

## A Review on Ancient Indian Languages

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**Abstract:** India has a diverse historical and cultural heritage since ancient times in which linguistic diversity is an important factor. India has a vast geographical area and is home to many languages. The development of different types of languages such as Sanskrit Pali, Arthamagadi, Prakrit, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Marathi can be observed from ancient times. The background of development of major languages in India can be observed as follows.

**Keywords:** Indo European, Austro-Asiatic, Sino Tibetan, African, American, Dravidian Finno Ugric

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the medium for human to express his feelings to others, to understand other's feelings, to communicate with each other. Without language, communication ceases. If there is no communication, the building of society and community will be impossible. It is impossible to imagine human life without language. Because human thinking is also in language, so without language, human would not be different from other animals. Language is the reason for man to live, to be a member of society, to live as a citizen. Language is a human organ. Scholars have debated over the years how language originated. There have been many thoughts on whether language is a gift of God to man or a result of human effort. How did language originate? What is the oldest language spoken in the world? Are all the languages of the world descended from one language? All these questions have been troubling scholars for a long time. In this context the present paper deals with the study of Ancient Indian Languages<sup>[1]</sup>

### 2. ORIGIN OF LANGUAGE

#### 2.1. Myths about the Origin of Language

- There are many legends and myths about the origin of language. There is a belief all over the world that language is God's gift to man. According to the belief of Christianity, "Word came from God and it was formed into language. It was by this divine power that people began to speak." According to Egyptian belief, "the god Thoth gave the people language as a gift."
- The Chinese also believe that language is a gift from God to man.
- According to the belief of Hindus, it is believed that "Brahma, after creating the entire life race, gave man the power of speech".
- According to a scholar called Lie Bridge, "Long ago, primitive man began to imitate sounds made by animals and objects around him. Language is the result of trying to imitate these sounds."
- It is argued by many that the words that came out on their own to express emotions at the beginning of primitive man may have come out as sounds and later formed into language. This is called emancipation.
- According to a scholar called Ravage, language is the result of communication, first an action, then in the evening, language is the result of a person's intense desire to connect with another person.
- Many scholars of the world have formulated their own theories about the origin of language. Signal theory, wave theory, family tree theory, deterministic theory etc. give their own definition. All these theories so far cannot say with certainty how language arose. According to recent thinking, the body structure of man is responsible for his language creation<sup>[2]</sup>

## 2.2. Classification of Languages

The languages of the world are classified into genealogical, structural, geographical and ethnic groups. They are as follows.

- Indo European
- Austro-Asiatic
- Sino Tibetan
- African
- American
- Dravidian
- Finno Ugric

## 2.3. Languages spoken in India belong to four language families

1. Indo Aryan
2. Dravidian
3. Tibeto Burman
4. Astic

Here too the Indo-Aryan languages spread over three-fourths of India. Later come the Dravidian languages. Many languages were in use in India since ancient times. A brief description of them is given below<sup>[3]</sup>

### Sanskrit Language

Sanskrit is the oldest classical language of the Indian subcontinent. It belongs to the Indo-European language group. "The scriptures of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism are the greatest languages ever created. It was once the language of sages and sages. Experts are of the opinion that Sanskrit is the best language for computer usage as Sanskrit has attracted the modern world today. Sanskrit is a scientific and systematic language. Sanskrit literature is the language with the richest literature in the history of mankind. According to modern scholars, "the continuous flow of Sanskrit language has been flowing for 5000 years." Sanskrit is the ancient and classical language of India in which the Rig Veda, the world's first work, was written. Sanskrit is a language that existed before the creation of the Vedas. The language used in the Vedas is currently prevalent in the form of various dialects. It was somewhat different from present Sanskrit. It was called Vedic Sanskrit. Each Veda had a grammar book called Pratisakhya<sup>[4]</sup>

