

Comment on L2/14-15R: Malayalam Sign Vertical Bar Virama
(Chillu Virama Sign)

There are already two styles of representation of Chillu-s in Malayalam script in Unicode fonts - one as atomics and another with a sequence using ZWJ joiners.

The proposed Vertical Bar Virama is actually a Chillu Virama sign. Instead of a third way to represent Malayalam Chillu-s, in these archaic style fonts, can existing Chillu representation be modified? That is,

- (1) for available atomically encoded Chillus, use chillu shapes of the archaic book and
- (2) for those that do not have atomic chillus use a sequence using Joiners.

That way, a third way of Chillu Virama Sign in Malayalam script can be avoided.

Please see Image 1, Image 3 etc., they are all Chillus with a vertical line ligated:

<http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2014/14015r-vertical-virama.pdf>

In the early 19th century, the fonts with these ligating vertical bar were not available for some presses, hence what is usually ligated were sometimes printed with a vertical line at the top. The question is: already two Chillu representations are in use in Unicode fonts for Malayalam, is a third Malayalam Sign Vertical Bar Virama (or, it can be called Chillu Marker Virama) necessary?

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