revisions.

### 3.8 The 2021 Inclusion of Modern Gurage Orthography in Unicode 14

At the invitation from the Unicode Consortium in October of 2020, a proposal for the inclusion of the new Gurage letters was drafted by authors Fekede Menuta, Feidu Akmel, and Daniel Yacob. The draft proposal was submitted under the title “*Modern Gurage Orthography Additions to Ethiopic Script*” to the Unicode Script Ad Hoc Committee on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Gurage Zone Authority was a participant in the process as well and provided a letter of endorsement which was included as an appendix of the proposal.

The authors were invited to attend a committee session held on January 5<sup>th</sup> of 2021 where the proposal would be discussed. Favorably received, feedback was provided and a final draft was prepared and submitted on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Two follow-up meetings were held to discuss the proposal on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January. The main points in need of clarification for the Script Ad Hoc Committee were the correlation between the modern and “legacy” orthography that was adopted in the 2004 Unicode 4.1 standard under the moniker “Sebatbeit”. A mapping table between the legacy and modern orthographies was added to the final version of the proposal to specify the relationships (the table is reproduced in an appendix to this paper). The name change to “Gurage” was explained as a neutral term in official use that “...avoids the perception of favoritism to any one group that would use the orthography”. With these clarifications provided, the committee was satisfied and accepted the proposal.

The “Modern Gurage Orthography”, as the letter collection would now be labeled, was assigned to the newly designated “Ethiopic Extended-B” block of the Unicode character standard (address range U+1E7E0 – U+1E7FF). The letter additions of the Modern Gurage Orthography set achieved formal international recognition when the Unicode Standard version 14.0 became official on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021.

## 4 Implications to Ethiopic Standards

Forty-four additional letters for Gurage were included in the ES-781:2002 and Unicode 4.1 standards in 2002 and 2004, respectively. These standards both apply the reference glyphs from the 1998 orthography reviewed in Section 3.3. Eight graphic variations to the regular velar syllable glyphs used in the 1998 orthography were *not* incorporated into the standards, instead they would be handled in publishing as a typeface stylistic preference (e.g. ጉ vs ጉፌ, ጉ vs ጉፎ, ...). While maintaining their phonemes, another five velar syllables that had been graphically identical under the writing practices of other Ethiosemitic language, would be given new shapes under Gurage modern orthography (e.g. ጉ vs ጉፎ, ...). Finally, though not introducing new graphical elements, internal shifts within the syllabary under the modern convention, such as the use ጸ in place of ጸፌ, ጸ for ጸፌ, and ጸፌ in place of ጸፌፌ etc., brings us to a total of fifty-eight letters to consider when migrating from earlier standards to Unicode 14 and later. The second appendix to this paper presents a comprehensive transliteration mapping table to assist in the conversion between the legacy and modern orthographies.

As a consequence of these changes a number of Gurage letters found in the Unicode 4.1 standard are hereby abandoned by the modern orthography and would now be relevant to historic works only. A review of the Gurage-only letters that are retained or orphaned under the new orthography follows:

### Orphaned Symbols

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+2DCX	ጸ	ጸፌ	ጸፆ	ጸፈ	ጸፈፌ	ጸፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆ		ጸፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	
U+2DDX	ጸፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ		ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	

Ethiopic Extended Block (Unicode 4.1, 2004)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+138X		ጸፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆ			ጸፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆ			ጸፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆ			ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	

Ethiopic Supplement Block (Unicode 4.1, 2004)

### Retained Symbols

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+138X	ጸፆፆፆ			ጸፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆ			ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ			ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ	ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ			ጸፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆፆ

Ethiopic Supplement Block (Unicode 4.1, 2004)

### The Modern Gurage Fider

The complete modern Gurage syllabary, or “Fider”, comprises 257 syllographs. From the perspective of information interchange and computing standards, support for the Fider will necessarily span three versions of the Unicode Standard. The first appendix to this paper presents the complete Modern Gurage Fider with respect to the standards required to support it.

#### 4.1 Implications to Ethiopian Standards Agency

The Ethiopian Standards Agency (ESA), then the Quality and Standards Authority of Ethiopia (QSAE), included the 44 additional Gurage letters of the 1998 orthography in the inventory of the ES781:2002 standard. The standard was renewed without change in 2012, becoming ES781:2012.

The authors recommend that the Gurage Zone Council submit the new orthography to the ESA so that the respective glyphs may be revised in the next iteration of the standard. At least three additional standards have a dependency on the makeup of the Ethiopic syllabary and should be updated accordingly, they are: ES3449:2008 *Ethiopic Keyboard Layout*, ES3841:2014 *Ethiopic Phonetic Matching Standard*, and ES3842:2014 *Ethiopic to Latin Transliteration Standard*.