### Birth and Development of Sanskrit Language

As per Indian tradition Sanskrit language has no beginning and no end. It is a language born from Brahman itself and is also known as 'divine language'. It was first used in the Vedas and later in the composition of other scriptures. It is said that this language was called 'Sanskrit' by Hanuman in the Sundara Kanda of Valmiki Ramayana. 'Sanskrit' means agreeably beautiful. Sanskrit is the source of other languages and literatures that developed in India. Pali and Prakrit languages developed from Sanskrit. Pali was used for the exposition of Buddhist ideas and Prakrit for the propagation of Jain doctrines. The Prakrit language had different shades in different parts of India. They were named Paishachi, Shauraseni, Magadhi, Artha Magadhi, and Maharashtra. Modern Indian languages developed from these Apabhramsa languages. Hindi, the majority language of India, is a corruption of the Shauraseni language. All modern Indian languages spoken in the northern part of India have evolved from Sanskrit. Dravidian languages like Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam have also had their influence<sup>[5]</sup>

### Sanskrit Literature

Sanskrit literature is as vast as human life. Sanskrit literature first presents the Vedas as the basis of religion. There are four Vedas namely Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda. The Aranyakas and Upanishads explain the inner meaning of the Vedas and the path of renunciation. The six Vedangas i.e. Shiksha, Vyakarana, Kalpa, Chandas, Nirukta and Jyotishya help in understanding the Vedas.

Secular poetry was first composed by Valmiki, whose 'Ramayana' had a great influence on later literature. Another Indian epic Mahabharata was composed by Veda Vyasa. It is called encyclopedia of knowledge. After this, Ashwaghosha, Kalidasa, Bharavi, Kumaravyasa etc. composed epics. Poets like Kallan and Bildana were great writers of historical poetry. Britahari, Avaraka, Jayadeva, Somadeva etc. Famous as lyric poets. A lot of literature was produced in genres like scientific literature, grammar, law, politics, science, philosophy, religion, medicine, astronomy, astrology and mathematics. In this way, the Sanskrit language, which was prevalent in the east before the time of the Vedas, has made its mark all over India? All other languages of India have been influenced by Sanskrit in one way or another. Sanskrit language literature is given in detail in the sixth chapter<sup>[6]</sup>

### Prakrit Language

Prakrit is one of the most important languages of ancient India. There is an opinion that Prakrit is an earlier form of Sanskrit which later became a purer form. According to another opinion, Prakrit is a provincial form of Sanskrit.

### The then parts of Aryavarta

- Shurasena – Area around Delhi, Agra, Mathura
- Pishacha - Northern part of Punjab and north-western border of Magadha, Bihar and Bengal
- Maharashtra - South of Narmada River, The provincial differences in these are Shauraseni; Paishachi, Magadhi and Maharashtrian Prakrit languages. These are considered to be the four branches of the Prakrit language. Ardhamagadhi language has half the features of Magadhi language. The influence of Maharashtrian Prakrit language has increased on it.
- From the ancient era to CE. Inscriptions dating back to the 1st century are composed in Prakrit. More than 30 inscriptions of Ashoka are in Prakrit language. Dramatists in Sanskrit dramas wrote using different, different usages of Prakrit. Some dramas composed in Prakrit are known as sattakas in Pali language. Rajasekhara's Camphora Manjari is an important work in Prakrit language.

Jain theological texts occupy a very important place in Prakrit literature. The work 'Gathasaptasati' composed by Satavahana Dore 'Hala' is a collection of 700 verses describing beauty, love, situations and introducing various aspects of rural life in South India. Brihat Katha composed in Paishachi language and Pravarasena's "Setubandha works" are examples of Katha literature and epic features. These are also characteristic Prakrit texts of Dhanapalakrita's "Paiya Litchi Nama Mala" (972-73 CE) and Hemacandra's "Deshinama Mala"<sup>[7]</sup>

### Parallax

Apabhramsha is a type of Prakrit vedha with some distinct features. The beginning of the use of this language can be traced in Ashwaghosha's play 'Sariputra Kasa'. Doha, which is a typical idiomatic form of Apabhramsha language, has been used by saints as a medium of expression to eloquently express their religious and philosophical thoughts. Some of such works are as follows.

