Request to change glyphs of Kannada letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL and their vowel signs

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This document requests to change the representative glyphs of four Kannada characters. Presently these are provided in the code charts as follows:

0C8C  ಳ KANNADA LETTER VOCALIC L
0CE1 ೢ KANNADA LETTER VOCALIC LL
0CE2  ಳ KANNADA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L
0CE3  ಳ KANNADA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC LL

However after examining the original texts, grammatical works and other sources in Kannada we could not get any attestations of above characters using existing glyphs.

With reference to the vowel signs Vocalic L, Vocalic LL L2/04-364 proposed these signs based on non-native secondary sources where upturned vowels O and OO are used, evidently due to lack of proper glyph support at that time and these cannot be considered as correct glyph for these characters.

The proposed forms are evolutionarily associated with Southern Brahmi-derived scripts ೄ of Malayalam, ବ of Grantha, ṭ of Balinese and ṇ of Khmer.

Thus, it is requested that the glyphs given in this document which are original and unique to Kannada based on native texts be used for above four characters in the Code chart.

Proposed glyphs

0C8C KANNADA LETTER VOCALIC L
0CE1 KANNADA LETTER VOCALIC LL
References

Campbell, C. *Elements of Canarese Grammar*, Bangalore. 1854

Fleet, J. F. *Sanskrit and Old Canarese Inscriptions*. The Indian Antiquary, Vol.VI. 1881


Krishnamacharya, ಕ್ರಿಷ್ಣನಾಚಾರ್ಯ hosagannaḍa nudigannaḍi, a Grammar of the Modern Canarese Language. Mangalore. 1838.

A
GRAMMAR
OF THE
CARNÁTACA LANGUAGE.

CHAPTER FIRST.

OF LETTERS.

The Carnátaca language is written from left to right.

The characters, like those in the most ancient Greek and Roman manuscripts, are formed of equal sizes, and placed at equal distances, without either connexion, or stops, and without any distinction whatsoever of words.

The alphabet consists of six and fifty letters; viz. sixteen vowels; two letters that may be ranked either as vowels or consonants; and thirty-eight consonants.

The sixteen vowels are as follows; ಅ ಆ ಇ ಈ ಉ ಊ ಋ ಌ ಎ ಎಂ ಐ ಎಂಐ ಒ ಓ and ಔ; the two letters that belong to either class are ಗ and ಜ; and the thirty-eight consonants are thus arranged; ಶ ಷ ಸ ಸಂ ಶಂ ಥ ಥಂ ಥೂ ಥೃ ಥ್ರ ಥ್ರಂ ಥೂರ ಥೂರಂ ಥೂರ್ಢ ಥೂರ್ಢಂ ಥೂರ್ಢ್ರ ಥೂರ್ಢ್ರಂ ಥೂರ್ಢ್ರ್ಢ ಥೂರ್ಢ್ರ್ಢಂ.

Of the abovementioned fifty-six letters, forty-seven belong to the pure Carnátaca; and four of them, viz. ಎ೦ and ಎ೫ exclusively so. The remaining nine, viz. ಏ ಎಣ೦ ಎಣ೫ ಎಣೆ ಎಣೇ ಎಣೈ ಎಣೌ and ಎಣೊ have been introduced into the alphabet for the purpose of expressing sounds that are peculiar to the Sanscrit.

Figure 1. Use of VOCALIC L and VOCALIC LL in a Kannada grammar (from M'Kerrell 1820:1).
Figure 2. Use of VOCALIC L and VOCALIC LL in a Kannada (from M'Kerrell 1820: 2).
Figure 3. Use of VOCALIC L and VOCALIC LL in book- Hosagannada nudigannadi. Here Ī is written as letter I with a vertical stroke probably due to lack of specific glyph (from Krishnamacharya 1838).

Figure 4. An excerpt from Kannada Grammar book showing the letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL (from Campbell 1854:5).
Figure 5. An excerpt from Kannada Grammar book showing the letters Vocalic L and LL (from Campbell 1854:6).

Figure 6. A table showing the letters Vocalic L, Vocalic LL and their vowel signs in Kannada script (from Harkness 1837).
Figure 7. A Kannada inscription of Jain Siddhachakra showing the letter Vocalic L along with other vowels.

Figure 8. A Sanskrit inscription written in Old Kannada script belonging to Western Chalukya dynasty dated śaka 535 showing the vowel sign vocalic l in the word ‘sakḷptāḥ’ from which modern form is derived (from Fleet 1881:73).
Figure 9. An inscription showing the letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL along with other letters.

Figure 10. Use of VOCALIC L and VOCALIC LL in book- Śabdamāṇidarpaṇa. Here Ī is written as letter I with a vertical stroke probably due to lack of specific glyph.