



Manual for e-Vaṭṭeluttu OT

© Elmar Kniprath 2015

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Note

This Manual deals with the special requirements for installation and use of the font e-Vatteluttu OT.

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The author can not be made responsible for any possible faults of the package and its components nor is he liable for any damages which might be caused by them.

1. About Vaṭṭeluttu

Vatteluttu is an old Indian script which was used to write the Tamil language from the 6th to the 14th centuries. Besides inscriptions on stone there are many copper plate documents using this script. These were produced by scratching the glyphs on the surface of copper plates. The script has never been printed until now.

Vaṭṭeluttu is the precursor of modern Tamil script. Its glyphs look more rounded than the Tamil glyphs (hence its name வட்டெழுத்து meaning "rounded script").

Typologically Vaṭṭeluttu is an Abugida like all other descendents of the Brahmi script.

The font "e-Vatteluttu OT" is the first in history to offer the possibility of typing and printing this old script.

2. Sources

2.1 Vēlvikkuṭi copper plates

2.2 Tamil transliteration of 2.1: மயிலை சீனி வேங்கடசாமி: களப்பிரர்
ஆட்சியில்தமிழகம், பிற்சேர்க்கை-2

2.3 Śrīvaramaṅgalam copper plates

2.4 Tharissappalli copper plates

2.5 Joseph Rabban śāsanam

2.6 Gift Siromoney: Vattezhuthil Thirukkural, Madras 1976

2.7 Appendices to 2.6: Script charts (established by different authors)

➤ *Many thanks to Valérie Gillet and Jean-Luc Chevillard who provided me with all this material!*

3. Glyph inventory

3.1 Alphabet

The Vaṭṭeluttu Alphabet comprizes all signs needed to write pure Tamil texts.

Exception: So far there seems to be no occurrence of "au" in any of the known Vaṭṭeluttu texts. For the rare case that someone would like to transliterate a modern Tamil text into Vaṭṭeluttu a small size superscript Tamil ள has been added to the font as a "dummy glyph" to yield ள்/்ள for Tamil ஓள/்ள. The superscription is meant to emphasize the surrogate character of the glyph.

Furthermore the font does not contain the "Grantha" letters ஐ ஸ ஷ க்ஷ ஹ which are used to render Sanskrit words in modern Tamil. In the copper plate inscriptions Sanskrit words (chiefly proper names) are spelled with Pallava script.

Vowels and Āytam

Vaṭṭeluttu	அ	ஆ	இ	ஈ	உ	ஊ	எ	ஏ	ஐ	ஒ	ஓ	ஔ	-
	-	஁	ஂ	ஃ	஄	அ	ஆ	இ	ஈ	உ	ஊ	஋	÷
Tamil	அ	ஆ	இ	ஈ	உ	ஊ	எ	ஏ	ஐ	ஒ	ஓ	ஔ	஁
ISO	a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	ē	ai	o	ō	au	h

Consonants

ச	ஶ	ஐ	த	ப	த	ந	ப	ம	ய	ர	ல	வ	ள	ழ	ற	ன
ச	ஶ	ஐ	த	ப	த	ந	ப	ம	ய	ர	ல	வ	ள	ழ	ற	ன
k	ṅ	c	ñ	ṭ	ṇ	t	n	p	m	y	r	l	v	ḷ	ḷ	ṇ

3.2 Vowel ligatures

The table on the last page of this manual shows the vowel ligatures formed automatically when a text is being typed.

4. Contents of the Package

This package contains the following folders and files:

- e-Vatteluttu OT.ttf (Open Type font for Tamil language written with Vaṭṭeluttu script)
- e-Tamil 100.ttf (Open Type font for Tamil with classical spelling): This font has the same font hight as e-Vatteluttu OT.ttf, so that the line distance remains the same when mixing up both scripts in one text.
- Vaṭṭeluttu Manual.pdf (this file).

5. Installation of the fonts

➤ **Make sure that "complex scripts" are enabled in Windows!**

1. Install the fonts under Windows.
2. For typing a (Unicode based!) Tamil keyboard must be installed on your computer.

6. Instructions for Use

The font e-Tamil 100 has the classical vowel ligatures, e.g.:

e-Vatteluttu OT	e-Tamil 100
ஓல்	இல்லை
ஆல்	ஆனால்
து	திரு
கூழ்	கீழே

Both fonts can be typed with any Unicode based Tamil keyboard.

e-Tamil 100 additionally contains a lot of old fraction and abbreviation signs most of which must be inserted as "symbols".

7. Tamil transliteration of Vaṭṭeluttu

As both fonts have Tamil Unicode encoding, you may just select the portion of text to be transliterated and change the font (as you may switch e.g. in Roman script between "Times New Roman" and "Arial").

8. Improvements and Updates

This Vaṭṭeluttu font has no "predecessors" which it could be compared with. It is based on the sources enumerated above (see 2.), each of which is important, but each of which differs more or less from the others, as all of them are written (i.e. scratched!) by hand. So the 21st century font designer had to establish a "standard" and it often was up to him to decide, which variant of a sign had to be accepted as "standard". Others might have found other, perhaps better, solutions.

All critical remarks and suggestions will be welcome. Mail to the author: elkni(-at-)t-online(-dot-)de

Updates will be published on this website without prior notice.

Vowel ligatures

		a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	ē	ai	o	ō	(au)
k	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕	𑌕
ṇ	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖	𑌖
c	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗	𑌗
ñ	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘	𑌘
ṭ	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙	𑌙
ṇ	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚	𑌚
t	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛	𑌛
n	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜	𑌜
p	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝	𑌝
m	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞	𑌞
y	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟	𑌟
r	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠	𑌠
l	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡	𑌡
v	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢	𑌢
ḷ	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣	𑌣
ḷ	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤	𑌤
ṛ	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥	𑌥
ṇ	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦	𑌦