- Joindu - Paramatma Prakasha and Yogasara
- 2Ramusinha - Pahuda Doha
- Devasena - Savaya Dharma Doh
- Shubhacharya - Vairagya essence

Scholars of the Tantric Buddhist sect are known to have used this popular 'Doharupa' in their teachings. Vidyapati's 'Kirtilata' is one of the most important non-Jain works. Thus Prakrit language was the language of common people in ancient times.<sup>[8]</sup>

### Pali or Pali

Pali, the language in which the sacred scriptures of Buddhism are composed, has a wide meaning and scope. The etymology of 'Pali' means a range, row'. Over time it came to mean the Buddha's divyavani, the sacred scriptures containing the teachings of the Buddha. According to another interpretation 'Pa' Pathu means to cherish or protect. Pali protects the Buddha Vachana in the form of sacred scriptures and pramana scriptures. Magadhi, Magadhi Nirukti is also known by different names in Pali language. "Pali" refers to the language of Magadha, the original seat of Buddhism. The Pali language was not a vernacular language but was the language of the cultured people. The Pali language was not only a

popular language but also a necessary language of communication between the people of different parts of the Indian continent even before the time of Buddha. Among the works composed in the Pali language, the 'Tripitakas' are prominent. As the name suggests it consists of three parts. These are important collections of various Buddhist literary texts. Each part represents the basic nature of some perspective of Buddhist monastic life and its thoughts.

- Vinaya Pitaka: Describes the discipline of monks.
- Sahitya Pitaka: Explains the basic sutras of Buddhism.
- Abhidamma Pitaka: Contains philosophical explanations of subjects like ethics, psychology, knowledge formulas and spiritual issues.

“Milinda Panna” is another important work composed in Pali language. This work contains an interesting dialogue on Buddhism between Milinda (the Greco-Baxian ruler Minenda) and the Buddhist monk Nagasena. Two Sri Lankan chronicles, the 'Deepavamsa' and the 'Mahavamsa' are important works in the Pali language.

### **Dravidian Languages**

The languages spoken by the Dravidian people are called Dravidian languages. The Dravidian language group is estimated to have more than 135 languages, with Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam being the oldest among the Dravidian languages. Dravidian languages are used in South India, Central India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal. Pre-Dravidian, the parent language of the Dravidian languages, is thought to have entered India from outside many millennia ago in prehistoric times. Dravidian languages have some common features that do not seem to be related to any other language family in the world. Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam are the major Dravidian languages. They have their own script and have an ancient literary heritage. Among the four major Dravidian languages, Tamil has the oldest literary heritage dating back to BC. Telugu and Kannada seem to have existed as local dialects before literature was created in the early Middle Ages. Most of the words in Malayalam may have branched off from the ancient Tamil language and took its place as an independent language only a few centuries ago.<sup>[9]</sup>

### **Tamil Language**

Tamil is one of the oldest literary languages spoken in South India. It was a language spoken in South India about 2000 years ago. Tamil is one of the longest surviving classical languages in India. The diversity and quality of classical Tamil literature has made it one of the world's greatest languages. The earliest period of Tamil literature can be found in Sangam literature.

### **Development of Tamil language**

#### **Historical Background of Sangham**

The Sangham was an organization of writers and philosophers based in Madurai. Various dynasties patronized this institution. Namely the Pandyas, Cheras and Cholas, the beginning of the Tamil language is generally known as the Sangham era. But according to the traditional belief three Sanghas existed one after the other in ancient times. These three Sanghas existed for a total period of 9990 years and 8598 poets including various deities of the Shaivite sect were members of this Sangha. 197 Pandya kings patronized these. In some inscriptions the names of kings and poets like 'Kadungan' and Ugrapperuvaludi' are found. This list of names includes elements of imagination as well as historical elements. The first Sangham was established in Old Madurai or Tanmadhure. Many deities and famous saints were present in this Sangham. Many works were created during this period. But ancient Madurai was submerged in the sea. The second sangham was established at Kapatapuram and many poets were members. innumerable literary works were composed during this period, they are not available. Only works like 'Tollapiyam' (Ancient Tamil Grammar) and 'Mahapuranam' are available. Kapatapuram was also submerged in the sea, Thirukkurala Granth by poet Thiruvalla bears the names of 49 Pandya kings who encouraged the Third Sangam. So the description of the first two Sanghams is speculative and historians agree that only the third Sangham existed historically.<sup>[10]</sup>

