

Grantha - 9 - Vowel Signs II



॥ ॐ नमो लोकजिते । ॐ नमो लोकाजिते ॥
| ॐ नमो लोकजिते । ॐ नमो लोकाजिते |



வாரம் து வாரதொ ஜாக்வா ஹுவாரம் தாவூவாரத:
தெ வாரத சயிமஹ்னி வஜுக் வஸ்க்ஷ மொஅரா:
சாரம் து சாரதொ ஜாத்வா ஹயசாரம் சாய்சாரத:
தெ சாரம் அடிமக்சுந்தி சமயக் சங்கல்ப மொசரா:
ஸாரம் து ஸாரதொ ஜஞாத்வா ஹயஸாரம் சாய்யஸாரத:
தெ ஸாரம் அதி⁴க³ச்ச²ந்தி ஸம்யக் ஸம் கல்ப கோ³சரா:
Having known the essence as the essence, non-essential as non-essential
They attain the essence, feeding on right thoughts

In this lesson, we would be seeing the signs for 4 Vowels and the Ayogavaha-s.

Vowel Signs

-e ே* ே

The -e Vowel sign is placed before to the consonant as in Tamil :: பே³ பே be

ெ + ஸ → ெஸ (ஸீ + ஸ)
ே + ப³ → பே³

-ai ை ை

-ai Vowel sign is also placed before the Consonant like Tamil. It is formed by placed two -e signs adjacent to each other: தை⁴ தி dhai

ெ + ய → ெய (ய் + ெண)

ை + த⁴ → ைத⁴

-o ோ* ோ

-o Vowel sign is a composite sign, placed both before and after the consonant :: ோ² ோ jo

ெ + ஈ + ா → ெஈா (ஈ் + ெ)

ே + ஐ² + ா → ோ²ா

-au ெள ோ

-au has two forms. The first form is same as Tamil, the next form is without the -e sign. Both forms are seen in usage :: ெள² ோ¹ khau

ெ + வ + ா → ெவள (வ் + ெள)

ெ + க² + ள → ெக²ள

The form **வள** is also seen as a variant in printings.

Ayogavaha-s

The Ayogavaha-s are placed simplex next to the consonant (like the Vowels) :: ப் ப் ப்(ஃ) ஃ ஃ(ஃ) pham phah
pha(h)

ஃ ஃ ஃ

The 9th lesson is over with this. The lesson will cover the special vowel-less forms that are used in Grantha.

Notes:

* These forms were introduced the Christian missionary Beschi (a.k.a Viramamunivar) around 1700's CE. Old Tamil didn't have special signs of short e and short o. A Pulli was placed on the vowels and the corresponding vowel signs to make them short. The Tamil Grammar treatises (starting from Tolkappiyam) also explicitly specify that short /e/ and short /o/ should have a Pulli. The Missionary Beschi had ignored all that and reformed the Script what he basically saw as an 'informity' in the Tamil script (i.e The Vowels taking a Pulli).

Thus the current எ ஒ and the corresponding Vowel signs ெ ொ , in the pre-Beschi Tamil script indicated the long vowels. The short vowels for these were traditionally formed by placing the Pulli over them as described earlier. He modified the shapes of the vowels & the corresponding signs to create the longer counterparts (ஏ, ஒ, ே) . So, the Traditional long vowels (those without Pulli) went on to represent the short Vowels, and the new forms created by Beschi denoted the long vowels.

Pre-Beschi e's and o's is shown below. Those with Pulli are Short and those without pulli are long.

எ ெகா ஒ ொகா
எ கொ ஒ கொ

Grantha didn't undergo any such reformation, thus retaining the Kombu (𑌕) for denoting long e and long o.

|| యజ్ఞో రాక్షతి రాక్షతః ||