

= Kannada =

Kannada / ʔkʔʔnʔdʔ , ʔkæ- / ( ʔʔ ʔʔʔ kannaʔa ; IPA : [ ʔkʔnʔʔʔʔʔ ] ) , also known as Canarese or Kanarese / kænʔʔriʔz / , is a Dravidian language spoken predominantly by Kannada people in South India , mainly in the state of Karnataka , and by linguistic minorities in the states of Andhra Pradesh , Telangana , Tamil Nadu , Maharashtra , Kerala , and Goa . The language has roughly 40 million native speakers who are called Kannadigas ( Kannaʔigaru ) , and a total of 50 @. @ 8 million speakers according to a 2001 census . It is one of the scheduled languages of India and the official and administrative language of the state of Karnataka .

The Kannada language is written using the Kannada script , which evolved from the 5th @-@ century Kadamba script . Kannada is attested epigraphically for about one and a half millennium , and literary Old Kannada flourished in the 6th @-@ century Ganga dynasty and during the 9th @-@ century Rashtrakuta Dynasty . Kannada has an unbroken literary history of over a thousand years .

Based on the recommendations of the Committee of Linguistic Experts , appointed by the ministry of culture , the government of India designated Kannada a classical language of India . In July 2011 , a centre for the study of classical Kannada was established as part of the Central Institute of Indian Languages at Mysore to facilitate research related to the language .

= = Development = =

Kannada is a Southern Dravidian language , and according to Dravidian scholar Sanford B. Steever , its history can be conventionally divided into three periods ; Old Kannada ( Halegannada ) from 450 ? 1200 A.D. , Middle Kannada ( Nadugannada ) from 1200 ? 1700 A.D. , and Modern Kannada from 1700 to the present . Kannada is influenced to an appreciable extent by Sanskrit . Influences of other languages such as Prakrit and Pali can also be found in Kannada language . The scholar Iravatham Mahadevan indicated that Kannada was already a language of rich oral tradition earlier than 3rd century B.C. , and based on the native Kannada words found in Prakrit and Tamil inscriptions of that period , Kannada must have been spoken by a widespread and stable population . The scholar K. V. Narayana claims that many tribal languages which are now designated as Kannada dialects could be nearer to the earlier form of the language with lesser influence from other languages .. Kannada is seems to be oldest living language in the world ( Citation needed ) .

= = Influence of Sanskrit and Prakrit = =

The sources of influence on literary Kannada grammar appear to be three @-@ fold ; Pʔʔʔini 's grammar , non @-@ Paninian schools of Sanskrit grammar , particularly Katantra and Sakatayana schools , and Prakrit grammar . Literary Prakrit seemed to have prevailed in Karnataka since ancient times . The vernacular Prakrit speaking people may have come in contact with the Kannada speakers , thus influencing their language , even before Kannada was used for administrative or liturgical purposes . Kannada phonetics , morphology , vocabulary , grammar and syntax show significant influence of these languages .

Some examples of naturalised ( tadbhava ) words of Prakrit origin in Kannada are : baʔʔa ( color ) derived from vaʔʔa , hunnime ( new moon ) from puʔʔivʔ . Examples of naturalized Sanskrit words in Kannada are : varʔa ( color ) , arasu ( king ) from rajan , pauraʔimʔ , and rʔya from rʔja ( king ) . Kannada has numerous borrowed ( tatsama ) words such as dina ( day ) , kopa ( anger ) , surya ( sun ) , mukha ( face ) , nimiʔa ( minute ) and anna ( rice ) .

= = History = =

= = = Early traces = = =

Pre @-@ old Kannada ( or Purava HaleGannada ) was the language of Banavasi in the early

Common Era , the Satavahana , Chutu Satakarni ( Naga ) and Kadamba periods and hence has a history of over 2000 years . The Ashoka rock edict found at Brahmagiri ( dated to 230 BC ) has been suggested to contain words in identifiable Kannada .

Aristophanes and Euripides ( 5th @-@ 4th century BCE ) : The great Greek dramatists of the 5th @-@ 4th century BCE , particularly Euripides and Aristophanes , appear to have been familiar with the Kannada country and the Kannada language , and had actually used Kannada phrases and expressions in the dialogues of their characters along with Persian and Punic in their skits and dramas . This shows a far more intimate contact of the Greeks with Kannada culture than with Indian culture elsewhere .

