

## Personal View

### Guidance for those submitting proposals for publication in the Society's Personal View Series.

#### A. Criteria (New Spelling Schemes)

1. Subject to paragraph 2, submissions may only be accepted from full members of the Society.
2. If, in the view of the Moderator and panel members, a submission does not appear *prima facie* to be sufficiently close to the approved criteria to merit detailed consideration, this will be reported to the submitter; in this case the provision of paragraph A1 above may be waived for current Associated Members.
3. Every submission accepted for detailed scrutiny must satisfy the panel that it is significantly different from schemes previously published in the PV series and that it is not a mere copy of a scheme published elsewhere.
4. Schemes must avoid using any new characters other than the 26 letters of the current English alphabet. Any exceptional departures from this principle must be rigorously argued.
5. The panel will treat diacritics with caution. If accents etc are used, they must be justified. The justification must take into account the effect on typing / word processing, the overall strangeness of the text to TS adepts, and why it is essential to use diacritics rather than letters or letter combinations.
6. Any reuse of existing characters or character combinations for sounds not represented by those letters in TS must also be justified.
7. Any words singled out for special treatment (e.g. as signs or retention in TS spelling) must be categorised, justified and must not be excessive. Such words will require particularly strong justification in the case of schemes that are otherwise highly phonemic.
8. With regard to conservative schemes:
  - (a) It should at least be defensible as representing a significant step towards one-way phonemicity (ie one should almost always be able to deduce the pronunciation from the spelling as in French or German).
  - (b) It must demonstrate that it has a predictable way of representing all the recognised phonemes of spoken English, even if in some cases more than one grapheme per phoneme is allowed.
  - (c) The general requirement to be sparing in singling out words for special treatment must be observed, albeit perhaps not so rigorously as

in the case of phonemic schemes, but categorisation and justification are necessary.

(d) It must not add substantially to the complexities already inherent in TS. To the extent that a scheme depends on rules rather than strict phonemicity, these should not be unduly difficult to memorise or comprehend.

9. All submissions must:

(a) restrict the whole text to the equivalent of 12 sides of A4;

(b) be in TS, apart from the four standard texts, the word list, and such incidental transcription as may be strictly necessary to explain the scheme to the reader.

(c) include several standard features, viz:

- (i) there is a standard format for the front page (the serial number is inserted in the box at printing);
- (ii) a list of questions to be covered (see (d) below);
- (iii) a standard list of words employing each of the phonemes of the English language and the author's rendering of them;
- (iv) four standard texts rendered in the scheme.

(d) address the following matters (no need to answer as a questionnaire as long as the text covers all the points):

- (i) Is this a new original idea or is it adapted from one developed by the writer or someone else?
- (ii) Is it an initial scheme for learning literacy, as a step to TS, or is it for permanent adult use?
- (iii) Are there any supplementary rules to cover exceptions to the proposed system? If so, please detail.
- (iv) Does your system cater for schwa and stress?
- (v) If this is a phonemic system, which accent of English is it based on? Would you cater for other accents of English? If so, how?
- (vi) Is the scheme based on an assumed knowledge of English / TS or is it independent, that is could people who had learned the spelling rules pronounce a text correctly even though they had no knowledge of English?
- (vii) How does running text in the scheme compare in length with traditional orthography (i.e. how many characters compared with TS)?
- (viii) How big is the change from TS? To what extent does the scheme defer to the appearance of TS? Give an estimate of the percentage of words that would need to be changed from TS.
- (ix) Outline how the author envisages the scheme being used. How would it be introduced and existing publications be dealt with?

- (x) Does the author regard homophones as a problem and does the system indicate them in any way?
  - (xi) Could the system be used easily on most computers and word processors?
  - (xii) Is the system used in everyday life by the author and anyone else?
10. Submissions relating to matters other than new spelling schemes may be accepted on an occasional basis.

## **B. Procedure for Submission of Proposals**

1. The scheme must be submitted as a Word document by email to the PV Moderator who will copy it to other members of the panel.
2. The panel members will send their comments to the Moderator and will indicate whether in their view:
  - the scheme should be accepted without amendment,
  - the scheme should be accepted subject to certain amendments, or
  - the scheme should be rejected without invitation to make amendments and that paragraph A2 shall apply.
3. The panel will strive to reach unanimity but may if necessary take decisions by majority.
4. Once the author has been advised that the scheme is acceptable in principle, the author must file it as a draft in the file sections of the SSS and Saundspel forums with a request for peer review. No earlier than one month after such filing, the author shall send to the Moderator a note summarising comments received and indicating whether he / she intends to amend the scheme in any way to take account of them.
5. Subject to any such amendments, the Moderator will make arrangements for the scheme to be published and put on the Society's web site. The Society reserves the right to ask the author to make a contribution to the cost of printing and postage involved if he / she wishes hard copy to be sent to all the members.
6. An author who is discontented with the decision of the panel may ask that the matter be discussed at a meeting of the Committee.

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