

Comment on Tamil Nadu Government Request L2/13-161: Use of Tamil Names for Tamil Fractions and Symbols

Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a committee of Tamil experts to review the Unicode character names which will be used in the Unicode Standard for Tamil Fractions and Symbols. With the leadership of Tamil Virtual University chairman, Dr. V. C. Kulandaiswamy and director, Dr. P. R. Nakkeeran, the Experts' committee constituted by IT Dept., Govt. of Tamil Nadu, recommended to Tamil Nadu Govt. and then to Unicode Technical Committee requesting that Tamil Character names that employ transcription methods widely in Universities, Schools, Media, Merchant Shops and Government Departments be used in naming Tamil fractions and symbols and annotations. Note that Tamil Nadu Government recommendation, L2/13-161, does not employ letters, G and J in word-initial positions in Tamil character names in the Unicode Standard as it is customary to tamilize using Tamil alphabet (Reference: Tamil Lexicon, Madras University, 7 volumes).

I sent the documents on Tamil fractions to Tamil scholars in Tamil Nadu who served in prestigious academic institutions of Tamil Nadu and well-known Tamil writers:

- (1) Prof. Sirpi Balasubramaniam, who served as Head of Tamil Dept., Bharatiyar University, Coimbatore.
- (2) Erode Tamilanban, Professor of Tamil and Sahitya Akademi award winner, Chennai
- (3) Prof. S. Raasu, Epigraphy Dept. Chair, Tamil University, Tanjore
- (4) Silamboli S. Chellappan, 85 years Tamil scholar who served Tamil dept.s in Universities and held the position of Director, Tamil Development dept., Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

All the four senior scholars also recommend the Character names and annotations as per the Tamil Nadu Government document, L2/13-161. As the initiator of the project to encode the Tamil fractions and symbols with a separate Tamil Block in SMP years ago, I request UTC to use Tamil Nadu Govt. experts and scholars' recommendation as per document, L2/13-161.

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