**Subject:** Official submission of a request regarding the Grantha Chillu Marker **L2/10-232**
**From:** Shriramana Sharma <samjnaa@gmail.com>
**Date:** Fri, 11 Jun 2010 22:16:48 +0530
**To:** Rick McGowan <rick@unicode.org>
**CC:** "Deborah W. Anderson" <dwanders@sonic.net>

Dear Rick,

Ms Anderson notified me in her mail dated 2010-May-26 06:02 IST that:

"After a long discussion on this topic, the UTC agreed to add “CHILLU MARKER” to the repertoire in document L2/10-071"

Regarding this I wish to officially submit the following feedback:

That the UTC has decided to add a CHILLU MARKER to the Grantha character repertoire pending approval, despite my efforts to argue against this character, is quite unfortunate.

It is possible that this character is only encoded to enable Malayalam transliteration in Grantha. If so, I wish to submit that this character carry an annotation that this character only be used for transliterating Malayalam, just as the characters RRA, LLLA and NNNA were accepted for Grantha only for transliterating Tamil. It should be clear that this character should not be used for Grantha representing Sanskrit.

However, I wish to point out (and probably only repeat an already made argument) that the principal use of Grantha is not to transliterate Malayalam but to represent Sanskrit. Any extension made to Grantha should only be made in such a way that does not affect the way the script denotes its native language, which is Sanskrit here.

If a Chillu Marker is accepted, and CONSONANT + CHILLU MARKER would display a consonant-virama ligature, and, as per native Sanskrit usage CONSONANT + VIRAMA can also be written as a consonant-virama ligature, then there are two sequences leading to the same display which causes a severe security problem.

One (partial) solution to this problem is to strongly recommend that CONSONANT + CHILLU MARKER should only be used for Malayalam transliteration, and a compliant Grantha font should have a "Malayalam transliteration mode" in which a CONSONANT + VIRAMA is ***never*** represented as a consonant-virama ligature.

However, it is not wise to rely on proper implementations having such a "Malayalam transliteration mode". Further, if a Sanskrit text written in Grantha were to have an inserted passage quoted from Malayalam, also transliterated in Grantha, then such a "Malayalam transliteration mode" would have to be applied to only part of the text, and this would involve markup etc, which goes against the whole idea of Unicode of being able to represent scripts properly in plaintext.

In summary, I reiterate my statement that encoding such a CHILLU MARKER is wrong since it hampers the way in which the script represents its native language, which is Sanskrit. A large number of arguments in support of the CHILLU MARKER revolve around the Malayalam transliteration issue, which I must reiterate, should be secondary to the native language representation issue.

I request the UTC to inform me of the ***reasons*** for their decision to include a CHILLU MARKER, just as they have informed me of the reasons for their decision to deny my requests for some normative aliases.

--
Shriramana Sharma

.