## **4.2 Implications to Ethiopic Software**

The implications of the orthography revision are far reaching and impact any software applications that support the Gurage written language. Any applications that handle Gurage text, such as: keyboard software, speech to text, search engines, language translation, fonts, and layout engines that create ordered lists, etc., will need to be updated to avoid using the syllables now orphaned under the modern orthography.

Going forward, the orphaned symbols should only be used, if at all, under the context of a “historic mode” that presents a view of text as per the legacy orthography. This context should be clearly indicated to the user who is assumed to have interest in historic writing conventions.

Any public information provided by the government and other parties should likewise be updated to apply the new orthography. The tables of Appendix 2 are intended to help with the tasks of both software and documentation migration.

## **Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank all parties who provided direct and indirect support for the development of this paper. In particular Carolyn Ford, Lorna Evans, David Ford, and Tenkir Teni.

Appendix 1: The Gurage Fider

	-ə	-u	-i	-a	-e	-(i)	-o	- <sup>w</sup> ə	- <sup>w</sup> i	- <sup>w</sup> a	- <sup>w</sup> e	- <sup>w</sup> (i)
Order	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<i>h</i>	ሐ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ	ሐ።	ሐ፣	ሓ	ሐፎ	ሕ።
<i>hʷ</i>	ሕ	ሑ	ሒ	ሓ	ሔ	ሕ	ሖ					
<i>l</i>	ለ	ሉ	ሊ	ላ	ሌ	ል	ሎ					
<i>m</i>	መ	ሙ	ሚ	ማ	ሜ	ም	ሞ	ሙ።	ሚ፣	ሚ	ሚፎ	ም።
<i>r</i>	ረ	ሩ	ሪ	ራ	ሪ	ር	ሮ					
<i>s</i>	ሰ	ሱ	ሲ	ሳ	ሴ	ስ	ሶ					
<i>f</i>	ሸ	ሹ	ሺ	ሻ	ሼ	ሽ	ሾ					
<i>kʷ</i>	ቀ	ቁ	ቂ	ቃ	ቄ	ቅ	ቆ	ቁ።	ቁ፣	ቁ	ቁፎ	ቅ።
<i>kʷj</i>	ቆ	ቇ	ቈ	቉	ቊ	ቋ	ቌ					
<i>b</i>	በ	ቡ	ቢ	ባ	ቤ	ብ	ቦ	ቡ።	ቡ፣	ቢ	ቡፎ	ቦ።
<i>t</i>	ተ	ቱ	ቲ	ታ	ቲ	ት	ቶ					
<i>ʃ</i>	ቸ	ቹ	ቺ	ቻ	ቼ	ች	ቾ					
<i>n</i>	ነ	ኑ	ኒ	ና	ኔ	ን	ኖ					
<i>ɲ</i>	ኘ	ኙ	ኚ	ኝ	ኞ	ኟ	አ					
'	አ	አ	አ	አ	አ	አ	አ					
<i>k</i>	ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ክ	ኮ	ከ።	ከ፣	ካ	ከፎ	ክ።
<i>kʷ</i>	ከ	ኩ	ኪ	ካ	ኬ	ክ	ኮ					
<i>w</i>	ወ	ዉ	ዊ	ዋ	ዌ	ወ	ዐ					
<i>ʔ</i>	ዐ	ዑ	ዒ	ዓ	ዔ	ዕ	ዖ					
<i>z</i>	ዘ	ዙ	ዚ	ዛ	ዜ	ዝ	ዞ					
<i>ʒ</i>	ዘ	ዙ	ዚ	ዛ	ዜ	ዝ	ዞ					
<i>j</i>	የ	ዩ	ደ	ያ	ዬ	ይ	ዮ					
<i>d</i>	ደ	ዱ	ዲ	ዳ	ዴ	ድ	ዶ					
<i>dʒ</i>	ደ	ዱ	ዲ	ዳ	ዴ	ድ	ዶ					
<i>g</i>	ገ	ጉ	ጊ	ጋ	ጌ	ግ	ጎ	ገ።	ገ፣	ጎ	ገፎ	ግ።
<i>gʷ</i>	ገ	ጉ	ጊ	ጋ	ጌ	ግ	ጎ					
<i>tʰ</i>	ጠ	ጡ	ጢ	ጣ	ጤ	ጥ	ጦ					
<i>ʃʰ</i>	ጠ	ጡ	ጢ	ጣ	ጤ	ጥ	ጦ					
<i>tʰʷ</i>	ጸ	ጹ	ጺ	ጻ	ጼ	ጽ	ጾ					
<i>f</i>	ፈ	ፉ	ፊ	ፋ	ፌ	ፍ	ፎ	ፈ።	ፈ፣	ፋ	ፈፎ	ፍ።
<i>p</i>	ፐ	ፑ	ፒ	ፓ	ፔ	ፕ	ፖ	ፐ።	ፐ፣	ፑ	ፐፎ	ፕ።

Color Key

Unicode 3.0 (1999) Ethiopic Basic Block	Unicode 4.1 (2004) Ethiopic Supplement Block	Unicode 14.0 (2021) Ethiopic Extended-B
--	---	--

## Appendix 2: Transliteration Between Legacy and Modern Orthographies

The following tables present the Modern Gurage Orthography letters and their correspondences in the prior orthography as supported under the Unicode 4.1 standard. The table may be used to define bidirectional transliteration mappings between the legacy and modern orthographies.

