A
KANARESE GRAMMAR

With Graduated Exercises

BY

HAROLD SPENCER, B.A.

REVISED BY

W. PERSTON, B.D.

PREFACE

The revision of 'Spencer's Grammar' was undertaken some years ago at the request of the Rev. H. H. Newham, at that time General Superintendent of the Methodist Missionary Society in Mysore State, the Mission Press having published the original edition, as also its predecessor, the 'Elementary Grammar' of the Rev. Thomas Hodson (1859). The work could not be taken up at once and has had to be done in oddments of time. When it was decided to make a revision, it was agreed to make it fairly thorough that it might reflect, to some extent at least, the changes which have taken place in written and spoken Kanarese as a result of the notable literary renascence of the period since this grammar was written. The year after Mr. Spencer's book was published, that is, 1915, is commonly regarded as marking the appearance of a new interest in the history of Kanarese literature and a new effort to make the language an effective medium of expression in the modern world. This was the year of the establishment of the Kannaḍa Sāhitya Parishat, the Kanarese Literary Academy. As fruit of the labours of the founders of the Academy and their coadjutors great changes have been wrought in the language as popularly written and spoken. The movement represented a reaction away from a highly Sanskritized style of writing, a style of resounding compound words, ornate figures and labyrinthine sentences, and towards the natural idiom of Kannada as found in old ballads and folk tales. Its result is seen in substantial literary achievement of considerable variety. From the point of view of language the consequence has been to forge a fresh style for popular writing and journalism, as also for factual statements in history and branches of modern knowledge. Characteristic words and idioms have been restored to use which undeservedly had been allowed to lapse.

No change has been made in the general form of Mr. Spencer's book. The features which distinguished the first edition are retained, namely, the graded exercises in translation and a certain amount of exposition. The transliteration of

Kannada words in Roman letters which characterized the first edition throughout, has been abandoned after the first three lessons, except in the case of technical terms of grammar. A chapter has been added on the forms of Kanarese correspondence as an aid to those who take the language examinations appointed for missionaries.

Of the colleagues whose opinion Mr. Spencer was able to obtain during the composition of his book none remains in the country. Mr. Spencer was good enough to send from England a series of notes he had made. The opinion of the colleagues who have taken the place of those whose names were quoted in the original preface has been elicited from time to time on various points. Pandit K. Hanumanta Rao has been consulted on doubtful matters.

As in the composition of this work, so in its revision, the old and standard grammars have been used, Dr. Kittel's edition of Śabdamaṇidarpaṇa, his own grammar based on that, the Hosagannaḍanuḍigannaḍi of Krishṇamāchārya (1838) together with Dr. Kittel's monumental dictionary. So also more recent books such as the University of Mysore Kannada Keipiḍi, the Śālāvyākaraṇa of the Basel Mission Press, Śabdādarśa, the Madhyama Vyākaraṇa of Mr. T. N. Srikantaiya, and others, have been consulted. An occasional illustrative example has been taken from these works. It is hoped that no breach of rights or etiquette has taken place which may not be met by grateful acknowledgment.

Acknowledgments are due to my assistants in the Diocesan Office for clerical and other help, as also to our Kannada Literature Department and the management of the Wesley Press for exemplary patience.

<div align="right">W. P.</div>

Bangalore,
April, 1950

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Page 6, col. 2, third letter, read "ı" for "ı".

" 10, footnote 1, for ŗ read r.

" 13, third line from bottom, read ṛī for ṛi.

" 16, right hand column, read ṭhṛi for ṭhri and ṛi throughout the column.

" 17, left hand column; read ṭhṛī for ṭhrī and ṛi throughout the column.

" 18, in jnāpaka long a has got detached from ಜ್ಞ ; the form should be ಜ್ಞಾ ; *cf.* the footnote.

" 48, small type para, after "plural", read comma for stop and the small letter for the capital in "If".

" 56, footnote, read "samśaya rūpa" for "samśa yarūpa."

" 121, line 11, the subscript ತ್ in ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೀ has got broken.

" 126, footnote one, add "For other exceptions, see p. 300."

" 145, add to the paragraph ins mall type: "See further on this subject footnote on p. 338."

" 154, Vocabulary, under ಕೊಂಬೆ; for "pron. and", read "and pron."

" 161, footnote 5, for (n.) read (1 n.).

" 165, footnote 1, last line, for the semicolon read a comma.

