Romanization

LangTime Chat, Episode 41

Romanization is a separate issue from a language's orthography.

A language's orthography could happen to use the Roman alphabet.

It could also have some wild inconsistencies in spelling that preserve historical pronunciations or borrowings.

English is a prime example...

such	[sətʃ]
hose	[hoz]
sugar	[ʃʊgəɹ]
measure	[mɛʒəɹ]
knight	[nait]

What we're talking about here is different from the historical spellings preserved in English, French, or Welsh orthography.

We're talking about Romanization, which is not a language's native orthography.

Goals of Romanization include...

consistency

transparency

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But also underspecification where shifts in pronunciation are predictable.

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Stop	p / b			t / d		c / ɟ	k / g	q / ɢ	ʔ
Fric.	ɸ / β	f / v	θ / ð	s / z	ʃ / ʒ	ç / ʝ	x / ɣ	χ / ʁ	h / ɦ
Nasal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ	ɴ	
Trill	ʙ			r				ʀ	
App.	w			ɹ, l		j			

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Stop	p / b			t / d		c / ɟ	k / g	q / ɢ	ʔ
Fric.	ɸ / β	f / v	θ / ð	s / z	ʃ / ʒ	ç / ʝ	x / ɣ	χ / ʁ	h / ɦ
Nasal	m			n		ɲ	ŋ	ɴ	
Trill	ʙ			r				ʀ	
App.	w			ɹ, l		j			

	Front	Central	Back
High	i / y	ɨ / ʉ	ɯ / u
	ɪ / ʏ		ʊ
Mid	e / ø	ə	ɤ / o
	ɛ / œ		ʌ / ɔ
Low	æ		ɑ / ɒ
	a		

	Front	Central	Back
High	i / y ɪ / ʏ	ɨ / ʉ	ɯ / u ʊ
Mid	e / ø ɛ / œ	ə	ɤ / o ʌ / ɔ
Low	æ a		ɑ / ɒ

Some Facts of the World...

The IPA Exists

Some Facts of the World...

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Unicode Exists

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ʌ	u
Mid	e	ə/ʌ	o
Low		a	

LangYou for Timing with Us :)