

## South Indian language - An overview

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### 1. Introduction

The Dravidian languages are a language family talked for the most part in southern India and parts of eastern and focal India, and also in Sri Lanka with little pockets in south western Pakistan, southern Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan, and abroad in different nations, for example, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore. The Dravidian languages with the most speakers are Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. There are likewise little gatherings of Dravidian-speaking planned clans, who live outside Dravidian-speaking zones, for example, the Kurukh in Eastern India and Gondi in Focal India. The Dravidian languages are talked by in excess of 215 million individuals in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

In spite of the fact that a few researchers have contended that the Dravidian languages may have been conveyed to India by movements in the fourth or third thousand years BCE or much prior, the Dravidian languages can only with significant effort be associated with some other language family, and they could well be indigenous to India.

Epigraphically the Dravidian languages have been confirmed since the second century BCE as Tamil-Brahmi content on the give in dividers found in the Madurai and Tirunelveli regions of Tamil Nadu. Just two Dravidian languages are talked only outside the post-1947 province of India: Brahui in the Balochistan district of Pakistan and Afghanistan; and Dhangar, a tongue of Kurukh, in parts of Nepal and Bhutan. Dravidian put names along the Middle Eastern Ocean coasts and Dravidian linguistic impact, for example, clusivity in the Indo-Aryan languages, to be specific Marathi, Konkani, Gujarati, Marwari, and Sindhi, propose that Dravidian languages were once talked all the more generally over the Indian subcontinent. Dravidian languages are among the quickest talked languages on the planet.

Vedic Sanskrit is the language of the Vedas, a huge accumulation of psalms, spells, and religio-philosophical dialogs which frame the most punctual religious messages in India and the reason for a great part of the Hindu religion. Present day etymologists consider the metrical psalms of the Rigveda to be the most punctual. The psalms safeguarded in the Rigveda were saved by oral convention alone more than a few centuries previously the presentation of composing, the most seasoned among them originating before the presentation of Brahmi by as much as a thousand years.

The finish of the Vedic time frame is set apart by the creation of the Upanishads, which shape the closing piece of the Vedic corpus in the conventional accumulations, dated to about 500 BCE. It is around this time Sanskrit started the

change from a first language to a second language of religion and picking up, denoting the start of Established India.

The most established enduring Sanskrit sentence structure is Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī ("Eight-Section Syntax") dating to c. the fifth century BCE. It is basically a prescriptive syntax, i.e., a specialist that characterizes (as opposed to depicts) right Sanskrit, in spite of the fact that it contains elucidating parts, generally to represent Vedic structures that had just gone out of utilization in Pāṇini's time. Information of Sanskrit was a marker of social class and instructive fulfillment.

The Dravidian group of languages incorporates roughly 73 languages[4] that are predominantly talked in southern India and northeastern Sri Lanka, and in addition certain zones in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and eastern and focal India, and also in parts of southern Afghanistan, and abroad in different nations, for example, the Unified Kingdom, Joined States, Canada, Malaysia and Singapore.

The causes of the Dravidian languages, and additionally their resulting improvement and the time of their separation, are misty, and the circumstance isn't helped by the absence of similar semantic examination into the Dravidian languages. Uncertain endeavors have additionally been made to interface the family with the Japonic languages[citation needed] and with the terminated Elamite language (by Elamo-Dravidian theory).

Numerous etymologists, in any case, will in general support the hypothesis that speakers of Dravidian languages spread southwards and eastwards through the Indian subcontinent, in view of the way that the southern Dravidian languages hint at some contact with etymological gatherings which the northern Dravidian languages don't. Proto-Dravidian is thought to have separated into Proto-North Dravidian, Proto-Focal Dravidian and Proto-South Dravidian around 1500 BCE, albeit a few language specialists have contended that the level of separation between the sub-families focuses to a prior split.

