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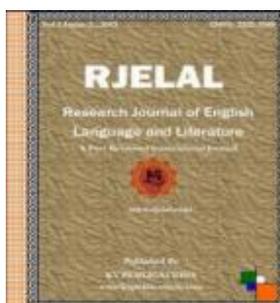


THE IMPORTANCE OF TELUGU IN DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The vernacular literature may be divided into two major groups-one is in the Indo-Āryan languages found in the North India and second is in the Dravidian languages found in the South. The Dravidian group of languages comprises Tamil, Kannaḍa, Telugu and Malayālama occupying respectively the states of Tamilnādu, Karnataka, Āndhra Pardeśa and Kerala. Each has a script of its own and enriched by long literacy tradition. Literary Telugu begins with Nannaya's translation of the Mahābhārata in the tenth century CE. According to T. Burrow, the Malayālama language existed in the early period only as a dialect of Tamil, and it was not until about CE 1000 that it achieved the status of an independent language. Telugu is known as Āndhra or Āndhra-Bhāsha or the language of the Āndhras. Many times, we use the words "Āndhra" or "Āndhras" for Telugu language and the people who speak this language as their mother tongue. It is no doubt true that the Āndhra Empire, in course of time, extended over a large part of the Telugu country but the Āndhra Empire and the Telugu country were never exactly co-extensive. This work has acquired importance mainly for its unique prose style- a style, which combines the narrative and the scientific manner of writing which flourished independently of each other for centuries.

The language, as it plays a vital role in the daily life of human being on the basis of necessity and convenience in the various atmospheres and environments, just as it spread all over the world of the standard of living of the human being. According to the language pandits these are more than 4000 languages in the world. Although they seem to be different by birth and form, yet they have interlinked with one another. Based on these the languages of the world are classified into two major groups...VIZ (1) Geneological classification and (2) Marphological classification. Geneological classification is born of Geneology or of birth which is again devided into ten families. They are (1) Indo-European family, (2) Semito - Hemitic family, (3) Seno-Tibetan family, (4) Japanic - Corian family, (5) African - Negro family, (6) Dravidian family, (7)

Malao - Polination family, (8) Eurol - Ulaic family, (9) American - Indian family, (10) Cacacian families etc. Marphological classification based on form or shape the language which is derived is called Marphological classification. They are (1) Word Derivative languages (Prathi Padathmaka languages), (2) Agglutinative languages, (3) Dative case languages, (4) Polysynthatic languages. So many languages of these are appears in India mainly Arayan languages and Dravidian languages are having more popularity in India. In Arayan languages Sanskrit is the Origin and main language. So many language expert revels that Sanskrit is the root language for all languages of India. But some other language pandits reveals that Dravidian languages also very old languages in Indian and Dravidian language is the root for other Dravidian languages.

But Arayan languages are in North India where as Dravidian languages are in South India. Among in these Dravidian languages Telugu language has more importance than other Dravidian languages.

India being called the Sub-Continent is the home for various languages. It is known that there are more than 800 languages in India. But very few are seen as very rich in regard to the language and literature. The Indian Constitution has also so far recognised only 22 languages. The Language Scholars have divided these various Indian languages into five families. They are 1) Aryan languages family 2) Dravidian languages family 3) Austric languages family 4) One Lettered languages family 5) The Chastic (Confused) languages Group -among these the Aryan and Dravidian languages families are very important.

Most of the people in India are belonged to the family of Aryan languages. The Aryan languages are belonged to North Indians. Among these languages Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarathi, Rajasthani, Bihari, Bengali, Assami, Marathi, Kashmiri, Sindhi, Oriya, Lahanda etc, are very important in this family. According to the opinion of Indians, the 'Root is the Sanskrit' for all these languages. Therefore, the phrase "Thalli Samskruthambe Yuella Bhashalaku" is applicable.

The family of Dravidian Languages are chiefly belonged to the South India while Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Tuda, Badaga, Kodagu, Koya, Konda etc, (23 Languages) will appear in this family. It is learnt that the Ancient Dravidian language is Root for all these languages.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TELUGU AMONG DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

Along with many fields in the modern age a serious research was done even in the language filed while some have concentrated on the structure of language, others have concentrated on the relationship of these languages. At first, in the year 1818 AD, Rashmas Rash, the eminent scientist of the language has referred to the existence of Dravidian languages. He has called these languages as "Malabar" Languages. According to the opinion of certain people - Francis W. Elis has identified these Dravidian languages in 1816 AD. But in 1857 AD it is confirmed the fame to Bishop Caledwel that he had consisely examined and philosophised. The Dravidian languages who has philosophised only 12

languages. But they have now become 23 languages. They are 1) Telugu 2) Tamil 3) Kannada 4) Malayalam 5) Kodugu 6) Tuda 7) Tulu 8) Badaga 9) Irula 10) Gondi 11) Koya 12) Konda 13) Kuyee 14) Kuvi 15) Pengo 16) Munda 17) Kolami 18) Parji 19) Ollari 20) Gadaba 21) Kurukh 22) Maltho 23) Brahyee

Among above 23 languages only Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayam are mainly developed. Even among these, Telugu is having more importance because of the following reasons.

- 1) After Hindi, Telugu is chiefly spoken by all over India.
- 2) We can easily express one's thoughts as the Telugu has more letters (56 letter) compare to other languages.
- 3) The half pronunciations and the sounds of teeth rigdes like "ch" and "jh" are only in Telugu language. So that it is easy to pronounce any sound easily.
- 4) As it has well developed its relationship with Sanskrit, it has developed its syntax (words) morely.
- 5) As it having the both stressness and lightness in the syllables of "Ya, Ra, La, Va" it can easily pronouncing the sound correctly and accurately.
- 6) Telugu language has its own power to recieve the words of foreign languages easily, so that JBM Allen has said that "Telugu language can easily mingle with the other Foreign words rather than the other Indian Languages".
- 7) It has well developed "Metre" in composing the sounds sweetly than other Dravidian Languages.
- 8) It has reached the highest position in "Literary types" from developed literatures like Sanskrit, English and Urdu.
- 9) It has attracted many Literary Scholars all over the world by its natural characteristics of its "Vowel Ending Sound" which very near to Music.
- 10) The Telugu language has more letters than any other language in India and obtained second position in the world.

CONCLUSION

The great Language Scholar Caledwel has emphasized that "Telugu Language has occupied the

first place in Melodious Tune and its positive Rhythm among Dravidian Languages". Grierson, another great scholar propocised that "Telugu is sweetest language like honey". Many other Foreign Scholars also commented saying Telugu is the "Italian of the East" for its natural Vowel Ending Sounds.

Thus the poetic genius Srinadhudu and versatile genius Sri Krishna Devarayulu appreciated Telugu as "Desabhashalandu Telugu Lessa" (Telugu is the best among all Indian languages).

Thus we can understand, Telugu once it was born as unimportant and uncivilized Dravidian Languages but became popular when it has its relationship with the well developed and civilzed language of Sanskrit in India.

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