#### **Period of Sangam Literature**

The Sangham era is generally believed to be the beginning of literature in the Tamil language. However, historians differ on the timing of the Sangham era. AD As the 7th century Shaiva saint Appa first used

the word Sangham to refer to an ancient group of poets and philosophers, the Sangham era dates back to CE. It can be said to have existed earlier than the 7th century. Dr. N. Subrahmanyam's social life as described in poems and epics Shilpadhikaram and Manimakalaiya composed during the Sangham era and in CE. The Greek and Roman writers of the first part are of the opinion that the eight volumes of Sangham literature, ten poems, eighteen short treatises and two epics belong to the first centuries CE because of the resemblance to the given picture. Prof. K.A. Nilakantha Classicists in CE. The first three centuries of Shakyas are considered to be the Sangham period. Prof. this opinion. K. A. Approved by Satyanath Iyer. Dr. Krishnaswamy Iyengar, S. Swaminath Iyer etc. They belong to the first and second centuries.

### **Sangham Sahitya**

Many types of literary works were created during the Sangham period. These were composed in Tamil language. These include eight poetry collections, ten poems, eighteen short treatises, two epics. They are explained below.

### **Tollapiam**

- Tollapiyam, a grammar book composed by Tolkapiyar, is the oldest surviving work of Tamil literature. This work includes elements such as letter composition, word composition, rhyme scheme, social practices, literary conventions etc. This work consists of three sections, each section having 9 sub-chapters, containing a total of 1617 sutras<sup>[11]</sup>

### **Other Ancient Works**

- Other ancient works are 'Agattiyam' by Saint Agathiyar, 'Pannirupadaram' composed by 12 followers of Saint Augustine and 'Kakki Padiniyam' by an anonymous author are important.
- Ettu Togai (Eight Poem Collections):
- Garunur contains 500 beautiful verses collected by Kilar of Gudalur.
- Nari is a collection of 400 short love poems.

### **Contains over 400 love poems collected by Rudrasharma**

- Kurunthogai contains 400 love poems.
- Purananu has 400 poems in praise of kings.
- Kalittoge has 150 love verses.
- Paripadal has 24 verses in praise of God.
- Paddrupatu consists of 8 verses in praise of the Chera kings. The above eight poetry collections contain a total of 2282 poems composed by 200 poets.

### **Pattupattu (Ten Poems)**

Maru Gurupadai, Sirupakharupadai, Perumbarupadai, Madurai, Kanchi, Pattinappa etc. are the works that come under this category. These works mainly cover the subjects of agam (love) and (puram' (everything except love). These poems are mainly divided according to region into Tamil land, hills, plains, dry land, forest cultivation, plains and coast<sup>[12]</sup>

### **Padinankilka (Eighteen Small Texts)**

Since the verses in these works are shorter than the Eight Poem Collections and the Ten Poems, they are called the Small Granths. These mostly teach ethics and moral rules. The most important of these is Thiruvalla's 'Thirukkurala', popularly known as the Bible of the Tamil land. All these works like Mudurai Arayaran's Palamali, Naladiyar, Achara Kkove (which deals with the daily activities of a traditional Hindu) show the development of Aryadharm and its ideas, practices, among the Tamil people.

### **Two epics**

Shilpadhikaram and Manimakalai are known as the twin epics of Tamil.

- **Shilpadhikaram:** The Shilpadhikaram poem was written by Ilangovaligal (grandson of the famous Chola king Karikala) in AD. Built in the 3rd century. In this poem, a merchant named Kovalina of

Prahara town falls in love with a dancer named Madhavi and ignores his own wife Kannagi. When he was sentenced to death by the king of Kovala for stealing the queen's Ralandi, Sadvi Kannagi bursts out and burns the city with his kupagni and shapagni, who have done injustice to the king of Madurai. Thus arose the Kannagi Panth or Pattina Panth (Kannagi is a good wife like Shiva).