It was not until 1856 that Robert Caldwell distributed his Relative sentence structure of the Dravidian or South-Indian group of languages, which impressively extended the Dravidian umbrella and built up it as one of the real language gatherings of the world. Caldwell begat the expression "Dravidian" from the Sanskrit drāvīda, identified with the word 'Tamil' or 'Tamilan', which is seen in such structures as into 'Dramila', 'Dramī'a', 'Dramida' and 'Dravida' which was utilized in a seventh century content to allude to the languages of the southern India. The Dravidian Etymological Lexicon was distributed by T. Tunnel and M. B. Emeneau.

The languages of India are isolated into different language families, of which the Indo-Iranian and the Dravidian languages are the most generally talked. There are additionally numerous languages having a place with random language families, for example, Sino-Tibetan, talked by littler gatherings. Semantic records start with the presence of the Brāhmī content from about the third century BCE

The southern locale in India is characterized and recognized by its prevalence of sea atmosphere and ocean shores, with sublime quality binding its fringes. Being entirely founded on the shorelines of Indian Sea and the Narrows of Bengal, south India is that ideal mix of ocean, sand and sun. Its coconut, or palm tree lined fields, or the sudden appearance of thick woodlands covered up with irregular therapeutic plants, or the predominance of the wild and savage, makes it the place that had seen its evolvement since ancient occasions. Without a doubt, south Indian sanctuaries and their astonishing engineering and the uncommon sacred writings uncovered, even go back preceding the Indus Valley Human progress. The completely overpowering Dravidian segment of individuals that live in the conditions of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, make up their separated way of life that can be caught just maybe by an exhaustive visit to south India. Other than these states, south India is additionally outlined by the Association Domains of Puducherry and Lakshwadeep Islands, where French is known to possess a pride put. With such old periods characterizing its recorded evolvement, it winds up clear that the germination of South Indian languages likewise had happened from the Dravidian gathering of civilisation. Dravidian group of languages stands as a glaring difference with its northern partner of Indo-Aryan languages and its evolvement.

South Indian languages include one of the five Dravidian languages of Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Tulu. Plus, these languages additionally fill in as official languages for the concerning states and its administrative purposes. The approximated populace of South India goes to a check of 233 million. The biggest semantic gatherings in South India envelop the Telugus, Tamils, Kannadigas, Malayalis, Tuluvas, Kodavas and Konkanis, which, clearly reflects the enhancement and covering of language societies and traditions. As indicated by the 2001 Statistics, Telugu had the third biggest base of local speakers in India (74 million), after Hindi and Bengali. Telugu thusly, was granted the status of established language in 2008. Tamil was conceded the status of traditional language by the Administration of India in 2002 and had around 60 million local speakers. Kannada had 38 million, though Malayalam had 33 million local speakers separately. Every one of these south Indian languages is enrolled as an official language of India, according to the Official Languages Act (1963).

### **Tamil**

Tamil, one of the two traditional languages of India, is the main language of contemporary India which is conspicuously consistent with an established past. It is the official language in the south Indian province of Tamil Nadu and the Association Region of Pondicherry. In the 1991 Registration of India, Tamil speakers in Tamil Nadu alone numbered around 56 million:

Considerable quantities of Tamil speakers can likewise be found in Sri Lanka and Malaysia and critical minorities in Singapore, Fiji and Mauritius. There are around 71 million speakers around the world.

The Tamil letters in order is plummeted from the Brahmi content of antiquated India. The most punctual Tamil engraving goes back to somewhere around 500 BC. The most seasoned abstract content in Tamil, *Tolkappiyam*, was formed around 200 BC. Amid the nineteenth century, endeavors were made to make a composed rendition of the casual talked language. These days the everyday composed language shows up predominantly in textbooks and in entries of exchange in fiction.

Tamil is classed as a Dravidian language, and is one of the significant Dravidian languages of South India. The correct causes of the Dravidian family are obscure yet it is accepted to have landed in India's northwest around 4000 BC, bit by bit part into four branches with the progression of time. Tamil wound up disengaged to India's South as the Indo-Aryan language assortments, for example, the Hindi turned out to be more predominant in the North. Alongside Sanskrit, Tamil is recognised as 'one of the two traditional languages of India'. It has a rich authentic convention going back over 2000 years. Current Tamil is diglossic in nature, which implies it has two particular structures: artistic or established (utilized for the most part in composing and formal discourse) and talked (utilized in regular discussion).

