

Revised request to change glyphs of four Kannada characters

Srinidhi A and Sridatta A

srinidhi.pinkpetals24@gmail.com, sridatta.jamadagni@gmail.com

July 2, 2023

Background Documents

[L2/17-041](#) Request to change glyphs of Kannada letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL and their vowel signs – Srinidhi and Sridatta

[L2/17-127](#) Feedback and Response on L2/17-041: Request to change glyphs of Kannada letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL and their vowel signs – Anderson

[L2/17-153](#) Recommendations to UTC #151 May 2017 on Script Proposals. Section 5, pg 4.

[L2/17-160](#) On the glyph changes for Kannada Vowels Vocalic L/LL- Shriramana Sharma

Introduction

This document requests to change the representative glyphs of four Kannada characters. It also provides additional attestations from the manuscripts as requested by Script Ad hoc.

Code	Name	Current Glyphs	Proposed Glyphs
0C8C	KANNADA LETTER VOCALIC L	ೃ	ೃ
0CE1	KANNADA LETTER VOCALIC LL	ೃ	ೃ
0CE2	KANNADA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L	ೃ	ೃ
0CE3	KANNADA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC LL	ೃ	ೃ

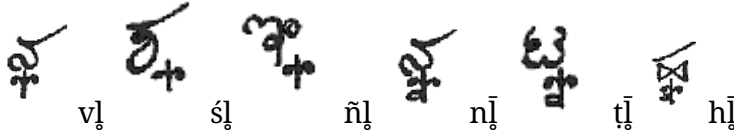
Background and Recommendations

The current glyphs as given in L2/17-160 are mostly due to lack of proper glyph support in few early printed books of that time. As these letters are very rare, few printers have

used Devanagari-like glyphs. The usage of these glyphs is uncommon. These are not seen in any handwritten manuscripts examined so far and thus cannot be considered original and appropriate representative glyphs in Kannada script.

Many examples are given from handwritten manuscripts and printed records for proposed glyphs. These forms are evolutionarily associated with Southern Brahmi-derived scripts ണ of Malayalam, ೆ of Tulu-Tigalari, ണ of Grantha, 𑄓 of Balinese and 𑄓 of Khmer.

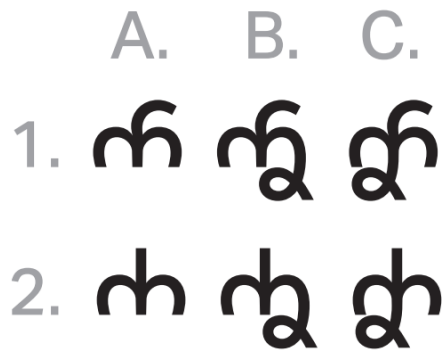
In the script review doc L2/17-153 p 4 had expressed that it is unclear whether the vertical line is a critical component of the dependent form. The vertical stroke is clearly seen in combination of dependent forms with other consonants from the same source.



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

Major Variations

There are variations (1 & 2) with vertical stroke or curve. Vocalic LL also has further variations as seen in B and C. 𑄓 𑄓 are chosen for representative glyphs for the code chart as these are more common in records and suit the nature of Kannada script. Rest should be considered as variants and managed through fonts. The variations also apply to corresponding vowel signs.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Vaishnavi Murthy for discussions and also providing us the font. We would also like to thank Script Ad Hoc and Shriramana Sharma for comments on the earlier version of the document.

References

Campbell, C. *Elements of Canarese Grammar*, Bangalore.1849

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

Harkness, Henry. *Ancient and Modern Alphabets of the Popular Hindu Languages of the Southern Peninsula of India*. Royal Asiatic Society.1837.

Keshiraja, edited by Ferdinand Kittel. *Śabdamaṇidarpaṇa*, Basel Mission book and Track Depository,Mangalore .1872

Krishnamacharya, ಹೊಸಗನ್ನಡ ನುಡಿಗನ್ನಡಿ *hosagannaḍa nuḍigannaḍi*, a Grammar of the Modern Canarese Language. Mangalore. 1838.

M'Kerrell, John. *A grammar of the Carnataca language*. 1820.

