

KATTUNAYAKAN TRIBES AND THEIR LANGUAGES IN THE NILGIRI DISTRICT

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Abstract

The present study is focused about the Kattunayakan tribes were residing in the Nilgiri district of the Gudalur and Pandalur taluks. Nilgiri district is the home land of particular indigenous tribes, and it's covered by the rich flora and fauna with greenery looks like charming. Languages are different from one tribe to another tribal people. Kattunayakan tribal language was named as Ghotra basha or Nama pasha. This particular tribal language is otherwise called as south Indian Dravidian Language. Their dialect is mixed with the Tamil, Malayalam, Telgu and Kannada. Tribal Languages are very to speak and spell their own language, read and write. But now tribes have written their languages in their written form they gave more importance to preserve their culture, tradition and language.

Keywords: Kattunayakan tribal language, written format, vowels, south Indian Dravidian Language.

1. Introduction

The Nilgiri region (called Neelamalai in Tamil and "Blue Mountains") in the ancient language of Sanskrit word Nilgiri province is being component from Tamil Nadu. This Nilgiri hills has been referred by the nickname a mountain queens. "The head of highlands locations" lies between 900 and 2636 meters from mean sea level. Each district's surface territory splits with roughly 65 percent thereof lying 1800–2500 meter from mean sea level along with the remaining 35% below that level of elevation. Humid weather prevails in this district. precipitation amounts vary among 950 - 1550 millimetres on annually. The administrative region that Nilgiri stands in the western hills towards the states far northwestern. The districts of Coimbatore, Kerala, & Karnataka encircle its Nilgiri division with their eastern, the western region, in addition northernmost sides, correspondingly. Udhagamandalam its Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly formerly met at the administrative centre for Nilgiris. Nilgiri district consist of six tribes such as Todas, Kotas, Irulas, Kurumbas, Paniyans and Kattunayakan. Those above mentioned six tribes had a specific language that the language is spoken by the tribal peoples in Nilgiri district. The whole region occupies 2,544 sq. km in terms overall landmass. Considering fact 56% of the entire Nilgiri District exists in woodland makes it stand out from other districts. The Nilgiris represents an insignificant region belonging to the Western Ghats that lies among latitudes 11010 - 11045 North as well as longitudes 76014 - 7702 East. The territory possesses arduous, moving nature. The achievement along with disappointment of agricultural products including potatoes, cabbage, tea, coffee, spices, other fruits affect the market as a whole within the Nilgiris, that's essentially a farming region.¹ As per 2011 census

report mention the population of (PTGs) in the Nilgiri district in taluk wise can be tabulated under below tabular column.

Table- 1
The Taluk wise distribution of General Population and Scheduled Tribes
Population in the Nilgiri District

SI. No	Taluks	General Population	ST Population
1	Panthalur	125931	10897
2	Gudalur	104768	6616
3	Udhagamandalam	191960	6113
4	Kotagiri	108684	6312
5	Coonoor	157744	2354
6	Kundah	46307	521
	Total	735394	32813

Sources Taken From: Tribal Research Centre M. Palada, Ooty

2. Origin of the Kattunayakan Tribes and their over view

The Gudalur and Pandalur belongs dwelling among the Kattunaickans from the Nilgiri region. People carry by the names Jenu or Tenu Kurumans while Kadu or Shola Nayakans likewise. They're represent the Nayakans (administrators) who govern the *kattu or Kadu*(forest), as implied by their title. People identify themselves as autochons living in the Western Ghats region. Their lives have been proposed become the contemporary equivalents from the legendary Kurumbas (Pallavas), which ruled southern India until the chola, Kongu and chalukya rulers vanquished these people during the 7th century BC. Plenty of additional designations for Kattunayakan, including Kattunaickan, kattu naickan, kattu naicken, Kadu kurumba, as well as Jenu kurumba. People spoke an indigenous language known as Kurumba that combines Tamil, the Malayalam and Kannada terminologyⁱⁱ.

3. Kattunayakan and their Linguistics

The Kattunaickan dialect, also known people *namma basha or Gotra basha*, an oral tradition recognized as part from the southern Dravidian linguistic family. Subsequently incorporates characteristics from Tamil and Malayalam, however thus the, similarities to another Dravidian culture vocabulary, Kannada respectively. But Kannada predominates within the vernacular; numerous personas along with phrases related to royalty being primarily borrowed through Kannada, Malayalam, and Tamil. Most of these individuals have familiarity in Kannadaⁱⁱⁱ.

