

KaNaada Phonetics Pvt. Ltd.

CIN: U30004KA2017PTC107420

22nd Oct 2020

To, ಡಾ. ಡೆಬೋರಾ
Unicode Technical Director,
Unicode Technical Committee,
USA

From,
Dr. Guru Prasad,
Director
KaNaada Phonetics Pvt. Ltd.
India

Dear Dr. Deborah (ಡಾ. ಡೆಬೋರಾ) and other Unicode Committee Members,

Ref: Tulu Unicode L2/20-177

We would like to thank you for the continued support for Tulu language scripts. Hitherto we have supported proposal L2/17-378 (Ref 3) in 2017 and shown how our keyboard can be used to type script variations referred in the L2/20-177 proposal. I am still in India and continued the efforts full time for over three years to help Indic languages with a hardware keyboard supporting Unicode. We have shown that through our keyboard one can type various character variations, consonant, ligature combinations (Ref 15) for Tulu language scripts using fonts and style sets through Malayalam, Kannada Unicode.

In addition to Mookay Tigalari draft font (Ref 2), we have over two years tested various character combinations (Ref 15) and developed, corrected Tulu Sri font (Ref 3,4,5,6,7, Ref 17,19), supported different style of orthography (Ref 16), vedic script support through Srihari font Type 2 (Ref 18) and also character variations shown by authors in L2/20-177 through fonts. We have continued to support various Tulu workshops, learning programs, schools for Tulu language.

I along with Ka-Naada team agree with the several researchers for a proposal to get a Unicode for Tulu language scripts and related languages/scripts and also support the additional blocks to support E and O as Tulu speaking people use it colloquially currently. The variations in characters shown by various researchers, can be addressed through font sets. In addition, the half vowels can also be shown through our keyboard and fonts. We have released a major Die keyboard for Tulu language on Aug 15, 2020 and continue to teach and support outreach programs.

Kindly note that since the last support letter in 2017, we have been patiently waiting for Unicode and we have also seen a resurgence, renaissance in Tulu through language scripts, via sign boards, petition to add it to 8th schedule of constitution, school content, language labs, literature publication and the overall feeling for their mothertongue scripts from Tulu people from across the world. However Tulu has been added to UN endangered languages and we earnestly request

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you to allot the basic character sets requested in above proposal and we feel it is supportive in nature to L2/17-378. We the Tulu people need it to digitally connect and resuscitate our culture through our own native scripts. The feeling of people is enormous now that they know that their language had a script and is getting delayed at Unicode group. Once again we request you to earnestly allot the common working set of characters as early as possible and continue considering the phonemic additions that is of research interest to other languages that also used the same script in addition to Tulu. The Unicode allotment will alleviate significant hassles we currently face saving, transferring documents, editor issues and web content creations using a surrogate Unicode. In addition the allocation of Unicode will help represent, decode ancient manuscripts and share, understand with researchers, scholars and better understand our culture. In addition, the recent overhaul of National Education Policy, mandates the use of mother tongue in many stages of education and it is imperative that the allocation of Unicode will help tremendously the use of native scripts for Tulu in education. We have repeatedly demonstrated the trivial differences in character, regional, orthography and temporal period can be addressed through fonts, style sets.

Best regards,



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Ka-Naada™ Tulu Keyboard

Ref:(random order)

1. L2/17-378 : Preliminary proposal to encode Tigalari in Unicode by Vinod & Vaishnavi & Jamadhagni (2017) (We have supported and met with Vaishnavi to keep track of the Unicode efforts)
2. 17411-tigalari-support.pdf Support Letter to Unicode Nov (2017) from KaNaada Phonetics
3. The Palaeography of India,(1918), Raj Bahadur , Pandit Gaurishankar Hirachand Ojha (one of the Alphabet set reference for Tulu Sri font)

KaNaada Phonetics Pvt. Ltd.

CIN: U30004KA2017PTC107420

4. Tulu Alphabet, Tulu,Kannada,English, (2014), GVS Ullal5th edition 1018 , First edition 2010 (glyph set for Tulu Sri follows this book and added new half vowels)
5. Tulu Sri Font Ver 10.0 (encoded in Malayalam Unicode for now), Ka-Naada hardware keypad for Tulu (7 inch) for schools, released at Tulu World Conference Dubai, (2018)
6. Tulu Sri Ver 20. (encoded in Malayalam Unicode for now) , 10 inch Tulu USB Ka-Naada hardware keypads, released in Nov 2019, Tulu Sahitya Academy, Mangalore, released by Harikrishna Punaroor (tulu scholar, twice Kannada Sahitya parishat President), Dayanand Kattalsar (President elect, Tulu Sahitya Academy).
7. Ka-Naada Tulu Hardware die keyboard , 10 inch , released on Aug 15 2020, by Dharmastala Veerendra Hegde & Dr. Vignaraj (Director , Tulu manuscripts library)
8. Tulu Font story, (2020) Nuances in orthography, conjuncts in Fonts, Stylesets, Guru Prasad, Nishkal Rao, Sathish Agpala
9. Tech in Tulu, Guru Prasad, online seminar by Sathish Agpala (2020)
10. Learn Tulu language script in 4 hours using Memory mapping technique, Sathish Agpala , Online classes,(2017-2020)
11. A comparative grammar of Dravidian or South Indian Family of Languages, Robert Caldwell, (1856)
12. Grammar of the Tulu language, J. Bigel, (1872)
13. Books on grammar, S.U. Paniyadi, , L.V. Ramaswamy Iyer
14. A handbook to learn Tulu, Pradyoth Hegde, 2020
15. Concise Tulu dictionary, Dr. U.P. Upadhyaya , (5 vols) , (2005)
- 16.The Tulu Font, Dr. K.P. Rao (prior to 2017) (Malayalam style conjuncts developed for Tulu Academy)
17. Tulu Language: Its Script and Dialects, Dr. Neria H. Hebbar, (2003), Boloji.com article (Char sets from 1880)
18. SriHari Type 2 font, theTuluFont.com (2017)
19. Kanatavu, Android editor for Tulu (2020) Adarsh S., Guru Prasad, KaNaada Phonetics pvt ltd.
20. Storyline of Ka-Naada keyboards, Tulu Sri and other fonts for Digitally connecting through Tulu language scripts (2017-2020)

Cc/- Tulu Sahitya Academy, Mangalore,
National Culture Ministry, New Delhi,
Karnataka Culture Ministry, Bangalore,
Dr. Kasturirangan, Chief, National Education Policy(NEP) 2020