

Comments on L2/20-069: Encoding of Tamil Brahmi Virama (U+11070)

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1.0 Brahmi Anusvara vs. Old Tamil Virama (PuLLi)

The document L2/19-402 gives six Old Tamil Brahmi characters for addition. The Old Tamil Brahmi virama is right-spacing, now standardized in the fonts available to write Tamil Brahmi. This property of right spacing is different from that standard Brahmi’s *anusvara* which is placed on top of the letter succeeding it.

11070      ◉      BRAHMI SIGN OLD TAMIL VIRAMA

<i>Syllable</i>	<i>Generic Brahmi</i>	<i>Tamil-Brahmi</i>
k	𑌕	𑌕
kka	𑌕𑌕	𑌕𑌕
putta	𑌕𑌕𑌕	𑌕𑌕𑌕

While it is noted the proposed Brahmi Old Tamil Virama character has the same general dot-like shape as the Brahmi Anusvara, its properties would be different as the proposed character is a Virama character with GC=9 and Indic\_Syllabic\_Category=Virama against the GC=0 and Indic\_Syllabic\_Category=Bindu of the Anusvara. Therefore, the Old Tamil Virama is justified to be distinctly encoded.

(from L2/19-402)

Back in the year 2012, I mentioned the problems of LLA in Northern Brahmi and in Tamil Brahmi and their origin and evolution being quite different. Now, I am glad that Tamil Brahmi characters are getting encoded atomically. <http://unicode.org/L2/L2012/12165-brahmi-lla.pdf>

