

A RATIONALIZED ROMAN SPELLING SYSTEM FOR THE INDIAN LANGUAGES WITHOUT DIACRITICAL MARKS FOR USE IN CERTAIN APPLIED AREAS

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Abstract

In this paper a Roman Spelling System for Indian Languages has been outlined, for use in special areas of application.

A Speech Therapist, for example, who has to keep a written record of the speech of a patient, before, during and after therapy, at present finds it difficult to do so: firstly, because the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet, with its extra symbols and diacritical marks, requires too much patience and practice as a phonetician or linguist. Secondly, the therapist may be able to handle only one or two, Indian Language scripts, but may have to deal with patients speaking different languages.

His familiarity with the 26 letters of the Roman alphabet, and the way they are combined in the proposed system to write his own language, makes it possible for him to note down words spoken in any other Indian language.

Introduction

It has been found that Indian languages have often to be represented in the Roman Script with or without diacritical marks in the following areas:

(1) In scholarly linguistic articles in which Indian language material is required to be cited.

(a) The discussion sometimes involves problems of phonetics. In such a case, for any language, Indian or Foreign, the International Phonetic Alphabet, or any modified version of it using diacritical marks, is unavoidable.

(b) More often, however, details of phonetics are not essential. Etymology, morphology, syntax, semantics and lexical matter are the questions discussed. In such studies phonetic symbols and diacritical marks are not essential. In fact printing with diacritical marks is difficult, cumbersome and costly. Here, a spelling system would be more advantageous.

(2) In indexing Indian language books in a library. In this case also, the use of diacritical marks is cumbersome, when the titles have to be typed on

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an ordinary, standard, office typewriter designed for typing English. A spelling system would be most useful for this purpose.

(3) In language analysis using a computer, especially, it is the Roman script alone that is accepted by the majority of the computers available anywhere in the country. Diacritical marks cannot be used for feeding material through punched cards to the computer. However, an alpha-numerical system or a spelling system could be used. The alpha-numerical system, which employs a mixture of letters and numerals, cannot be easily read by a non-specialist, although the machine can process it. A spelling system would be more useful both for the human reader as well as the computer. The man to machine and machine to man communication would be more natural (to man) in a readable spelling system.

(4) In the field of case-taking by a speech therapist, who will have to deal with patients speaking different Indian languages, the therapist would find it most convenient to use a common script for taking down the speech of his patients. Here too, cumbersome diacritics would be inconvenient for the therapist. A spelling system would be ideal.

It has therefore been found essential to devise a Rationalized Roman Spelling System for the Indian languages at least for the four purposes mentioned above, if not for general use.

In our own work on the speech patterns of bilinguals or of aphasics, studied with the help of the computer, several such spelling systems were tried. But most of them were defective in one respect or another. Finally we have now arrived at a system that is uniformly applicable to a majority of the Indian languages with which we are acquainted. (It is a fair guess that the system is applicable to all other Indian languages also, as there is an overall uniformity in the sound systems of the two major families of Indian languages, namely, the Indo-Aryan and the Dravidian).

The spelling system proposed here follows certain uniform phonetic principles.

1. *Phonetic Principles*

(1) Long vowels and geminate consonants are represented by writing the symbol for the short vowel or non-geminate consonant twice.

Examples:

<i>Short Vowels</i>	<i>Long Vowels</i>
a	aa
i	ii
u	uu
r	rr
l	ll
e	ee
o	oo

Note: r, l, rr, ll are vowels when preceded *and* followed by other consonants or pause. The vowels e and o are short in the Dravidian languages, ee and oo being long. In the Indo-Aryan languages e and o are longer than the Dravidian short vowels, but shorter than the Dravidian long vowels ee and oo.

<i>Non-geminate consonants</i>	<i>Geminate consonants</i>
k	kk
g	gg
c	cc
j	jj
t	tt
d	dd
n	nn
P	PP
b	bb
m	mm
l	ll
v	w
r	rr

Note: ll, rr are consonants when preceded or followed by a vowel.

(2) Retroflex consonants, to be distinguished from their dental or alveolar counterparts, are represented by the symbol for the corresponding dental (or alveolar) sound followed by the letter x. (The letter x is thus used only as a sign of retroflexion and has no sound value of its own).

