

GRAMMAR OF THE TULU LANGUAGE

I. PART: PHONOLOGY.

1. Chapter: Of the Alphabet.

1. The Tulu language has no alphabet of its own. Those who formerly wrote in Tulu used to employ Malayalam characters; but more recently the Canarese alphabet has been adopted both in writing and printing; so the latter may now be considered as the modern Tulu alphabet.

2. In this alphabet there are 15 Vowels, two Medials and 34 Consonants.

A. Of Vowels.

3. Vowels are either short or long, or diphthongal or indefinite.

Short: ಅ a, ಇ i, ಉ u, ಋ ṛ, ಎ e, ಒ o.

Long: ಆ ā, ಈ ī, ಊ ū, ಳ ṛī, ಏ ē, ಓ ō.

Diphthongal: ಐ ai(aī), ಔ ou.

Indefinite: ‘ (as in ತ್), sounded nearly as the French e in je. Dr. Lepsius in his Standard Alphabet represents it by ꞥ.

B. Of Medials.

4. There are two Medials, viz: ಂ, which is sounded m, n, or ñ according to position, and ಃ ah.

C. Of Consonants.

5. There are 25 classified and 9 unclassified Consonants, viz:—

Classified Consonants.

	Unaspirated.	Aspirated.	Unaspirated.	Aspirated.	Nasal.
Guttural Class	ಕ ka	ಖ kha	ಗ ga	ಘ gha	ಙ ṅa
Palatal	ಚ ṣa	ಛ ṣha	ಜ ja	ಝ jha	ಞ ṅa
Cerebral	ಟ ṭa	ಠ ṭha	ಡ ḍa	ಢ ḍha	ಣ ṇa
Dental	ತ ta	ಥ tha	ದ da	ಧ dha	ನ na
Labial	ಪ pa	ಫ pha	ಬ ba	ಭ bha	ಮ ma

Unclassified Consonants.

ಯ ya, ರ ra, ಲ la, ವ va, ಶ ṣa, ಷ ṣha ಸ sa, ಹ ha, ಳ ḷa.

2. Chapter: Of Pronunciation.

TABULAR VIEW OF THE ALPHABET.

6. A. Vowels.

Initial forms.	Medial and final forms.	Corresponding English Characters.	Power of the Vowels.	Examples of Vowels and Consonants united
ಅ	಼	a	like a in about	ಕ and ಅ become ಕಾ ka
ಆ	ಃ	ā	" a " far	ಕ " ಆ " ಕಾ kā
ಇ	ಃ	i	" i " him	ಗ " ಇ " ಗಿ gi
ಊ	ಃ	ī	" ee " deep	ದ " ಊ " ದೀ dī
ಋ	ಃ	u	" oo " wool	ನ " ಋ " ನು nu
ೠ	ಃ	ū	" oo " ool	ನ " ಳ " ಳು ṅū
ಬ್ರ	಼	ri		ಬ " ರ " ಬ್ರಿ bṛi
ಮ್ರ	಼	rī		ಮ " ರ " ಮ್ರಿ mṛi
ಏ	ಃ	e	" e " met	ಯ " ಏ " ಯೆ ye
ಒ	ಃ	ē	" a " mate	ರ " ಒ " ರೇ re
ಓ	ಃ	ei	" y " my	ಲ " ಓ " ಲೈ lei
ಓ	ಃ	o	" o " not	ಶ " ಓ " ಶೋ śo
ಓ	ಃ	ō	" o " note	ಸ " ಓ " ಸೋ sō
ಔ	ಃ	ou	" ow " owl	ಹ " ಔ " ಹೌ hou

The vowels are pronounced according to the directions given in the preceding tabular view of the alphabet, except ಎ ಏ, ಎ ಓ, ಒ ಓ, ಓ ಓ, which when initials are pronounced ye, yā, wo, wō; ಅಸ, ಎಣ್ಣೆ yeṅṅa, ಎತ್ ಯೆತ್ಯ, ಒಂಜಿ wonji, ಓಡೆ wōḍa. In ಮ್ರಿ ri, ಮ್ರಿ rī, the i and ī have the short and long sound of the French eu in beurre.

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7. B. Consonants.