Legacy	Modern	Legacy	Modern	Legacy	Modern	Legacy	Modern
ኸ	ሐ	U+12B8	U+1210	ሰ	ኸ	U+12C0	U+12B8
ኹ	ሑ	U+12B9	U+1211	ሱ	ኹ	U+12C2	U+12B9
ኺ	ሑ	U+12BA	U+1212	ሲ	ኺ	U+12C4	U+12BA
ኻ	ሓ	U+12BB	U+1213	ሳ	ኻ	U+12C5	U+12BB
ኼ	ሔ	U+12BC	U+1214	ሴ	ኼ	U+1381	U+12BC
ኽ	ሕ	U+12BD	U+1215	ሶ	ኽ	U+1382	U+12BD
ኾ	ሐ	U+12BE	U+1216	ሷ	ኾ	U+124A	U+12BE
኿	ሐ	U+12C0	U+1E7E8	ሸ	኿	U+2DD0	U+1E7E0
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+12C2	U+1E7E9	ሹ	ኻሐ	U+2DD1	U+1E7E1
ኻሑ	ሐረ	U+12C3	U+1217	ሺ	ኻሑ	U+2DD2	U+1E7E2
ኻሒ	ሐረ	U+12C4	U+1E7EA	ሻ	ኻሒ	U+2DD3	U+1E7E3
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+12C5	U+1E7EB	ሼ	ኻሐ	U+2DD4	U+1E7E4
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+1381	U+1E7ED	ሽ	ኻሐ	U+2DD5	U+1E7E5
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+1382	U+1E7EE	ሾ	ኻሐ	U+2DD6	U+1E7E6
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+124A	U+1E7F0	ሿ	ኻሐ	U+1315	U+1E7F8
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+124C	U+1E7F1	ፀ	ኻሐ	U+1314	U+1E7F9
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+124D	U+1E7F2	ፁ	ኻሐ	U+1315	U+1E7FA
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+2DD0	U+1250	ፂ	ኻሐ	U+124C	U+1318
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+2DD1	U+1251	ፃ	ኻሐ	U+124D	U+1319
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+2DD2	U+1252	ፄ	ኻሐ	U+1385	U+131A
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+2DD3	U+1253	ፅ	ኻሐ	U+1387	U+131B
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+2DD4	U+1254	ፆ	ኻሐ	U+12B2	U+131C
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+2DD5	U+1255	ፇ	ኻሐ	U+12B4	U+131D
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+2DD6	U+1256	ፈ	ኻሐ	U+12B5	U+131E
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+1385	U+1E7F3	ፈ	ኻሐ	U+1389	U+1E7FB
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+1387	U+1E7F4	ፈ	ኻሐ	U+138A	U+1E7FC
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+12A7	U+12A0	ፈ	ኻሐ	U+138D	U+1E7FD
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+12A0	U+12A3	ፈ	ኻሐ	U+138E	U+1E7FE
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+12B2	U+1E7F5				
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+12B4	U+1E7F6				
ኻሐ	ሐረ	U+12B5	U+1E7F7				

Equivalence of Letters Between the Modern Gurage and Legacy Orthographies





## **Bibliography by Orthographic Era**

### **The Sahle-Wolf Gurage Orthography (June 6, 1966 - January 6, 1977)**

Sahle Selassie Berhane Mariam, *Shinega's Village: Scenes of Ethiopian Life*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1964.

Leslau, Wolf, *Ethiopians Speak; Studies In Cultural Background*. Vol 2, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1966.

### **The Carolyn-Degefe Gurage Orthography (January 7, 1977 - 1999)**

Society of International Ministries, *የይግዌታ ናኩቸረነ ሜና (Yegweta Nahucherene Mena)*, Bible Society of Ethiopia, S.I.M. Press, BSE 1979 5M, Addis Ababa, 1979.

Yegwuragie Metaf Tenat, *የየሱስ ምክር የክረክረ ንባብ (YeYesus Mekher Yekere Kere Nebab)*, Society of International Ministries, [n.d., mimeograph distributed circa 1982-83]

Bible Society of Ethiopia, *ገደር ጉርዳ በጉራጊና (Geder Gurda Beguragina)*, Bible Society of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Gurage Chaha NT UBS-EPF 1986-3M-CL 282, 1986, Addis Ababa.

