

Re: Invention of the Alphabet

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- *From:* Dennis <tsalagiNOJUNK@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 30 Jul 2005 23:53:31 -0500
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Peter T. Daniels wrote:

I just updated my website on the Invention of the Alphabet:

<http://www.geocities.com/ctesibos/alphabet/index.html>

although it's still a bit ragged. I made use of recent remarks made here. I would appreciate any comments!

You seem not to have ever read anything I've written, or you couldn't include the spurious commonplace "The Greek language cannot be represented nearly as well without vowels as the Semitic languages can, so it may have been done out of necessity." If that were true, how would it be possible for Persian (and many other Iranian languages) to be written with varieties of Aramaic scripts?

True. It's also true that many shorthand systems leave out vowels.

However, I question how well, and whether, one could write Greek, or English, without vowels if also one did not write word divisions, as was the custom at first.

I'm sure you can understand this.

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Re: Invention of the Alphabet

I think Greek would be rather like English in that regard, with about the same sort of consonant cluster sizes. How about Ukrainian? This site is an example of what can go wrong if one leaves out both vowels and word divisions there.

<http://home.att.net/~oko/home.htm>

Is Persian written without word divisions? How about Urdu? I doubt it, though I don't know.

Dennis

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