Attestations from Handwritten manuscripts and inscriptions

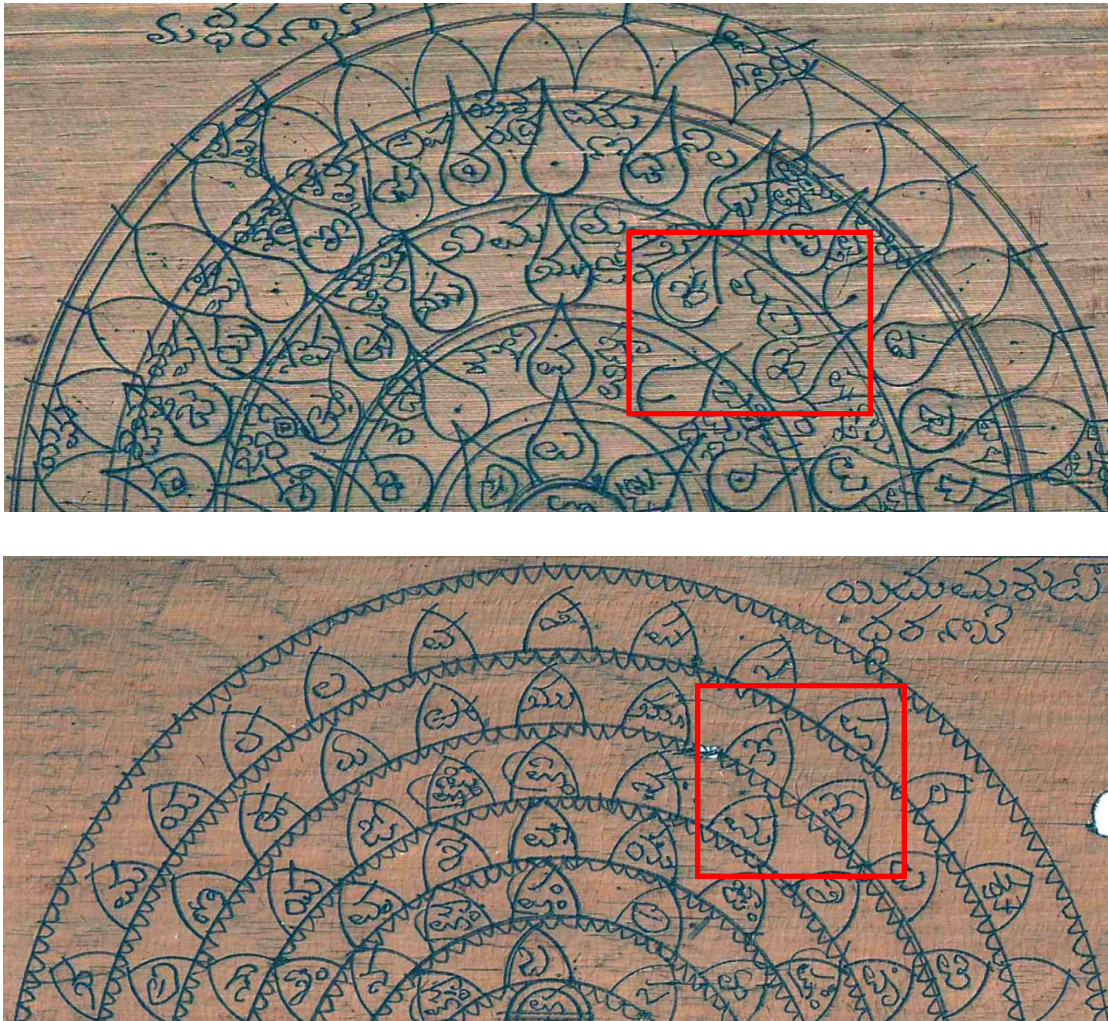


Figure 1. Palmleaf manuscripts showing Vedic L and Vedic LL.

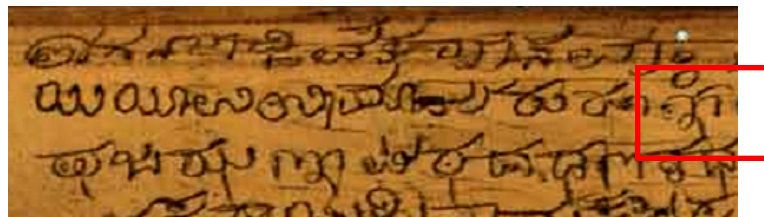


Figure 2. A palm leaf manuscript showing the alphabet having Vedic LL. Vedic L is missing.

