

Request from scholars of the Grantha user community #2

On behalf of the native Grantha-using scholars, Shriramana Sharma, India

2010-Aug-03

The undersigned scholars also support the views expressed in the document L2/10-233 “Request from scholars of the Grantha user community” and request the concerned officials of Unicode script registration system, that:

1. they do not include in the Unicode registration of Grantha any letters/devices such as this “Chillu Marker” that will not preserve the meaning unity between the different written forms of vowelless consonants in Sanskrit/Grantha.
2. they make all efforts to ensure that the registration of Grantha will preserve the way in which the Grantha script represents the Sanskrit language.
3. if at all necessary then they add extra letters to the script for writing words from other languages only so long as it is practically useful, so long as such addition does not conflict with the stipulation above.
4. to make efforts to ensure that the special letters and marks used for writing Vedic Sanskrit in Grantha are also included since the Vedic community of Tamil Nadu uses the Grantha script daily in their traditional academic and religious activities and needs to be able to use these characters in the computer form of Grantha.

I (Shriramana Sharma) wish to draw the attention of the UTC to the fact that three signatories to the “Request from scholars of the Grantha user community” are Presidential Awardees: Dr Shivaramakrishna Shastri and Dr S V Radhakrishna Shastri whose signatures were in pp 11 and 13 of L2/10-233 and Dr Mani Dravid of Chennai whose signature is attached here in p 2. These are all very experienced, respected and impartial scholars who are beyond any influencing (by me or anyone else). They have all endorsed the analysis of the Grantha script provided in my proposal, especially with regard to contentious issues such as the virama forms, virama/chillu marker matter, absence of Grantha OM and also other lesser matters like the Grantha/Tamil digits issue and danda-s.

* मणिशक्तिः

Dr Mani Pravid is an expert in Advaita Vedanta. He was awarded the Badarāyana Sammān Presidential Award in recognition of his service in this field. He is also well versed in the Mīmāṃsā, Nyāya and Vyākaraṇa Śāstra-s and has been decorated by various titles like Advaita Vedanta Visharada, Ubhaya Mīmāṃsā Ratna, Advaita Siddhi Patrakara etc. He is also an examiner for Shāstra examinations conducted at Kanchipuram, Tenali and Rajahmundry.

* श्री अदीयपलम - श्री रामकृष्ण दीक्षित - श्री कान्ति कामेश्वरि शिरोर

Shri Adaiyappalam Ramakrishna Dikshitar is a Sama Veda scholar and also well versed in Purva Mimamsa and Advaita Vedanta. He presides over many scholarly discussions and meetings held at Kanchipuram and is chief examiner of the Shāstra examinations conducted at Kanchipuram.

* R Krishnamurti Sastry -

Dr R Krishnamurti Shastri has been like a backbone to the efforts of the native Vedic/Sanskrit scholars to encode Grantha in Unicode. He is one of the most honoured and reputed scholars of South India. He served in the Madras Sanskrit College as Advaita Vedanta Acharya from 1973-2002, the last 5 years as Principal. He is a recognised guide to Ph.D scholars at various Universities including Benares Hindu University, Varanasi, Lal Bahadur Samskrita Vidyapeetham, Delhi, Kashtriya Samskrita Samsthan, Delhi and Tirupati centres. He is also an Examiner for Shāstras at Advaita Sabha and Veda Brahmya Sabha (Kanchipuram), Kanchi Veda Vedanta Sabha (Tenali). He is a gold medalist in Vedanta Śiromani and Mīmāṃsā Śiromani (Chennai) and MA Sanskrit (Tirupati). He has been conferred various titles like Veda Brahmya Ratnam, Mahamahopadhyaya, Advaita Siddhi Patrakara and Darshana Kalanidhi. He also heads the Heritage India Educational Trust, Chennai.

* G. Sankara Narayanan.

Dr G Sankaranarayanan is a scholar of Vyākaraṇa and Sāhitya and is an Aśukavi (one capable of instantly composing a literary work given a topic). He is a lecturer at Shri Chandrashekharendra Saraswati Vishva Maha Vidyalaya and works with Grantha manuscripts regularly.

* L. K. S. He is head of the manuscripts department in the above university.
G. GOPALAKRISHNA DIKSHITAN

Shri Gopalakrishna Dikshitar is a Yajur Veda expert and a practitioner of the traditional Vedic rituals. Hence he is an expert in the such as Agnihotra, Shrauta Sūtra-s is also Grihya Sūtra-s.

* R. Balakrishna Sastri

Shri R Balakrishna Sastri is well versed in various subjects including Krishna Yajur Veda, Advaita Vedanta, Vyākaraṇa and Sāhitya. He has translated numerous books from Sanskrit to Tamil.

* Shri Swami Atma Bodha Tirtha, mentioned in p 5 of 12/09-3/12, read and endorsed the contents of the "Request from scholars" document but refrained from making any signature due to his self-imposed restrictions pertaining to his haven taken to holy orders (Sannyāsa). Before Sannyāsa he was principal for ^{over} 10 years of the oldest functioning Vedic school in South India, the Raja Veda Pathashala of Kumbakonam, established in the 15th Century (c. 1452 CE). He is a scholar of especially the Sama Veda and Advaita Vedanta.