This session will be discussing using Font Features and how to use them in various applications.

Pull up LibreOffice font features document to show setting features
Different languages can use the same character but may desire a different shape.

An example of this is in Sindhi where they do not prefer the expected meem shape, they have a shortened form.

Another example is the position of the kasra. The standard accepted position when kasra follows a shadda is for the kasra to move above the consonant but below the shadda. This always surprises our teams in West Africa who do not know what is going on. Most West African languages will want to turn OFF the feature that moves the kasra below the shadda.

For any characters, people want to use the shape or positioning that is expected and we’ll show you how to access those different shapes...if they are in our fonts.
In our fonts we’ve implemented smarts that allow the right-to-left shaping to happen, the isolate, initial, medial and final forms and the feature support to be there in two different technologies.

The first technology is called OpenType and that is what the standard industry is using. Within OpenType we have a choice of using Stylistic Sets, Character Variants and Language features.

The second technology is called Graphite and that is a technology that SIL has developed. It is much more robust. The downside is that not as many applications support Graphite. Within Graphite we have a choice of using Graphite features and Language features.

Knowing this information is important for understanding what our fonts support and what applications they will work in.
This is a list of the Arabic script fonts the NRSI has produced.

- Scheherazade
- Lateef
- Harmattan
- Alkalami
- Awami Nastaliq
Our fonts do not all support different features in the same way.

You can see the list of different kinds of features and which fonts use those features.

This is important, why?
Different applications support different kinds of features!

Next we will go through some of these applications.
This presentation is not about setting up InDesign, but here are some quick reference notes.

Font Features in Adobe InDesign

- InDesign uses Stylistic Sets
  - Does not use Character Variants
  - Does not use Graphite
  - Currently does not support many Arabic script languages – thus no Language features
This presentation is not about setting up InDesign, but here are some quick reference notes.

All of our fonts have feature documentation in the font package. It’s important to look at that document if you want to use any of the special features that are available.
I think Office 2016 added support for Kurdish.
Font Features in LibreOffice

- LibreOffice uses Graphite features
  - See http://software.sil.org/arabicfonts/support/faq/ for instruction on setting up Arabic script in LibreOffice
  - Tools > Options > Language Settings > Languages
  - Go to CTL and select an Arabic language such as Arabic (Saudi Arabia)
Then click on Complex Text Layout
Then click on Complex Text Layout and select whether you want your cursor Control to be Logical or Visual. You can also select the digits you want displayed here.

Click OK
Font Features in LibreOffice

• View > Toolbars
• Make sure Formatting is selected.
• You should now see the Right-to-Left (RTL) button

Next go to View > Toolbars
Font Features in LibreOffice

- LibreOffice uses Graphite
  - Does not use OpenType Stylistic Sets
  - Does not use OpenType Character Variants

- Font setting:
Font Features in LibreOffice

- Language settings available for:
  - Urdu
  - Sindhi
  - Kurdish
Font Features in XeTeX

- Need to look at documentation for the font to see syntax:
  - Scheherazade/OT:Maddah=Small
  - Scheherazade/OT:Maddah=Large
  - Scheherazade/GR:Shadda+kasra placement=Raised
  - Scheherazade/GR:Shadda+kasra placement=Lowered
  - Awami Nastaliq/GR:
    Lam with V=V over stem;
    Hamza=Urdu style

- Keep in mind casing is very important!
  - You don’t want “Lam With V” or it will not work!
We will discuss using Font Features in browsers during the Web Font session later today.

So, what happens if our fonts have features in them that your application cannot access?
TypeTuner Web is a site that we’ve created to put our fonts on and it allows you to turn on any features that you wish turned on.

It creates a special-purpose font just for your specific use.

The features MUST already be in the font. You cannot create something new. A lot of people think this is a cool tool that lets them do whatever they want to. No, you can’t. The feature must already be in the font.
TypeTuner Web

- If you are not familiar with the features in the font, click on the help link
- Select the features you wish to have turned on
One of the features is “Line spacing”. This allows you to tighten or loosen the Line spacing. You can even make the Line spacing exactly compatible with the original Scheherazade font.

The features you selected will be turned on in your new font

This allows you to deal with the frustration of different feature support in different applications. Unfortunately you are back to sending people your new font if you want them to see your chosen features.
For your reference, the webpage for TypeTuner is available if you wish to develop your own typetuned fonts. Keep in mind that the font you want to TypeTuner must have appropriate copyright permissions to do that.