

TO: UTC
FROM: Vaishnavi Murthy
DATE: 27 Sept. 2021
SUBJECT: Comments on L2/21-213 Karnataka Tulu Academy – Unicode Reply

From: Vaishnavi Murthy
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:48 PM
To: Deborah W. Anderson
Cc: Vinodh Rajan

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for sharing the latest reply document by Karnataka Tulu Sahitya academy with us [L2/21-213] to some of the questions and doubts we had raised.

In May this year, I had the opportunity to teach the Tulu-Tigalari script at a workshop organised by the Sanskrit University for Sanskrit scholars from around India and some from outside countries as-well. Many of the attendees were heads of important state and central manuscript archives or research departments in various important institutions. There were a total of 150 people attending (including several beginners). It was nice to see the enthusiasm and renewed interest in going back to reading these manuscripts.

There were several discussions during the course of this workshop. The general consensus amongst the scholars in the discussions we had was that----

- Tulu and Tigalari script is one and the same
- This script was used for Sanskrit and was not meant for regional language use.

Many of them were Tulu speaking Sanskrit scholars as-well and were not sure why the Tulu people want to use this script when there is a long history of Tulu people using Kannada script for over a 1000 years.

Vinodh and I went through [L2/21-213] by the Academy. The confusion with the Letters : E, EE, O & OO is still not resolved in the paper. It is better not to switch existing letters as seen in manuscripts. We also could not understand clearly as to what is said about the naming of the script in the paper.

To sum-up what one of our papers—Tulu language & Tulu Tigalari script—submitted in April states :

- Tigalari is used to refer to all Grantha based scripts in Karnataka.
- To distinguish this particular style of the Tigalari script used in the western regions of Karnataka from c. 11C onwards, the specific term 'Tulu-Tigalari' is used by us. Here, the term Tulu is an approximate region marker and not a reference to the language used.
- The orthography of Tulu-Tigalari covers the stone inscriptions as well. The inscription forms are quite identical to the manuscript forms.

The Tulu-Tigalari script proposal we are working on is exclusively covering the traditional script's orthography.

It would be very useful to actually SEE the difference between Tulu script and Tigalari script from actual manuscript/inscription samples (and not script charts). As far as I can tell, from my study of the primary materials from various manuscripts marked Tulu script and Tigalari script, they are the same script. It is inaccurate research by several scholars of this subject who have wrongly called it different scripts. This is common knowledge amongst those who are actively reading the manuscripts or inscriptions. Tulu-Tigalari is surprising homogeneous over several centuries and regions of use, as compared to other scripts, on the contrary.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our point of view regarding this and look forward to seeing inaccuracies in the Tulu script narrative get resolved.