- **Manimekhalai:** Manimekhalai poetry was composed by Satyanarayana. The subject of this poem is Manimekhalai Shilpadhikaram about how the daughter of Komana and Madhavi saved her chastity from prince Udayakumar and propagated Buddhism as a Yuga Buddhist nun. Thus the Sangham Sahitya is a very important chapter in the literary history of India.

### Origin and Antiquity of Kannada Language

There is no consensus among scholars about the origin and antiquity of Carnatic-Kannada words. It is not clear how and when the name "Karnataka" came to Kannada Nadi, which has a historical and cultural heritage of about five thousand years. There is no mention of Karnataka in Ramayana, the first of the epics. This entry in the Ramayana is called Kishkandha Dandakaranya. It is known to have been a kingdom of monkeys. Karnataka is mentioned in Mahabharata's Sabha and Bhishma Parvas. In the ninth chapter of Bhishmaparva, Dravida, Kerala, Vanavasika, Karnataka, Mahishika, Kuntala and Untanyakas refer to Karnataka regions. Sanskrit poets after the epics mentioned the word Karnataka. Karnataka has been referred to by various names like Kuntala, Banavasi, Vaijayanti, Mahisha Mandal, Punnata. There is a reference to Karnataka or Kannada in Shudraka's play 'Mrchakatika'. Panini in his treatise "Ashtadhyayi" mentions that Karnataka was the name of a gotra. There is a reference in Somadeva's "Katha Saritsagara" that Karnataka i.e. Kannadiga impressed the king with his prowess. Use of Carnatic word can be found in 4th and 5th century Vishnudharmottara Purana, 6th century Bhagavata Purana, 8th century Markandeya Purana and 10th century Rajasekhara Kavyamimansa. In the Matthva and Skanda Puranas, Kannada Nadu is called Carnatic, Katik and Karna<sup>[13]</sup>

Pampam, the progenitor of Kannada, used the word Kannada in his Kaviraja Marga as an indicator of language and regions. Nagavarman has described Karnataka in his treatise "Chhandom Budhi". Pampa in his Adipurana has described in detail about the Kannada or Kannadigar army. Bildana describes the 6th Vikramaditya as "the moon of Karnataka" in "**Vikramanka Deva Charite**".

There is a mention of the word Karunadiga in the ancient Tamil Sangam literature poems "Shilappadikaram". The words Karunadu, Kammitanadu, Karnadu found in the Velvekudi copperplate of Pandya king Shadaiyan Paranthaka of Tamil Nadu have been interpreted by scholars as the land of black soil and fragrance. Scholar A.B. Salethore said, "The original meaning of the words Karunadu, Kammitanadu, Kannadu is high land, land of black soil and its Sanskrit variant should be Karnataka". The name Karnataka is found to be prevalent in Kannada Nadu inscriptions. In the Halmadi inscription of the Kadamba period in the Kannada script and language, there is a reference to the entire country of Karnataka. Kannada Nadu is called "Karnataka" in Bhuvikrama inscription of Ganga dynasty. It is known from their inscriptions that the Hoysala kings had the title "Karnataka Kulakamalarha". The Vijayanagara emperors had the titles 'Kannada Rajya Ramaramana' and 'Karnataka Ratna Simhasanadhisvara' as known from their inscriptions. Scholars differ on the derivation of the words Kannada and Carnatic M, which are indicative of language, land and people. It means "Karu Nadu" meaning black or Karunadu, "Kammitha Nadu" meaning fragrant land full of sandalwood trees.

