The Chair,
Unicode Technical Committee

நூ.த.லோகசுநதரம
11.1.2042 (திஆ)
N.D.LOGASUNDARAM
25.1.2011 CE
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Dear Sirs,

Subject: Views, opinions and suggestions on Proposals submitted on
             on Grantham, an historic INDIC Script into SMP by learned
             individuals & Institutions

Invocation

மன்உடை மன்றத்து ஒலை துக்கினு**ம்**
தன்உடை ஆற்றல் உணரார் இடையினு**ம்**
மன்னிய அவைஇடை வெல்உறும் பொழுதினு**ம்**
தன்னை மறுதலை பழித்த காலை**யும்**
தன்னைப் *புகழ்தலும் தகும்*புல வோற்கே – *பனம்பாரம்*

I would prefer to introduce myself as an Enthusiast on the Language Tamil,
my Mother Tongue and by DNA, processing reasonable knowledge base in
it along with skill in expressing them in English which is one of the modes for
the interface with this org.

The above Tamil verse from an anthology defines 4 justified ambiences where in one expresses about his/her savvy and sagacity which does not amounts to boastfulness.

1. I am one of the volunteers in Project Madurai a portal with Electronic library with freely downloadable contents of 380+titles all on selected Tamil literatures includes comprehensive Sangam Classics wherein I am connected with 40+ titles spanning past 12 years

2. A member in 'Kanith Thamizh Sangkam' (KTS) an org. dedicated to Tamil in the digital world

3. A member in INFITT, an associate of Unicode consortium. in its GB

4. Now joined UNICODE CONSTORIUM as an individual member from Jan. 2011, though I had sporadic interface with Unicode in its open mail group, few years before, participated in discussions by few postings on phonetic features on Tamil letter 'Aytham' as a diphthong

5. Authored two technical papers presented in conferences cosponsored by INFITT, along with KTS, as 'Tamil-net' held on 2003 Chennai and in 2010 @ Coimbatore. In both instances hosts were Govt. of Tamilnadu. First one is connected rationalization of glyphs belongs to a class of letters and the other one is on embedding co-features into displayable character properties in digital contents for OCR friendliness i.e. on font forging.

6. Transliteration applications for conversion for Tamil contents in TSCII codes to one written in English letters complying to schemes formulated by (a) Indology faculties of University of Cologne using Tamil which enables input w/o diacritics and from simple Qwerty keyboard ; (b) US Library of Congress (c) Modified ITRANS.

7 A paper on anthropological view on the legendary Characters of the great epics of India prepared for World Tamil Semozhi Conference 2010 Coimbatore styled as 'Rama and Krishna are Dravidians'

6. A list of titles of several other write-ups and papers on vide humanities and technical subjects that I have authored which are listed at the end of this Document in a indicative mode %

My submission

I am here for the first time to submit a document as an individual member after joining this Unique Consortium which has taken up a distinct and comprehensive monumental project on a global scale on the process on digitization of all the elements in any writing system of the world from its beginning of human civilization.

This submission happen to be on feed back on proposals connected with encoding an historic Indian script found in Southern part of INDIA-Grantham into a block in SMP initiated and detailed in Unicode L2 Documents

(L2/10-426 and its connected pre and post dated documents)

My opinions on the above se are as follows

Grantham

* The term **Grantham**, stands for a **Script** system, and not for a **language**

Preamble

* In the present on-going projects at Unicode are connected with standardized implementation of writing **systems** of all the languages of the globe into digital gadgets with portability and interoperability irrespective of any operating system, platform or application. Projects covers apart from apt and relevant major languages, along with others which are classified as Ancient, Antique Historic which are included not only for preservation in a husbandry mode but also for scientific and academic studies as history culture and humanities. There are wise provisions for catering the future arrivals from unexplored as well as from new development zones.