" 166, footnote 8, remove the stop after "Past".

" 223, footnote 4, read "ನಿಜ true, truth (1 n.)".

" 227, 9th line from bottom of page, after "ಅಲ್ಲ he is not" read "(ಹೌದು, yes, he is)". In the following line after "no" read "not ours (ಹೌದು yes, ours)".

" 230, small type para, delete "etc.", at end.

" 246, footnote 6, for "n." read "m.".

" 248, sixth line from bottom, read ṣ for t.

" 285, footnote 3, read "see" for "sec".

" 347, footnote 2 to be read thus: ಕರುಣ pitiable; ಕರುಣಾ (*Kan.* ಕರುಣೆ) pity; delete footnote 12.

ABBREVIATIONS

A (in 3A) for the 3A declension
acc., accusative case
adj., adjective
adjctvl., adjectival
adv., adverb
advbl., adverbl., adverbial
alt., alternative
B (in 3B), the 3B declension
c. (cum), with
cf., compare
conj., conjugation
    conjunction
cont., contingent
dat., dative case
decl., declension
e.g., for example
ex., example
emph., emphatic
f., feminine
fut., future
gen., genitive case
honfc., honorific
i.e., that is
impv., imperat., imperv., imperative
    mood
inf., infin., infinitive mood
instr., instrumental case
intr., intrans., intransitive (verb)

interj., interjection
interr., interrog., interrogative
irreg., irregular
Kan., Kanarese
loc., locative case
m., masculine
n., neut., neuter
neg., negative
nom., nominative case
p., page
partc., ptc., ptcp., participle
ptcpl., participial
pf., perf., perfect
pers., person
plu., plural
postp., postposition
pref., prefix
pres., present
pro., pron., pronoun
redupl., reduplication
rel., relative
s., sing., singular
Sk. (Skt.), Sanskrit
tad., tdb., tadbhava
tr., transitive (verb)
vbl., verbal
voc., vocative case

CONTENTS

———

CHAPTER III

CHAPTER IV

KANARESE GRAMMAR

INTRODUCTION

KANARESE GRAMMATICAL USAGES CONTRASTED WITH ENGLISH

This handbook is designed for the use of those who desire to learn the modern form of Kannaḍa (*anglice* Kanarese), their own mother tongue being English. The obvious initial obstacle in this endeavour is that of acquiring an accurate pronunciation of the words of the language. And here Kanarese does present considerable difficulty to a foreigner who knows no other Indian language. It may be hoped that, when the work of the Phonetics Association of the Mysore University has been more fully developed, there will be a possibility of affording a clear and accurate account of Kanarese pronunciation such as would form a reliable guide to a foreign student; but that time is not yet. In the paragraphs which follow, the roman alphabet, pointed where necessary, is used to indicate Kanarese sounds. This use is explained in Lesson I. But all such suggestions as are there made amount to no more than an approximate indication of the proper sounds. A passable pronunciation can only be achieved with the help of someone whose mother tongue is Kanarese.

When the pronunciation difficulty has been partly overcome it is important that as soon as possible a beginning be made in the use of such sentences as may be learnt. To help make such use intelligent and to facilitate the acquisition of fresh sentences, certain features of Kanarese grammatical usage which make it differ from English are here discussed in a preliminary way.

Take the Kanarese sentence ಅಣ್ಣನು ತಂಗಿಗೆ ಬಳೆಯನ್ನು ಬೇಗನೆ ತರುವನು, *aṇṇa (nu) taṅgi (ge) baḷe [y] (annu) bēgane taruvanu.*[1] Translated literally, it says, '(The) elder-brother to (his) younger-sister (a) bangle quickly will bring.'[2] In the Kanarese sentence there is nothing in the order of the subject, the indirect and direct objects which calls for comment, as it corresponds with the normal English order. The adverb, as in English, is brought as near to the verb it modifies as the sense will allow; but here a difference comes to view. In Kanarese, the adverb practically never follows the verb it modifies, in the English fashion, but precedes it. This is connected with the general rule in Kanarese that the finite verb closes the sentence.

In the transliteration above, the letter in square brackets may be disregarded, for the present. It is one of a few letters which, for the sake of euphony, are inserted between the crude forms of words and grammatical endings. The letters in the small brackets are case endings. They here stand for the fact that, in formal Kanarese, practically all nouns and pronouns in sentences have case endings.

