The Kannada "nakaara-pollu"

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Recap of the Telugu nakaara-pollu

In L2/11-409 I had previously documented the Telugu "nakaara-pollu", which is an alternate form of vowelless NA:

ప్రజ్ఞాఖ్యే మంథశైలే ప్రథితగుణరుచిం సేత్రయా౯ సంప్రదాయం
తత్తల్లబ్ధిప్రసక్తైరనుపధివిబుధైరర్థితో వేంకటేశః।
తల్పం కల్పాంతయూానః శరజిదుపనిషద్దుగ్ధసింధుం విమథ్న౯
గ్రథ్నాతి స్వాదుగాథాలహరిదశశతీనిర్గతిం రత్న జాతం॥ 2 ॥

... the circled form on the third line being the normal vowelless NA and that on the first line being the special "nakaara-pollu".

Intent of present document

Now the current document presents attestation* for the analogous feature in the Kannada script. Given the evolutionary closeness between Kannada and Telugu, this is not really surprising. It is requested to document this alternate vowelless form of Kannada NA in TUS.

Discussion

While the regular form of vowelless NA in Kannada is:

$$ న + ◌్ = న్ $$

... in somewhat older style writings an alternate form is also observed:

ౘ

... identical to the Telugu form (see the sample above). Note that this is (again as in Telugu) similar to the reph ౘ, except that it has four "prongs" instead of three.

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* These attestations were kindly sent me by one Srinidhi Jamadagni of Tumkur, Karnataka.

The glyph – in both Kannada and Telugu – clearly evolved from the nominal form of NA, as can be seen in the following sample showing a relatively much older style:

Zeichen	Wert
ౙ	-n
�నా	nā
ని	ni

One observes that the bottom portion of the glyph is clearly from NA ನ. The upper part is from the virama – compare the nominal virama form ನ್. It is evident that over time the sign got slightly modified and lateroverted to give �.

Various academic sources attest that ౪ is a form of vowelless NA:

ౙ   -n, e.g., *dhāman:*   ಧಾಮౘ

(South Indian Scripts in Sanskrit Manuscripts and Prints, Reinhold Gruenendahl, 2001, Wiesbaden, Germany, ISBN 3-447-04504-3.)

3. A general use of the lengthened form of the vowel of the accusative, even when followed by a consonant: ಪ್ರಾಸಾದಾಂತರಮಾಣౘ, ಮಿಕ್ಕ ದಾಣౘ, ಸ್ವರ್ಗಾಗ್ರ ಮಾಣౘ, ಇದಾಣౘ.

4. The use of *n* for the later *bindu*: ಇಂಬಿಣౘ, ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲ್ಯಧಿౘ; see also examples under (3).

Other attestations of usage from various sources are also appended to this document.

Encoding model

The following model is identical to that requested in L2/11-409 and approved at the 2012 Feb UTC meeting for Telugu.

The two forms of vowelless Kannada NA ನ್ and ೯ are semantically identical. While it is indeed possible that in writing/printing both may occasionally seen in the same passage as seen in the Telugu sample, there is no need to distinguish them in plain encoded text.

Hence a font may display the isolate sequence NA + VIRAMA (where isolate means "not part of a consonant cluster") as either the special nakaara-pollu ೯ or as the regular form ನ್ as per the desired typographic style. In rich-text, smart font features may be used to specify a particular form in desired positions if needed for any reason.

Thus, it is sufficient to allow fonts to substitute NA + VIRAMA by the appropriate glyph as per the desired style. If a consonant follows but one desires to display a vowelless NA (whether as ನ್ or ೯), one can always insert a ZWNJ after the VIRAMA.

The model is summarized as follows:

Old Style:

Isolate:	NA + VIRAMA	೯
With ZWNJ:	NA + VIRAMA + ZWNJ + DA	೯ದ

New Style:

Isolate:	NA + VIRAMA	ನ್
With ZWNJ:	NA + VIRAMA + ZWNJ + DA	ನ್ದ

All Styles:

	NA + VIRAMA + DA	ನ್ದ

Since no new encoding is involved, it is sufficient that the above encoding model for the old-style form of vowelless-NA be documented in the Kannada chapter of Unicode, just as requested in L2/11-409 for Telugu. OCR applications would need to know how this glyph should be recorded in encoding.

Here it should be noted that the term "nakaara-pollu" is a Telugu term. However, since no special name is known for the usage in Kannada, the same Telugu term may be re-used just as words like "virama", "reph", "ra-vattu" and "ya-phala" from one Indic language are used in general to denote orthographic forms common to Indic.

Attestations of usage

5. The use of the long vowel instead of the later short vowel in ತಪ್ಪಾದೆ and ಕಿಉಿಯೂ.

6. The general use of the lengthened form of the vowel of the conjugational suffixes:

ಏಉಿದಾರ್, ಅಟಿದೋರ್, ನಿಉಿಸಿದಾಱ, ಕಿಡಿಸಿದೋಱ, ಆಳ್ಪಱ
ಗೆಯೊ಼ಱ ಸಲ್ಪಱ.