Gebreyesus, Hailemariam, *የጫሙት ሸካ (Yechamut Shika)* Addis Ababa: Birhanina Selam Printing Press, Addis Ababa, 1981 E.C.

Gebreyesus, Hailemariam, *ተኪትነት-አጂነት:- አገኪ (Teketnet Aginet-Ageki)* Addis Ababa: Birhanina Selam Printing Press, 1983 E.C.

Tenkir Tereda, *ተምሳይት፣ ወማካ፣ ወክማችት፣ የቤተ-ገራጌ ምሳሌያዊ ንግግሮች (Temsayt, Wemaka, Wekmachot: Yebete Gurage Misaleyawi Nigigiroch)*, Addis Ababa: Commercial Printing Press, 1991 E.C.

### **The All Nations Gospel Publishers Orthography (1997 - 1999)**

*(Minor Variant of the Carolyn-Degefe Gurage Orthography)*

Gshwend, M.R, Teni, Tenkir, *ቤታሽ ኤቴው? (Where is your home?)*, The Society of International Ministries Tract, All Nations Gospel Publishers, Pretoria, South Africa, 1997.

All Nations Gospel Publishers, *የሰብ ሽንገ (The Heart of a Man)*, All Nations Gospel Publishers, Pretoria, South Africa, 1998.

### **The BSE-SIM Gurage Orthography (1999 - 2013)**

Bible Society of Ethiopia, *የሩትም የዩናስም መገፍ በጉራጊና (Yerutim YeYunasm Metaf Begwuragina)*, Bible Society of Ethiopia, BSE 2000 3M, Addis Ababa, 1993 E.C., 2000.

Bible Society of Ethiopia, *የኸሌእ ትንቢት በጉራጊና (YeKhosi'e Tinbit Begwuragina)*, Bible Society of Ethiopia, BSE 2000 3M, Addis Ababa, 1993 EC/2000 (also 1983-5M-CL 242, 1974 EC).

Bible Society of Ethiopia, *ኤትረሳ ቅርስና መገፍ 1 (Etesa Kirsna Metaf 1)*, Bible Society of Ethiopia, BSE-2002-5M, ISBN 0-88834-681-6, Addis Ababa, 1994 E.C., 2002.

Gebreyesus, Hailemariam, *ነሁቸር (Nehucher)*, Addis Ababa, Inspire Printing House, 2008 E.C.

Bible Society of Ethiopia, *መገፍ ቅዱስ (Metaf Qidus)*, Bible Society of Ethiopia, CL062 BSE-UBS 3M, Addis Ababa, 2009.

Quality and Standards Authority of Ethiopia, *Revision of the N1846 Proposal to add Extended Ethiopic [WG2-N2747]*. UTC Document Register for 2004. April, 24, 2004, Retrieved July 30, 2022, from <http://unicode.org/wg2/docs/n2814.pdf>

Quality and Standards Authority of Ethiopia, *Ethiopian Standard ES 781:2002 Ethiopic Character Set*, October, 2002, Addis Ababa.

Quality and Standards Authority of Ethiopia, *Ethiopian Standard ES3449:2008 Ethiopic Keyboard Layout*, April 4, 2008. Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian Standards Agency, *Ethiopian Standard ES781:2012 Ethiopic Character Set*, 2012, Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian Standards Agency, *Ethiopian Standard ES3841:2014 Ethiopic Phonetic Matching Standard*, October 7, 2014. Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian Standards Agency, *Ethiopian Standard ES3842:2014 Ethiopic to Latin Transliteration Standard*, October 7, 2014. Addis Ababa.

### **The 2013 Fekede Menuta Modern Gurage Orthography (2013 - Present)**

Gurage Zone Tourism and Communication Office, *Gurage Language Study Report*, Unpublished internal document. Emdibir, 2013.

Menuta, Fekede, *Intergroup Communication among Gurage*, Saarbrücken: LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2015.

Menuta, Fekede, *ቃረንዳ፤ የጉራጊና አምፍ ስራት; Our Voice: Guragina Grammar*, Addis Ababa University Press, 2018.

Gobena, F. A., Belachew, E. B., Mulugeta, Z., Gewta, F. M., & Husen, A. S., *Text Entry Font Recognition for Gurage Language*, 2020.

Menuta, Fekede; Gobena, Feidu Akmel; Yacob, Daniel, *Modern Gurage Orthography Additions to Ethiopic Script*, UTC Document Register for 2021, January 12, 2021, Retrieved July 30, 2022, from <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2021/21037-gurage-adds.pdf>.