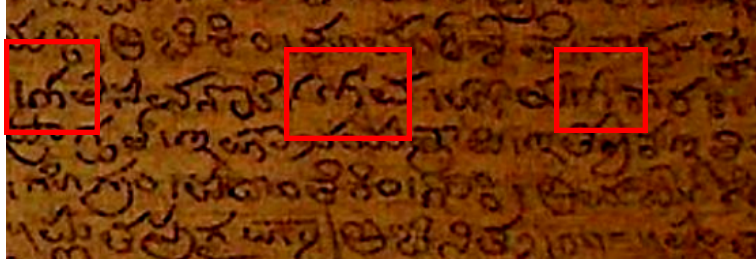
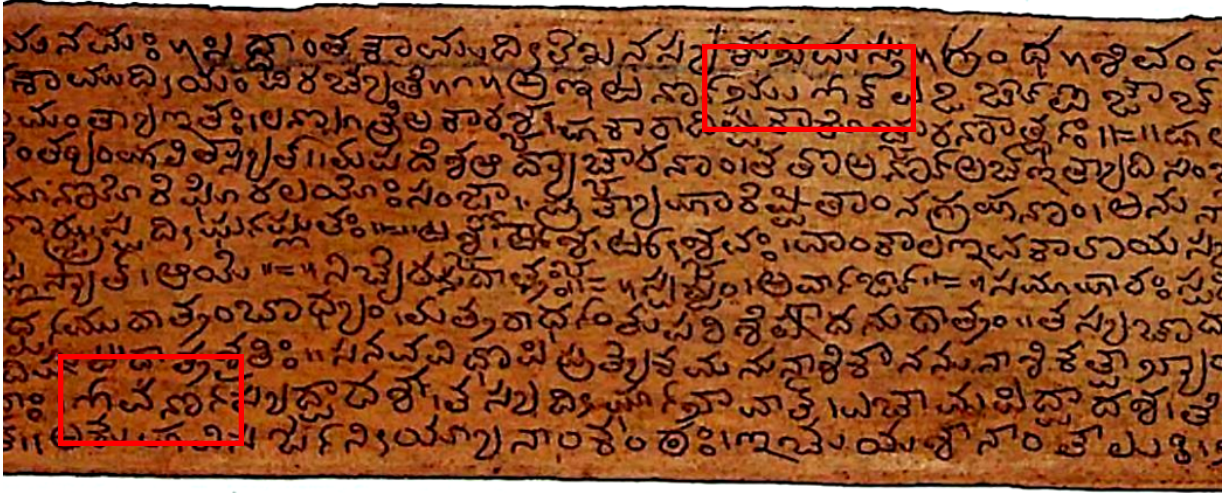


Figure 3. A palmleaf manuscript of Sanskrit Grammatical work siddhāntakaumudī. It includes māheśvarasūtrāṇi. Source:

https://archive.org/details/TMkf_81-siddhanta-koumudi-kannada-scr-sanskrit-language-damaged-folios-jangamwadi-math-collection/

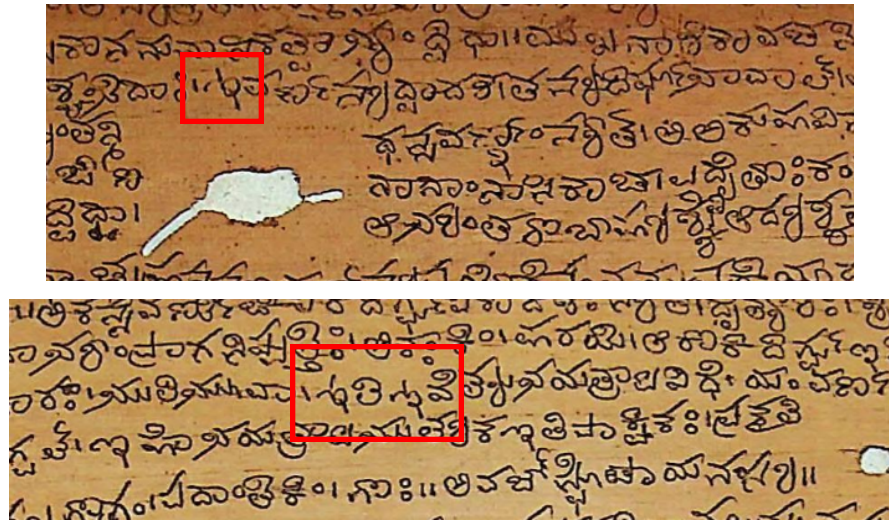


Figure 4. Another palmleaf manuscript of Sanskrit Grammatical work siddhāntakaumudī.