Alexandria ( Egypt ) ( 4th century BCE ) : Doddarange Gowda stumbled upon a piece of evidence in the Egyptian city of Alexandria that proves the existence of Kannada in 4th century BCE . He saw the Kannada word ' Ooralli ' ( lit in a village ) written on a huge wall constructed in Alexandria by ancient Greek ruler Alexander the Great in 4th century BCE . The Kannada word ? Ooralli ? is part of the remnants of 36 @,@ 000 palm manuscripts that had been burnt in an accidental fire during Alexander ? s time . When the accidental fire destroyed much of the palm manuscripts , Alexander ordered his commanders to erect a huge wall so that the remnants can be magnified and reproduced on it . The palm manuscripts contained texts written not only in Greek , Latin and Hebrew , but also Sanskrit and Kannada .

In some 3rd ? 1st century BCE Tamil inscriptions , words of Kannada influence such as ' nalliyooraa ' , ' kavuDi ' and ' posil ' have been introduced . The use of the vowel ' a ' as an adjective is not prevalent in Tamil but its usage is available in Kannada . Kannada words such as ' gouDi @-@ gavuDi ' transform into Tamil ? s ' kavuDi ' for lack of the usage of Ghosha svana in Tamil . Hence the Kannada word ' gavuDi ' becomes ' kavuDi ' in Tamil . ' Posil ' ( ' hosilu ' ) was introduced into Tamil from Kannada and colloquial Tamil uses this word as ' Vaayil ' . In a 1st century CE Tamil inscription , there is a personal reference to ' ayjayya ' , a word of Kannada origin . In a 3rd century CE Tamil inscription there is usage of ' oppanappa vlrn ' . Here the honorific ' appa ' to a person ? s name is an influence from Kannada . Another word of Kannada origin is ' taayviru ' and is found in a 4th @-@ century CE Tamil inscription . These are some examples that are proof of the influence of Kannada on Tamil before the common era and in the early centuries of the common era .

Pliny ( 23CE @-@ 79CE ) : Pliny , who was the naval and army commander of the early Roman Empire , writes about pirates between Muziris and Nitrias ( Netravati River ) . He also mentions Barace ( Barcelore ) . Nitrias of Pliny and Nitran of Ptolemy refer to the Netravati River as also the modern port city of Mangaluru , upon its mouth . Many of these are Kannada origin names of places and rivers of the Karnataka coast of 1st century CE .

Ptolemy ( 150 AD ) : The Greek Geographer Ptolemy mentions in his writing places such as Badiamaioi ( Badami ) , Inde ( Indi ) , Kalligeris ( Kalkeri ) , Modogoulla ( Mudagal ) , Petrigala ( Pattadakal ) , Hippokoura ( Huvina Hipparagi ) , Nagarouris ( Nagur ) , Tabaso ( Tavasi ) , Tiripangalida ( Gadahinglai ) , Soubouttou or Sabatha ( Savadi ) , Banaouase ( Banavasi ) , Thogorum ( Tagara ) , Biathana ( Paithan ) , Sirimalaga ( Malkhed ) , Aloe ( Ellapur ) and Pasage ( Palasige ) indicating prosperous trade between Egypt , Europe and Karnataka . He also mentions Pounnata ( Punnata ) and refers to beryls , i.e. , the Vaidhurya gems of that country . He mentions Malippala ( Malpe ) a coastal town of Karnataka . In this work Larika and Kandaloï are identified as Rastrika and Kuntala . Ptolemy writes in the midst of the false mouth and the Barios , there is a city called Maganur ( Mangalore ) . He mentions of inland centres of pirates called Oloikhora ( Alavakheda ) . He mentions Ariake Sadinon meaning Aryaka Satakarni and Baithana as capital of Siro ( e ) P ( t ) olmaïos , i.e. , Sri Pulimayi clearly indicating his knowledge of the Satavahana kings . The word Pulimayi means One with body of Tiger in Kannada , which bears testimony to the possible Kannada origin of Satavahana kings .

