

## *ḫá'isla Hybrid Orthography Regulations*

Any time the ḫá'isla language appears in typed form, the following regulations should be followed:

1. all text in Times New Roman font
2. lowercase letters only
3. draft to be submitted for approval to ḫá'isla hybrid orthography expert (Ab Morrison-Hayward, HNC Language Researcher and Instructor)

The regulations are explained as follows:

### 1. Times New Roman Font

The ḫá'isla hybrid orthography has special characters that show up best in the Times New Roman font. For example, the word ḫá'isla has three symbols that have distinctive visual features that don't render well in other fonts. See the following font comparison:

Times New Roman	Verdana
ḫá'isla	xá'isla

As you can see in the Verdana font, the line above the “x” is pushed off to the right, when it should be centred on top of it:  $\bar{x}$  vs  $x$ . Also, compare the apostrophes in each font: ' vs '. The apostrophe in Verdana looks very similar to the acute accent: ' vs '. They look so similar that they could be mistaken for one another. This is not ideal because they are different symbols that serve different purposes and are not interchangeable with one another (the acute accent shows where to place emphasis in a multisyllable word, the apostrophe in this case separates vowels). In Times New Roman, an apostrophe *looks* like an apostrophe and therefore cannot be mistaken for any other symbol.

The visual differences in the fonts can be attributed to the fact that Times New Roman is a Serif font, whereas Verdana is a Sans Serif font (as are Arial, Calibri, Tahoma, etc.). Serifs are the small points that flare out at the ends of letters; Times New Roman has them, Verdana doesn't. These points help provide visual differentiation between characters, which is not important in English but is vital in ḫá'islakala.

Another advantage to using Times New Roman is that it is freely available on most computer operating systems, there's no need to download or pay for a special font.

For the purposes of consistency and clarity, the ǰá'isla hybrid orthography uses Times New Roman as its standard font.

## 2. Lowercase Letters

One reason for not using capital letters in the ǰá'isla hybrid orthography is because our fluent speakers tend to not like seeing them, they favour lowercase letters. Keeping everything lowercase ensures that our elders are comfortable reading anything that's been typed in the ǰá'isla language.

Another reason for only using lowercase letters is similar to the issues that are addressed in the use of the Times New Roman font: placement of the special characters. See the following comparison between fonts with the first letter capitalized:

Times New Roman	Verdana
ǰá'isla	Xá'isla

The line over the "x" is not in its proper place in the Verdana font. Not only has it been pushed off to the right, but it's not on top of the "x", where it should be. In Times New Roman, the line is centred on top of the "x", but then there's the issue of it being capitalized.

Using only lowercase letters will also help in differentiating between the letters I and L. In a Sans Serif font, it would be almost impossible to tell the difference between a capital I and lowercase L (I vs l in Arial). It's a little easier in Times New Roman (I vs l) but they could still be confused for one another. These concerns are eliminated with the removal of capital letters. In lowercase, an "i" is visually distinctive from an "l", so there's no potential for confusing one letter for the other.

### 3. Draft Submission

Any items that are to be displayed with ḫá'isla writing on it will be subject to approval before finalization. This will allow for any technical issues, typing errors or other concerns to be addressed and that the ḫá'isla hybrid orthography is rendered correctly.

A graphic layout of the proposed item can be submitted, or a mockup; anything that shows what the final product will look like. Please do not attempt to fix any technical issues on your own (substituting and mixing fonts, for example), the ḫá'isla hybrid orthography expert will have ways to fix any problems that you might encounter. Substituting one font for another is a workaround, it does not acutally fix the problem.

We can also provide the text to you in SVG format that you can import into any program. Since SVG is an image format, it should stay the same regardless of the program, thus preserving the integrity of the ḫá'isla hybrid orthography.

Only after an item has been approved by the ḫá'isla hybrid orthography expert can it be released to the public. This will ensure that consistency and clarity of the ḫá'isla language are maintained.