Examples:

<i>Dental or Alveolar Consonant</i>	<i>Retroflex Consonant</i>
t	tx
d	dx
n	nx
s	sx
l	lx
r (trill)	rx (flap)

(3) Aspiration of stop or flap consonants is indicated by placing the letter h after the symbol or symbols for the corresponding stop or flap consonants.

Examples:

<i>Stop Consonant</i>	<i>Aspirated Stop. Consonant</i>
k	kh
g	gh
c	ch
j	jh
tx	txh
dx	dxh
t	th
d	dh
P	P ^h
b	bh
rx (flap)	rxh (flap)

(4) In the case of non-stop and non-flap consonants the letter h is placed after a dental consonant to denote the corresponding alveolar variety.

Examples:

<i>Non-stop and non-flap</i>	
<i>Dental</i>	<i>Alveolar</i>
<i>Consonant</i>	<i>Consonant</i>
s	sh
n	nh
r	rh

Note: The alveolar and dental nasals and trills are to be found only in Tamil and Malayalam. If nh is written as n and rh is written as r, it would still be intelligible, for in the pronunciation of many speakers there is no difference between them.

(5) Certain sounds, which in many Indian languages (and especially Sanskrit) are interpreted as consonants when preceded or followed by a vowel, but as vowels elsewhere, are represented by one and the same letter.

Examples:

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Vowel, when neither preceded nor followed by a vowel, as in the word</i>	<i>Consonant, when preceded or followed by a vowel, as in the word</i>
r	rsxi krsxi krtam	maharsxi varsxaa kartum
l	klptam ltx	kalpitam latx

(all in Sanskrit).

(6) The long or geminate varieties of such sounds are also represented by doubling the letters.

Examples:

<i>Letters</i>	<i>Vowel (when no vowel on either side)</i>	<i>Consonant (when there is a vowel at least on one side)</i>
ll	—	vallabh (Hindi)
rr	kartrrn (Skt.)	mohallaa (Urdu) gurram (Telugu)

(7) The letter w is used, *after a consonant*, to represent the neutral vowel, if this neutral vowel is phonemic in a language, as it is, in Malayalam. (Phoneticians usually represent it by the letter ʔ).

Examples from Malayalam:

vanna	'(The one) who came'
vannu	'I (you, he, she, it, they, we) came'
vannw	'Having Come'

(8) The letter w is used, *after a vowel*, to denote nasalization of the vowel. (In print W resembles an inverted M, a nasal consonant). It is also used to represent the anuswara in Devanagari script.

Examples:

पंकजम्	(Skt.) pawkajam
कुंजरः	(Skt.) kuwjarah
मै	(H.) maiw
हू	(H.) huuw

(9) The letter h, after a vowel and before a stop consonant, or when it is final, stands for the *tiisarga*.

Examples:

रक्षिः	raxih (Skt.)
रामः	raamah (Skt.)
दुःखम्	dubkham (Skt.)

(The second h after a stop consonant denotes aspiration).

(10) The letter h, when preceded by a vowel but not followed by a stop consonant or pause, or when it occurs in word initial position, stands for the consonant ʃ.

Note: Aspiration of a stop consonant, visarga and the independent consonant h, have the same phonetic quality and they occur in mutually exclusive positions. Thus they could be represented by one letter h.

Examples for the consonant h:

हरिः	Harih (Skt.) (The second h is a visarga).
हम	Ham (H.)
रहना	rahnaa (H.)

(11) If in any language, there is no distinction between a dental and alveolar variety or between a dental/alveolar and a retroflex variety, the letters h and x used for such a distinction may be dropped.

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
r	alveolar	rahnaa(H.) raamah (Skt.)	non-Tamil, non-Malayaalam.
sh	sh (alveolar)	shawkar (I.-A.)	Do
s	sh (alveolar)	sawghatxifa samaye (Beng.)	Bengali, with no distinction between s and sh (has same pronunciation sh for both).*

* But sh is not written as s since the etymological connections between Bengali and Sanskrit is retained in the spelling.

(12) The k-group (kavarga) and the c-group (cavarga) nasals are respectively denoted by ng and nj.

Examples:

vaangmay (Maratxhi)
Nanjtatpuruxah (Skt.)

(13) If the nasals referred to above in (12) are respectively followed by the sounds g and j, one more letter g or j is to be used.

Examples:

कुञ्ज	kunjj (H.)
अङ्ग	angg (H.)
अङ्क	angk (H.)