* Devising of writing systems by humans is the prime element behind such a huge and voluminous accumulation of knowledge, and hence their cultural advancement and civilization, since knowledge can move across time distance and both. It is also vending tool to view, review, add and edit contents by author and by others in both the above said layers. This also serves maintenance of vigilant schools, standardization and preservation of Knowledge.

* The wealth of knowledge preserved in languages which does not have a writing system and and manage to remain organic only with interfaces as mouth ear mouth are having high risk of extinction and accelerated distortion

* There are many **languages** already got encoded by Unicode consortium for their standardized character sets which is the prime and basic ingredient as building blocks of any language.

* There are many **script systems** too got encoded which are shared by many languages when they found to have some kind of common traits in their features.

* Unicode Consortium already identified under **CLDR** project and enumerated names of various languages and Script systems spread across all the meridians of this planet.

Grantham

* The **Grantham**, a script which can be commented as historic in nature by its content wealth entirely in the language **Sanskrit**. Its quantity also reached almost zero level growth few centuries ago. ($) That can be the reason behind non-identification in the CLDR so far with its very long list of **languages** and **script systems.** Those are classified under 4 different groups as Ancient, Antique Historic and Modern. The long list proves itself that the CLDR process had a deep dip into research in enumerating names and features on **languages** and **script systems** of the world.

* A **femto** sized user community which spread across and bound by micro geographical region with its thinnest existence well below the threshold of identification can be the other reasons for non identification of **Grantham** in CLDR so far.

* Submitted proposals for **Grantham** requesting for separate character slots in the Unicode Standardization process as a **script** and not a **language** in its SMP

* The **Grantham** script as found in the proposals states that it is being used to write a language **Sanskrit**

* The script system as referred as **Grantham** was well acknowledged in history of Tamilnadu India.
It was a vehicle for writing **Sanskrit** on various antique media as even as regal grants inscribed copper plates unearthed which even belongs to slots in the first millennium and finds temple wall inscriptions in archaeological survey of well accepted age of thousand years by historians.

* The **Grantham** script also has geographical boundaries to its user community, wherein it got devised for particular purpose. It covers mostly a region now politically identified as Tamilnadu India and its peripheral region.

* The submitted proposals on **Grantham** with its illustrated glyphs are in a neat presentation digital font format bearing a contemporary flavor, which I presume derived and devised from sources which may be from rarely found print media on date and from manuscripts and cursives from content wealth in palm leaves.

* But there are many glyph variations noted by historians when comparing the archived sets of Glyphs found in antique Pallava/Pandiya copper plates/Stone inscriptions. They have even classified all the resources in general to groups based on its time and hence as distinct styles

* Whatever is the case in its features as time, place and in its styles including the modern (if any), organic nature of **Grantham** always without any iota of doubt connected one and only to single language the **Sanskrit**.

* The attempts in proposals to identify Grantham in a vogue and generalized expression that it was in use as a vehicle to write other languages are not be maintainable from the fact that those docs were not created in comprehensive and complete characters of a sole linguistic standing mode other than from **Sanskrit**. They were always found only in mix mode of words and/or letters two languages the Tamil and **Sanskrit** with following reasons.

) The authors with intention to use a words which have phonetics and semantics in **Sanskrit** into Tamil contents similar to the use of French phrases with its natural format being quoted in texts written in English.
) The authors with intention to get **Sanskrit** Phonetics get adopted into that carrier language
) The authors with inability to identify and use of proper and apt words/letters of the of a particular language and used what is tangible at his/her ease
) The preference of authors to use a mix to suit the target audience
) The availability of contents and subject in a language expressible only in that language
) A verity interlaced with two or more of the above instances shown above

For example Greek alphabets are in use to represent some defined semantics inside other languages (say in English, in instances by far less by total quantity of contents created in English). Any claim, if any, as "Greek is used to write English language can be treated as rational? Again. Leaves of a plant species can be found in brown in color. Any statement as "color of leaves is Brown" can be treated as a one carry correct expression?