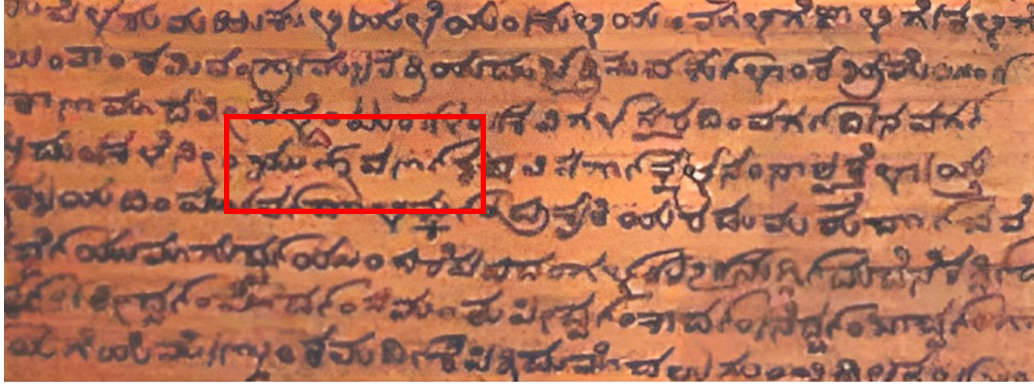


Figure 5. A palmleaf manuscript of Kannada grammatical work- Śabdamaṇidarpaṇa.

Source :

https://archive.org/details/PRxL_82-shabda-mani-darpana-telugu-scr-old-kannada-language-damaged-folios-jangamwadi-math-collectio

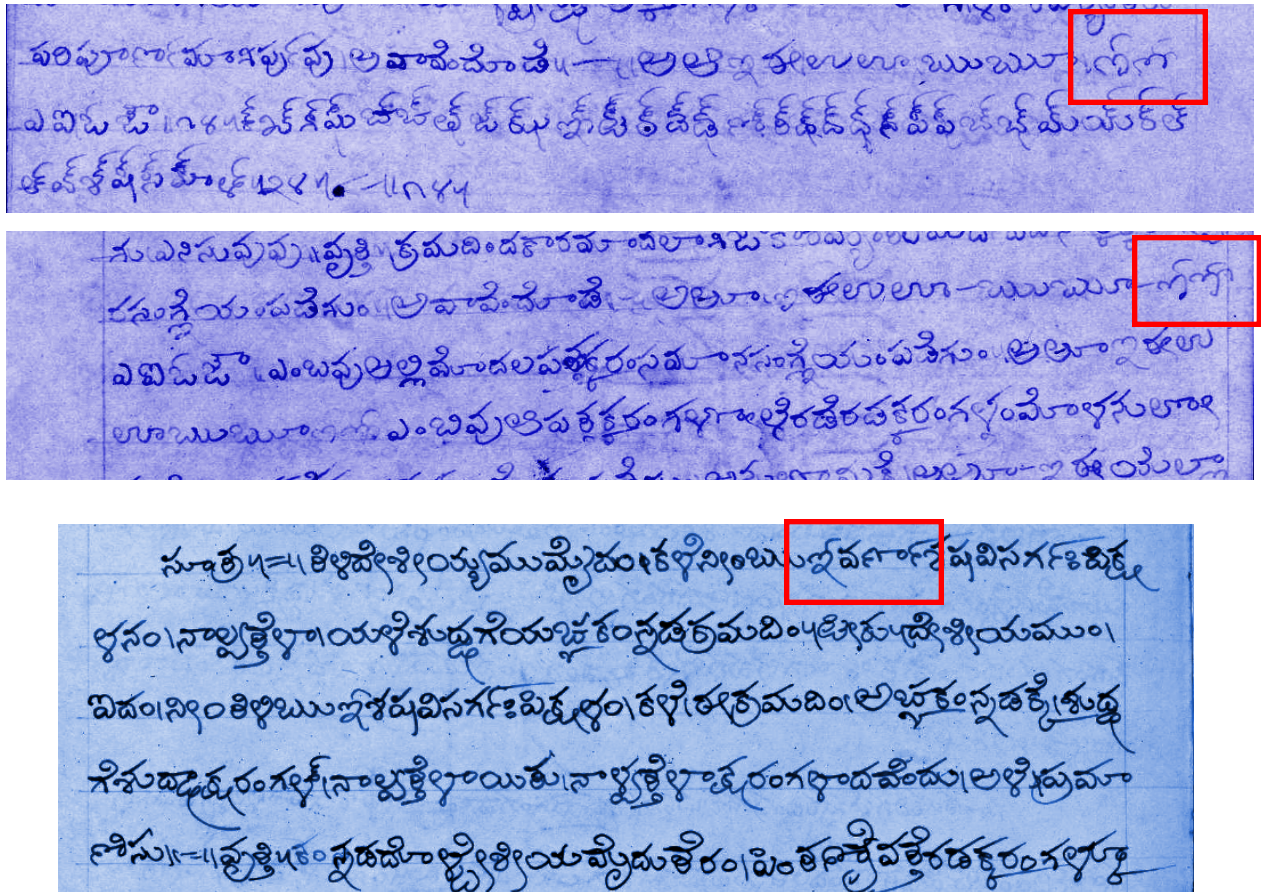


Figure 6. Another paper manuscript of Kannada grammatical work- Śabdamaṇidarpaṇa.

