

TAMIL VIRTUAL ACADEMY
Chennai – 600 025.

**Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the TVA High Level Committee on
Unicode related issues held on 23rd January 2015**

The meeting of the TVA High Level Committee on Unicode related issues was held at 4.00 p.m. on 23rd January 2015 at the Conference Room of Tamil Virtual Academy.

The following members were present:

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| Dr. P.R. Nakkeeran Director Tamil Virtual Academy | Member / Convener |
| Prof. V. Jayadevan Chief Editor, Madras University Tamil Lexicon Revision Project | Member |
| Thiru. Mani M. Manivannan IT Expert Chennai | Member |
| Prof. M. Ponnaivaikko Former Director Tamil Virtual Academy | Member |
| Dr. Shriramana Sharma Research scholar (Author of Unicode proposal L2/13-047 the standing proposal to encode Tamil fractions and symbols in Unicode) | Member |

Members granted leave of absence:

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|--|--------|
| The Director Tamil Development Department Chennai | Member |
| The Director International Institute of Tamil Studies Chennai | Member |
| Prof. K. Murugaiyan Professor (Retd.), Annamalai University | Member |

Special Invitees

Dr. A. James

Consultant
Tamil Virtual Academy

Mr. P. Chellappan

Palaniyappa Bros.
Chennai

Mr. T. Srinivasan

Software Engineer,
Chennai

DECISIONS / RESOLUTIONS

1. With reference to L2/14-271 N4637 the PDAM 2.1 to ISO/IEC 10646:2014 (4th edition) and the letter from the UTC Chair to the Tamil Virtual Academy Director dated 2015-Jan-14, the high level committee discussed the issue of naming the characters and the feedback received from various parties including the UTC, INFITT and other sources. The feedback indicated that many parties felt that using digits as part of words in character names will hamper readability. At the same time a consistent standard had to be devised, while catering to the requirement of readability.
2. The committee also considered the fact that this encoding is going into the SMP and not BMP. Hence the question of using the existing available code points does not arise.
3. Since the glyphs in old written texts before printing era were changing from century to century and region to region, the committee felt the glyphs should be based on printed texts after verification to eliminate printing errors. In this connection it is requested to change the glyph for 11FC8 denoting $1/16$ from U+11FC8 to the alternate variant U+11FC9 attested in the original proposal L2/12-231 p 38 to avoid confusion with SHA U+11FC7 . The rest of the glyphs are found to be acceptable

based on the attestations. The glyphs in the Government Order on Tamil Unicode can be updated by a font change later.

4. Regarding the annotations describing the relative value of the various measures like SUVADU etc, the experts noted that there were many regional variations and the present annotations are acceptable as they are based on the references provided in the original proposal L2/12-231.

5. Recommendation for spelling of existing and proposed character names and informative aliases

- Based on the feedback received, the committee recommends that a spelling scheme based on the existing international transliteration standard ISO 15919 of the Tamil words may be used for the normative character names by removing the diacritics from the transliterated words. It is to be noted that ISO 15919 is the same as the transliteration standard employed by the Tamil Lexicon published by the Madras University.
- However, since some of these names are not readily readable, it is recommended that informative aliases may be provided to these characters with more readable spelling. In addition to this, the spelling of some of the aliases used for already encoded or proposed characters needs to be slightly modified to keep spelling consistency.
- Tables of requested spelling changes in the case of the normative character names and informative aliases are appended herewith. This also includes a few spelling changes to existing informative aliases. These are with reference to the PDAM 2.1 to ISO/IEC 10646:2014 (4th edition) as per the guidance from the UTC.

