

Usage Evidence for Grantha OM glyph

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Among the OM signs used by scripts in India, south Indian scripts such as Tamil and Grantha are uniquely related signs. In Tamil OM sign, the long O vowel contains the letter, m <MA, VIRAMA> inside. And in the Grantha script, there is an anusvara sign which looks like a U with a dot placed over it. Like consonant letters in a Grantha word, this anusvara sign (u with a dot on the top) is always placed to the right.

There is a community of Grantha script scholars who are the preservers of this rare Grantha script. Madurai Meenakshi temple priests and well known Saiva Agama experts, Thangam Bhattar and Rajarathnam Bhattar explained the Grantha Script OM shape as the long vowel, O ligating with the right-side anusvara sign. Sri. N. Kalyanasundara Gurukkal, Eachanari Devasthanam, India has written Sanskrit shlokas where he uses Grantha OM sign in the mantras to Hindu gods. Please see the attached Grantha script page provided by Sri. N. Kalyanasundara gurukkal for the Grantha OM glyph, with his signature in Grantha script in the last line.

Note that the vedic anusvara sign placed to the right of a Grantha letter and subsequently the formation of Grantha OM sign with the right-side anusvara is not found in other scripts of India.

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