The word ಅಣ್ಣನು *aṇṇa (nu)*, above, must be translated '*the* elder brother', and ಬಳೆಯನ್ನು *baḷe [y] (annu)*, '*a* bangle'. It is to be noted that Kanarese has neither definite nor indefinite article. In the Kanarese sentence above the nouns themselves convey a complete and clear meaning; but in some sentences the sense of the indefinite article of English is represented by the numeral adjective ಒಂದು *ondu* (n.), ಒಬ್ಬ *obba* (m. and f.), 'one', and the definite article by the demonstrative adjective ಆ *ā*, 'that', 'those', or ಈ *ī*, 'this', 'these'. This is easy to understand as 'the' is a demonstrative adjective like 'that' and 'this', and 'an' or 'a' is just a shortened form of 'one'.

Attention has already been drawn to the adverb ಬೇಗನೆ *bēgane*.

---

[1] With reference to these transliterations it ought to be noticed that in Kanarese writing no letter is ever silent (the units in a doubled consonant are no exception), and this applies to the transliteration.

[2] A vocabulary is given below.

Its ending shows that it is an adverb and, generally speaking, a Kanarese adverb will always show that it is such by one of a number of endings such as, ಅಗೆ *age*, ಅನೆ *ane* and, especially, ಆಗಿ *āgi*. But in Kanarese it is not only words which English regards as adverbs that take the adverbial ending. Nouns and adjectives which complete the sense of a verb and are used, as we say, predicatively also have the adverbial ending. For example, the sentence, 'The boy grows tall', is rendered ಹುಡುಗನು ಎತ್ತರವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಾನೆ *huḍuga(nu) ettara[v]āgi beḷeyuttāne*.

Here the word for 'tall' is adverbial in form. So in sentences where the verb 'to be' occurs with a noun or adjective complement, the complement, according to Kanarese usage, will take adverbial form. 'That flower is red' is translated ಆ ಹೂವು ಕೆಂಪಗೆ ಇದೆ *ā hū [v] (u) kempage*[1] *ide*.

In colloquial speech, the verb 'to be', thus used as a copulative, is often omitted and with it the adverbial ending of the predicative noun or adjective. Thus we may say ಆ ಹೂವು ಕೆಂಪು *ā hūvu kempu*. Examples of this usage are to be found on page 21.

Let us add a short sentence to our first example : ಬಳೆಯನ್ನು ತರುವ ಅಣ್ಣನು ಅದನ್ನು ಚಾಪೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಇಡುವನು *baḷe [y] (annu) taruva aṇṇa (nu) adannu*[2] *chāpe [y] (a) mēle iḍuvanu*, 'The elder-brother who brings the bangle will place it on the mat.' Here, the word *taruva*, 'who brings'[3], represents a grammatical form which is peculiar to the family of languages to which Kanarese belongs. It is called a relative participle. There are no relative pronouns in Kanarese. The relative participle includes in itself the sense of both the relative pronoun and the finite verb of an English adjectival clause. It is participial in form and, as an adjective, qualifies the word which in English grammar would be the antecedent. Analogies are not wanting in English. If we speak of a policy as 'forward-looking' or a sound as 'ear-splitting', the two participles are equivalent to 'which looks' and 'which

---

[1] In this word the final *u* of the crude form *kempu*, 'redness', is elided on the addition of the adverbial ending *age*. Such elision of final *u* is very common.

[2] *adu*, 'it', with the acc. ending *annu*.   [3] Or 'which brings'.

splits'. 'Battle-scarred' is an example of similar use of the past participle. The relative participle covers the sense of such instances along with all the constructions in which English uses relative pronouns and relative adverbs. It has other uses also. These are discussed in Lessons XXVI and XXVII; but it is as well to accustom the mind to the form as soon as possible.

The sentence above illustrates the fact, also, that, in Kanarese, the place of what in English are called prepositions is taken by 'postpositions'. That is, the particles which govern nouns and pronouns (in Kanarese chiefly in the genitive case) come after the words they govern and not before. Thus ಮೇಲೆ *mēle*, 'on', comes after ಚಾಪೆ *chāpe*, 'mat'.