<https://archive.org/details/dli.MaI812>



Figure 7. A manuscript showing Vocalic L with other letters.

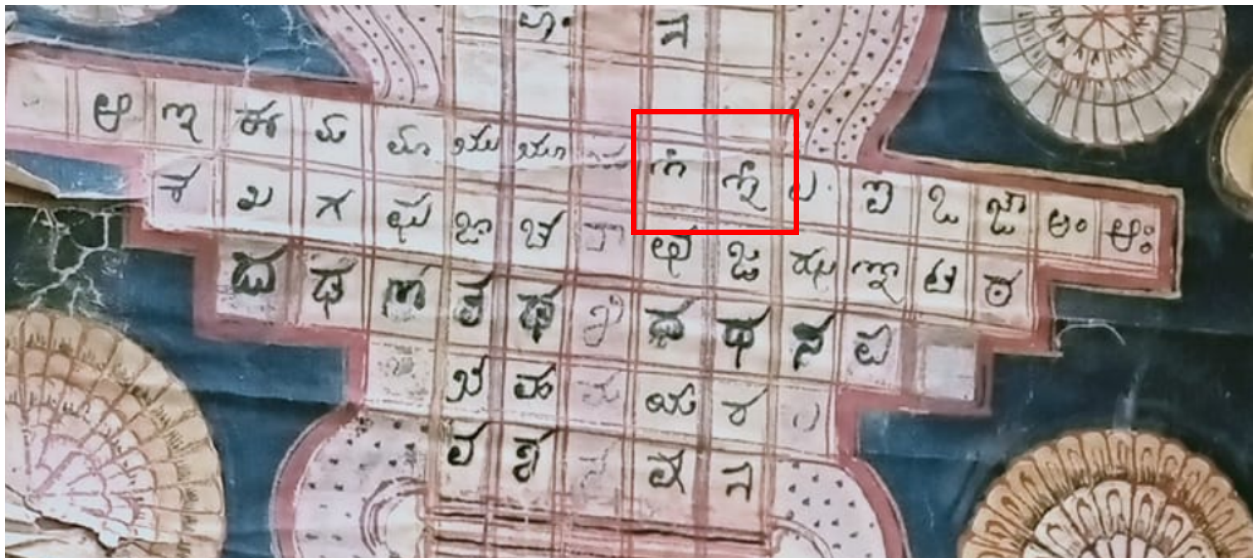


Figure 8. A religious manuscript having the Kannada alphabet.



Figure 9. A religious manuscript having the Kannada alphabet.

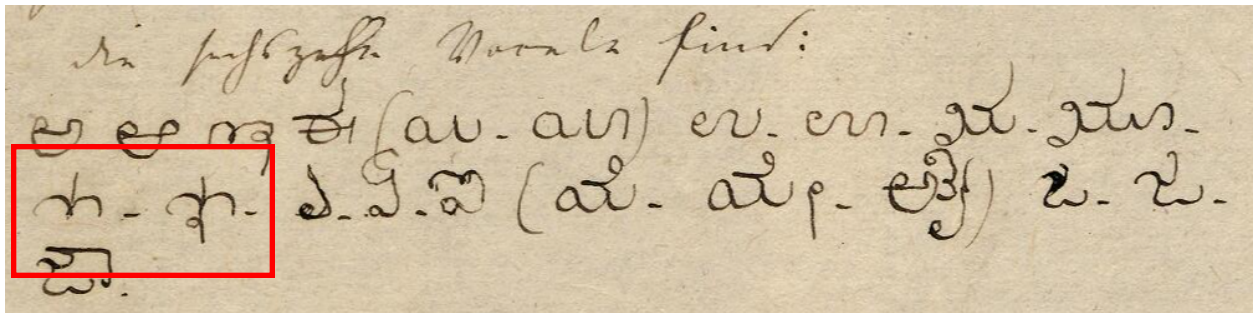


Figure 10. A handwritten manuscript of the 19th century having the Kannada alphabet.

From <https://archive.org/details/dli.MaI818/>



Figure 11. A Kannada inscription of Jain Siddhachakra showing the letter Vocalic L along with other vowels.

COPPER-PLATE GRANT OF THE WESTERN CHĀLUKYA DYNASTY.
DATED ŚAKA 535.