On the basis of the Harappan hieroglyphs, Father Heras opined that the Sanskrit form of Kanna Nira Kannir may be Carnatic. Sh.Bha. Joshi says that the antiquity of the Kannada clan is earlier than the time of the Vedas. The word Kannada is a translation of Karnataka, a Sanskrit word for region. It contains the words Kan Nadu. The Kannas or Kannas belong to a branch of the "Kalavar" or "Kalla" race, earlier than the Arya Dravidians of the Rigvedic period. He said that the culture of Karnataka is the amalgamation of "Kalavar" originally Dravidian clan, "Kannakula" Aryadavidian clan, "Kalavaru" Aryadavidarada "Kannarus" races. Some argue that Kannada is derived from the word Karunadu. The word Karunadu refers to the region and the word Karunadigar refers to the inhabitants of this region. When Karunadu became Kannada and how it became the name of this land and language cannot be said exactly. The antiquity of this region can be traced back to the time of Mahabharata as per reference in epics and Puranas. The Halmadi Inscription is the oldest known Kannada script and language. Thus the origin of Kannada land and language is believed to be very ancient

## **Kannada Literary Works**

Kannada works are the most important basis for the history of Karnataka. Ashtrakuta Chakravarti Amoghavarsha Nripatunga's Kavirajamarga is the most ancient of the Kannada texts that are still revered. There are arguments about the route of Kavirajamarga. Sri Vijaya is known as the author of Kavirajamarga from recent sources. Different Semantics of

### **Ancient Kannada**

It is discussed in this treatise mentions ancient Kannada poets like Vimala, Nagarjuna, Jayabandhu and their works. This book is useful to understand the then boundaries of Kannada Nadi, Nripatunga's personality and contemporary political phenomena. Kannada poets of the Rashtrakuta period like Samanta Bhadra, Pujiyapada, Prabhachandra, Janasena, Gunabhadra and Chavundaraya are credited with bringing Kannada to maturity. Sivakotacharya's Vaddaradhana' CD. Su. The 920 CE treatise contains stories of 19 Jain sKannada literature saw great growth from the 9th century onwards. The Kannada texts composed after the 10th century shed much light on the history of Karnataka. Pampa, Ponna and Ranna who are known as poet-emperors in Kannada literature have composed biographies of many kings. The achievements of the heroes in these texts are described in a religious and mythological context. Pampanu is the first poet of Kannada literature. He composed a work called "Vikramarjuna Vijaya". It is called "Pampa Bharata". Arjuna of the Mahabharata is the protagonist of this work. Pampa describes the lineage of Arikesari II of Vemulavada, the Rashtrakuta vassal king of his patron, and the conquests of the Rashtrakuta king Indra III in North India. It states that Arikesari participated in these expeditions. In the court of Rashtrakuta Emperor Krishna III, Ponna (ca. 950 CE), titled as the poet emperor, composed the agamic poem 'Shantinatha Purana', the logical poem 'Bhuvanaikya Ramabhyudaya' and the works 'Jinakshara Male'. These texts are the main sources to know the conditions of that time. Ranna, the third of the Kavichakravarti trio, was the court poet of Iriya Bedenga Satyasraya. He composed works like "Ajitanath Purana", "Gadayuddha" or "Sahasabhima Vijaya" and "Ranna Kanda".

### **Chavundaraya's Chavundaraya Purana**

Talakad's Ganga's service to Kannada literature is memorable. Chavundaraya was the Mahamantri during the reign of Marasimha II and Rachamalla IV. A great scholar, he wrote the books Charitrasara in Sanskrit and Chavundaraya Purana in Kannada. The Chavundaraya Purana describes the history of 63 Jain Shalaka men. This text is an important basis for the

### **History of Ganga**

Nagavarman's Chhandombudhi and Carnatic Novels:

Nagavarma was a contemporary of Ranna. He was a Shaiva Brahmin. Chhandombudhi is the first work written in Kannada on Chandassu Shastra. Although his Karnataka novel is a Kannada translation of Bana's Sanskrit prose poetry, it seems to be an original work. This is a testimony to the scholarly excellence of the poet.

### **Kannada Works of the Hoysala Period**

Many Kannada works were composed during the Hoysala period. Nagachandra's "Abhinava Pampa Ramayana", "Mallinath Purana", Nayanasena's Dharmamrita', Rajaditya's "Kshetraganita", Somnath's "Karnataka Kalyana Karaka, Keshiraja's "Shabdamani Darpana", Jannan Yashodhara Charita" and Anantnath Puranas" are important texts of this period, Rudrabhatta's Jagannath Vijaya" and "Rasakalike", Mallikarjuna's "Sukti Sudharnava" are the basis of Hoysala history. In Sukti Sudharnava Granth there is a description of all the Hoysala kings starting from Sala to Somesvara. M of Kannada literature It is the greatest of the Meru poetic works.

### **Vachana Sahitya and Haridasa Sahitya Basis**

The period of Kalachuras of Kalyana is memorable in the social and religious history of Karnataka. Kalachuri King Bijjala was the prime minister. Basavanna led a religious revolution in the 12th century. The vachana literature composed by Basavadi Sivasharan during this period is the greatest contribution to the literary world of the world. Vachana literature is the basis for understanding the social and religious phenomena of that time. Vachanas provide effective information on spiritual, philosophical and ethical issues. The Dasa Sahitya composed by Haridasa, like the Vachana Sahitya, helps to

understand the history of Karnataka in several ways. The hymns composed by Haridasara Vyasaraaya, Vadiraja, Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa are the main sources for understanding the phenomena of contemporary society. Dasa literature also sheds light on spiritual content.

### **Kannada Works of Vijayanagara Period**

During the reign of Vijayanagara kings many works were composed in Kannada language besides Sanskrit and Telugu languages. In the Kannada works of this period religion and linguistics are given great importance. Lakkanna Dandesh's "Sivatatva Chintamani", Chamarasa's Prabhulingaleela', Kumaravyasa's "Mahabharata", Tonta Siddeshwara's "Shatsthala Jnanamrita", Mallanacharya's "Bhavchintaratna" and "Veerashaiva Vachanamrita Purana" are some of the famous Kannada works of this period. These texts are the main basis for understanding social, religious phenomena and philosophical ideas<sup>[14]</sup>

### **Telugu**

Like Kannada, Telugu belongs to the Dravidian language group. It is the official language of present day Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Not much evidence is available to explain how the Telugu language developed in the East before the time of Nannaya in the court of Rajaraja Narendra of the Eastern Chalukya dynasty in Rajamanhendririn. A few Telugu words can be noticed in the "Yudha Malla" inscription found at Vijayawada. It is not possible to say with certainty when Telugu language literature originated. But it is known to have been a separate branch of the Dravidian language by 600 CE. As the Arya culture spread in the south, it first passed through the Telugu country and then spread throughout the south. Therefore, Telugu language and cultures were heavily influenced by Sanskrit and Prakrit languages. Nannaya's translation of the Mahabharata is the first available text in Telugu. He created a grammar book called 'Andhra Shabda Chintamani' by this same poet. A Bhimakavi wrote a Telugu grammar poem called 'Kavijanashrayamu'. Another important work of his is "Bhimeswara Puranam". How Telugu emerged as the dominant language of South India by the 12th century.

### **Malayalam**

Malayalam is the oldest of the Dravidian languages. It is a distinct language, largely deriving its vocabulary from a dialect of the western part of Tamil Nadu. Initially the Malayalam script was supposed to be close to the Tamil alphabet, later it was improved with minor changes. It is the official language of Kerala state. Closely related to Tamil and Sanskrit language. Ramacharitam is the oldest literary work of Malayalam. It is an epic poem written in the late 12th century. Later in the centuries various such literary works were created in this language<sup>[15]</sup>

## **3. CONCLUSION/FINDINGS**

Since the Iron Age in India, the native languages of the Indian subcontinent are divided into various language families, of which the Indo-Aryan and the Dravidian are the most widely spoken. There are also many languages belonging to unrelated language families such as Munda (from Austro Asiatic family) and Tibeto-Burman (from Trans-Himalayan family), spoken by smaller groups.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is wide scope for the Research Scholars and Teachers to conduct a Research on A Review on Ancient Indian Languages. Present study is having good future towards research projects and Doctoral Programmes.

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