Our original sentence might have been written: ಅಣ್ಣನು ತಂಗಿಗೆ ಬಳೆಯನ್ನು ತಂದು ಕೊಡುವನು *anna (nu) tangi (ge) bale [y] (annu) tandu koḍuvanu*, 'The elder-brother will bring and give a bangle to his younger-sister.' But the form ತಂದು *tandu*, which is here translated 'will bring' is a past participle and so means, 'having brought'. The illustration is chosen for the sake of the observation that a Kanarese sentence rarely tolerates more than one finite verb. One verb in the sentence only will be finite in form. Verbs which, in English, would be co-ordinate with it are put in the form of the past participle. As if we said, in English, 'The brother having brought will give'.

Other points in which Kanarese usage differs from English are, (a) the use in Kanarese of ಎಂದು *endu*, the past participle of the verb ಎನ್ನು *ennu*, 'say', at the end of speech directly reported and in certain similar situations, and (b) the Negative Mood of the Kanarese verb. The former point is dealt with in Lesson XXXVII; a simple example is, ಬೇಡ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದನು *bēḍa endu hēḷidanu*, 'he said, "(you) must not"'. ಬೇಡ *bēḍa*, ಬಾರದು *bāradu*, ಸಾಲದು *sāladu*, ಕೂಡದು *kūḍadu* in Exercise I (p. 15), are examples of the Negative Mood. The use of the mood is not very common in conversation, except in the above and a few other words.

Another difference between English and Kanarese is that in the latter, when addressing persons, and even with reference to people not present, the singular number can only be used in the case of juniors and servants (Lesson XVII).

Words used above
(The Pronunciation must be learned from a Munshi)

ಅಣ್ಣ *anna*, elder brother
ತಂಗಿ *tangi*, younger sister
ಬಳೆ *bale*, bangle
ಬೇಗನೆ *bēgane*, quickly
ತರುವನು *taruvanu*, he will bring
ಒಂದು *ondu* (n.) ಒಬ್ಬ *obba* (m. and f.), one
ಆ *ā*, that, those (adj.)
ಈ *ī*, this, these (adj.)
ಹುಡುಗ *huḍuga*, boy
ಎತ್ತರ *ettara*, height
ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಾನೆ *beḷeyuttāne*, he grows
ಹೂ *hū*, flower
ಕೆಂಪು *kempu*, redness
ಕೆಂಪಗೆ *kempage*, red (adv.)
ಇದೆ *ide*, it is
ತರುವ *taruva*, which brings

ಅದನ್ನು *adannu*, it (acc.)
ಚಾಪೆ *chāpe*, mat
ಮೇಲೆ *mēle*, on
ಇಡುವನು *iḍuvanu*, he will place
ತಂದು *tandu*, having brought
ಕೊಡುವನು *koḍuvanu*, he will give
ಎನ್ನು *ennu*, say
ಎಂದು *endu*, having said
ಬೇಡ *bēḍa*, it is not wanted (must not)
ಹೇಳಿದನು *hēḷidanu*, he said
ಬಾರದು *bāradu*, it is not becoming (must not)
ಸಾಲದು *sāladu*, it is not sufficient
ಕೂಡದು *kūḍadu*, it is not fitting (must not)

Endings: nom. ಸು *nu*, and ಉ *u*
acc. ಅನ್ನು *annu*, (all decls.)
dat. ಗೆ *ge*
gen. ಅ *a*
advbl. ಆಗಿ *āgi*, ಆಗೆ *age*, ಆನೆ *ane*

The Kanarese Alphabet

Vowels[1]

Kanarese Signs	Approximate Phonetic Equivalents	Commonly used in Transliteration	Kanarese Signs	Approximate Phonetic Equivalents	Commonly used in Transliteration
ಅ	ʌ or ə	*a*	ಋೂ		*ṛī* or *r̄*
ಆ	aː	*ā*	ಎ	e	*e*
ಇ	ı	*i*	ಏ	eː	*ē*
ಈ	iː	*ī*	ಐ	əi	*ai*
ಉ	u	*u*	ಒ	o	*o*
ಊ	uː	*ū*	ಓ	oː	*ō*
ಋ		*ṛi* or *ṛ*	ಔ	əu	*au*

Consonants[2]