Consonants with the inherent vowel @ a.	Corresponding English Characters.	Sound of the Consonants with the inherent vowel @ a.	Form and position when combined with other consonants	EXAMPLES.
ക	ka	like ka in kalendar	ക	ముక్కు musku
ഖ	kha	*	ക	പഷു paskha
ഗ	ga	" ga " gander	ക	സദു sadguna
ഘ	gha	*	ക	മേല്ല്ല്ല് melghatta
ങ	nga	*	ക	ഞാണെ nane
ച	cha	" cha " chapter	ക	നിടയെ nisaya
ഛ	chha	*	ക	ഇതെ idithe
ജ	ja	" ja " jam	ക	സജ്ജി sajji
ഝ	jha	*	ക	
ഞ	nya	" nya " bunyan	ക	ജ്ഞാണെ jnana
ത	rta	" rta " martaban	ക	കാഷ്ടാ kasta
ഠ	tha	*	ക	ഓഷ്ഠി asathi
ഢ	rda	" rda " oardamom	ക	ഹദ്ദ്ദി haddi
ന	na	*	ക	പദ്ദ്ദി padidi
ത	ta	" ta " tank	ക	പദ്ദ്ദി padidi
ഥ	tha	*	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ദ	da	" tha " that	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ധ	dha	*	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ന	na	" na " natural	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
പ	pa	" pa " parrot	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ഫ	pha	*	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ബ	ba	" ba " barrow	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ഭ	bha	*	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
മ	ma	" ma " matter	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
യ	ya	" ya " yam	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ര	ra	" ra " rag	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ല	la	" la " laok	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
വ	va	" va " van	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ശ	sha	" sha " sham	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ഷ	sha	" sha " marshal	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
സ	sa	" sa " sat	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ഹ	ha	" ha " ham	ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi
ല	la		ക	സദ്ദ്ദി sadidi

* The preceding sound aspirated.

అ	అ	ఇ	ఈ	ఊ	ఋ	ఋ	ఋ
క	క	కి	కీ	కు	క	క	క
ఖ	ఖ	ఖి	ఖీ	ఖు	ఖ	ఖ	ఖ
గ	గ	గి	గీ	గు	గ	గ	గ
ఘ	ఘ	ఘి	ఘీ	ఘు	ఘ	ఘ	ఘ
ఙ	ఙ	ఙి	ఙీ	ఙు	ఙ	ఙ	ఙ
చ	చ	చి	చీ	చు	చ	చ	చ
ఛ	ఛ	ఛి	ఛీ	ఛు	ఛ	ఛ	ఛ
ఠ	ఠ	ఠి	ఠీ	ఠు	ఠ	ఠ	ఠ
డ	డ	డి	డీ	డు	డ	డ	డ
ట	ట	టి	టీ	టు	ట	ట	ట
ఠ	ఠ	ఠి	ఠీ	ఠు	ఠ	ఠ	ఠ
డ	డ	డి	డీ	డు	డ	డ	డ
ఢ	ఢ	ఢి	ఢీ	ఢు	ఢ	ఢ	ఢ
ణ	ణ	ణి	ణీ	ణు	ణ	ణ	ణ
త	త	తి	తీ	తు	త	త	త
థ	థ	థి	థీ	థు	థ	థ	థ
ద	ద	ది	దీ	దు	ద	ద	ద
ధ	ధ	ధి	ధీ	ధు	ధ	ధ	ధ
న	న	ని	నీ	ను	న	న	న
ప	ప	పి	పీ	పు	ప	ప	ప
ఫ	ఫ	ఫి	ఫీ	ఫు	ఫ	ఫ	ఫ
బ	బ	బి	బీ	బు	బ	బ	బ
భ	భ	భి	భీ	భు	భ	భ	భ
మ	మ	మి	మీ	ము	మ	మ	మ
య	య	యి	యీ	యు	య	య	య
ర	ర	రి	రీ	రు	ర	ర	ర
ల	ల	లి	లీ	లు	ల	ల	ల
వ	వ	వి	వీ	వు	వ	వ	వ
శ	శ	శి	శీ	శు	శ	శ	శ
ష	ష	షి	షీ	షు	ష	ష	ష
స	స	సి	సీ	సు	స	స	స
హ	హ	హి	హీ	హు	హ	హ	హ
ళ	ళ	ళి	ళీ	ళు	ళ	ళ	ళ