Note: The above words could be alternatively written as **कुञ्ज** kuwj, **अङ्ग** awg and **अङ्क** awk, respectively,

(14) The combination lzh denotes a variety of sound found in Tamil and Malayalam, that could be described as: 'A voiced alveolar (or retroflex) weak groove spirant, strongly lateralized'. The lateral nature is represented by l and the voiced spirant nature is denoted by the zh combination. (We note that the voiceless alveolar spirant is sh). The total combination lzh denotes one sound that has all these phonetic characteristics.

Examples:

vaalzhaip palzham (T.)

vaalzhap palzham (M.).

(15) The combinations cs and jz represent the affricates (non-palatal variety), as opposed to the alveo-palatal affricates c and j, are found in Marathi, Telugu, etc., before the vowels a, o and u.

Examples:

चांगला csaawglaa (Mar.)

जवळ jzavalx (Mar.)

Note: **चाहा** in Marathi is pronounced cahaa (and not csahaa).

(16) The retroflex flaps rx, rxh, the voiced denti-alveolar spirant z, the voiceless labio-dental fricative f and the post-velar stop q are sounds peculiar to Hindi and Urdu.

Examples':

larxkaa parxh rahaa hai (H. and U.)

zaruur (U.)

zabardast (U.)

sabaq(U.)

qilaa(U.)

(17) The vowel a at the end of a syllable is ordinarily not pronounced in some languages like Hindi, Marathi, etc. When this is the case the letter a is omitted from the Roman spelling (although in the Devanagari version the vowel is shown, but rules of pronunciation indicate when it is to be omitted).

However in a language like Hindi, the vowel a, which was present at an earlier historical time, but now omitted in modern speech and prose form, is partially restored by the neutral vowel w in poetry. Hindi poetry, if written in the Roman script will have to take into account this fact and write the neutral vowel w in the appropriate places.

Examples.:

<i>Prose</i>		<i>Poetry</i>
hamko		hamwko
usko		uswko
unko		unwko
parbat		parwbatw
darpanx		darwpanxw
aakaashse		aakaashw se
bol rii katxputlii		bolwriikatxwputwlii
merii	me	rii

(18) In Tamil and Malayalam, the letter combinations nh, rh denote a single sound of the alveolar variety contrasting with the dental varieties n and r.

In other languages like Sanskrit, Hindi, etc., nh and rh would denote respectively two sounds n+h and r+h.

If a Hindi word like anhonii or a Sanskrit word like arhataa are taken into Tamil or Malayalam, they could be respectively written anhhoonii and arhhatai (or anhhooni and arhhata) if absorbed into the language.

If they are not absorbed into the language, and are treated only as unabsorbed Hindi or Sanskrit words, as is the case with anhonii, they could be spelt as in the original language and at the first occurrence of the word in any discussion the pronunciation could be indicated in brackets, such as.

anhonii (anh-hoo-nii)

With regard to naturalised Tamil words, the sounds and letters representing them namely n and nh are to be kept distinct. Thus, one has to write:

Annakaram (T.), where nn-- +n+n
and annhai (T.), where nnh—+nh+nh.

The Tamil script maintains this distinction between n and nh. However, many dialects fail to bring out the difference in pronunciation. On the other hand, in spoken Malayalam the difference in pronunciation is maintained as in:

panni
and pannhiirw

although the Malayalam script represents the two sounds by one letter.

2. *Spelling Convention for Doubled Consonants that are represented by more than one Letter*

(1) The letters h, x, g and j are written after the preceding letter is doubled, to represent a doubled consonant,

Examples:

<i>Single Consonant</i>	<i>Geminate Consonant</i>
ng	ring
nj	nnj
tx	ttx
dx	ddx
nx	nnx
lx	llx
rh	rrh (pronounced: trrh)
nh	nnh

(2) The homorganic nasal followed by a consonant of its own group is formed as follows:

<i>Combination</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
ng+k	ngk
ng+g	ngg
nj+c	njc
nj+j	njj
nx-f-tx	ntx
nx+dx	ndx
nh+rh	nrh*

* In this combination rh is a triu in Tamil but a flap in Malayalam.

(3) The non-aspirated stop followed by the aspirated stop is written as follows:

<i>Combination</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
k+kh	kkh
g+gh	ggh
c+ch	cch
j+jh	jjh
tx+txh	ttxh
dx+dxh	ddxh
t+th	tth
d+dh	ddh
p+ph	pph
b+bh	bbh

(4) Note the differences in the following combinations:

jnj	—+	j +nj
njj	—+	nj+j
nnj	—+	nj+nj

(5) Note that:

The vowels e and o are short in the Dravidian languages (ee and oo being

long). In the Indo-Aryan languages e and o are generally longer than in the Dravidian languages.