A possibly more definite reference to Kannada is found in the ' Charition Mime ' ascribed to the late 1st to early 2nd century CE . The farce , written by an unknown author was discovered in the early 20th century at Oxyrynchus in Egypt . The play is concerned with a Greek lady named Charition who has been stranded on the coast of a country bordering the Indian Ocean . The king of this region , and his countrymen , sometimes use their own language , and the sentences they spoke include

Koncha madhu patrakke haki ( lit having poured a little wine into the cup separately ) and paanam beretti katti madhuvam ber ettuvunu ( lit having taken up the cup separately and having covered it , I shall take wine separately ) . The language employed in the papyrus indicates that the play is set in one of the numerous small ports on the western coast of India , between Karwar and Kanhangad .

= = = Epigraphy = = =

The written tradition of Kannada begins in the early centuries of common era . The earliest examples of a full @-@ length Kannada language stone inscription ( shilaashaasana ) containing Brahmi characters with characteristics attributed to those of proto @-@ Kannada in Hale Kannada ( lit Old Kannada ) script can be found in the Halmidi inscription , usually dated c . AD 450 , indicating that Kannada had become an administrative language at that time . The Halmidi inscription provides invaluable information about the history and culture of Karnataka . The 5th century Tamatekallu inscription of Chitradurga and the Chikkamagaluru inscription of 500 AD are further examples . Recent reports indicate that the Old Kannada Nishadi inscription discovered on the Chandragiri hill , Shravanabelagola , is older than Halmidi inscription by about fifty to hundred years and may belong to the period AD 350 ? 400 . The noted archaeologist and art historian S. Shettar is of the opinion that an inscription of the Western Ganga King Kongunivarma Madhava ( c . 350 ? 370 ) found at Tagartha ( Tyagartha ) in Shikaripura taluk of Shimoga district is of 350 CE and is also older than the Halmidi inscription .

Current estimates of the total number of existing epigraphs written in Kannada range from 25 @,@ 000 by the scholar Sheldon Pollock to over 30 @,@ 000 by the Amaresh Datta of the Sahitya Akademi . Prior to the Halmidi inscription , there is an abundance of inscriptions containing Kannada words , phrases and sentences , proving its antiquity . The 543 AD Badami cliff inscription of Pulakesi I is an example of a Sanskrit inscription in old Kannada script . Kannada inscriptions are not only discovered in Karnataka but also quite commonly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana , Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu . Some inscriptions were also found in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat . The Northern most Kannada inscription of the Rashtrakutas of 964 CE is the Jura record found near Jabalpur in present @-@ day Madhya Pradesh , belonging to the reign of Krishna III . This indicates the spread of the influence of the language over the ages , especially during the rule of large Kannada empires . Pyu sites of Myanmar yielded variety of Indian scripts including those written in a script especially archaic , most resembling the Kadamba ( Kannada @-@ speaking Kadambas of 4th century CE Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh ) form of common Kannada @-@ Telugu script from Andhra Pradesh .

The earliest copper plates inscribed in Old Kannada script and language , dated to the early 8th century AD , are associated with Alupa King Aluvarasa II from Belmannu ( the Dakshina Kannada district ) , and display the double crested fish , his royal emblem . The oldest well @-@ preserved palm leaf manuscript in Old Kannada is that of Dhavala . It dates to around the 9th century and is preserved in the Jain Bhandar , Mudbidri , Dakshina Kannada district . The manuscript contains 1478 leaves written using ink .

= = = Coins = = =

Some early Kadamba Dynasty coins bearing the Kannada inscription Vira and Skandha were found in Satara collectorate . A gold coin bearing three inscriptions of Sri and an abbreviated inscription of king Bhagiratha 's name called bhagi ( c . AD 390 ? 420 ) in old Kannada exists . A Kadamba copper coin dated to the 5th century AD with the inscription Srimanaragi in Kannada script was discovered in Banavasi , Uttara Kannada district . Coins with Kannada legends have been discovered spanning the rule of the Western Ganga Dynasty , the Badami Chalukyas , the Alupas , the Western Chalukyas , the Rashtrakutas , the Hoysalas , the Vijayanagar Empire , the Kadamba Dynasty of Banavasi , the Keladi Nayakas and the Mysore Kingdom , the Badami Chalukya coins being a recent discovery . The coins of the Kadambas of Goa are unique in that they have alternate inscription of the king 's name in Kannada and Devanagari in triplicate , a few coins of the

Kadambas of Hangal are also available .

