

Cillaksharam R and a comment on Cillu letter names (L2/06-247)

Naga Ganesan, 2006-07-31

1.0 Names for UTC 107 Chillu letters.

Thanks to Dr. Umamaheswaran for bringing up the issue of name change for Malayalam Cillaksharam letters if encoded. There is a need to contrast them with the standard pure consonants generated with Virama (candrakkala) sign. There is a proposal (L2/06-261) to encode a MALAYALAM CONSONANT SIGN CILLU at U+0D4E, This "soft-virama" sign will be very productive in transliteration scenarios and in printing Sanskrit texts in Malayalam script.

Uma has suggested "Malayalam Chillu Letter N" etc., the name, Cillu, instead of Chillu, is preferred by Malayalam linguists as the original Dravidian word, Cillu is written with the consonant C instead of the Malayalam aspirated consonant, Ch.

Two more choices:

U+0D7A MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU NN
 U+0D7B MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU N
 U+0D7C MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU R
 U+0D7D MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU L
 U+0D7E MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU LL
 U+0D7F MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU K

(OR)

U+0D7A MALAYALAM LETTER CILLAKSHARAM NN
 U+0D7B MALAYALAM LETTER CILLAKSHARAM N
 U+0D7C MALAYALAM LETTER CILLAKSHARAM R
 U+0D7D MALAYALAM LETTER CILLAKSHARAM L
 U+0D7E MALAYALAM LETTER CILLAKSHARAM LL
 U+0D7F MALAYALAM LETTER CILLAKSHARAM K

Refer also to documents: [L2/06-261](#), [L2/06-260](#) and [L2/06-251](#). Reasons for changing the name from MALAYALAM LETTER RR to MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU R are explained next.

2.0 MALAYALAM CILLAKSHARAM R

Standard Malayalam references mention Cillaksharam R, and not Cillaksharam RR. In this section, a sample of references and International transliteration standards of Malayalam cillaksharams are provided to check the data about Cillu R. It will be appropriate to use the Unicode character name as MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU R instead of MALAYALAM LETTER RR. It is important to note that a remark in Rajarajavarma's book about a pronunciation has been misinterpreted, but the word, "kaarmeegham" is available in Malayalam dictionaries and in other surrounding languages (dictionaries and books) that clearly show that the root letter is written and transliterated as R only (not RR).

(a)

Library of Congress ALA-LC romanization table for Malayalam:

<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/romanization/malayala.pdf>

Note 3. on page 2 has Cillu R (and no Cillu RR).

(b)

United Nations' transliteration scheme for Malayalam (1977):

http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1_ml.pdf

See Section III, Page 2. Again only Cillu R.

Other major Malayalam references about Cillaksharams and specifically the Cillu R are attached in the next two following pages.

A. R. Rajarajavarma mentioned in his book that the term, "kaarmeegham" has a trill r sound locally but the letter "r" is what is used. The "rm" cluster in Kaarmeegham is as in Sanskrit words (Dharma, Karma, ...) which can be written with Cillu R only, not with Cillu RR (Other options are to write the cluster rm as a conjunct or with a virama). This particular word, "kaarmeegham" (black cloud) is in H. Gundert's Malayalam dictionary, and uses the transliteration of R, and not RR (given in Figure 1 of the document). So, for the word, Kaarmeegham in Malayalam (or for that matter, in Tamil or Telugu or Kannada), there is letter R only (and not RR).

Prof. A. Govindankutty Menon, Professor of Linguistics and Indology, Leiden University (A.G.Menon@let.leidenuniv.nl) confirmed through e-mail (July 10, 2006) that the word, "Kaarmeegham" uses Cillaksharam R only and not Cillaksharam RR: "Even in cases like 'kaarmeegham' the r is transliterated as R and not as RR. In the word final position R does not become RR. For transliteration it remains as R. Please consult the book of Asher. "

Hence it is requested that a name like MALAYALAM LETTER CILLU R be used if Cillu letters are individually encoded in Unicode, not the character name, Cillu RR.