The syntax combined with its own orthographic fix the language in use. Even the characters written without native Orthographic forms cannot be considered as the use of that language

* **Devanagri** is another Indic script system got encoded already by Unicode consortium well ahead in Indics and in full steam, got placed in BMP, rendering services for more than a decade, to very large demographic groups by its multilingual vendibility.

* Such portability was possible only by definition in Unicode glossaries for a character which is a best logical innovation devised to cater the participants in the arena of Comparative and Analytical linguistics with diverse classes in their constituent elements

* The **Devanagri** is a well evolved and expanded with all its servability with wealthy repertoire grown to suit the Goliath sized user community and for true real and justifiable reasons it should grow in its extended block with all its companions

* As found in CLDR, **Devanagri** Script is identified with 33 different Indian languages which includes the language **Sanskrit.**

* **Devanagri** by virtue of its code points and characters of letters, symbols, numerals and other elements which play the part in rendering and display are well defined for use against several languages including **Sanskrit** and it is already in steam over a decade**.**

* In CLDR the language **Sanskrit** is classified under languages as 'not in use'. It can be from the reality that it does not exist in speech mode even inside the so called/claimed user community on a day to day communication between them. In other words that language so far exists only in reading and writing mode while the pedagogic tools for its instruction being an another language.

* In CLDR the **Sanskrit** got mentioned against **Singhalese** script of Srilanka. It may be through historical contents from a micro-sized placer-deposits indicated only by historians identifying literatures arrived there for comparative religious studies and may not have any connection with language in use by common ethnic population on day to day basis in their communication needs.

* The recent submitted proposal on **Grantham** can initiate identifying it in CLDR as a **Script** name which should also be connected to the **language - Sanskrit**.

The points which are contrary and nonconformance to Unicode standardization process in entertaining proposals on Grantham script into SMP

* **Sanskrit** was provided already with its own characters set adoptable under Devanagri block.

* **Grantham** script is used to write the same language **Sanskrit**.

*As **Sanskrit** was already assigned with a character set for its use, it cannot claim one more from another script mode

* **Sanskrit** characters in both the scripts are one and the same congruent in all respects including orthography, difference being in glyphs only.

* Rendering of glyphs of **Sanskrit** characters whether in **Devanagri** or **Grantham** does not create any difference in rendering engine as they have both written in right to left progression

and have same stacking styled consonant clusters, the ligatures

* The characters of the language **Sanskrit** being the same both in **Devanagri** and Grantham there are no differences created even in its analytical engine performing collation find and replace or handled in any other logical operators

*Hence Grantham can use the same code points as that of **Devanagri** and render its language the **Sanskrit**. by its own glyph sets and vend its contents with all its congruence

* Still in other words, only the **Sanskrit** language is the one holding the prime ownership of its entities as elements of a language (Phonemes et al) and the a script system as **Devanagri** (or else) are secondary to language as the scripts are only an alternate carriers born/created for the language contents to cross time and distance. There can be and there are languages without a script to write exists for centuries with continuum while a script system without a language cannot be a reality. A script system is a secondary entity devised for its prime entity the language (prior art) and never a language is forged from Script. It is also true that a language can adopt existing script for justifiable reasons of another language. In Unicode definitions a character can be identified with a language/script and at the same instance it can also be away playing a neutral part for vendibility.

* Empowering **Sanskrit** to get handled in **Grantham** script proponents can forge **glyph** sets for **Grantham** using the same code points already assigned to the **Sanskrit** under **Deavnagri** block.

* Therefore there is no basic necessity to issue with new code points for its use in digital world
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Grantham to write Sanskrit in Font level from Devanagari codes

* The default identification for instant display (or print) on opening of a document in a particular language with preferred script cannot be different from the one already exists in **Devanagri** coded contents because the software and their algorithms should be already catering to differentiate and identify languages which got shared in it. For example Marathi from Nepali. Hindi from Bhojpuri. Even if there are snags in it, on date, what is applicable to **Sanskrit** or others, it is a feature connected with font rendering Software features or else and nothing connected with digits embedded in codes.

