

Comments on L2/19-086: Archaic Malayalam Sequences

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- 1.0 These are some comments on the unused and archaic sequences mentioned in L2/19-086: Encoding Model for Conjuncts with Chillus (Cibu Johny et al.). These 19th century books use the standard way of writing stacked Grantha consonants. Normally the Grantha sequences do not need insertion of additional VIRAMA or any other signs.
- 2.0 So, in case a font developer wants to create a font (that will not be used by general Malayalam community), Table 12-38 in L2/19-086 sequences without additional VIRAMA sign can be used to create the archaic font. The Table 12-38 in L2/19-086 with suitable modifications can be given in a Technical Note.
- 3.0 As mentioned in L2/19-017, Whether /ṇṭa/ is alveolar t or r is not clearly defined in Malayalam. It depends on the writer's choice to speak/pronounce them. Given the implicit nature in reading stacked or linear /ṇṭa/, they can be formed using joiners ZWJ or ZWNJ) also. Only Microsoft Malayalam fonts uses Virama as indicated in L2/18-346, but note that this is NOT used in all Malayalam fonts. For example, in Apple or Google or SMC usage. SMC Malayalam fonts are used as part of IT education, e-governance, various magazines, books use it for printing. Fonts are <https://smc.org.in/fonts/>. These fonts are bundled in Linux distributions.

In Malayalam fonts, it is common to see the following encoding. It is requested that this wide usage in Malayalam fonts needs to be documented in the Unicode Standard.

(a): Henri - where you need explicit linear RRA form, Malayalam fonts use ṇṭ+ṇ => ṇṭṇ . That is <chillu-N, RRA>.

(b) When nta as in Ente or Antony is needed, these fonts use ṇ̣ + ṇ -> ṇ̣ṇ. I.e., <NA, Virama, RRA>. See the webpage that a stacked display in Malayalam fonts: <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2019/19017-malayalam-cmts.txt>

For stacking, a possible sequence: <chillu-N, ZWJ, RRA>.

- 4.0 Table 12-38 in L2/19-086 has some errors. For example, (a) sequence for /ḷvā/ has an unnecessary VIRAMA sign. (b) The last row /nn/, does not have any

Chillu NN. The recommended sequences for the archaic Malayalam conjuncts are produced in the Table 1 below.

Table 1. Recommended Sequences for Archaic Malayalam Conjuncts

ൺ	0D7A 200D 0D28	CHILLU NN, ZWJ, NA	/ṇna/
നെ	0D7B 200D 0D33 0D46	CHILLU N, ZWJ, RRA, SIGN E	/ṇre/
ൺ്	0D7B 200D 0D38 0D4D	CHILLU N, ZWJ, SA, VIRAMA	/ṇsũ/
ലു	0D7D 200D 0D2A 0D41	CHILLU L, ZWJ, PA, SIGN U	/lpu/
ലു്	0D7E 200D 0D35 0D3E	CHILLU LL, ZWJ, VA, SIGN AA	/ḷvā/
ലുപ്പ	0D7E 200D 0D2A 0D4D 0D2A 0D3F	CHILLU LL, ZWJ, PA, VIRAMA, PA, SIGN I	/ḷppi/
ന്ന	0D28 200D 0D7B	CHILLU N, ZWJ, CHILLU N	/nn/