ಎ	ಏ	ಐ	ಒ	ಓ	ಔ	ಂ	ಃ
ಕೆ	ಕೇ	ಕೈ	ಕೊ	ಕೋ	ಕೌ	ಕಂ	ಕಃ
ಖೆ	ಖೇ	ಖೈ	ಖೊ	ಖೋ	ಖೌ	ಖಂ	ಖಃ
ಗ	ಗೇ	ಗೈ	ಗೊ	ಗೋ	ಗೌ	ಗಂ	ಗಃ
ಘ	ಘೇ	ಘೈ	ಘೊ	ಘೋ	ಘೌ	ಘಂ	ಘಃ
ಚೆ	ಚೇ	ಚೈ	ಚೊ	ಚೋ	ಚೌ	ಚಂ	ಚಃ
ಛೆ	ಛೇ	ಛೈ	ಛೊ	ಛೋ	ಛೌ	ಛಂ	ಛಃ
ಜೆ	ಜೇ	ಜೈ	ಜೊ	ಜೋ	ಜೌ	ಜಂ	ಜಃ
ಝ	ಝೇ	ಝೈ	ಝೊ	ಝೋ	ಝೌ	ಝಂ	ಝಃ
ಟೆ	ಟೇ	ಟೈ	ಟೊ	ಟೋ	ಟೌ	ಟಂ	ಟಃ
ಠೆ	ಠೇ	ಠೈ	ಠೊ	ಠೋ	ಠೌ	ಠಂ	ಠಃ
ಡೆ	ಡೇ	ಡೈ	ಡೊ	ಡೋ	ಡೌ	ಡಂ	ಡಃ
ಢೆ	ಢೇ	ಢೈ	ಢೊ	ಢೋ	ಢೌ	ಢಂ	ಢಃ
ತೆ	ತೇ	ತೈ	ತೊ	ತೋ	ತೌ	ತಂ	ತಃ
ಥೆ	ಥೇ	ಥೈ	ಥೊ	ಥೋ	ಥೌ	ಥಂ	ಥಃ
ದೆ	ದೇ	ದೈ	ದೊ	ದೋ	ದೌ	ದಂ	ದಃ
ಧೆ	ಧೇ	ಧೈ	ಧೊ	ಧೋ	ಧೌ	ಧಂ	ಧಃ
ನೆ	ನೇ	ನೈ	ನೊ	ನೋ	ನೌ	ನಂ	ನಃ
ಪೆ	ಪೇ	ಪೈ	ಪೊ	ಪೋ	ಪೌ	ಪಂ	ಪಃ
ಫೆ	ಫೇ	ಫೈ	ಫೊ	ಫೋ	ಫೌ	ಫಂ	ಫಃ
ಬೆ	ಬೇ	ಬೈ	ಬೊ	ಬೋ	ಬೌ	ಬಂ	ಬಃ
ಭೆ	ಭೇ	ಭೈ	ಭೊ	ಭೋ	ಭೌ	ಭಂ	ಭಃ
ಮೆ	ಮೇ	ಮೈ	ಮೊ	ಮೋ	ಮೌ	ಮಂ	ಮಃ
ಯೆ	ಯೇ	ಯೈ	ಯೊ	ಯೋ	ಯೌ	ಯಂ	ಯಃ
ರೆ	ರೇ	ರೈ	ರೊ	ರೋ	ರೌ	ರಂ	ರಃ
ಲೆ	ಲೇ	ಲೈ	ಲೊ	ಲೋ	ಲೌ	ಲಂ	ಲಃ
ವೆ	ವೇ	ವೈ	ವೊ	ವೋ	ವೌ	ವಂ	ವಃ
ಶೆ	ಶೇ	ಶೈ	ಶೊ	ಶೋ	ಶೌ	ಶಂ	ಶಃ
ಚೆ	ಚೇ	ಚೈ	ಚೊ	ಚೋ	ಚೌ	ಚಂ	ಚಃ
ಸೆ	ಸೇ	ಸೈ	ಸೊ	ಸೋ	ಸೌ	ಸಂ	ಸಃ
ಹೆ	ಹೇ	ಹೈ	ಹೊ	ಹೋ	ಹೌ	ಹಂ	ಹಃ
ಝೆ	ಝೇ	ಝೈ	ಝೊ	ಝೋ	ಝೌ	ಝಂ	ಝಃ

The following fourteen Consonants are pronounced like the English letters by which they are represented: ಕ ka, ಗ ga, ಚ cha, ಜ ja, ಪ pa, ಬ ba, ಮ ma, ಯ ya, ರ ra, ಲ la, ವ va, nearly ಶ sha, ಸ sa, ಹ ha.

8. The remaining Consonants do not correspond to the letters of the English alphabet. The following are dental letters; they must be pronounced with the tip of the tongue between the front teeth: ತ ta, ಥ tha, ದ da, ಧ dha, ನ na.

9. The following are cerebral letters:—

ಟ ta, ಠ tha, ಡ da, ಢ dha, ಣ na; ಷ sha, ಳ la.

(Tables showing the alphabet with the combinations of the Vowels and Consonants).

c. Syllables.

10. The short vowel is inherent in the initial or complete form of every consonant; so that every letter is capable of being a complete syllable. Thus: ಕುರುಬೆ ku-ru-be shepherd; ಅಮಸರ a-ma-sa-ra, haste; ಕಾಡ್ kã-dy, forest.