Spelling changes to normative names of proposed characters

| | ISO 15919 | Current | New |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 11FD0 | கீ <i>kīl</i> | KIIZH | KIL |
| 11FD1 | ஐ <i>nel</i> | NEL | (no change) |
| 11FD2 | ஓ <i>cuvatu</i> | SUVADU | CUVATU |
| 11FD3 | ஐ <i>ālākku</i> | AAZHAAKKU | ALAKKU |
| 11FD4 | ஊ <i>uri</i> | URI | (no change) |
| 11FD5 | ஊ <i>mūvulakku</i> | MUUVUZHAKKU | MUVULAKKU |
| 11FD6 | ஊ <i>patakku</i> | PADAKKU | PATAKKU |
| 11FD7 | ஊ <i>mukkuruni</i> | MUKKURUNI | (no change) |
| 11FD8 | ஊ <i>paicā</i> | PAISAA | PAICA |
| 11FD9 | ஊ <i>aṇā</i> | ANAA | ANA |
| 11FDA | ஊ <i>kācu</i> | KAASU | KACU |
| 11FDB | ஊ <i>paṇam</i> | PANAM | (no change) |
| 11FDC | ஊ <i>poṇ</i> | PON | (no change) |
| 11FDD | ஊ <i>varākaṇ</i> | VARAAGAN | VARAKAN |
| 11FDE | ஊ <i>pāram</i> | BAARAM | PARAM |
| 11FDF | ஊ <i>kajam</i> | GEJAM | KAJAM |
| 11FE0 | ஊ <i>kuḷi</i> | KUZHI | KULI |
| 11FE1 | ஊ <i>vēli</i> | VELI | (no change) |
| 11FE8 | ஊ <i>mutaliya</i> | MUDALIYA | MUTALIYA |
| 11FE9 | ஊ <i>vakaiyarā</i> | VAGAIYARAA | VAKAIYARA |
| 11FEA | ஊ <i>cirañcīvi</i> | CIRANJIIVI | CIRANCIVI |
| 11FEB | ஊ <i>pillai</i> | PILLAI | (no change) |
| 11FEC | ஊ <i>rāja</i> | RAAJA | RAJA |
| 11FED | ஊ <i>kku</i> | KKU | (no change) |
| 11FEE | ஊ <i>yum</i> | YUM | (no change) |
| 11FEF | ஊ <i>vum</i> | VUM | (no change) |

Spelling changes to informative aliases of proposed characters

| | Current | New |
|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11FC0 | mundiri | mundhiri |
| 11FC1 | araikkaani | arai kaani |
| 11FC3 | kaalviisam | kaal viisam |
| 11FC4 | araimaa | arai maa |
| 11FC5 | araiviisam | arai viisam |
| 11FC7 | mukkaalviisam | mukkaal viisam |
| 11FC8 | viisam/maakaani | viisam (or) maa kaani |
| 11FC9 | irumaa | iru maa |
| 11FCA | araikkaal | arai kaal |
| 11FCC | muuviisam/mummaamukkaani | muuviisam (or) mummaa mukkaani |
| 11FCD | naalumaa | naangu maa |
| 11FE7 | mudal | mudhal |
| 11FF0 | naaladu | naaladhu |

Additional informative aliases for proposed characters

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| 11FD0 | kiizh |
| 11FD2 | suvadu |
| 11FD3 | aazhaakku |
| 11FD5 | muuvuzhakku |
| 11FD6 | padhakku |
| 11FD8 | paisaa |
| 11FD9 | anaa |
| 11FDA | kaasu |
| 11FDD | varaagan |
| 11FDE | baaram |
| 11FDF | gajam |
| 11FE0 | kuzhi |
| 11FE8 | mudhaliya |
| 11FE9 | vagaiyaraa |
| 11FEA | chiranjivi |
| 11FEC | raaja |

Spelling changes to informative aliases of existing characters

| | Current | New |
|------|---------|---------|
| 0B83 | aytham | aaydham |
| 0BF9 | rupai | ruubaay |

The annotation of 0B83 must be updated accordingly as well.

Example for additional informative aliases

11FD0 $\frac{1}{320}$ TAMIL FRACTION DOWNSCALING FACTOR KIL
= kiizh
• when prefixed to a fraction, reduces its value by
a factor of 1/320

(Dr. P.R. Nakkeeran)
Member/Convener

(Prof. V. Jayadevan)
Member

(Thiru. Mani M. Manivannan)
Member

(Prof. M. Ponnavaikko)
Member

(Dr. Shriramana Sharma)
Member