3. *The Proposed Common List of Vowels and Consonants in the Roman Script for Indian Languages.:*

Letters	Sanskrit	Hindi	Malayalam	Tamil	Kannada	Telugu	Remarks
A	अ	अ	അ	அ	ಅ	అ	
AA	आ	आ	ആ	ஆ	ಆ	ఆ	
I	इ	इ	ഇ	இ	ಇ	ఐ	
II	ई	ई	ഈ	ஈ	ಊ	ఊ	
U	उ	उ	ഉ	உ	ಊ	ఊ	
UU	ऊ	ऊ	ഘ	ஊ	ಊ	ఊ	
W	व	व	വ	வ	ವ	వ	
R	र	र	ര	ர	ರ	ర	
RR	ऋ	ऋ	ഠ	஠	ಠ	ఠ	
L	ल	ल	ല	ல	ಲ	ల	
LL	ळ	ळ	ഡ	஡	ಡ	డ	
E	ए	ए	ഈ	ஏ	ಃ	ః	
EE	॒ए	॒ए	॒ഈ	॒ஏ	॒ಃ	॒ః	
AI	॑ए	॑ए	॑ഈ	॑ஏ	॑ಃ	॑ః	
O	ओ	ओ	ഓ	ஓ	ಓ	ఓ	
OO	॒ओ	॒ओ	॒ഓ	॒ஓ	॒ಓ	॒ఓ	
AU	औ	औ	ഔ	ஔ	ಔ	ఔ	
AW	॑औ	॑औ	॑ഔ	॑ஔ	॑ಔ	॑ఔ	
AH	अः	अः	അഃ	அః	ಃ	ః	
K	क	क	ക	க	ಕ	క	
KH	ख	ख	ഖ	஖	ಖ	ఖ	
G	ग	ग	ഗ	க	ಗ	గ	
GH	घ	घ	ഘ	஘	ಘ	ఘ	
NG	ङ	ङ	ങ	ங	ಙ	ఙ	
C	च	च	ച	ச	ಚ	చ	
CH	छ	छ	ഛ	ஞ	ಞ	ఞ	
J	ज	ज	ജ	ஜ	ಜ	జ	
JH	झ	झ	ഝ	ஞ	ಞ	ఞ	
NJ	ञ	ञ	ഞ	ఞ	ఞ	ఞ	

Letters	Sanskrit	Hindi	Malayalam	Tamil	Kannada	Telugu
TX	८	८	८			
TXH	८	८	८			
DX	८	८	८			
DXH	८	८	८			
NX	८	८	८			
T	८	८	८			
TH	८	८	८			
D	८	८	८			
DH	८	८	८			
N	८	८	८			
P	८	८	८			
PH	८	८	८			
B	८	८	८			
BH	८	८	८			
M	८	८	८			
Y	८	८	८			
R	८	८	८			
L	८	८	८			
V	८	८	८			
LZH	८	८	८			
LX	८	८	८			
RH	८	८	८			
NH	८	८	८			
SH	८	८	८			
SX	८	८	८			
S	८	८	८			
H	८	८	८			
KSX	८	८	८			
JNU	८	८	८			

4. Samples of Texts in Individual Indian Languages and Notes;

(1) Sanskrit (Sazoskrtam)

The visarga and the consonant letter ह्रस्व are mutually exclusive in their occurrence. Hence one symbol h suffices for both. Aspiration too could be treated as the addition of ह्रस्व to the preceding stop consonant. (It could be proved theoretically that the visarga:, the consonant ह्रस्व and the aspiration are one and **the** same entity, represented in different ways in different positions, by those **who** devised the Devanagari script.)

In: Raamah Hareh bhraataa

1 2 3 4

1 **and** 3 **are** visarga, 2 is the consonant ह्रस्व and 4 is aspiration.

Sample Sanskrit Text in the Roman Spelling System

DASHA MUUDXHAAH

Ekadaa dasha muudxhaah deshaatxanaaya prasthitaah. Kincid duuram gataanaaw tesxaaw upasthita kaacid agaadhaa nadii. Baahubhyaam tarantas te katham api nadiiw tiirtvaa paaraw gataah.