### **Kannada**

Kannada otherwise called kanarese is likewise a Dravidian language. It is the official language of the province of Karnataka in India's south-west, where it's talked by around 35 million individuals. After Telugu and Tamil it's the third most spoken Dravidian language of South India.

The most punctual known case of Kannada writing is the Kavirajamarga, which goes back to the ninth century Promotion, and today the cutting edge language is spoken to by a flourishing convention covering every single abstract type. Kannada is one of the most seasoned south Indian languages with a relic of no less than 2000 years. The talked language is said to have isolated from its proto-language source sooner than Tamil and about indistinguishable time from Tulu. Be that as it may, archeological proof would show a composed convention for this language of around 1500– 1600 years. The underlying improvement of the Kannada language is like that of other south Indian languages

### **Malayalam**

Like Tamil, Malayalam has a place with the Dravidian language family. In spite of the fact that there are evident lexical connections between the two languages, with numerous words sharing regular roots, Malayalam anyway incorporates a far more noteworthy number of borrowings from antiquated Indian Sanskrit. Its uniqueness from Tamil started once in a while after the tenth century Advertisement, with the principal official abstract record of it going back to the Ramacharitam, a pattu lyric written in the twelfth century. The cutting edge type of the Malayalam content created from the sixteenth century

scholarly works of TunchattEzhutacchan. It is the official language in the province of Kerala on India's far south-western drift, where it's talked by around 30 million individuals.

### Telugu

Telugu is a south-east Dravidian language talked for the most part in the territory of Andhra Pradesh on India's east drift: it turned into the state's legitimate language in the mid-1960s with around 70 million speakers. It is the most dominating of South India's four noteworthy Dravidian languages. Its abstract history goes back to the eleventh century Promotion when the artist Nannaya delivered an interpretation of parts of the Mahabharata. While Sanskrit has assumed a noteworthy job in Telugu writing throughout the hundreds of years, there is an expanding inclination for composed attempts to mirror the more casual assortment of present day standard Telugu.

### 2. Conclusion

Of the four most talked dialects in India – Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, all excepting Kannada have seen an enduring decrease in the general level of speakers in the nation, and this notwithstanding the real number of individuals talking them have developed. This is probably going to be because of the quicker development of Hindi-talking populace. The quantity of Telugu speakers by level of the aggregate populace of India has slipped from the third spot to the fourth place in 2011 Census. While 6.93% of India communicates in

Telugu now, it was 7.19% as a major aspect of information gathered by the 2001 enumeration. There was an abatement in the level of Malayalam and Tamil speakers in the general populace as well. Malayalam saw a decrease from 3.21% to 2.97% and Tamil from 5.91% to 5.89%. While Tamil is the fifth most talked dialect, Malayalam is in the tenth spot. Kannada is the main real south Indian dialect that has seen a minor increment to 3.73% from 3.69% (in 2001) as far as level of speakers in the general populace. It has additionally remained reliable as the dialect with the eighth most number of speakers in the nation. Be that as it may, with regards to development of Scheduled Languages, each of the four dialects have seen an expansion throughout the decades. With 6.90 crore Tamil speakers when contrasted with 6.07 crore in the 2001 evaluation, Tamil recorded an expansion of 13.54% from the most recent decade. Telugu, in the mean time, recorded a 9.63% expansion since the 2001 enumeration, with 8.11 crore individuals communicating in Telugu, according to the 2011 information. There are 3.48 crore Malayalam speakers, an ascent of 5.36% since 2001. Kannada recorded a 15.99% expansion when contrasted and the 2001 registration numbers. As per the 2011 statistics, there are 4.37 crore Kannada speakers. Relatively, Hindi recorded a sharp development in the most recent decade, recording an ascent of 25.19%. Despite the fact that, Sanskrit is the slightest talked native language, it saw a 75.60% bounce since the 2001 registration - the greatest development recorded for any planned dialect.

### References

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