Despite this, Naickens throughout particular communities generally pronounce clearly the way they utilize typically when relating to non-Naiken neighbour's; likewise, the speech people prefer when interacting with those who live nearby alongside their environment influences their distinctive slang. Therefore, they're slight regional variances within the percentage for the Malayalam and Tamil terms added towards terminology who draws primarily from Kannada among regions but also within localities within the identical ethnic group^{iv}.

Vowles

They're 9 vowels phonetic sounds, and the ones that resemble Malayalam vowels were a, i, u, and o. The three criteria nasalized sounds through Kattunaickan are a, e, and u (such as

combination). This distinction through nasalized along with non-nasalized letters can be clearly observed through the expression's *ava*= he and *ava*= she, which are therefore unique phonics. By contradiction to 'a' and 'e' demonstrations, such as *akka* meaning older sister, *dakki* meaning bird, *ettu* meaning bullock, also *dtta* meaning grandfather, Kattunaickan comprises an unrevived centre vowels (d) phrase.

During Kattunaickan, the implosive C from Malayalam replaces for the odd or d3 pronunciation. For example, from Malayalam languages *celavu - tselavu* = expense, *kuttukar - doztukkara* - companions. As Kattunaikka, the expression for the beginning P for Malayalam—which corresponds with the 'h' from Kannada—is omitted:

Table – 2

Words Pronunciation in the Kattunaickan Language in Malayalam, Kannda, Kattnaikkan Language

Malayalam	Kannada	Kattunaikka	Meaning
Palaya	Hale	Ale	Old
Pennu	Hennu	Ennu	Girl
Pokayila	Hoge	Oge	Tobacco
Pozha	Hole	Ole	Stream

Sources Taken from: Tribal Research centre M. Palada, Ooty

4. Phonemic Catalogue of the Kattunayakan Linguistic

The understanding of sonic organization, or phonological knowledge, encompasses the list underlying noises, specific audible characteristics, including principles who define when tones collaborate with one another. The phonic vocabulary consists of each pronunciation made in the dialect under consideration. For example, location, mode, pronunciation, multi-dimensional framework, cover divisions when outdoors using grammatical characteristics, respectively. The Kattunayakan Phonic list is mentioned below.

Table – 4

Monophthong Symbols of Kattunayakan

	Front	Central	Back
High	ii;		u u;
Mid	e e;		o o;
Low	-	aa;	-

five small vowels (i/, e, /a./ u, / o, /), a total of five lengthy vowels (i: /, e:/, a:/, u:/, o:/), together with a nasalized vowel (/ e/) make up the alphabetical system used among this people.

Table 4: Kattunayaka Vowels in Initial, Medieval and Final positions

Sl. No.	Vowels (short & long)	KN Word initial			Meaning	KN Word medial			Meaning	KN Word final			Meaning
		1978	2011	2017		1978	2015	2017		1978	2011	2017	
1	/i:/	/idu/	/idu/	/itu/	'This'	/hid̪i/	/hid̪i/	/pit̪i/	'Hold'	/kuɖi/	/kuɖi/	/kuɖi/	'Drink'
2.	/i:/	/i:ga/	/i:ɖɖa:nu/	/i:ɖe/	'Here'	/mi:nu/	/mi:n/	/mi:nə/	'Fish'	-	-	-	-
3.	/e/	/ella:/	/ella:/	/ella:/	'All'	/kɛt̪a/	/kɛt̪a/	/kɛt̪a/	'Bad'	/ne:re/	/ne:re/	/ne:re/	'Straight'
4.	/e:/	/e:llam/	/e:llam/	/e:llam/	'Cardamom'	(1) /ke:lu/	/ke:lu/	/ke:lkə/	'Hear'	/avve:/	/avve:/	/avve:/	'Mother'
5.	/a/	/alla/	/alla/	/alla/	'Not'	(1) /kallu/	/kallu/	/kallə/	'Stone'	/agala/	/agala/	/agale/	'Wide'
6.	/a:/	/a:tu/	/a:tu/	/a:tu/	'Play'	(1) /ka:lu/	/ka:lu/	/ka:lə/	'Leg'	/ba:/	/ba:/	/va:/	'Come'
7.	/u/	/uppu/	/uppu/	/uppə/	'Salt'	/kuɖi/	/kuɖi/	/kuɖi/	'Drink'	/adu/	/adu/	/atu/	'That'
8.	/u:/	/u:tu/	/u:tu/	/u:tu/	'Swell'	/ku:ɖu/	/ku:ɖu/	/ku:ɖu/	'Nest'	(1) /hu:/	/hu:vu/	(1) /hu/	'Flower'
										(2) /hau/	(2) /pu:/	(2) /pu:/	
9.	/o/	/ondu/	/ondu/	/ondu/	'One'	/hoge/	/hoge/	(1) /poge/	'Smoke'	-	-	/varumo/	'Can you come?'
10	/o:/	/o:tu/	/o:tu/	/o:tu/	'Tile'	/no:ɖu/	/no:ɖu/	/no:kku/	'See'	-	-	-	-
11	/ə/		-	/əakki:/	'Bird'	/nəlli/	/nəlli/	/nəlli/	'Crab'	/kallu/	/kallu/	/kalla/	'Toddy'