Aasiit tesxaam madhye "kashcana vrddhah. Sa 'kim sarve tiiram anupra-**aptaah?**' iti jijnjaasamaanah taan ekaikasho ganxayaamaasa. Paraw navaiva parinxamitaas tena. Tatah sa aakroshat, 'Aho! Vayaw dasha prasthitaah. Idaaniim navaiva smah. Nuunam asmaakam eko nadyaam nimagnah. Gave-sxayata tam' iti. Tatas tesxaam ekaiko'pi ganxanaaw cakaara. Paraw navaiva drshyante. Tatas tesxaaw vyaakuliibhuutaanaaw mahaan kolaahalah samajani.

Tatraiva naatiduure kasyacid rsxeh aashramo avartata. Tatra vasan rsxih tesxaaw vicesxtxitam avalokya uccair jahaasa. Tasya haasashabdaw shrutvaa muudxhaas tarasaa tam upasrtya haasakaaranxam aprcchan.

Rsxir aaha, 'Aho! Anaatmajnjaa yuuyam. Yusxmaakam ekaiko'pi naat-maanam aganxayat. Tenaayaw vyaamohah sanjjaatah' iti.

Tad aakarnxya te muudxhaah salajjam adhomukhaah prayayuh.

(2) Hindi (Hindii)

Words of Sanskrit origin in Hindi speech and prose version generally **drop the** syllable-(or word-) final a, as shown below!

Sanskrit

Hindi

Sthitaprajnah

sthitprajnj

Kamalahaasah

Kamalhaas

But these vowels are restored, at least as a neutral vowel w (phonetically represented as a in IPA notation) in poetry.

Even words from non-Sanskrit sources ending in a consonant, like *dil*, *bilkul*, etc., add this neutral vowel after each syllable in poetry according to metric requirements:

Dil mew dard	—+	Dilw mew darwdw
bilkul	—+	bilwkwulw
ham ko	—+	hamw ko
darpanx(Skt.)	—+	darwpanxw

Sample Text in Romanized Hindi

(a) Subrahmanxya Bhaaratii saadhaarax jantaa ke kavii haiw. Aap kii krtiyow mew saadhaarax jan-bhaasxaa kaavya-bhaasxaa ke ruup mew bartii gaii hai. Tab tak saadhaarax jan-bhaasxaa ucca saahitya ke yogya bhaasxaa nahiiw maanii jaatii thii. Aap ne mazduurow ke dvaaraa gaaye jaane vaale lok giitow ke sawgiit (tarz) kaa adhyayan kiyaa thaa. Aap kii salaah hai ki kavi log saadhaarax jantaa ke aashray par nirbhar rahaa karew.

(b) Ek baar Raajaa Dusxyant shikaar khelne van gaye. Vahaaw ve ek hiran kaa piichaa karte hue Kanxva Rsexi ke aashram mew pahuwce. Harinx ko chorxkar unhowne aashram mew pravesk kiyaa. Kanxva Rsexi kii putrii Shakuntalaa ne vahaaw Raajaa kaa svaagat-satkaar kiyaa. Pratham darshan mew hii Shakuntalaa ke anupam saundaya se aakrsxtxa hokar Raajaa Dusxyant us par anurakt ho gaye. Raajaa Dusxyant ne Shakuntalaa ke sammukh usse gandharv-vivaah kar lene kaa prastaav kiyaa. Shakuntalaa ne prastaav maan liyaa aur apnii icchaa se Raajaa se vivaah kiyaa.

(3) Malayalam {Malayaalxam}

The main peculiarities of malayalam are the letters and combinations:

w	—	the neutral vowel
ng	—	velar nasal, nng—doubled velar nasal
nj	—	alveo-palatal nasal, nj—doubled
jn	—+	j+nj
nx	—	retroflex nasal, nx—doubled
r	—	(inter-) dental trill
rh	—	alveolar trill
nrh	—+	-nh-+rh-alveolarnasal + flap
n	—	dental nasal
nh	—	alveolar nasal
l	—	alveolar lateral (interdental of denti-alveolar)
lx	—	retroflex lateral
lzh	—	alveolar (or retroflex) groove spirant, voiced, strongly lateralised.

The different varieties of nasals are phonemic and occur singly and geminated, with and without the consonant of their varga after them. A typical sample with nasals is: n Njanggalx anngaatiyil cennw manjalx vaanngi.

Sample Text in Romanized Malayaalam

MALAYAALXA SAAHTYAM

Malayaalxa saahityattinrhe valxarccayil samskrta valxare valiya svaadhinam celuttiyittxundxw. Malayaalxa kavikalx aadya kaalattw samskrta vrttanngalxaanxw avarutxe krtikalxil upayoogicc irunnatw. Bhaasxayum samskrta padanngalx nirhannjataay irunnu. Aadya kaala kavikalxil vecc eerrhavum pragatbhanum, anukaalika malayaalxa aksxaramaalayutxe pitaavum aaya Elzhattacchane (16-aam shataabdam) sambandhicc eedxattoolxam itutikaccum vaastavam aanxw.

18-aam shataabdattil, Kunjan Nambiyaar, saahitya bhaasxaye saadhaarana jiiivitattile bhaasxayumaayi atxuppikkuvaan shramiccu. Paksxe ii puroogamaanaatmaka pravannata kalzhinnja ampatoo arhupatoo samvatsaranngalxil maatram aanxw, vikhyaatar aaya kavikalx, Vallxattoolx Naaraayanxa Meenoon, Ullxuur Parameeshvara Ayyar, Kumaran Aashaan, G. Shangkara Kurhuppw enn ivarutxeyum, Shivashangkara Pillxa, S. K. Poorrhakkaattxw ennivar tutxanngiya aahityakkaaranmaarutxeyum racanakalxil pratyaksxam aayit tutxanngiyatw.

Malayaalxa bhaasxayile aadyatte vyaakaranxam prasiddhiikariccatw 14-aam shataabdattil aanxw: itw 'Liilaatilakam' enna peeril samskrta bhaasxayil aayirunnu.

(4) *Tamil (Tamilzh)*

The main peculiarity of Tamil is that the voiced and voiceless varieties of Stop consonants are not phonemically contrastive. They are therefore written by one symbol in the native script.

In the Roman version too, the voiceless consonant symbol may be used for the voiced consonant also. Pronunciation would then be according to rules, taking into account the position of the consonant in a word.

Word initially and when geminated they are voiceless stops, intervocalically and post-nasally they are voiced stops. There are no aspirated stops in Tamil.

Thus a name like Gandhi could be written in standard Tamil as Kaanti (aal pronounced: Kaandi). In Roman script, however, names could be written in accordance with the native language, as Gaandhii (or in the anglicised form: Gandhi).

Sample Text in Romanized Tamil

PATTU MUUTXARKALX

Pattu muutxarkalx oru uurai vittxu atxutta uurai nookkip purhappattxarkalx. Valzhiiyl avarkalx oru aalzhamaanha aarrhai vant' atxaintanhar.

Elloorum eppatxiyoo niinti akkarai vantu ceerntu vittxanhar.

Avarkalxil oruvaraanha kilzhavar oruvar, 'elloorum vantu vittxoomaa' enru terintu kolxvatarhkaaka oworuvar aaka ennxat totxangkinaar. Aanhaal enna aaccariyam! Onhpatu peer taanh iruntanhar. Utxanhe marrhavar elloorum oworuvar aaka ellooraiyum ennxip paarttanhar.

Appatxiyum onhpate peer iruppataik kantxu, 'Ayyo! Nammil oruvar aarrhil muulzhki irhantu vittxaaree!' enru pulampal aayinhar.

Aruke maratt' atxiyil viirhirunta turhavi oruvar ivar kalxutxaiya muttxa-
alxttanhattaip paarttup 'pock' enru cirittu vittxaar.

Itaikkeetta muutxarkalx, 'Enna, turhaviyaaree, engkalxil oruvar irhantu vittxaar. Avar jaar enru teriyaamal naangkalx pulampukirhoom. Taangkalxoo, cirikkirhiirkalxee! Atu eenh?' enru keettxanhaf.

'Niingkalx elloorum tannhunxarv' arrhavarkalx. Ungkalxil oruvarum irhakkavillai paarungkalx' -enru colli, avarkalx anhaivaraiyum varicaiyaaka nirhutti vaittu turhaviyaar ennxik kaanxpittaar. Cariyaakap pattu peer iruntanhar.

'Aahaa, turhaviyaaree! Taangkalx oru periya mahaanh! Irhantu kaanxamal poonaavarai, kantxu pitxittu, uyirppittu vittxiiree! Ummai naangkalx vanxangkukirhoom', enru colli, 'dadxaaP enru elloorum avar kaalil vilzhuntanhar.

Turhavi miintxum cirittaar. Pirhaku connhaar, 'Ungkalxil yaarum irhakkavillai. Niingkalx tannhunxarv' arrhavarkalx enru connneenhallavaa? Niingkalx oworuvarum tannhai vittxu vittxu marrhavar ellooraiyum ennxinhiirkalx, awalxavu taanh', enrhaar.

Itaik keetta muutxarkalx, vetxkit talai kunhintu aw itxattai vittxu akanrhanhar.

* * * *

In the above Tamil passage it is seen that the voiced consonants g, j, dx, d, and b have been rarely used. This is because we have followed the Tamil phonemic system and have used one symbol k, c, tx, t or p for the two allophones k, c, tx, t or p and g, j, dx, d or b.

However, a speech therapist may be interested in gathering more phonetic rather than phonemic information.

He may find that for the phonemic version *connhaanh*, for example, different dialect speakers bring out different phonetic versions, such as: *sonnaaw*, *shonnaaw*, *connhaanh*, etc,

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(5) *Kannada{Kannadxa}*

Almost all sounds of Sanskrit and in addition the Dravidian features of short and long vowels are to be met with here.

Owing to the feature of short versus long vowels, however, a Sanskrit name like *Snehalataa* would take the form *Snehalata* in Kannadxa. The final a is written short for grammatical reasons, but is pronounced long.

Sample Text in Romanized Kannada

HANNERAD XU JANA BUDDHIVANTARU

Obba guruvige hanneradxu janaru shisxyar iddaru. Avarige buddhi iralilla. Aadaruu, avaru taavu bahu buddhivantar endu tilxidu kondx iddaru. Janaruu avarannu buddhivantar endu haasya madxutt iddaru. Avaru ondu dina holxege miinu hidxiyalu hoodaru. Adaare, miin eenuu sigal ilia.

'Naavu tumbaa kasxta pattxevu. Aadare, iidina ond aadaruu miinu sigal ilia,' endanu obbanu.

'Hoogali, bidxu. Miinu hidxiyalu banda naavu ii holxe alii mullugi saayade manege hindirugidare saaku,' endanu mattobba.

'Sari, naavu hanneradxu janaru iruvevoo, illavoo, noodxoonxa,' endu heelxi ellarannu enxisidanu modalaneyavanu. Kuudxale, 'ayyayyoo, naavu hannondu mandi maatra ill iddeeve! Innobban elli? end avanu hedari keelxidanu,

Ellaruu enxisi noodxidaru. Tannannu bittxu enxisidarinda ellariguu hannondu janaree iruvudaagi kandxitu.

'Namma guruvige heege mukha toorisonxa? Niirinalli biddavana henxavannu hudxukuvaa', endanu inn obbanu.

Hiigendu, aa hanneradxu janaruu alxutta holxeyakadxege horatxaru.

Astxaralli, allige obba kudure savaaranu bandanu. 'Buddhivantare, ee-takke niivu hiige alxutt iruviri? Een aayitu?' endu avenu keelxidanu.

Visxayavannu tilxidu kondxa meele aa kudure savaaranu, 'Niivu hannondee jana iruviri. Hanneradxaneyavanannu hudxuki kottxare nanage niiv eenu kodxuviri?' endu keelxidanu.

'Nammall iruva hanxavann ellanimage kodxutteeve', endaru ellaruu.

'Haagaadare sari. Saalaagi nilliri. Hanneradxaneyavanannu hudxuki kodxuteene. Kuudxale hanxavannu kottxubidxiri', endanu.

Enxisi, enxisi koneyadaagi, 'Ivanee hanneradxaneyavanu. Ivanannu ellaruu bigiyaagi hidxidu kollxiri. Hanxavannu kodxiri. Naanu barutteene,' endanu kudure savaaranu.

Hanxavannu kottxu bittxu, hanneradxu jana buddhivantaru obbarann obbaru tabbi hidxidu kondxu gurugalxa balxige hoodaru.

Gurugalxige tamma kateyannu heelxidaru. Gurugalxu kateyannu keelxi nakkubittxaru.

(6) *Telugu (Telugu)*

Same as Kannada. But it has the two types of affricates, c vs. cs and j vs. jz.

A name like Raaju is pronounced as Raajzu and could be written that way.

