

Tamil Symbols Names and Annotations – Comment on L2/15-078 & L2/15-079

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1.0 Introduction

Tamil symbols and annotations proposal is at an advanced stage for encoding in to the Unicode Standard. The proposal was prepared by Shriramana Sharma with documents provided in INFITT. Several modifications to the letters from Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA) has been done by UTC decisions. For example, L2/15-079 uses ZHA for ழ. Based on my request, all symbols and fractions are in SMP. No numbers like 2, 3 or 4 are used within Tamil words, and the distinction between short and long vowels is maintained in the symbols' names (e.g., A vs. AA).

Now, there is some news about the proposal in Tamil Nadu (India) news media.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/Call-to-Stop-Distortion-of-Tamil-Unicode/2015/03/21/article2723426.ece>

ஒலிபெயர்ப்புப்போர்வையில் தமிழைச் சிதைக்கும் முயற்சி: அதிர்ச்சியில் தமிழறிஞர்கள்

<http://www.vikatan.com/news/article.php?module=news&aid=45423>

But unless there is any new glyph shape variants show up, or any new symbols that need to be added (which can be done at a future date), the proposal has gone through multiple stages of checks and corrections. It looks TVA has arranged a meeting next week, and we can look at any letters if sent. The following comments are offered for L2/15-078 incorporating the results from L2/15-079 which was written after the last UTC meeting. To be consistent, there are some changes needed in L2/15-078 for annotations (informative aliases) as well.

2.0 Names and Annotations – Changes Requested**Part I: Normative Character Names**

We support all the character names as in

<http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2015/15079-tamil-name-chg.pdf>

except for ழ which should be represented as ZH in Unicode character names.

ZH is needed in the following 4 character names,

11FD0 - KIIZH

11FD3 - AAZHAAKKU

11FD5 - MUUVUZHAKKU

11FE0 – KUZHI

The following character will use long vowels of Tamil, as was agreed by the members of UTC themselves.

11FD8 - PAICAA

11FD9 - ANAA

11FDA - KAACU

11FDD - VARAAKAN

11FDE - PAARAM

11FE9 – VAKAIYARAA

11FEA - CIRANCIIVI

11FEC - RAAJA

Part II: Informative Aliases: This section is intended to illustrate the normative names with further explanations especially by using Roman characters representing the Tamil allophones.

<http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2015/15078-tamil.pdf>

0B83 = aaydham

0BF9 = ruubaay

11FDD = varaagan (or) varaahan

11FE9 = vagaiyaraa (or) vahaiyaraa

11FF4 = poga or poha

11FF5 = aaga or aaha

Thanks,

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