10   ᴴISTORY OF KANɪ

ಮುಪ್ಪಿರಶಿತ್ತಶಮ್ಪುನ್ದಮೈನ
ವೆಣ್ಣಿಯುವಿವಉಿಟ್ಟಿರತ್ತಿಯಕ್ಕ ವಿರುತ್ತ
ಜ್ಞನ್ನಿಯಃ ಕಾಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಉಿಕೊಳಲಾಗು
ಇ಼ುತ್ತಇಾತ್ತಿವಿಕ್ಕ ಪ್ಪುಲಸನೆಿಣಱ
ಮುಟ್ಟಿಸುಮಾಸವಿರುತ್ತ ಮಾವದು
ಕರುತ್ತಳವೈಯ್ಯಿ ಮಾಉಿಾಗಕ್ಪೂಟಿ
ಲನಿತ್ತಿಯಕ್ಕಡತ್ತೆ಼ೖ ಸಿತ್ತಿಯಮೆಸಲ್
ಶುವಶನವಿರುತ್ತಸ್ದಱ ಶೊನ್ಪಾ಼ಉಿಯಿ
       ಯಮ್ಪು
ಲೆಸ಼ಾಯ್ ಮಲಡಿಯೆಸ್ಕೕಯಿಯಮ್ಪುಲ್
ಆಗಮುವಿರುತ್ತಸ್ದಸ್ಪೂ಼ನಾ಼ಉಿಯೖದ
ಲಸಿತ್ತವಾದಿಯಾಯುಳ ವೈಕೕಡಿಕ
ಸಸಿತ್ತಿಯತ್ತೆ಼ೖ ಸಿತ್ತಿಯಮೆಸ ಸುವಉಿ
ಲಪ್ಪಿರಶಿತ್ತ ವಿಕೕಡಣಮಾವದು
ತತ್ತ಼ಮೆದಿರುಕ್ಕ ಚ಼್ಾತ್ತಿಯಸ್ದೇರಿ
       ಯಮಾಮೈ
ಪೌತ್ತಱಮಾಡಾಯ್ಸಿಸ ಶಾಬ್ಕ಼ಿಯಸ್ಕೖ
ಕಸ಼ುಉಿತ್ತುಚ಼ತ್ತಮ್ ವಿನಾಶಿಯೆಸ್ಡಾಲ್

4

As instances I give two verses from *Śrikrishnacharitam:*

ಆತ್ಯಂತರೇ ತತ್ರ ಸಮಿಾಪವಾಸೀ ಸತ್ರಾಜಿತಾಖ್ಯಃ ಕಿಲ ಯಾದವೇಂದ್ರಃ |
ವಿತ್ರ ಪ್ರಸಾದೇನ ಮದಾಲಭಚ್ಚಾಃ ಮಿತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಾಶೋ ಪಮಮೇಕರತ್ನಂ ||
ವೈಕುಂಠದೇವ ನಿಹಗೋಕ್ಕಳ ಮೇ ಪ್ಪ ದಿನ್ನಾ ಯ್ ಶ್ಲೋಕುನ್ನ ದಿನ್ನ ಬಡು ಸಂಕಟಮಂಗನಾನಾಂ |
ಕೃಷ್ಣಃ ವರುನ್ನ ವಟಿಸೋಕ್ಕ ವಸಿಕ್ಕು ಮೇಟ್ಟಿಂ ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ವಶೇನ ವಿವಶಾ ದಿವಶಾವಶಾಸೇ ||

I am obliged to Mr. P. R. Subrahmanya Sastri, B.A., for these extracts.

2. SRAVANA BELGOLA 27 (c. 700).

ಮಾಸೇನರ್ ಪರಮಪ್ರಭಾವರುಷಿಯೆರ್ ಕಟ್ಟಿಸ್ಸಿನಾ ಪೆಟ್ಟದುಳ್
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂಘಂಗಳ ಪೇಟ ಸಿದ ಸಮಯಂ ತಪ್ಪಾದೆ ಸೋಂತಿಂಬಿಸಿಃ |
ಪ್ರಾಸಾದಾಂತರಮಾಃ ವಿಚಿತ್ರ ಕಸಕಪ್ರಜ್ಜ್ವಲ್ಯ್ದಿಃ ಮಿಕ್ಕು ದಾಃ
ಸಾಸಿರ್ಫ್ ವರಪೂಜಿದಂದುಯೆ ಆವರ್ ಸ್ವರ್ಗ್ರ್ ಪ್ರಮಾಸೇಜುದಾರ್ ||

3. CHIKMAGALŪR 92 (c. 750).

ಇದಃ ನಾಡಾಳ್ಕ್ಕೋನಾಸುಂ ಊರಾಳ್ಕ್ಕೋನಾಸುಂ ಊರಾ ಒಕ್ಕ
ಲಾಸುಂ ಅಟಿದೋರ್ ಪಞ್ಚ ಮಹಾಪಾತಕಯುಕ್ತರ್.