= = Literature = =

= = = Old Kannada = = =

The oldest existing record of Kannada poetry in Tripadi metre is the Kappe Arabhatta record of AD 700 . Kavirajamarga by King Nripatunga Amoghavarsha I ( AD 850 ) is the earliest existing literary work in Kannada . It is a writing on literary criticism and poetics meant to standardise various written Kannada dialects used in literature in previous centuries . The book makes reference to Kannada works by early writers such as King Durvinita of the 6th century and Ravikirti , the author of the Aihole record of 636 AD . Since the earliest available Kannada work is one on grammar and a guide of sorts to unify existing variants of Kannada grammar and literary styles , it can be safely assumed that literature in Kannada must have started several centuries earlier . An early extant prose work , the Vaddaradhane by Shivakotiacharya of AD 900 provides an elaborate description of the life of Bhadrabahu of Shravanabelagola .

Kannada works from earlier centuries mentioned in the Kavirajamarga are not yet traced . Some ancient texts now considered extinct but referenced in later centuries are Prabhritha ( AD 650 ) by Syamakundacharya , Chudamani ( Crest Jewel ? AD 650 ) by Srivaradhadeva , also known as Tumbaluracharya , which is a work of 96 @, @ 000 verse @-@ measures and a commentary on logic ( Tatvartha @-@ mahashastra ) . Other sources date Chudamani to the 6th century or earlier . The Karnateshwara Katha , a eulogy for King Pulakesi II , is said to have belonged to the 7th century ; the Gajastaka , a work on elephant management by King Shivamara II , belonged to the 8th century , and the Chandraprabha @-@ purana by Sri Vijaya , a court poet of King Amoghavarsha I , is ascribed to the early 9th century . Tamil Buddhist commentators of the 10th century AD ( in the commentary on Nemrinatham , a Tamil grammatical work ) make references that show that Kannada literature must have flourished as early as the AD 4th century .

Around the beginning of the 9th century , Old Kannada was spoken from Kaveri to Godavari . The Kannada spoken between the rivers Varada and Malaprabha was the pure well of Kannada undefiled .

The late classical period gave birth to several genres of Kannada literature , with new forms of composition coming into use , including Ragale ( a form of blank verse ) and meters like Sangatya and Shatpadi . The works of this period are based on Jain and Hindu principles . Two of the early writers of this period are Harihara and Raghavanka , trailblazers in their own right . Harihara established the Ragale form of composition while Raghavanka popularised the Shatpadi ( six @-@ lined stanza ) meter . A famous Jaina writer of the same period is Janna , who expressed Jain religious teachings through his works .

The Vachana Sahitya tradition of the 12th century is purely native and unique in world literature , and the sum of contributions by all sections of society . Vachanas were pithy poems on that period's social , religious and economic conditions . More importantly , they held a mirror to the seed of social revolution , which caused a radical re @-@ examination of the ideas of caste , creed and religion . Some of the important writers of Vachana literature include Basavanna , Allama Prabhu and Akka Mahadevi .

Emperor Nripatunga Amoghavarsha I of 850 CE recognised that the Sanskrit style of Kannada literature was Margi ( formal or written form of language ) and Desi ( folk or spoken form of language ) style was popular and made his people aware of the strength and beauty of their native language Kannada . In 1112 CE , Jain poet Nayasena of Mulugunda , Dharwad district , in his Champu work Dharmamrita , a book on morals , warns writers from mixing Kannada with Sanskrit by comparing it with mixing of clarified butter and oil . He has written it using very limited Sanskrit words which fit with idiomatic Kannada . In 1235 CE , Jain poet Andayya , wrote Kabbigara Kava ( Poet's Defender ) , also called Sobagina Suggi ( Harvest of Beauty ) or Madana @-@ Vijaya and Kavana @-@ Gella ( Cupid's Conquest ) , a Champu work in pure Kannada using only indigenous ( desya ) Kannada

words and the derived form of Sanskrit words ? tadbhavas , without the admixture of Sanskrit words . He succeeded in his challenge and proved wrong those who had advocated that it was impossible to write a work in Kannada without using Sanskrit words . Andayya may be considered as a protector of Kannada poets who were ridiculed by Sanskrit advocates . Thus Kannada is the only Dravidian language which is not only capable of using only native Kannada words and grammar in its literature ( like Tamil ) , but also use Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary ( like Telugu , Malayalam , Tulu , etc . ) The Champu style of literature of mixing poetry with prose owes its origins to the Kannada language which was later incorporated by poets into Sanskrit and other Indian languages .

