

Proposal to encode Vedic Double Anusvara in Malayalam

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Background Documents

[L2/17-276](#) Proposal to encode MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC ANUSVARA

[L2/09-372](#) Proposal to encode the Grantha script in Unicode (§4.1 and §4.2 p.12)

Introduction

This is a proposal to encode Vedic Double Anusvara in Malayalam script as seen in the Taittiriya Krishna Yajurveda texts.

U+0D51 𑤡 MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA

Currently a Vedic Anusvara has been encoded in Malayalam as U+0D04 𑤣 MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC ANUSVARA based on the occurrences in manuscripts.

Ref 1 provides details on the different types of anusvāra occurring in the Taittirīya Kṛṣṇa Yajur Veda. Distinct signs for representing the Dvirbhūta Lupta Āgama Anusvāra are already encoded in Devanagari at U+A8F4 ॡ and in Grantha at U+1135F 𑌵. In Malayalam, the sign corresponding to the Dvirbhūta Lupta Āgama Anusvāra is attested in contrast to the regular Vedic anusvāra, as explained below.

Character Properties

0D51; MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;

Indic_Syllabic_Category=Bindu

References

1. A MONOGRAPH ON THE ANUSVĀRA OF THE TAITTIRĪYA KṚṢṆA YAJUR VEDA, Shriramana Sharma <http://www.sanskritweb.net/sansdocs/anusvara.pdf>
2. Śrīmahānyāsaḥ, compiled by G. Subramanya Vadhyar, Published by T. R. S. Sahasranama Iyer, Palakkad (n.d.)
3. Āśvamedha Praśnaḥ part one, compiled by Dr N.V. Ramachandran, Published by R.S. Vadhyar & Sons, Kalpathi, Palakkad, 2015
4. Acchidram, compiled by Dr N.V. Ramachandran, Published by R.S. Vadhyar & Sons, Kalpathi, Palakkad, 2010

Attestations

The Malayalam and Grantha scripts share many similarities, and a sign similar to U+1135F  is also attested in Malayalam books. The character is proposed separately in Malayalam and is suggested for distinct encoding from U+1135F, as Vedic Anusvaras are encoded separately for each script. It also forms a pair with U+0D04. Feedback is requested on whether the character should be encoded separately or unified with U+1135F GRANTHA LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA.

For U+0D04 , a variant form with a small circle instead of a short vertical stroke is found in printed books. Because a dot cannot be inscribed on palm leaves, it is typically written either as a small circle or a short vertical stroke. These should be treated as glyphic variants and handled at the font level. In Nandinagari and Kannada manuscripts as well, both forms are seen for the spacing candrabindu.