4. KADŪR 45 (c. 750).

ಒರ್ಫ್ ಸೆಯ್ಸಿ ಜುಸಿದಃ ಕಿಡಿಸಿದೋಸುಂ ಬಾರಣಾಸಿಯುಳ್ ಪಾತಕಂ
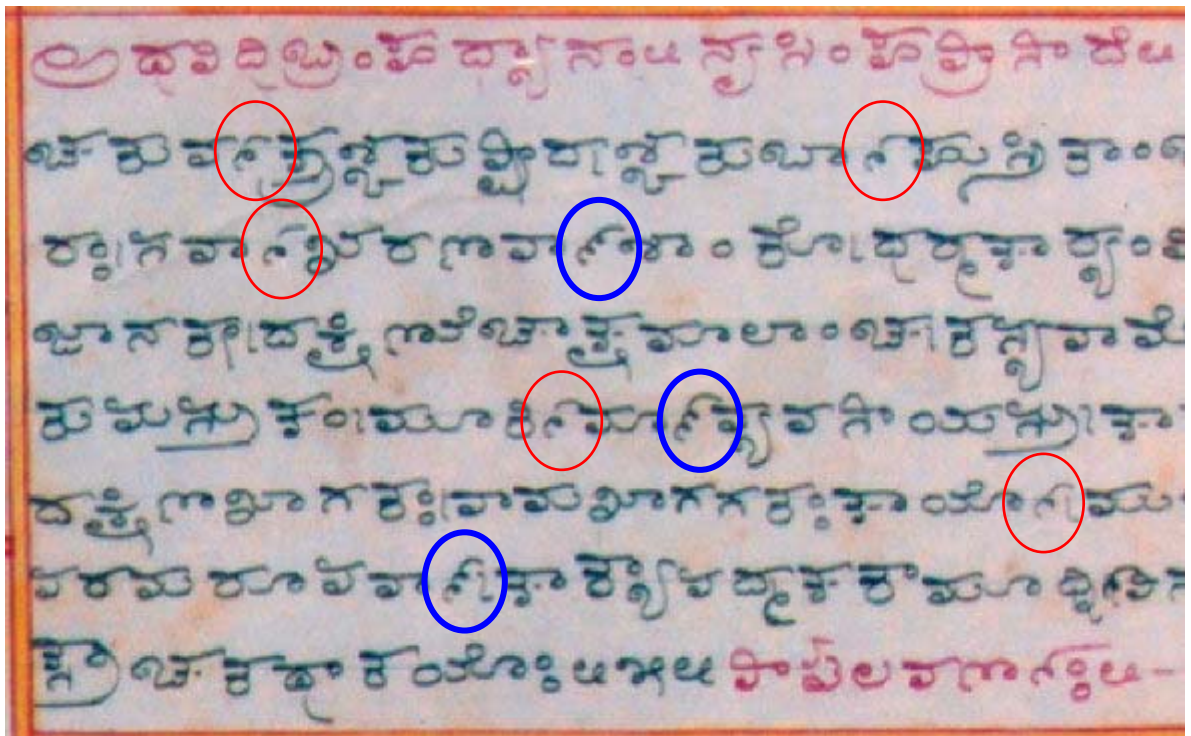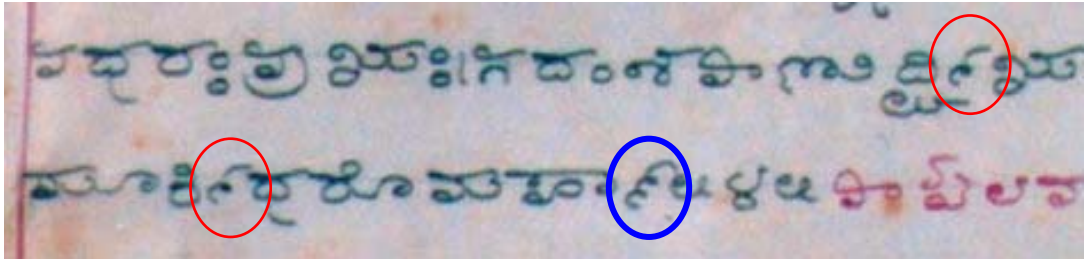ಗೆಯ್ದೋಸ ನಂದ ಗತಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ವೋಃ.

(The three-pronged reph is marked in red
to contrast with the four-pronged nakaara-pollu marked in blue.)

s. ರೊಲೀಗ *róga*, *s.* Sickness, indisposition,
 disease in general.
H. ರೊಲೀಗಃ *rógan*, *s.* Varnish.
H. ರೊಲೀಜ *rója*, *s.* A fast.

From a folio of a manuscript Śrī Tattva Nidhi
preserved at the Oriental Research Institute, Mysore:

(As before, the three-pronged reph is marked in red
to contrast with the four-pronged nakaara-pollu marked in blue.)

From a railway station in Bangalore, Karnataka: