Request from scholars of the Grantha user community #2

On behalf of the native Grantha-using scholars, Shriramana Sharma, India
2010-Aug-03

The undersigned scholars also support the views expressed in the document L2/10-233 “Request from scholars of the Grantha user community” and request the concerned officials of Unicode script registration system, that:

1. they do not include in the Unicode registration of Grantha any letters/devices such as this “Chillu Marker” that will not preserve the meaning unity between the different written forms of vowelless consonants in Sanskrit/Grantha.

2. they make all efforts to ensure that the registration of Grantha will preserve the way in which the Grantha script represents the Sanskrit language.

3. if at all necessary then they add extra letters to the script for writing words from other languages only so long as it is practically useful, so long as such addition does not conflict with the stipulation above.

4. to make efforts to ensure that the special letters and marks used for writing Vedic Sanskrit in Grantha are also included since the Vedic community of Tamil Nadu uses the Grantha script daily in their traditional academic and religious activities and needs to be able to use these characters in the computer form of Grantha.

I (Shriramana Sharma) wish to draw the attention of the UTC to the fact that three signatories to the “Request from scholars of the Grantha user community” are Presidential Awardees: Dr Shivaramakrishna Shastri and Dr S V Radhakrishna Shastri whose signatures were in pp 11 and 13 of L2/10-233 and Dr Mani Dravid of Chennai whose signature is attached here in p 2. These are all very experienced, respected and impartial scholars who are beyond any influencing (by me or anyone else). They have all endorsed the analysis of the Grantha script provided in my proposal, especially with regard to contentious issues such as the virama forms, virama/chillu marker matter, absence of Grantha OM and also other lesser matters like the Grantha/Tamil digits issue and danda-s.

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Dr. Muni Pravak is an expert in Advaita Vedanta. He was awarded the Badarayana Samman Presidential Award in recognition of his service in this field. He is also well-versed in the Mimamsa, Nyaya, and Vajrayana Sastro-sund and has been decorated by various titles like Advaita Vedanta Visharada, Udbhya Mimamsa Ratna, Advaita Siddhi Patnabha, etc. He is also an examiner for Shastha examinations conducted at Kannipuram, Tenali, and Rajahmundry.

Sri Adadhipadam Ramakrishna Dikshitulu is a Sama Vedascholar and also well-versed in Purva Mimamsa and Advaita Vedanta. He presides over many scholarly discussions and meetings held at Kannapuram and is chief examiner of the Shastha examinations conducted at Kannapuram.

Dr. R. Krishnamurti Shastri has been like a backbone to the efforts of the native Vedasamskrit scholars to encode Grantha in United India. He is one of the most honoured and reputed scholars of South India. He served in the Madras Samskrit College as Advaita Vedanta Acharya from 1973-2002, the last 5 years as Principal. He is a recognized guide to Ph.D. scholars at various universities including Benares Hindu University, Varanasi, Banaras Hindu Samskrita Upayogam, Delhi, Rashtriya Samskrita Samsthan, Delhi and Tirupati centres. He is also an examiner for shasthas at Advaita Sabha and Vedas Astha Sabha (Kancharpalli), Kanchi Vedanta Sabha (Tenali). He is a good medullist in Vedanta Shramani and Mimamsa Shramani (chem). He is an expert in Vedas Astha Raham, Maha-manushopadhyaya, Advaita Siddhi Patnabha, and Bhashara Kalanithi. He also heads the Heritage India Educational Trust, Chennai.
Dr. G. Shankaranarayanan is a scholar of Vyakaranam and Sahitya and is an Asukavini (one capable of instantly composing a literary work given a topic). He is a lecturer at Sri Chandra Shekhar Baraswati Vishva Mahavidyalaya and works with Grantha manuscripts regularly. He is the head of the manuscripts department in the above university.

Gopalakrishna Dikshitar

Shri Gopalakrishna Dikshitar is a Vajura Veda expert and a practitioner of the traditional Vedic rituals. Hence he is an expert in the such as Agnihutra.

Balamurugan Sastri

Shri R. Balakrishna Strashigal is well versed in various subjects including Krishna Vajura Veda, Advaita Vedanta, Vyakaranam and Sahitya. He has translated several texts from Sanskrit to Tamil.

Shri Swami Atma Bodha Tirtha, mentioned in p 56 of 12/09-372, read and endorsed the contents of the "Request from Scholars" document but refrained from making any signature due to his self-imposed restrictions pertaining to his havan taken to holy orders (Sannyasa). Before Sannyasa he was principal for 10 years of the oldest functioning Vedic school in South India, the Raja Veda Prathamika of Kumbakonam, established in the 15th century (c. 1452 CE). He is a scholar of especially the Samyaveda and Advaita Vedanta.