Arabic Symbol Dictionary

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mada qatar assistive technology center

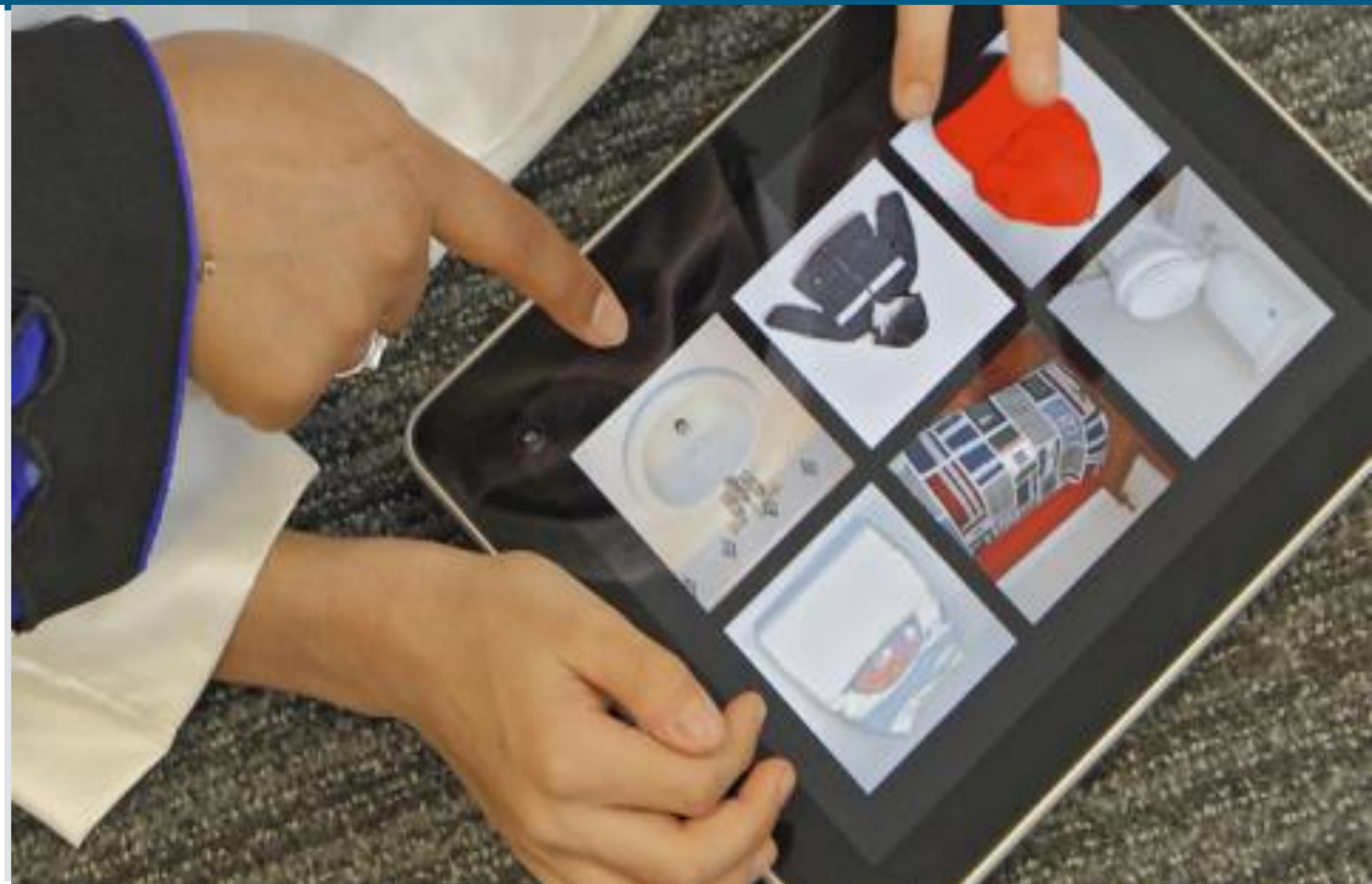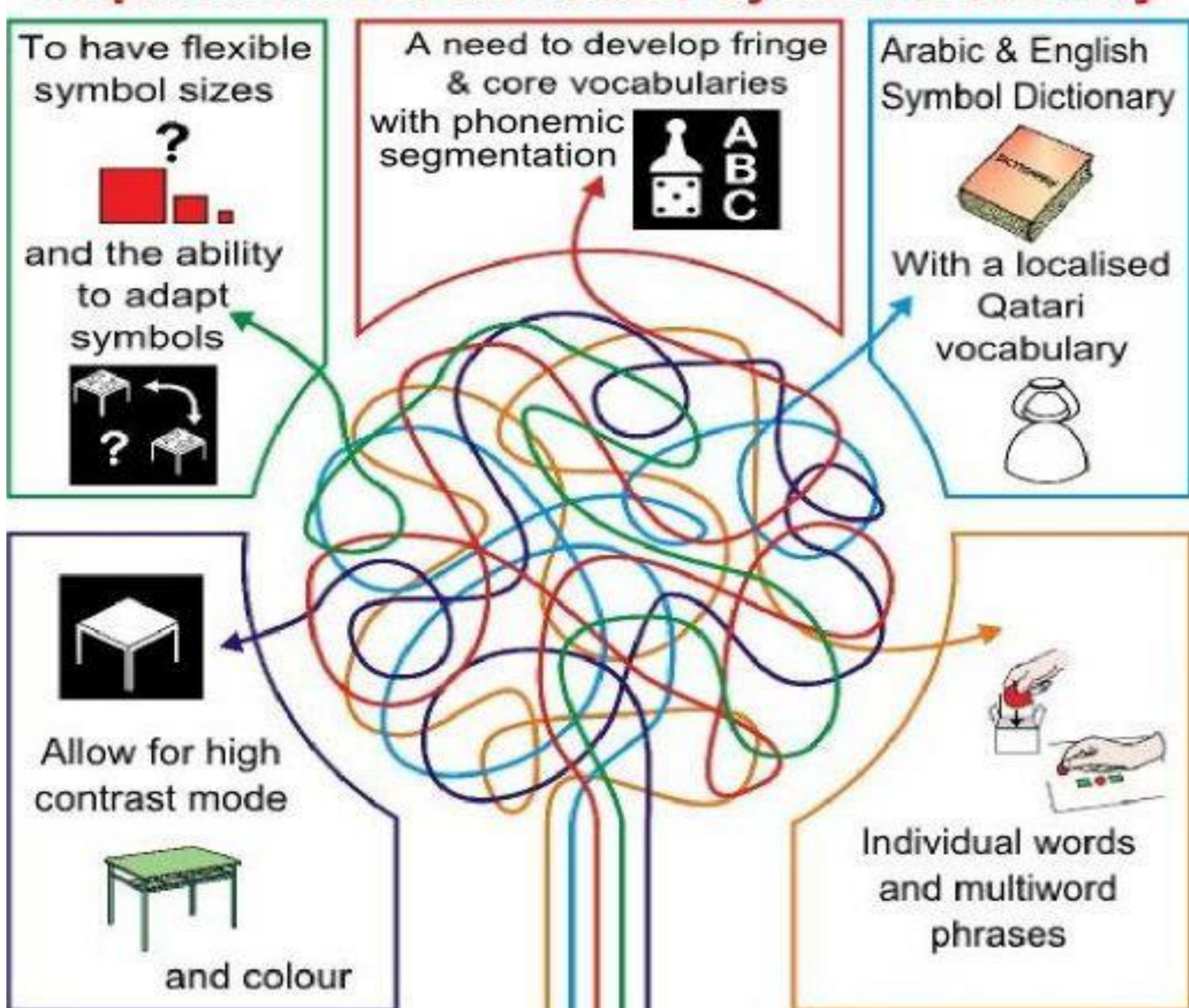مؤسسة حمد الطبية Hamad Medical Corporation — HEALTH · EDUCATION · RESEARCH