Sources Taken from:(1). Unpublished thesis ‘Phonemic reconstruction of Kattunayakan, Kannada and Malayalam, Department of Linguistics, UOK- 1978. (2) ‘Research Publication Series, Vol-II ‘, Kirtads – 2011.

When analysing the order of both vowels and consonants within the Kattunayakan syllables mentioned previously, one will notice an evolution. Generally speaking, there isn't any transformation regarding the phonemes /i:/ within the scenario with the starting /i:/; nevertheless, verbs which include 'This' - /idu/ > /itu/; 'That' - /adu/ > /atu/ and 'Hold' - /hidi/ > /piti/ have an alteration from voicing alveolar /d/ > silent alveolar /t/. After this sentence 'Here' - i: ga/ > / i: dda: nu/ > / i: de/ between intervals, that implies a propensity towards turn through voicing velar /g/ to sounded bent backward /d/.

The concept of "fish" possesses a letter move from /u/, a backward, closed circular vowel, into /mi: nu/ > mi: n/ > mi: nə/, and short-mind middle vocal. /Ke: lu/ within the text "Hear" was altered become /ke: lkke/. There, /u/ has been eliminated as well as replaced by /kk/+ /e/ (cluster + centre, halfway open, half-close, neutrality lips posture vowel). The first phonetic /h>/p/, or /pohe/, underlying the word "smoke" (/hoge/) is the shift from pharynx spirant /h/ through made using both lips inaudible /p/. The effect that surrounding terminology that are remaining in use possibly contributed an abrupt evolution of the speech over decades in Kattunayakan. This is a phonics list for paired terms both Malayalam and Kannada that can be used for deciding the relevant aspect. Such a distinct and unmistakable proof of the modification should be observed^v.

Table – 6
Split of vowels in Beginning Medieval and Last Position

S l. N o.	Vo wel s (sh ort & lon g)	Word initial			Mean ing	Word medial			Mea ning	Word final			Mea ning
		KN	Ka	Ma.		KN	Ka.	Ma.		KN	Ka.	Ma.	
1	/i/	(1)/ idu/ (2)/ itu/	/id u/	/itu /	‘This’	/hidʒi/ /hi dʒi/	/hi dʒi/	/piti/	‘Hol d’	/kuɖ i/	/ku dʒi/	/kuʃi /	‘Dri nk’
2.	/i:/	/i:g a/	/i:g a/	-	‘Here’	/mi:n u/	/mi :n/	/mi: nə/	‘Fis h’	-	-	-	-
3.	/e/	/ell a:/	/ell a:/	/ell a:m /	‘All’	/kettə /	/ke ttə/	/kett a/	‘Bad ’	/ne:r e/	/ne :re/	/ne:r e/	‘Stra ight’
4.	/e:/	/e:ll am/	-	/e:ll am/	‘Card amom ’	(1)/ke :lu/ (2)/ke :lkkə/ /	/ke :lu/	/ke:l kku/	‘Hea r’	/avv e:/	/av ve: /	-	‘Mot her’
5.	/a/	/all a/	/all a/	/all a/	‘Not’	(1)/ka llu/	/ka llu/	/ kall ə/	‘Sto ne’	/agal a/	/ag ala/	(1)/a gala/ (2)/a gale/	‘Wi de’
6.	/a:/	/a:t u/	/a:t u/	/a:d u	‘Play’	(1)/ka :lu/ (2) /ka:lə / /	/ka :lu/	/ka:l ə/	‘Leg ’	/ba:/	/ba :/	/va:/	‘Co me’
7.	/u/	/up pu/	/up pu/	/up pə/	‘Salt’	/kuɖi/	/ku dʒi/	/kuʃi /	‘Dri nk’	/adu /	/ad u/	/atu/ /	‘Tha t’
8.	/u:/	/u: tu/	/u: tu/	/u: tu/	‘Swell ’	/Ku: tu/	/gu : ɖu/	/Ku: tu/	‘Nes t’	(1)/h u: /	/hu :vu /	/hu/ /	‘Flo wer’