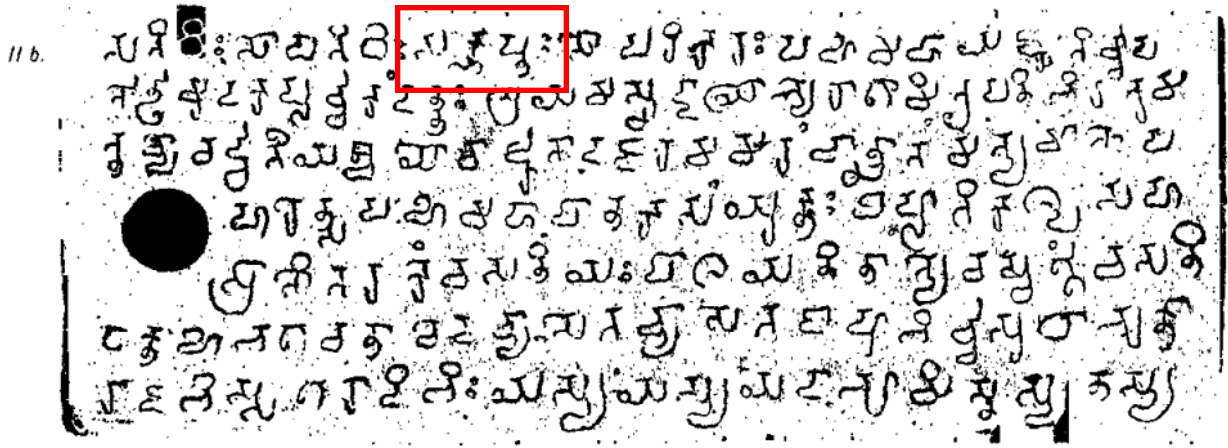


Figure 12. A Sanskrit inscription written in Old Kannada script belonging to Western Chalukya dynasty dated śaka 535 showing the vowel sign vocalic l in the word ‘sakṛtaḥ’ from which modern form is derived (from Fleet 1881:73).

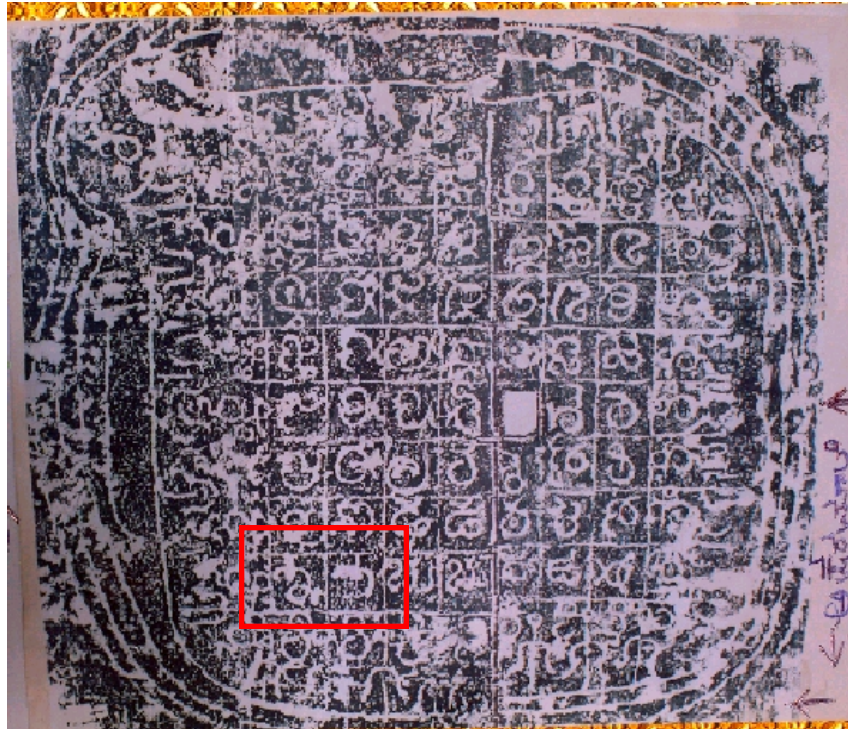


Figure 13. A Hoysala inscription from Keresante, Chikkamagaluru district showing the letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL along with other letters.

Attestations from printed books

[illegible]

Of the abovementioned fifty-six letters, forty-seven belong to the pure Carnāṭaca; and four of them, viz. ಎ ಒ ಐ and ಌ exclusively so. The remaining nine, viz. ಋ ೠ ಕ ಛ ಷ ಠ ಡ ಢ and ಔ have been introduced into the alphabet for the purpose of expressing sounds that are peculiar to the Sanscrit.