11. When a syllable is formed of two or more consonants and one vowel, the vowel is always joined to the first or uppermost consonant, but sounded after the last or lowest one; thus: ಕ್ಲಿ kli, ತ್ಯು tyu, ಸ್ತ್ರೀ stri.

ಕೃ-ಅಕೃ; ಡ್-ಖಡ್; ಷ್-ನಿಶ್ಚಯ; ಳ್-ಇಳ್; ಜ್ಜಿ-ಅಜ್ಜಿ; ಗ್ಞಾ-ಗ್ಞಾನ; ಟ್ಪ-ಕಟ್ಟಳೆ; ಷ್ಪ-ಕಷ್ಟ; ಟ್ಲ-ಪಟ್ಟ; ಷ್ಲ-ಉಷ್ಲ; ಡ್ಡಿ-ಅಡ್ಡಿ; ಢ್-ಪುಷ್ಕ; ಸ್ಫ-ಸ್ಫಿತಿ; ಬ್ಬ-ಶಬ್ದ; ಧ್ಧ-ಅಶುದ್ಧ; ತ್ತ್-ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ; ಪ್ಪ-ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ; ತ್ಯ-ಅತ್ಯ; ಜ್ಯ-ರಾಜ್ಯ; ತ್ರ-ಗಾಂತ್ರ; ಗ್ಗಿ-ಬಂಗ್ಗೆ; ತ್ತ್ವ-ಯಾಜಕತ್ವ; ಕ್ಸ-ಉಕ್ಸಾನ; ಸ್ತ್ರಿ-ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ.

12. The half letter ಽ r is pronounced before the letter or syllable which in writing precedes it; thus: ವರ್ಗ varga, class; ಕರ್ತವೆ kartave, Lord; ಹೊರ್ತಂದೆ hortande, except.

d. Double Consonants.

13. Most of the consonants are capable of reduplication, as with unchanged form of under-written consonants:

1. ಖ; ಜ; ಙ; ಞ; ಣ; ಬ.

With partially changed form of under-written consonants:

2. ಕ್ಷ; ಗ್ನ; ಘ್ನ; ಜ್ನ; ಛ್ನ; ಟ್ನ; ಠ್ನ; ಡ್ನ; ಢ್ನ; ಧ್ನ; ಧ್ನ; ಫ್ನ; ಷ್ನ; ಭ್ನ; ವ್ನ; ಶ್ನ; ಷ್ನ; ಸ್ನ; ಷ್ನ; ಷ್ನ.

With entirely changed form of under-written consonants:

3. ತ್ನ; ಸ್ನ; ಮ್ನ; ಯ್ನ; ರ್ನ; ಳ್ನ.

3. Chapter: Of Euphony.

14. Euphony occasions the elision, insertion, and permutation of letters.

a. Elision.

15. When a word ending in ಅ a, ಇ i, ಉ u, or ಏ e is followed by an affix commencing with a vowel, euphony requires elision as follows:

ಪ್ರೀತಿದ+ಅಕುಳು=ಪ್ರೀತಿದಾಕುಳು; ಬೀಲೆದ+ಅಕುಳು=ಬೀಲೆದಾಕುಳು; ತೂದು+ಇತ್ತೆ=ತೂದಿತ್ತೆ; ಗೊಂತು+ಇಜ್ಜಿ=ಗೊಂತಿಜ್ಜಿ; ಬರೆದ್+ಅಂಡ್ ಬರೆದಾಂಡ್ etc.

b. Insertion.

16. Sometimes ನ್ n is inserted; as, ಧೋರೆ+ನ್+ಅಕುಳು=ಧೋರೆನಾಕುಳು; ಅಮ್ಮ+ನ್+ಅಕುಳು=ಅಮ್ಮನಾಕುಳು.

c. Permutation.

17. In compound words sometimes the consonant is changed; as, ಕಾರ್ಗತ್ತಲೆ instead of ಕಾರ್ಕತ್ತಲೆ; ವಾಗ್ಗಂಡ for ವಾರ್ಕದಂಡ; ಅಂಗೈ for ಅಂಗಕ್ಕೆ; ಮುಂಗೈ for ಮುನ್‌ಕ್ಕೆ.

Remark: In the declensions of nouns and pronouns hard and soft consonants are, for the sake of euphony, frequently exchanged; as, ಕುರಿಕ for ಕುರಿದ; ನೆಲಕ for ನೆಲದ; ಕುರಿಕ for ಕುರಿಗ್; ನೆಲಕು for ನೆಲಾಡು.



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