9.	/o/	/on du/	/on du/	/on nu/	‘One’	/hoge /	/ho ge/	(1)/ pog e/ (2)/ pug a/	‘Sm oke’	-	-	/var umo /	‘Can you com e?’
1 0	/o:/	/o:ɽ u/	/o: ɽu/	/o: ɽu/	‘Tile’	/no: ɽu/	/no :ɽu /	/no: kku/	‘See ’	-	-	-	-
1 1	/ə/	/əa kki: /	-	-	‘Bird’	/nə i/	-	-	‘Cra b’	(1)/k allə/ (2)/k allu/	-	/kall ə/	‘Tod dy’

Sources taken from:(Source: (1). Unpublished thesis ‘Phonemic reconstruction of Kattunayakan, Kannada and Malayalam, Department of Linguistics, UOK-1978. (2) ‘Research Publication Series. Vol-II.’, Kirtads- 2011 (3) Field study at Kattunayakan colonies in Southern Wayanad – 2017

Table -7

Kattunayakan tribal languages days

Days in English	Days in Kattunayakan Language
Sunday	Gnaraachia
Monday	Thingalacicha
Tuesday	Chevvaicha
Wednesday	Bhuthnazcha
Thursday	Piyalcha
Friday	Velliyalcha
Saturday	Sanyalzhcha

Sources Taken from: Field Survey

Table -8

Colours in the Kattunayakan Language

Colours in English	Colours in Kattunayakan Language
Red	Bock
Blue	Neelum
Green	Poech
Yellow	Harjin
Orange	Orange
White	Belth
Black	Karth

Sources Taken from: Field Survey

Table -9
Taste in the Kattunayakan Language

Taste in English	Taste in the Kattunayakan Language
Sweet	Thichithi
Spicy(or) Chilly	Pethi
Bitter	Kosthi
Sour	Pilsthi
Salty	Kosth

Sources Taken from: Field Survey

Table- 10
Water Animals words in the Kattunayakan Language

Water Animals in English words	Water animals in kattunayakan language
Donkey	Kazhuthae
Goat	Aadu
Horse	Kuthirae
Pig	Panri
Rabbit	Monnaa
Sheep	Koriya

Sources Taken from: Field Survey

Table-11
General word Kattunayakan Language

General words in the English	Kattunayakan
Kitchen	Adukkuli Manai
Bathroom	Neermeva Manai
Chair	Kasarea
Table	Maesai
Cot	Kattilu
Window	Jannal
Door	Pakkilu
Key	Thaakolu
Blanket	Kambali
Pillow	Thalakadakkai
Bed spread	Berri
Blanket	Kambali
Cradle	Thottil

Cupboard	Paraa
Almirah	Alamari
Pot	Madakkae
Candle	Melugu thiri
Watch	Watchu
Mirror	Kannadi
Tumbler	Kilaas
Light	Polukku
Paper	Kallasa Pencil
Eraser	Rubber
Mat	Paai Manthaari
Toy	Pommea
Bucket	Bucket
Nail cutter	Oguru Morippathu
Beetle	Elae
Lime stone	Sunna
Milk	Hal
Curd	Thayiru
Butter milk	Majjiga
Butter	Pennae
Salt	Uppu
Sugar	Pansaarra
Jaggery	Bella
Tamarind	Huli
Powder	Hudi
Comb	Seepu

