

## **The Dravido-Koreanic language family hypothesis: A second look at its merits, and a chance for revival - with intonation pattern analysis**

### **Abstract:**

In 1984, Morgan E. Clippinger, in his paper "Korean and Dravidian: lexical evidence for an old theory" - proposed the Dravido-Koreanic language family hypothesis. This was based on shared elements of the lexicons between the two languages (or rather, language families). This hypothesis was discredited after the Korean language was grouped into the Altaic Language Family. However, the Altaic Language Family has since become obsolete - leaving the Dravido-Koreanic Hypothesis open for further research.

Indeed, research has been ongoing - but this is small in terms of the number of published papers, and they are primarily from a semantics/comparative linguistics perspective. According to an article in The Hindu, the president of the Korean Society of Tamil Studies, Jung Nam Kim, says there are hundreds if not thousands of morphemes the languages share. This has prompted theories of a shared heritage - and research interests from both parties.

In this study, the similarities - in terms of semantics, prosody (stress and intonation patterns) and morphology, are considered between the Korean language and the Tamil language of the Dravidian language family. Linguistic analysis software is used to see the similarities in terms of intonation and speech patterns between the two languages. The similarities in terms of dependent-marking SOV word structure and the lexicon of basic words has been established - but the theory has been discredited. More evidence will help to enable the formation of a new language group - or at least pseudo-language group - and can help revive the Dravido-Koreanic language group theory.

In summary, this research paper is an effort to illustrate the possibility of a link between the two language families. The linkage of the two language families will lead to further research in terms of the shared heritage of Tamil and Korean, could shed light on early human migration

patterns, the patterns of the propagation of languages and possibly even lead to a greater general interest in the field of comparative linguistics.