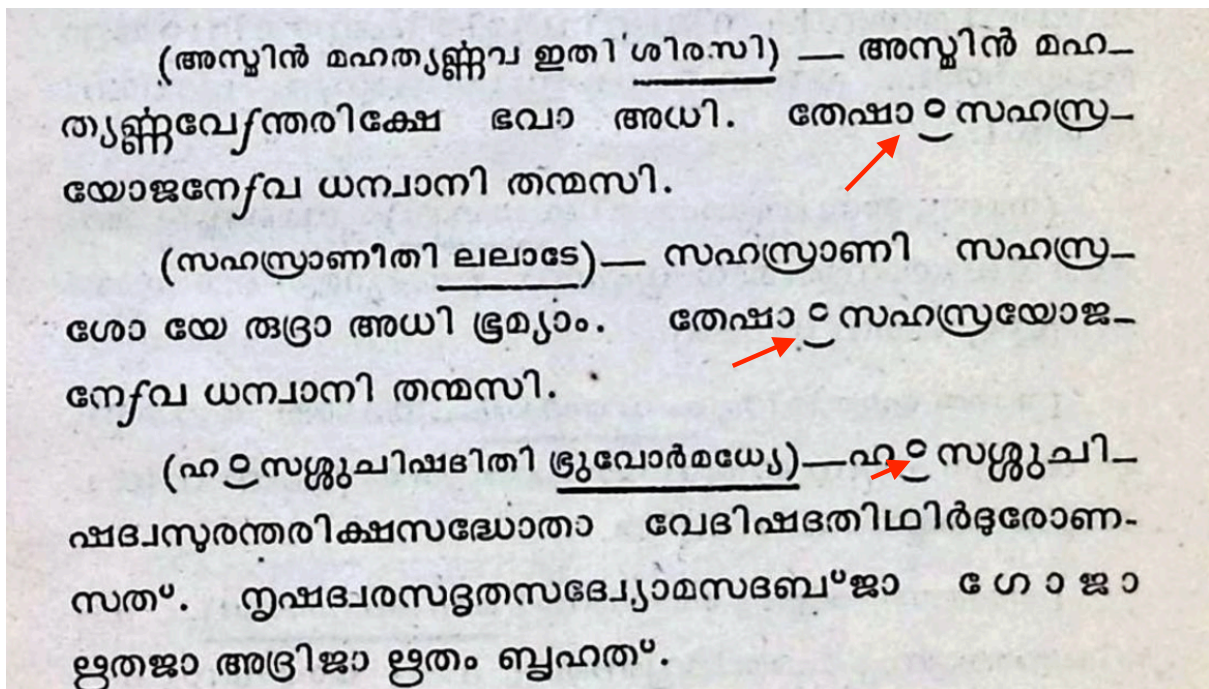


Figure 1: From Ref 2

ആശിഷമേവൈതാമാശാസ്തേ. ||
 സ്വഗാത്യാ ദേവേഭ്യ ഇത്യാഹ. ദേവേഭ്യ
 ഏവൈനമ്രസ്വഗാകരോതി. സ്വാഹാ ത്യാ
 പ്രജാപതയ ഇത്യാഹ. പ്രാജാപത്യോ വാ
 അശ്വഃ. യസ്യ ഏവ ദേവതായാ
 ആലഭ്യതേ . തയൈവൈനമസമധ്യതി. ||
 .. (12)

ഏകവിപശോധി ഭവതി .
 ഏകവിപശസ്തോമഃ. ഏകവിപശതി-
 യുപഃ. യഥാ വാ അശ്വാ വർഷഭാവോ
 വൃഷാണസ്തസ്മഹരേരൻ. ഏവമേതത്
 സ്തോമാ സ്തസ്മഹരന്തേ. യദേകവിപ-
 ശാഃ. തേ യത്സമുച്ഛേരൻ.

Figure 2 and 3: Use of ് in contrast with U+0D04 from Ref 3.

യദുക്ഷിണാ . ബ്രഹ്മണേ ച
 യജമാനായ ചാകൃശ്ശാത് . യത് പ്രത്യക് .
 ഹോത്രേ ച പത്നിയൈ ച യജമാനായ
 ചാകൃശ്ശാത് . യദുദങ്ങ് . അഗ്നീധേച പശു
 ഭൃശ്ച യജമാനായ ചാകൃശ്ശാത് .
 യദഭിജ്ജഹയാത് . തുദ്യോസ്യ പശുൻ
 ഘാതുകശ്ശാത് . യന്നാഭിജ്ജഹയാത് .
 അശാന്തഃ പ്രഹിയേത . (15)

ദേവ്യാഃ പിതരഃ പിതരോ ദേവാഃ .
 യോ ഽ ഹമസ്ഥി സ സൻ യജേ .
 യസ്മാസ്ഥി ന തമന്തരേമി . സ്വാം മ
 ഇഷ്ടം പ്രസ്വന്തം . സ്വാം പുത്ത്വം പ്രസ്വ
 ശ്രാന്തം . സ്വപ്തം . തസ്യ മേഗ്നിരൂപദൃഷ്ട
 വായുരൂപശ്രോതാ . ആദിത്യോൻ ഖ്യാതാ .
 ദ്യൗഃ പിതാ . (45)

Figure 4 and 5: Use of ് in contrast with U+0D04 from Ref 4

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646

A. Administrative

1. Title:	MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA
2. Requester's name:	Sridatta A
3. Requester type:	Individual contribution
4. Submission date:	2026-08-22
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):	
6. Choose one of the following:	
This is a complete proposal:	Yes
(or) More information will be provided later:	

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:	
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):	No
Proposed name of script:	
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	Yes
Name of the existing block:	
2. Number of characters in proposal:	1
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):	
A-Contemporary ☐ B.1-Specialized (small collection) ☒ B.2-Specialized (large collection) ☐	
C-Major extinct ☐ D-Attested extinct ☐ E-Minor extinct ☐	
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic ☐ G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols ☐	
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	Yes
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?	Yes
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	Yes
5. Fonts related:	
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	
	Sridatta A
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	
	Sridatta A
6. References:	
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	/
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	Yes
7. Special encoding issues:	
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?	
/	

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	No
If YES, explain: _____	
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	No
If YES, with whom? _____	
If YES, available relevant documents: _____	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	Yes
Reference: <i>Used by Vedic scholarly community of Kerala</i>	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	Rare
Reference: _____	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	Yes
If YES, where? Reference: _____	
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale provided?	
If YES, reference: <i>Malayalam block is in BMP</i>	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	No
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	No
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference: <i>Vedic anusvaras are encoded per script</i>	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	No
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
If YES, reference: _____	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	No
If YES, describe in detail: _____	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	No
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference: _____	

UnicodeData.txt

```
1 0D51; MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA;Lo;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
```

IndicSyllabicCategory.txt

```
0D51 ; Bindu # Lo MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA
```

LineBreak.txt

```
1 0D51 ; AL # Lo MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA
```

NamesList.txt

```
@ Vedic Anusvara
```

```
0D51 MALAYALAM LETTER VEDIC DOUBLE ANUSVARA
```

```
3 lines
```