Sample Text in Romanized Telugu

Neen aavuuru enduku vellxaanoo, naak ippudxu jnjaapakam leedu. Kaani vellxadham, cinnappatxe sneehitudxu kanapattxam, tana intxiki nannu tiisuku vellxatxam jarigindi.

Kalavaka kalusukoovatxam valla, cinnappatxi visxayaalu talucsukoni navvukontxaavunna samayawloo atadx occaadxu. Raavatxam raavatxam elaa vaccaadxani?

Munduvaakili nemmadigaa tericcaadxu. Kudxikaalu gadxapaloo pettxi atxuu itxuu dongacsuupu csuushaadxu. Csawkaloo unna muutxani padilawgaa rendxoo ceet too pattxukoni, tala ooragaa pettxi adxuguloo adxugu veesukuntxu, naa sneehituni daggaraku vocci csawkaloo muutxa andistuu, 'Idigoo nooy, dxabbu' annaadxu.

(7) *Marathi (Maraatxhii)*

Like Telugu, this language too exhibits the difference between c and cs as well as between j and jz, as in:

चहा	cahaa
चांगला	csaawglaa
जवाल	jzavalx

In the Marathi (Devanagari) script the anuswara is used;

(1) to indicate nasality:

संपला	sawplaa
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(2) to differentiate between two grammatically different words that are pronounced alike: **ते** te, **तें** te.

(3) to indicate that a certain word is an adverb:

येथे	yethe
सकाळीं	sakaalxii

(4) to indicate that the final letter representing a consonant - ञ retains that ञ in pronunciation:

त्याचं	tyaacsa, as against
त्याच	tyaacs

(5) to indicate, in the case of चे and चें that

चे	is ce and
चें	is cse,

and so on.

In the Roman version all anuswaras which indicate nasality alone would be represented by w. Others would not. In the last two cases cited, w is not necessary, for the unpronounced final ञ is omitted in Roman and the pronounced final ञ is written as a. The anuswara in Roman, w, is not required in the case of चे and चें, as their pronunciations are indicated by ce and cse respectively.

(This convention is all right so long as we deal with the pronunciations in speech or in reading aloud a written text. If our aim is to get back the original written Devanagari version of the Roman version by a computer, then the Roman spelling should everywhere use w to represent anusvaara. But this is not considered in this paper).

Accordingly our Roman version of a Marathi passage would go as below:

Sample Text in Romanized Marathi

Tyaa divshii dupaarii redxiovar kaahiitarii csaawglaa kaaryakram hotaa mhanxuun tyaa don vaajzeparyant jzaagyaacs hotyaa - mag jzhop laagenaa mhanxuun adxiicsyaa sumaaraas baaher aalyaa va saahajikacs tyaawnii Saduu kotxhe aahe te paahile. Gharaat kotxhe naahiiw he paahuun tyaawnii tyaacyaa nehmiicyaa khelxnxyaacyaa jzaagekadxe paahile - tethehii tyaawnaa to dislaa naahiiw. Ekdondaa tyaawnii haak maarlii panx tyaacse uttar aale naahiiw mhanxuun khaatrii karaxyaa saatxhii tyaa baagetuun kopryaakadxe nighaalyaa. Tyaawnii paayaat kaahii ghaatle navhte mhanxuun kiikaay tyaawcyaa paavlaawcsaa aavaajz ajibaat hot navhtaa. Aand tyaa agdii jzavalx yeun pohocepyant tyaawcii Saduulaa csaahuul hii laaglii nasaavii. Kaarax to tyaacyaa udyogaat agdie guwg jzaalaa hotaa. Ksxanxbhar tyaacii badxbadx tarii kaay csaallii aahe ti aikaave yaa hetuune tyaa agdii halxuu ekaa jzhaadxaa maage yeun ubhyaa raahilyaa.

5. Use of the Roman Spelling for Case-Taking in Indian Languages

In addition to noting down other details of a Case, the speech therapist has to note down the language material concerning a patient's speech.

In this, he often has to deal with patients who speak languages different from his own.

The therapist may be acquainted with the IPA Phonetic Alphabet or even with the different Indian language scripts. However, he may not be able to **use** them effectively and correctly in noting down language material from his patients.

If he is acquainted with a common script that is uniform for all Indian languages and if he could write his own language in such a script which uses only the known letters of the Roman alphabet and nothing more, then his work is greatly facilitated.

The author suggests the use of this Roman Spelling System by therapist in taking notes of their cases and report the advantages or disadvantages they find in doing so.