اللغة العربية

Non-Arabic Words

Question

1. Why is the name *Dāwūd* sometimes written with one *wāw:* دَاوُدُ
and sometimes with two: داوُودُ ?

2. And what is the correct pronunciation?

3. Is there a strict spelling for non-Arabic proper names or is it flexible?

For example, can we write *George* with *wāw* : جُورج instead of جُرْج ?

4. If *George* is written with *wāw*, is it a diptote or triptote?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:

1. The original spelling of دَاوُودُ is with two *wāw*s.

But in the Uthmānic Orthography it is written with one *wāw*, and according to the rules of *muṣḥaf* writing, a miniature *wāw* is added next to the first *wāw*.

In non-*muṣḥaf* orthography, it is written with only one *wāw*.

دَاوُودُ	دَاوُودُ	دَاوُدُ
↓	↓	↓
Original spelling	Uthmānic Orthography	Non-*muṣḥaf* Orthography
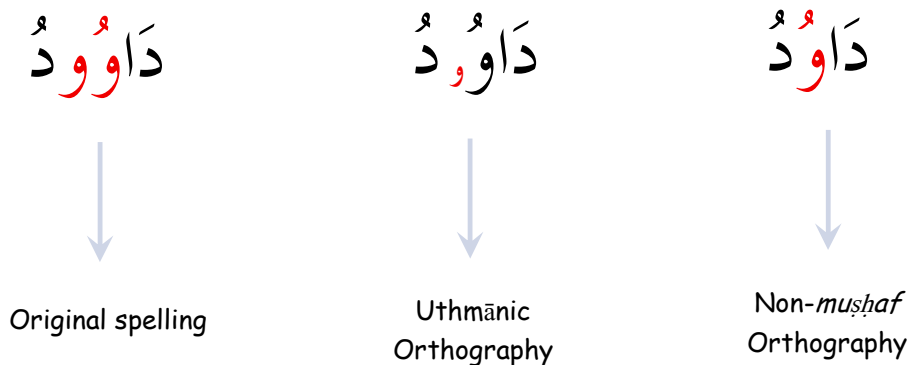
2. The pronunciation is دَاوُودُ *Dāwūd* whether you write it with one *wāw* or two *wāw*s.

3. There are no strict rules regarding the writing of non-Arabic words in Arabic.

The fonts used in newspapers do not have *ḥarakāt*, so to indicate the *ḥarakāt* of non-Arabic words, the three weak letters are added.

2

أَلِف is added to indicate *fatḥah*,

وَاو to indicate *ḍammah*,

and يَاء to indicate *kasrah*, e.g.:

بُوش   *Bush*

بيبسي كولا   *Pepsi Cola*

In دُرُوسُ اللُّغَةِ I write جُرْج without *wāw* to explain the rule that a foreign proper noun with three letters is not a diptote.

It is the Arabicized form while جورج has its foreign look.

4. It is a diptote or triptote depending upon how it is pronounced.

If it is pronounced *jurj* without taking the *wāw* into consideration, it will be a triptote.

But if it is pronounced with the *wāw*, it will be a diptote.

abdur rahim