* The denial of creation of separate and duplicating codes in SMP for **Sanskrit** other than what exists in already in BMP under **Devanagri** block, the **Sanskrit** contents will be handled with more comfortable, economic and efficient 16 bit codes. It should be a boon and not a bane to a classical language of **my country 'Bharath' the Mahan.**

* There can be an opinion waiting for venting out from proponents of **Grantham** that they are not comfortable with the term **Grantham font** under the block branded already as **Devanagari** which is also a Script. This point can be justified from the ambiences what is possible in the process involved in internationalization & starandardisation. Even an attempt can be made, by Unicode if they found it possible and justified, to rename **Devanagri** to one as **'Indian Script'** or something equivalent to it because this code block shared by distinct Indic languages as many as 30 or more

* In one proposal there is a request to encode Tamil/Dravidian letters as short E, Short O with their relevant vowel marks, and consonants as LLLA, RRA, NNNA, can be added to **Grantham** for transliteration purposes. This request may not be entertainable as these are characters to be added anew to fill up a lacuna in **Sanskrit** written in **Grantham**. But all these needed characters

are already provided for as **Devanagri** characters the purpose will be served without any problem for the cause requested.

* There are provisions for the characters as Short E, Short O (with vowel marks for these two), along with consonants as JA, SA, SSA SYA, in Tamil block defined as Tamil letters cannot be shared with Grantham letters of **Sanskrit** language as these letters provided in Tamil belongs to the class with different orthographic properties varies from the one of same phonemes in **Sanskrit** written in **Grantham**. But there exists complete and comprehensive set of all these needed characters in **Devanagri** block itself there is no necessity to use the confusables from cross block access by the New **Grantham font** 's rendering engine

Views connected and akin to Languages written in more than one script as above

* There are many languages identified and found in the pipeline for Standardization process in Unicode consortium pages, seems to be in deferent stages of progress. I am not a polyglot and not even process enough GK to identify and comment on such a huge and numerous languages with their features which may span thousands of years in history. There are chances that few of those languages and scripts may be of historical in nature and its modified modern format by evolution would have got encoded already with its language identity or as a shared script. All those identifiable languages /scripts which are having identical repertoire in full/part and properties of language elements and with congruent orthographic features, digitization of those languages and scripts with separate and new code points can be reconsidered. The well evolved multiple octet coded system were created with very large number code points at great cost being paid by major users on date at their memory.

* With the same token, Choza, which I presume to be one of the script form of Tamil land but differs only by its antique glyph form of Tamil (one more, if in pipeline, the Vattezhuthu another historic script form can also belongs to that class) These proposals if connected with one and only with Language Tamil, these script form may be re considered for allocation for fresh code points as they too can very well operate from font mode.

* From my feeble knowledge I feel that the script Modi should be akin to Marathi and may be operatable from its font layer. The same may be applicable to Sharadha, Kaithi, Siddam, Ranjana, Maharani, too can come under **Devanagri** block by its common phones and their writing orthographics

* In cases as Sindhi, Panjabi and Kashmiri they were written both in Brahmi derived scripts and from Arabic connected features (BIDI) it may look as if sharing may not be possible here. But with proper algorithms it should be possible as the binary codes can be adorned with intelligent rendering properties since human are the Brahma behind any creation so far and necessity is the mother of invention while inventive faculty hails from prepared minds

* Necessity to save voluble code slots of first preference for justifiable future languages with high potentiality by accelerated knowledge explosion in a logarithmic scale by human. Guide lines stipulated in docs at : http://www.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3102.doc (Uma maheswaran –IBM Canada)

* Let me be allowed merely to mention some scopes in my view cones subtended by few planar minutes in the 360 degree potentiality of solid angle

Existing but unexplored:

