

Feedback on L2/18-015 proposing Malayalam punctuation mark

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I have reviewed the proposal and recommend the encoding of this character.

It would have been better if the authors had provided transliterations of the relevant passages to justify their identifying said character as END OF TEXT MARK.

The name of the character seems to be based on 11FFF TAMIL PUNCTUATION END OF TEXT proposed initially L2/12-231 with attestation seen on ibid p 54. This limited material I was able to provide came from Sri Lankan sources which identified the character as "END OF TEXT" and accordingly I had proposed it as such.

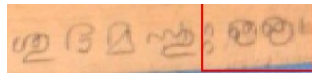
However, this character is more like A8F8 DEVANAGARI SIGN PUSHPIKA which is a decorative "flower-like" (pushpa = flower) punctuation mostly used in combination with the daṇḍa-s (as shown in its initial proposal L2/07-343 p 29). The same usage pattern is seen here also:

I provide some selected transliterations representing the character in question by *:

Figure 1 bottom two lines:

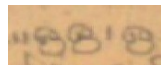


*pustakamidam * |*



*shubhamastu ** |*

Figure 2:

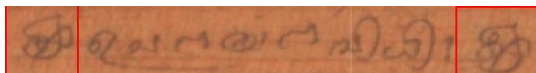


*|| ** | * |*



*|| *** ||*

Figure 3:

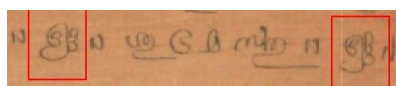


** upanayanavidhiḥ **

Figure 4:



*gurave namaḥ | * |*



*|| * || shubhamastu || * ||*

As such, I recommend encoding the character but with the name **MALAYALAM SIGN PUSHPIKA** parallel to the Devanagari character of the same identity. This will help manuscript scholars to easily identify the character to be used for encoding such texts.