= = = Middle Kannada = = =

During the period between the 15th and 18th centuries , Hinduism had a great influence on Middle Kannada ( Nadugannada ) language and literature . Kumara Vyasa , who wrote the Karnata Bharata Kathamanjari , was arguably the most influential Kannada writer of this period . His work , entirely composed in the native Bhamini Shatpadi ( hexa @-@ meter ) , is a sublime adaptation of the first ten books of the Mahabharata . During this period , the Sanskritic influence is present in most abstract , religious , scientific and rhetorical terms . During this period , several Hindi and Marathi words came into Kannada , chiefly relating to feudalism and militia .

Hindu saints of the Vaishnava sect such as Kanakadasa , Purandaradasa , Naraharitirtha , Vyasatirtha , Sripadaraya , Vadirajatirtha , Vijaya Dasa , Jagannatha Dasa , Prasanna Venkatadasa produced devotional poems in this period . Kanakadasa 's Ramadhanya Charite is a rare work , concerning with the issue of class struggle . This period saw the advent of Haridasa Sahitya ( lit Dasa literature ) which made rich contributions to Bhakti literature and sowed the seeds of Carnatic music . Purandara Dasa is widely considered the Father of Carnatic music .

= = = Modern Kannada = = =

The Kannada works produced from the 19th century make a gradual transition and are classified as Hosagannada or Modern Kannada . Most notable among the modernists was the poet Nandalike Muddana whose writing may be described as the " Dawn of Modern Kannada " , though generally , linguists treat Indira Bai or Saddharma Vijayavu by Gulvadi Venkata Raya as the first literary works in Modern Kannada . The first modern movable type printing of " Canarese " appears to be the Canarese Grammar of Carey printed at Serampore in 1817 , and the " Bible in Canarese " of John Hands in 1820 . The first novel printed was John Bunyan 's Pilgrim 's Progress , along with other texts including Canarese Proverbs , The History of Little Henry and his Bearer by Mary Martha Sherwood , Christian Gottlob Barth 's Bible Stories and " a Canarese hymn book . "

Modern Kannada in the 20th century has been influenced by many movements , notably Navodaya , Navya , Navyottara , Dalita and Bandaya . Contemporary Kannada literature has been highly successful in reaching people of all classes in society . Further , Kannada has produced a number of prolific and renowned poets and writers such as Kuvempu , Bendre , and V K Gokak . Works of Kannada literature have received eight Jnanpith awards , the highest number awarded to any Indian language .

= = Areas of influence = =

Besides being the official and administrative language of the state of Karnataka , Kannada language is present in other areas :

Kannadigas form Tamil Nadu 's 3rd biggest linguistic group and add up to about 1 @. @ 23 million which is 2 @. @ 2 % of Tamil Nadu 's total population .

Kannadigas account for 3 % of Mumbai 's population of 12 million as of 1991 , which is 360 @, @ 000 .

As of 2001 , there were 1 @. @ 26 million Kannada speakers in Maharashtra , 1 @. @ 3 % of its

population .

Kannada is the third @-@ most spoken language in Hyderabad and is spoken by 677 @,@ 245 people in Andhra Pradesh , some 0 @.@ 8 % of its total population .

Kannada speakers in Kerala numbered 325 @,@ 571 which is 1 @.@ 2 % of its population as of 2001 .

Goa has 7 % Kannada speakers which accounts for 94 @,@ 360 Kannadigas .

There are 43 Kannadigas on the Lakshadweep islands . Amindivi islands were formerly a part of undivided Dakshina Kannada district . The Malayalam spoken by people of Lakshadweep has a fret deal of Kannada words .