**Strange and unique writing system of Inca civilization of South America, the Quipu where in knots made in ropes are used to record mathematical elements
**Musical notes mentioned in stone inscriptions of Tamil nadu of first centaury CE Even the musical notes of that is living on date with all with its continued Dynamism in Tamil Land yet to be submitted for codes
**A huge collection of symbols collected in epigraphical survey in southern peninsular region in India which may have connected to Indus valley seals is reported. In one proposal already made on Brahmi characters the symbols found along with many Brahmi inscriptions (sentence ends) found in India and Srilanka are not included in it It should be by the fact that they are not read yet and kept for future submissions
**Clay tablets (seals) find in Noyyal river bank not yet officially reported (near Coimbatore) where in unidentified language being inscribed in baked clay tablets. Even rare boustrophedon script can be found with pre-bake incisions by a stylus.
**symbols for various features in the Indian almanac systems.
**marks on dice used in plays of Indian origin

A writing system has to be evolved for the following communication systems which are in sonic and in visible mode that cannot cross time and distance

**The existing language of hand signals and gestures used in communication between deaf mutes
** Flag and plaque held hand signals propagated in the tarmac of airfields or the one practiced in ports and harbors
** Hand signals used in various spots field as cricket football boxing etc
**Attempts on recording animals and birds communication systems
**There is one ongoing project in US where in there is an attempt to communicate with extraterrestrial beings. If materialized languages may be available that may indent for coding slots.

I mean in all these points just shown in few lines above there are huge and Unfathomable scope for future uses which may warrant character slots which are not for vending to requests of much less importance. I was taught in management that one facet of it is "Management is also identifying and sorting out priorities"

I would request the chair that in all my presentation above I am not trying to teach anything new to the honorable forum. Just as a member of this org I am obliged to furnish while I request for condon for any act which may be felt and if treated as 'not apt and relevant".

I would like to add that there are hundreds of points being mentioned in this feedback paper which are from my knowledge filtered into truth / wisdom by my Septuagenarian age I may not be presenting with attestations though I am committed to present what are possible on protest. Hence I would like to treat this document as the one given under oath.

Conclusion

*Grantham being only a sister script of Devanagri script whose parent language Sanskrit. It was already provided with comprehensive and complete set of characters needed for its use in the digital media. It is also already in full steam, there is no necessary to allot duplicate set of characters for the one and the same language Sanskrit

* Sanskrit written in Grantham or Devanagari does not make any difference in rendering

as both have same orthographic properties. With identical set of character elements there shall be no problems in analytical mode also like collate find and replace and in handling with any other logical operators

*Granthan can use the existing codes of Devanagari with its own font set for displaying and printing contents in **Sanskrit**

*As per provisions already well laid in policies and guidelines to follow in defining a character for a language for digital use as for as information technology is connected a character set defined for one language cannot be assign as duplicate.

*Hence Grantham script need not be entertained with new and separate code points under its own identity for serving **Sanskrit** and may request user community satisfied with **Grantham** in font layer

***Grantham** font in BMP will be even more economical efficient and user-friendly than in SMP and it can be more at home.

Thanking you, I remain,

Yours Candidly

Chennai
25.01.2011   NDLogasundaram

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Bottom lines for quotes

($) Many Universities and other major educational institutions were the language **Sanskrit** is taught does not consider Grantham script for teaching and contents in it were not in their syllabus.
($) In a private survey made in popular book fair at Chennai which is an annual affair run in a very big scale where almost all the publishers of Tamil & from pan India too present with their publications. The result of such a private survey shall indicate the present status of Grantham script in publishing. No of publishers included in the survey 210. The publishers who publish books in Grantham content are 0. Number of publishers who recognizes it as one script 7. Number of publishers who does not even know or heard of existence of such a script 193. Number of publishers who refuses to leave any comment 10

(%)
Some of my write-ups
pANTi nATTu naLLARu 1968
koTimangkalam in tiruvAcakam 1968
Differentiate and define a Sport from a Game 1998
Less known features in the ubiquitous bicycle 1999
 South-light Glazing 2000
Earth-shine 2000

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