മി മി ന് ന്.

These four letters are only used in Sanscrit words. Their pronunciation on the western side of the Peninsula, and, generally speaking, in Southern India, is rü rû and lü lû; the u possessing nearly the same sound that it has in French in the words nue, flux, tuent, salut, &c.

Figure 14. Use of VOCALIC L and VOCALIC LL in a Kannada grammar (from M'Kerrell).

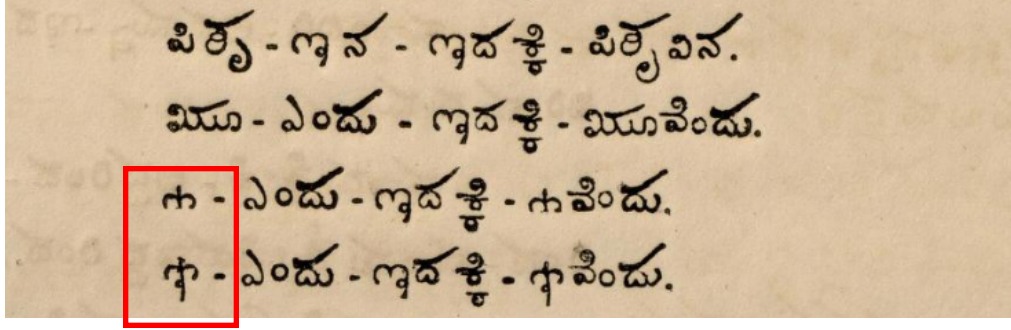


Figure 15. Use of VOCALIC L and VOCALIC LL in book- *Hosagannada nudigannadi*. (from Krishnamacharya).

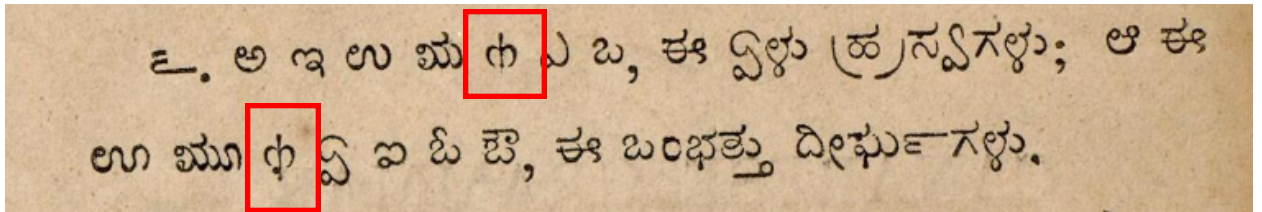
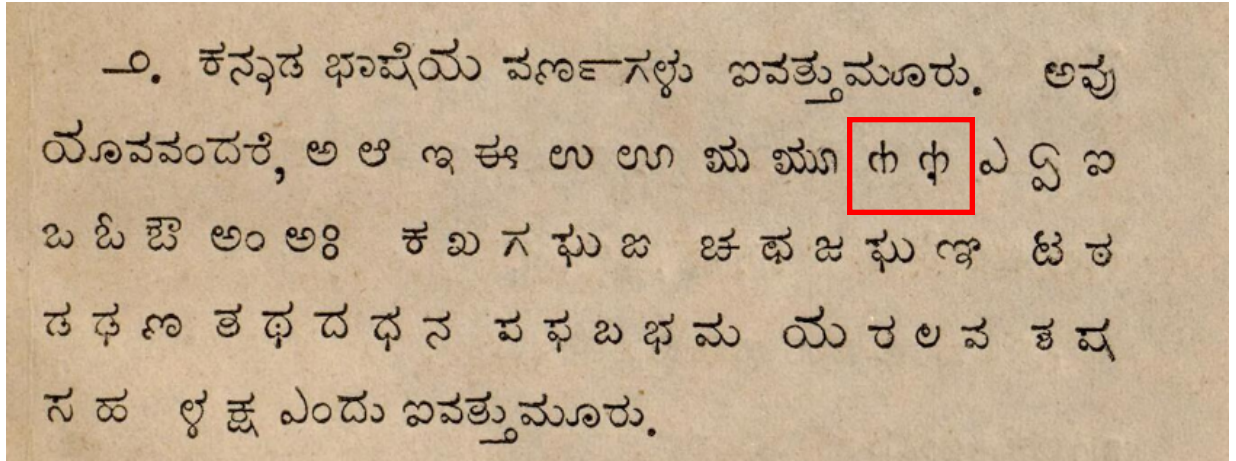


Figure 16. An excerpt from a Kannada Grammar book showing the letters Vocalic L and Vocalic LL (from Campbell).

