

We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting their fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot..to him we cannot answer “tomorrow”. His name is “today”.

L2/11-056

- Gabriel Mistral,
Nobel Prize winning poet

Dear Dr.Lisa Moore, Unicode Consortium, CA.,U.S.A

Re: Inclusion of Tamil Characters in Proposed Grantham Block

I on behalf of the Malaysian Tamil Educational Research and Development Foundation (“Tamil Foundation Malaysia”) would like to first thank the Unicode Consortium for its path-breaking work carried out since 1991. Thanks to the Consortium’s noble work, we are now able to use computers with greater ease and confidence. Tamil websites and weblogs, too, have proliferated in the millions, particularly in the last 5 years, due largely to Unicode Standards. This is but the beginning.

We are, however, concerned with a proposal on Grantham Block, that we understand is being considered by the Unicode Technical Committee. The following is our position in the matter—

- 1) **We strongly oppose the inclusion in the proposed Grantham block Tamil letters that are not native to the language.** The seven Tamil characters, “எ”, “ஓ”, “ற”, “ழ”, “ன”, “Letter Vowel Sign E”, “Letter Vowel Sign O” are not part of Grantham; nor (to our best of knowledge) have they been widely used in the past. Moreover, the inclusion of Tamil characters in Grantham block opens the door for the creation of two standards for Tamil script. This is unacceptable.

Tamil Foundation Malaysia is a representative body of school boards of 523 Tamil Schools in Malaysia that, together, educate 105,000 children annually. It encourages teaching, learning and usage of Information Technology in native languages. In 2003, Tamil Foundation Malaysia helped the localisation and release Mozilla 1.6 and Open Office 1.0 in Unicode Tamil. I earnestly request that the Unicode Technical Committee will base its recommendation on facts and facts alone, which clearly do not support the extension of Grantham at the cost of creating confusion in Tamil scripting standard.

Yours sincerely,

K. Uthayasoorian ,President