New Delhi has approximately 11 @,@ 027 Kannada speakers or less than 100 @,@ 000 according to a different source .

As on 2001 , Gujarat had 15 @,@ 202 Kannada speakers ; Madhya Pradesh had 6 @,@ 039 ; Rajasthan had 5 @,@ 651 ; Punjab had 4 @,@ 872 ; Jammu & Kashmir had 4 @,@ 058 ; Assam had 2 @,@ 666 ; Haryana had 2 @,@ 115 ; Chhattisgarh had 2 @,@ 084 ; Pondicherry had 1 @,@ 177 ; Uttarakhand had 849 ; Dadra & Nagar Haveli had 728 ; Tripura had 640 ; Himachal Pradesh had 608 ; Arunachal Pradesh had 549 ; Chandigarh had 451 ; Nagaland had 398 ; Daman & Diu had 396 ; Andaman & Nicobar Islands had 321 ; Manipur had 239 ; Meghalaya had 232 ; Mizoram had 178 and Sikkim had 162 . The states of Uttar Pradesh , Bihar , West Bengal , Jharkhand and Odisha had not properly enumerated Kannada speakers in the census .

There are about 150 @,@ 000 Kannadigas in North America ( USA and Canada ) .

Singapore , Gulf countries of Middle @-@ East , Mauritius , US , UK , European countries , Japan , China , Australia and New Zealand have significant numbers of Kannada speakers .

= = Dialects = =

There is also a considerable difference between the spoken and written forms of the language . Spoken Kannada tends to vary from region to region . The written form is more or less consistent throughout Karnataka . The Ethnologue reports " about 20 dialects " of Kannada . Among them are Kundagannada ( spoken exclusively in Kundapura ) , Nadavar @-@ Kannada ( spoken by Nadavaru ) , Havigannada ( spoken mainly by Havyaka Brahmins ) , Are Bhashe ( spoken by Gowda community mainly in Madikeri and Sullia region of Dakshina Kannada ) , Malenadu Kannada ( Sakaleshpur , Coorg , Shimoga , Chikmagalur ) , Sholaga , Gulbarga Kannada , Dharwad Kannada etc . All of these dialects are influenced by their regional and cultural background . The one million Komarpants in and around Goa speak their own dialect of Kannada , known as Halegannada . They are settled in each and every village spread across Goa state , throughout Uttara Kannada district and Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district , Karnataka . The Halakki Vokkaligas of Uttara Kannada , Shimoga and Dakshina Kannada districts of Karnataka speak in their own dialect of Kannada called Halakki Kannada or Achchagannada . Their population estimate is about 75 @,@ 000 .

Ethnologue also classifies a group of four languages related to Kannada , which are , besides Kannada proper , Badaga , Holiya , Kurumba and Urali .

Nasik district of Maharashtra has a distinct tribe called ' Hatkar Kaanadi ' people who speak a Kannada ( Kaanadi ) dialect with lot of old Kannada words . Per Chidananda Murthy , they are the native people of Nasik from ancient times which shows that North Maharashtra 's Nasik area had Kannada population 1000 years ago . Kannada speakers formed 0 @.@ 12 % of Nasik district 's population as per 1961 census .

R. Narasimhacharya considers Tulu , Kodava , Toda , Kota , Badaga and Irula as Kannada dialects due to their closeness to Kannada .

= = Status = =

The Director of the Central Institute of Indian Languages , Udaya Narayana Singh , submitted a report in 2006 to the Indian government arguing for Kannada to be made a classical language of

India . In 2008 the Indian government announced that Kannada was to be designated as one of the classical languages of India .

= = Writing system = =

The language uses forty @-@ nine phonemic letters , divided into three groups : swaragalu ( vowels ? thirteen letters ) ; vyanjanagalu ( consonants ? thirty @-@ four letters ) ; and yogavaahakagalu ( neither vowel nor consonant ? two letters : anusvara ? and visarga ? ) . The character set is almost identical to that of other Indian languages . The Kannada script is almost perfectly phonetic , but for the sound of a " half n " ( which becomes a half m ) . The number of written symbols , however , is far more than the forty @-@ nine characters in the alphabet , because different characters can be combined to form compound characters ( ottakshara ) . Each written symbol in the Kannada script corresponds with one syllable , as opposed to one phoneme in languages like English . The Kannada script is syllabic .

