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To

The South Asia Subcommittee,  
Unicode Technical Committee

21.10.2010

Dear Sir/Madam

Recently, I have received the Grantha code chart approved by the Unicode Tech Committee shown in document, L2/10-265R for reviewing. The general arrangement is perfect, and I appreciate that the two Virama signs of the Grantha script are properly included. A slight concern persists about the naming.

My letter is with respect to U+1134F GRANTHA SIGN LIGATING VIRAMA. In Grantha script, the ligating Virama occurs only (a) in word-final position and (b) in wordbreaks that require a pause, means: combined words that are written together but have to be pronounced with a pause in between (e.g. san-maarga, sat-putra, etc.)

With a view to this linguistic aspect, the sign with code U+1134F should carry a name that makes its function clear. As in both cases mentioned above (a & b), it stand before a speech-pause, the term “prepausal” should be added to its denomination, so that it should finally be named as GRANTHA SIGN PREPAUSAL VIRAMA or GRANTHA SIGN PREPAUSAL LIGATED VIRAMA. Gruenendahl (2001) in his description of Grantha also goes in this direction and I strongly recommend to take up this proposal and – for the sake of clarity – include the term “prepausal” into the name of the sign.

I will be happy to answer to further questions – by email or by phone, as you please. – Please note that I am at present on a sabbatical and will stay in India until April 2011. I will hence be available under the following phone numbers: +91 – (0)413-2665449, (0)413-2660442, and mobile: 9786008679

Thanking you,  
with kind regards,

(Prof. Dr. Ulrike Niklas)