Sources Taken from: Field Survey

Table - 12

Ornaments in the Kattunayakan Language

Ornaments words in the English Language	Ornaments Words in the Kattunayakan Language
Chain	Maalay
Earing	Kammalu
Anklet	Kal Chein
Nose pin	Mookkupottu
Bangle	Balai
Bindhi	Pottu
Sandal	Kalambam
Kumkum	Kongumaa

Sources Taken from: Field Survey

Table- 13

Vegetables words in the Kattunayakan Language

Vegetable name in the English	Vegetable names in the Kattunayakan Language
Potato	Urulai Kalsu
Ladies finger	Bendal kaai
Tomato	Thakkali
Big onion	Dhotta Ulli
Small onion	Chinna Ulli
Beans	Avarae
Drumstick	Hatchae Manasu
Raw mango	Beetroot
Radish	Murungaekkaai
Curry leaves	Maavukkai
Coriander leaves	Koth Muri Soppu
Cabbage	Muttakkosu
Snake Guard	Podalangaai
Dry Chilly	Ottu Manasu
Raw Banana	Konekkai

Sources taken from: Field survey

Table - 14

Water Animals words in the Kattunayakan Language

Water Animals words in English	Water Animals words in the Kattunayakan Language
Crab	Nelli
Crocodile	Mothalai
Fish	Meenu
Frog	Kappae
Turtle	Aavae

Sources taken: Field Survey

Table- 15

Insect's words in the Kattunayakan Language

Insect's words in English	Insect's words in the Kattunayakan Language
Mosquito	Sollae
Worm	Huzhu
Honeybee	Thenkunni
House fly	Nonann
Grasshopper	Mittaa

Ant	Urumbhu
Butterfly	Hore
Spider	Selanthi
Caterpillar	Kambili Hulu
Leach	Attai
Lizard	Hallai
Bug	Mootapoochi
Earthworm	Man Hulu
Louse	Paen

Sources taken from: Field Survey

Table – 16

Parts of the Body in the Kattunayakan Language

Parts of the Body in the English	Parts of the Body in the kattunayakan language
Eye	Kannu
Eyebrow	Kannu peeri
Ear	Kivvi
Forehead	Hane
Hair	Ellae
Nose	Mookku
Mouth	Baai
Tooth	Hellu
Tongue	Nalaegae
Lip	Thudi
Cheek	Jadae
Face	Mokkae
Throat	Thondae
Neck	Gaththu
Skin	Sakkala/ Thoolu
Hand	Kai
Finger	Kai Pottu
Stomach	Hottae
Navel	Hokkittoe
Hip	Peri
Thigh	Hardu
Leg	Kaalu
Foot	Kaalpada
Toe	Kaal sakkala

Sources taken from: Field survey

7. Conclusion

The inherent relationship between Kannada and the Malayalam while somewhat influential, has little effect over the Kattunayakan vernacular. Dravidian grammar and the grammatical characteristics of the Kattunayakan tongue are quite similar. "Kattunayakan speaking generally identical to Kannada, excepting with its use from Malayalam on some elements" (somasekharan Nair, 1992). The current research indicates the generalization of the modifications is primarily caused by the interaction of Kattunayakan by native language Kannada and local Malayalam. Certain modifications that are common between youth, but rare in senior citizens and middle-aged individuals.

- Being multilingualism or proficient in both languages.
- Areas of communication
- Demographic
- Speech and mindset
- Lack of awareness

Whereas the phonological array for vowels was the primary focus of the present inquiry, the shifts and losses that follows the structure of each vowel were explored as well. Particularly impactful tactics are studied with the indigenous tongue of the Kattunayakan. For contrast to Kannada, Malayalam was first with modifying its way of living, dialects, and perspectives with the aim for others. The vast majority the time, this occurred unintentionally. Such as in the middle decades and youngsters. As broadly, people have a reserved personality but were extremely confident. People speak in their hometown and among themselves with no taking the surroundings into account. Actually, expected for knowing hold a spot and requirements within the cultural context to which people are connected, despite have a lack of awareness of who they really? How much power must individuals have? What privileges do they have? They have no concern with losing their roots from aboriginal languages. Individuals feel worried with their alimentary well-being. Simply put this briefly, language destruction additionally arises as a result of the Kattunayakan speech.

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