

[As a side note, the other Script which shares the concept of Dot - / Ta. *Pulli* / is the Thai script. The Thai Virama is called *Pinthu* (< Skt. *Bindu* (Dot)). Thai Script (which is infact derived from the Pallava Grantha) also had reformed itself from all the conjunct formations. While the Tamil *Pulli* is placed above the Consonant, the Thai *Bindu* is placed below the Consonant.]

Grantha as it goes, shares the same legacy as the other Indian Scripts. It uses the Samyuktasharas very extensively to denote complex consonantal clusters.. When combining with Vowel Signs, these Samyuktasharas are considered as a single written unit, and placed with the Vowel signs.

We will be just seeing a short introduction to the Concept of Samyuktsharas in this lesson.

In Grantha Script, the Samyuktākṣara-s are formed in three ways.

Stacking

In this, the Samyuktashara-s are formed by stacking the consonants on each other. Consider, the consonant cluser /kta/ - க்த க्त. The corresponding Samyuktashara in Grantha can be formed as below



Combining

Here, the shapes of the consonants are fused together to form the Samyuktashara-s. Consider /jna/ ஜஞ ங. Even in Tamil, there is க்ஷ which is a combination of க்+ஷ.



Special Signs

Consonants such as /ra/, /ya/ morph themselves into special signs when occurring as a part of Samyuktashara. The Special Samyuktashara forms are as follows.



We will be seeing about each of these type of ligatures in detail, starting from the next lesson.

|| யஜெஹ ரக்ஷதி ரக்ஷிதஃ ||