English	A	A'	I	I'	U	U'	Ri	Ri'	Li	Li'	E	E'	Ai	O	O'	Au	Am	Ah
Kannada	ಅ	ಆ	ಇ	ಈ	ಉ	ಊ	ಋ	ೠ	ಲ	ಲಃ	ಎ	ಏ	ಐ	ಒ	ಓ	ಔ	ಅಂ	ಅಃ
Kannada	ನ	ವಾ	ನಿ	ವಿ	ಮ	ಮಾ	ಮು	ಮಃ	ಫ	ಫಃ	ತಿ	ನಿ	ನೈ	ವಾ	ವಾಃ	ವಾ	ವಂ	ವಃ

Figure 17. A table showing the letters Vocalic L ,Vocalic LL and their vowel signs in Kannada script (from Harkness 1837).

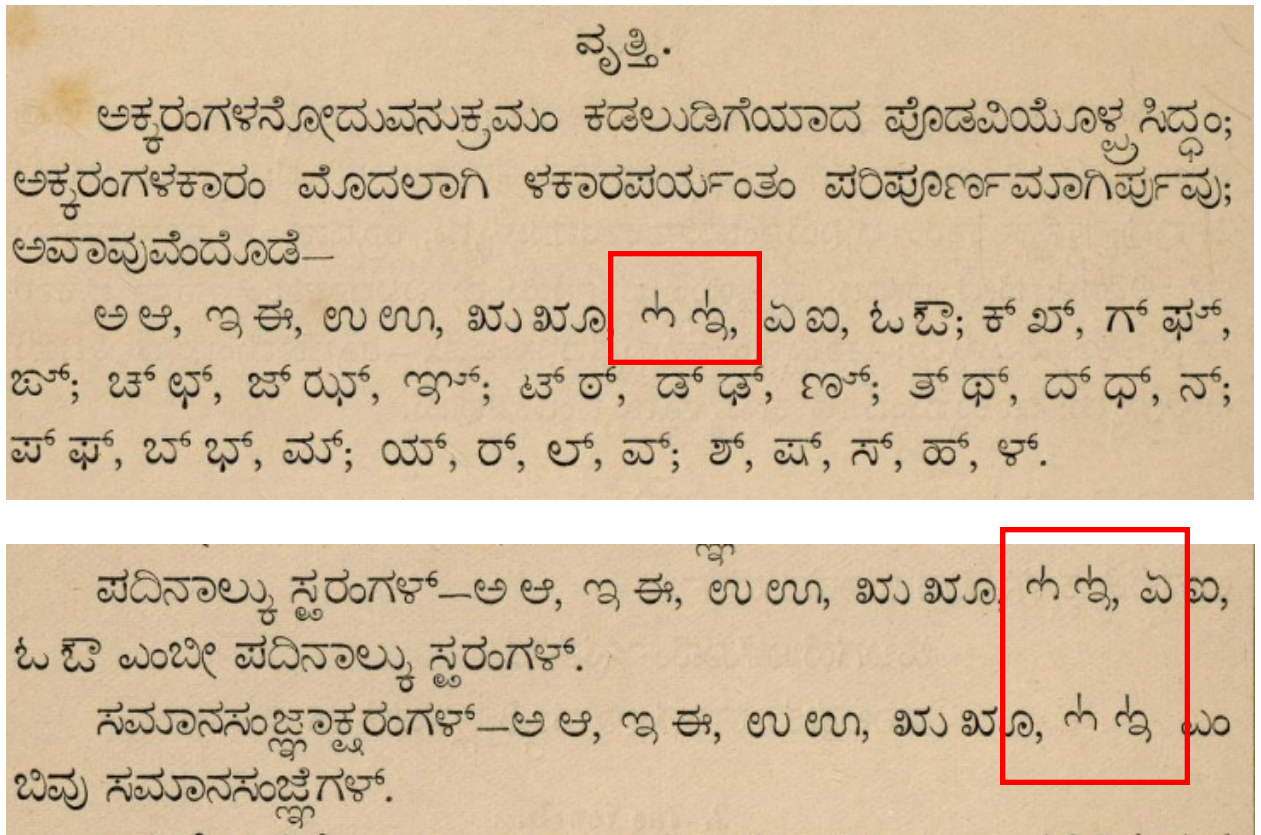


Figure 18. Use of VOCALIC L and VOCALIC LL in book- *Śabdamaṇidarpaṇa* (from Kittel).