

Title: Malayalam chillu ka
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L2/05-154

Yesterday, UTC took action to encode five Malayalam chillu characters. During the discussion, mention was made that there have been claims of additional chillu characters existing, and that a chillu ka specifically has been cited (see §2 of L2/05-148).

I have received confirmation that the chillu ka is currently in use among those that use traditional Malayalam. The following screen shot shows the chillu ka in use on the Web in a Malayalam translation of the Bible (viewed using a font with support for traditional Malayalam).

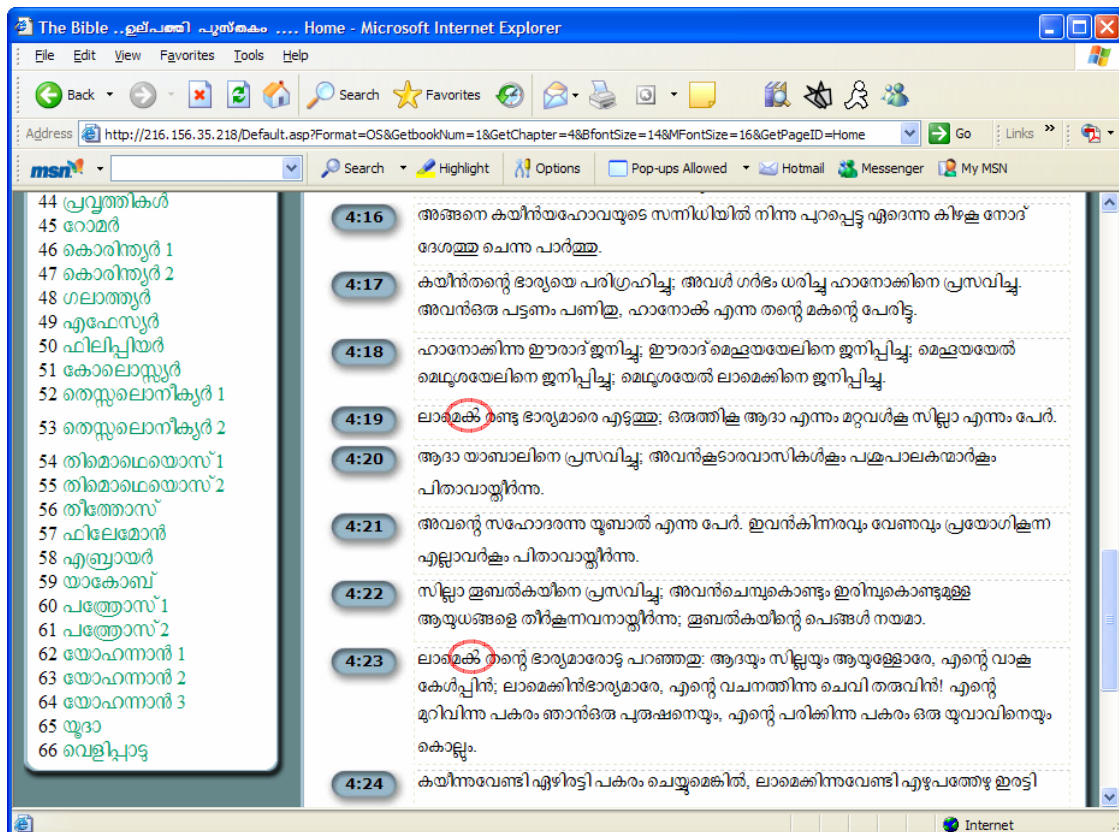


Figure 1. Chillu ka used in Malayalam translation of the Bible (Genesis, chapter 4)

There are existing OpenType font implementations for traditional Malayalam (such as the ThoolikaTraditionalUnicode font shown in Figure 1) with support for the chillu ka using the

same mechanism that has up to now been recommended for other chillu forms: < KA, VIRAMA, ZWJ >. These implementations would require consistent means for supporting all chillu forms – including the chillu ka.

Thus, I propose that the chillu ka be encoded along with the other five chillu characters that have just been encoded:

Glyph	Character Name	Proposed code position
	MALAYALAM LETTER K	U+0D7F