Overview

This three year research project explores the development of a bespoke Arabic symbol dictionary suitable for use by individuals who have a wide range of communication difficulties. There are few freely available culturally suitable Arabic pictograms, icons, symbols or other graphical representations of language for use within the Arabic community, despite a growing recognition about the number of individuals who could benefit from this type of support. Their needs are currently being met by the use of externally developed Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) symbol systems which may not be entirely suitable for use within their surroundings. Some commercially available symbol sets have added additional Arabic symbols and translation but these symbol sets are not always available to all.

Requirements of the Arabic Symbol Dictionary

To have flexible symbol sizes and the ability to adapt symbols

A need to develop fringe & core vocabularies with phonemic segmentation

Arabic & English Symbol Dictionary

With a localised Qatari vocabulary

Allow for high contrast mode and colour

Individual words and multiword phrases

SymbolNet   Lexicons   Symbolisation   About   Symbols   Categories   Search lexicons...   all   E.A. Draffan

Symbol Manager

Lexical Entry Details

| Label |
| Description of label |
| noun |
Language
| en |
Add Lexical Entry

Categories: Core, Children, Adult, Feminine

Filter Entries: Word to filter by — Filter

Categories: en, MSA, Qatari

noun, verb, adjective, adverb

Double click on the cells to edit the content.