= = = Obsolete Kannada letters = = =

Kannada literary works employed the letters ? ( transliterated ' ? ' or ' rh ' ) and ? ( transliterated ' ? ' , ' lh ' or ' zh ' ) , whose manner of articulation most plausibly could be akin to those in present @-@ day Malayalam and Tamil . The letters dropped out of use in the 12th and 18th centuries , respectively . Later Kannada works replaced ' rh ' and ' lh ' with ? ( ra ) and ? ( la ) respectively .

Another letter ( or unclassified vyanjana ( consonant ) ) that has become extinct is ' nh ' or ' inn ' . Likewise , this has its equivalent in Telugu , where it is called Nakaara pollu . The usage of this consonant was observed until the 1980s in Kannada works from the mostly coastal areas of Karnataka ( especially the Dakshina Kannada district ) . Now , hardly any mainstream works use this consonant . This letter has been replaced by ? ? ( consonant n ) .

= = = Kannada script evolution = = =

The image below shows the evolution of Kannada script from prehistoric times to the modern period . The Kannada script evolved in stages :

Proto @-@ Kannada ? Pre ? Old Kannada ? Old Kannada ? Modern Kannada .

The Proto @-@ Kannada script has its root in ancient Brahmi and appeared around the 3rd century BC . The Pre @-@ Old @-@ Kannada script appeared around the 4th century AD . Old @-@ Kannada script can be traced to around the 10th century AD , whereas Modern @-@ Kannada script appeared around the 17th century AD .

= = = Dictionary = = =

Kannada ? Kannada dictionary has existed in Kannada along with ancient works of Kannada grammar . The oldest available Kannada dictionary was composed by the poet ' Ranna ' called ' Ranna Kanda ' in 996 ACE . Other dictionaries are ' Abhidhana Vastukosha ' by Nagavarma ( 1045 ACE ) , ' Amarakoshada Teeku ' by Vittala ( 1300 ) , ' Abhinavaabhidaana ' by Abhinava Mangaraja ( 1398 ACE ) and many more . A Kannada ? English dictionary consisting of more than 70 @,@ 000 words was composed by Ferdinand Kittel .

G. Venkatasubbaiah edited the first modern Kannada ? Kannada dictionary , a 9 @,@ 000 @-@ page , 8 @-@ volume series published by the Kannada Sahitya Parishat . He also wrote a Kannada ? English dictionary and a kli?tapadak??a , a dictionary of difficult words .

= = = Kannada script in computing = = =

= = = = Transliteration = = = =

Several transliteration schemes / tools are used to type Kannada characters using a standard keyboard . These include Baraha ( based on ITRANS ) , Pada Software and several internet tools like Google transliteration , Quillpad ( predictive transliterator ) . Nudi , the Government of Karnataka 's standard for Kannada Input , is a phonetic layout loosely based on transliteration .

===== Unicode =====

== Grammar ==

The canonical word order of Kannada is SOV ( subject ? object ? verb ) as is the case with Dravidian languages . Kannada is a highly inflected language with three genders ( masculine , feminine , and neuter or common ) and two numbers ( singular and plural ) . It is inflected for gender , number and tense , among other things . The most authoritative known book on old Kannada grammar is Shabdhamanidarpana by Keshiraja . The first available Kannada book , a treatise on poetics , rhetoric and basic grammar is the Kavirajamarga from 850 C.E.

The most influential account of Kannada grammar is Keshiraja 's Shabdamanidarpana ( c . AD 1260 ) . The earlier grammatical works include portions of Kavirajamarga ( a treatise on alaṅkāra ) of the 9th century , and Kavyavalokana and Karnatakabhashabhushana ( both authored by Nagavarma II in the first half of the 12th century ) .

===== Compound bases =====

Compound bases , called samāsa in Kannada , are a set of two or more words compounded together . There are several types of compound bases , based on the rules followed for compounding . Examples : tatagāṇi , hemmara , immadi .

===== Pronouns =====

In many ways the third @-@ person pronoun is more like demonstratives than like the other pronouns . They are pluralized like nouns , whereas the first- and second @-@ person pronouns have different ways to distinguish number .