Thanks,

Naga Ganesan (naa.ganesan@gmail.com)

Figure 1. 'kaarmeegham' in H. Gundert's Malayalam-English dictionary. (Note the transliteration r in kaar-megham. r = Unicode letter R)

കാർ **kār** / T.M.C. Te. (aC. also കാഴ=കാളം)
 VN. of കരു 1. Darkness, black. 2. cloud=കാറ്റ. 3. rough=കരു, കടു.
 Hence: കാരകിൽ black Agallochum.
 കാരടി club, stick (or=കാരവടി).
 കാരാടൻ ചരത്തൻ 1.=കാരി 3. (prh. from കാരക2). 2. a villain കര. നടുവറങ്ങു prov.
 കാരാമ land tortoise MC.
 കാരാവട്ടു B. black cow.
 കാരീരിമ്പു (3) steel, or simply iron. Bhg.
 കാരിൽ Rh. Vitex leucocylon.
 കാരീയം lead.
 കാരപ്പു black salt GP 73.
 കാരെള്ള Sesamum Indicum.
 കാരേ Ploceus baya, the weaver-bird which hangs its nest on cocoon branches (സാരസം).

240 കാക്കിക്ക - കാപ്പു
 കാക്കാലം (2) the rainy season CG.
 കാക്കുഴൽ, - കൂത്തൽ black hair.
 കാക്കോലരി Serratula anthelmintica (കാക്കോലരി S.) also കാർകോകിൽ GP 74. കാക്കുവിലരി, കാർവോകിൽ (കാർവുകാലരി) കാക്കോകരിശി T. Psoralea corylifolia) കാർകോലരി MM.
 കാക്കുവട്ടി a medic. Sida.
 കാർകുകിൽ, കാർകോലം black cloud.
 കാർവഴു black beetle CG.
 കാർവണ്ണൻ Cusshna, also കാർവോലിപ്പുണ്ണൻ B. മഴക്കാർകുകിൽപ്പുണ്ണൻ Bhg. etc.
 കാർവണി black hair.

Cillu R
 in kār
 of
 kārmeḡha
 'black cloud'

kārmeḡha
 uses
 Cillu R
 only.

Figure 2. Malayalam Cillaksharams (K. P. Mohanan, "Malayalam writing", Peter Daniels & William Bright, The World's writing systems, p. 422, 1996)

TABLE 38.4: Cillaksharams

ണ	n >	ൺ	ചാൺ	cāṇ	'handbreadth'
ന	n >	ൻ	അവൻ	avan	'he'
ര	r >	ർ	മലർ	malar	'popped rice'
ല	l >	ൽ	പകൽ	pakal	'day'
ഉ	! >	ൾ	അവൾ	avaḷ	'she'

Cillu R
 (Note: no cillu RR in the table)

Figure 3. From page 4, Frohnmeyer, L. J., A progressive grammar of the Malayalam language . New Delhi : Asian Educational Services, 1979 (2nd edition)

§ 5. There are further some *final letters*, which are used to indicate that a final consonant must be pronounced without adding the short *o*, mentioned in § 4. So the dental “*o*” at the close of syllables is changed into “*o*” and we read not “*o*” (*na*), but only “*o*” (*n*).

Another final consonant is “*o*” (*n*) instead of “*o*” (*na*). For examples (see § 12, exercises 1 and 3).

Thus *o* instead of *o* (*r* and not *ra*).

o . . . *o* (l . . . la).

o . . . *o* (l . . . la).

o (*avañ*) he, that person; *o* (*ivañ*) this person; *o* (*ūñ*) meal; *o* (*mañ*) earth, soil; *o* (*avañ*) they, those persons; *o* (*ivañ*), these persons; *o* (*mañal*) sand; *o* (*kadal*) sea; *o* (*ñ*) man; *o* (*avañ*) she; *o* (*maram*) tree; *o* (*pañam*) money; *o* (*mañam*) death.

(1) Figure 4. From page 92, Reinhold Grunendahl, South Indian Scripts in Sanskrit manuscripts and prints: Grantha Tamil - Malayalam - Telugu - Kannada - Nandinagari. (2001: Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden, Germany).

Prepausal Consonants

k	o & o & o	r	o & o
ñ	o & o	l	o & o
t	o & o & o	!	o & o
n	o & o	!	o
m	o		

o R