Word Text	Description	Examples	Categories	Language	POS	ARASAAC	SCLERA	PCS	Widgit	Delete
see	present tense	I can see the car X	Adult,Children,Core	en	verb	Male / to see - male / Female	Monochrome see	to see	Female see	X

Online Symbol Management System

Thanks to ARASAAC (http://catedu.es/arasaac) , Sclera (http://sclera.be/en/vzw/home),
Mayor Johnson PCS http://www.mayer-johnson.com/ and Widgit http://www.widgit.com/

Phase I of Research

Since the project's commencement in December 2013 the following progress has been made:

1. **Employing Participatory Research Methodologies -** setting up forums and workshops for users and those supporting them to be involved in the development of the dictionary and a platform for them to raise their concerns with current symbol sets used in Qatar

2. **Data collection -** from over 10 different centres and special needs schools across Doha for the Arabic core and fringe vocabularies

3. **Comparison of available symbol sets -** to ensure they fit the localisation requirements, can be adapted to suit the culture and language as well as having 'translucency', 'guessability' and 'iconicity'.

4. **Establishing an Online Symbol Management system -** which contains symbols from up to 4 symbol sets with the relevant Arabic (Standard & Qatari) and English word and their linguistic properties

5. **Voting System -** for symbol users and those supporting them to vote on the most culturally appropriate and best graphical representations of words used in the dictionary
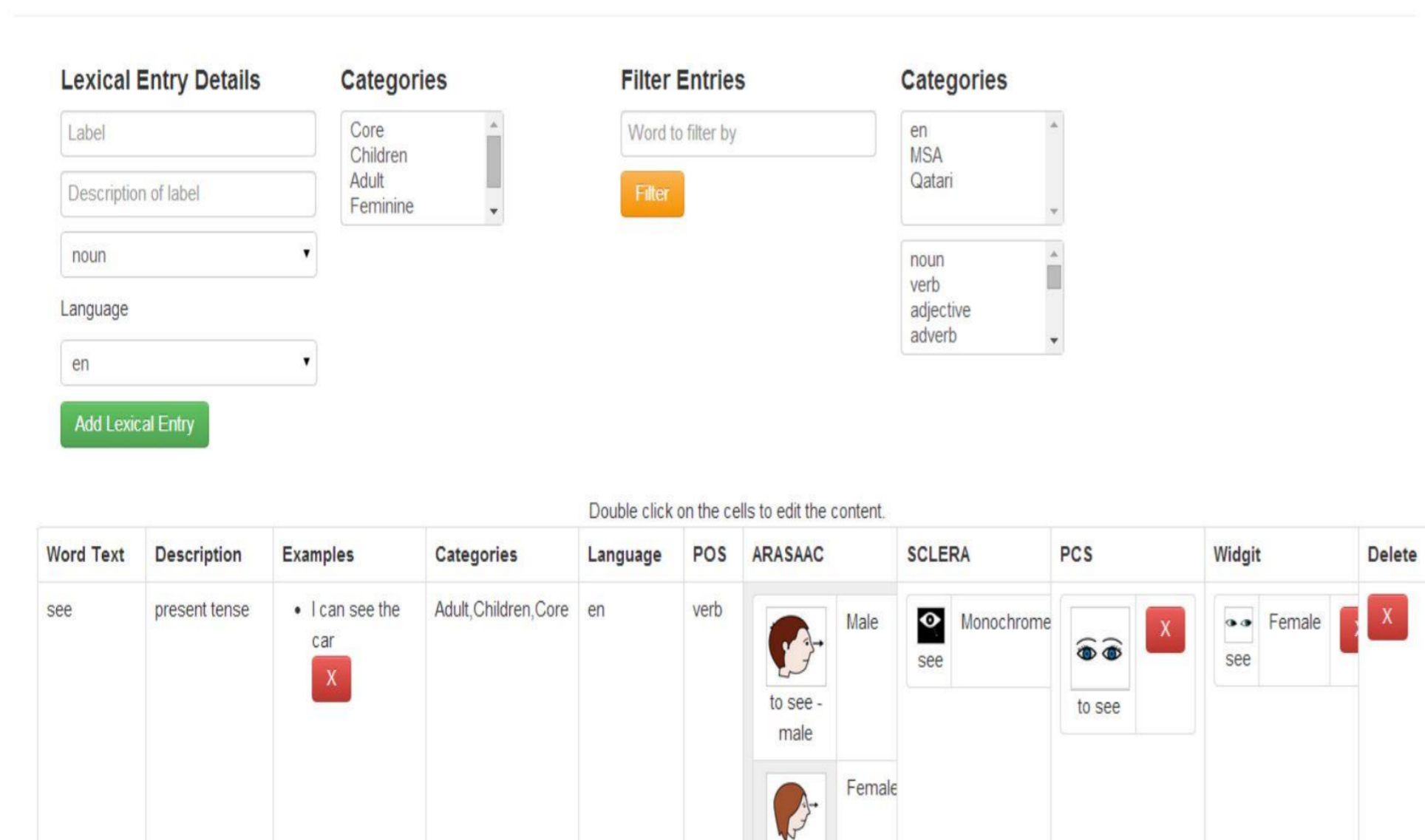

Logo for the Arabic Symbol Dictionary

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http://access.ecs.soton.ac.uk/blog/symboldictionary