

## Proposal to change the glyph shape of Tamil Sign Anusvara (U+0B82)

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### 1.0 Tamil Sign Anusvara (U+0B82) in Unicode:

From the beginnings of Unicode encoding Tamil script, Tamil sign Anusvara (U+0B82) heads the code chart. However a wrong annotation was added later saying “ • *not used in Tamil*”. Given the usage of the Tamil anusvara for transcribing from neighboring Indian scripts, *this annotation needs to be removed*. As one can compare with India’s scripts, all other Dravidian scripts have a small circle to the right as the glyph shape of Anusvara, and it is requested that Tamil Anusvara, 0B82, also gets the same shape in the Unicode code chart for Tamil and Unicode fonts as those of Grantha, Telugu, Kannada or Malayalam scripts. It is requested that UTC does **not** deprecate the character 0B82 currently in use in Tamil script for transliteration purposes.

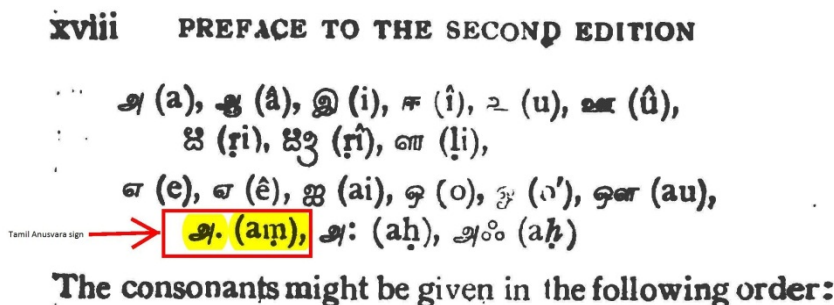
### 2.0 Usage Samples of Tamil Anusvara:

Here are three examples of Tamil anusvara in transliterating texts of Indian languages into Tamil script. Note that none of these Tamil examples show the current Tamil Anusvara glyph of Unicode. Hence, the request is to make a glyph change for 0B82 to match with that of other Dravidian scripts such as Grantha. A parallel for this 90 degree rotation needed is the ancient digit, Zero: while in North India, it was a dot above the base, but in south India and in South East Asia, the dot or circle for digit Zero was always to the right side of the viewer. This glyph change will remove the problem of conflict with Tamil virama sign explained by Sriramana Sharma (L2/12-018).

#### (a) Bhoja Charitram: An original historical drama in Tamil

by T. S. Narayana Sastry.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/bhojacharitrma00sastgoog#page/n4/mode/2up>



(b) Indian Institute of Technology site. Prof. Acharya's Indian scripts page.

[http://acharya.iitm.ac.in/demos/translit\\_demo.php](http://acharya.iitm.ac.in/demos/translit_demo.php)

The national song, Vande Mataram (a Sanskrit verse) in Tamil script uses the Tamil anusvara.

## <h2> Vande Mataram </h2>

வந்தே மாதரம் வந்தே மாதரம் .  
ஸுஜலாம் ஸுஃபலாம் மலயஜ சீதலாம்  
ஸர்ய ஸ்யாமலாம் மாதரம் வந்தே மாதரம் ||  
ஸுப்ரஜ்யோத்ஸநா புலகித யாமிநீம்  
புல்ல குஸுமித த்ருமதல ஸோபிநீம் .  
ஸுஹாஸிநீம் ஸுமதுர பாஷிநீம்  
ஸுகதாம் வரதாம் மாதரம் வந்தே மாதரம் ||

Note here a variant, with a dot below the character M is used as Tamil anusvara. Obviously, Tamil anusvara is used and should not be deprecated. It is needed for properly transcribing Sanskrit verses.

(C) Linear Tamil script example:

Here is a sample of the Tamil Anusvara sign, identical with all neighboring Dravidian scripts. A Buddhist *shloka* in Tamil script employs the traditional Anusvara and recommended as 0B82 glyph.

<http://www.virtualvinodh.com/download/Grantha%20Script%20Lessons.pdf>

From page 91 has invocatory verse of Nagarajuna's Mulamadhyamaka Karika:

“anīrodham anutpādam anucchedam aśāśvatam |  
anekārtham anānārtham anāgamam anirgamam ||  
yaḥ pratītyasamutpādaṁ prapañcopaśamaṁ śivam |  
deśayāmāsa sambuddhastam vande vadatām varam ||

The non-ceasing and the non-arising, the non-annihilation and the non-permanence,  
The non-identity and the non-difference, the non-appearance and the non-disappearance,  
The dependent arising, the appeasement of obsessions and the auspicious  
I salute him, the fully enlightened Buddha, the best of speakers, who preached them [all]”

In the Tamil script version, Tamil anusvara sign (0B82) is used with the correct glyph shape.

Tamil Anusvara Sign



ப்ரபஞ்சோபஸமஃ ஸிவம் |

(Tamil Anusvara glyph requested. pg. 91, Grantha lessons).

#### 4.0 Summary:

As Telugu LLLA, Tamil SHA, five Dravidian letters in Grantha repertoire, etc., Tamil anusvara sign (U+0B82) is needed for transliterating non-Tamil Indian languages into Tamil script. Hence, it should not be deprecated, and the present annotation for 0b82 can be removed. In parallel with neighboring Dravidian scripts, the glyph shape is requested to be corrected with a 90 degree rotation.