Kanarese Signs	Approximate Phonetic Equivalents	Commonly used in Transliteration	Kanarese Signs	Approximate Phonetic Equivalents	Commonly used in Transliteration
ಕ	k	*k*	ನ	n	*n*
ಖ	kh	*kh*	ಪ	p	*p*
ಗ	g	*g*	ಫ	ph	*ph*
ಘ	gh	*gh*	ಬ	b	*b*
ಙ	ŋ	*ṅ* or *ng*	ಭ	bh	*bh*
ಚ	tɕ	*ch* or *c*	ಮ	m	*m*
ಛ	tɕh	*chh* or *ch*	ಯ	j	*y*
ಜ	dʑ	*j*	ರ	r or ɾ	*r*
ಝ	dʑh	*jh*	ಲ	l	*l*
ಞ	ɲ	*ñ*	ವ	ʋ	*v*
ಟ	ṭ	*ṭ*	ಶ	ɕ	*ś*
ಠ	ṭh	*ṭh*	ಷ	ʂ	*sh* or *ṣ*
ಡ	ḍ	*ḍ*	ಸ	s	*s*
ಢ	ḍh	*ḍh*	ಹ	h	*h*
ಣ	ɳ	*ṇ*	ಳ	ɭ	*ḷ*
ತ	t	*t*			
ಥ	th	*th*	ಂ		*ṁ* (transliterated *ṅ, ñ, ṇ* and *n* before consonants of the ಕ, ಚ, ಟ and ತ groups)
ದ	d	*d*			
ಧ	dh	*dh*	ಃ	h	*ḥ*

[1] For the secondary forms of the vowels see p. 13.
[2] For the secondary forms of the consonants see pp. 18, 19.

CHAPTER I

LESSON I

The Alphabet

As will be seen from the table opposite there are in the Kanarese alphabet fourteen vowels, thirty-four consonants and two other letters. We shall consider the pronunciation of the various letters briefly.

With reference to **Kanarese vowels** it is to be noted that they take their character not only from the position in the mouth where they are sounded but also from the presence or absence of prolongation. Amongst English vowels the varieties of *a* in 'stand' and 'star' differ in sound but not necessarily in the time they take to pronounce; but as between ಅ and ಆ there is not only a (slight) difference of sound but the long letter is invariably prolonged in pronunciation. That is the significance of the sign : attached to long vowels on the opposite page.

There is no Kanarese vowel sound which has an exact equivalent in English.

ಅ The *a* in 'about' (phonetic ə) and *u* in 'but' (ʌ) have both been suggested as equivalents. Both sounds are heard. The latter is nearer the normal Kanarese pronunciation but the Kanarese sound is made with the tongue slightly lower than in the English. The former sound (ə) is heard in a word like ಸರಿ *sari*, 'right', where the pronunciation of ಅ *a* approaches the sound of ಎ *e*. The tendency to variation may be illustrated in the fact that some Kanarese words have two forms, in one of which ಎ *e* takes the place of ಅ *a*; e.g. ಚನ್ನು *channu* or ಚೆನ್ನು *chennu*, beauty and ಚಲ್ಲು *challu* or ಚೆಲ್ಲು *chellu*, scatter.

Is produced with the tongue lower still. It differs little from *a* in 'hard' or 'father'.

The vowel in 'it' or 'him' resembles the Kanarese vowel but is pronounced farther back in the mouth and with the tongue lower.

Closely resembles *ee* in 'seen' or *i* in 'machine'. It is produced with the tongue slightly higher than in the short vowel.

The *u* in 'put' or 'pull' is produced not so far back as the Kanarese vowel and with the tongue in a lower position.

The long vowel is pronounced with the tongue in a slightly higher position than in the short vowel. It is near to the sound of *ue* in 'rue' or *oo* in 'moon'.

It may be doubted whether these are true vowels. Syllabic consonants would be a better name. The nearest suggestion that can be made for their pronunciation is that of a trilled *r* joined with a very close short *u*, with lip spreading.

The *e* in 'men', though produced with the tongue slightly lower, is practically equivalent to this vowel.

Is pronounced with the tongue slightly higher than in the short vowel. It resembles *a* in 'mate' or *ey* in 'they'; but whereas the English sound is a diphthong (*ei*) the Kanarese vowel is pure.

This is almost equivalent to *i* in 'pine' or *ei* in 'height' (=*a*+*i*) but the Kanarese sound is best represented by əi. Perhaps every pure Kanarese word which now begins with ಐ once began with ಅಯ್ (*ay*).

The lengthening is the only distinction in sound between these two. The *o* in 'or' is produced with the tongue lower than in ಓ. ಓ resembles the vowel sound in 'sew'; but the English sound is a diphthong (*ou*) and is pronounced further forward in the mouth.

Kanarese grammar recognises this for a diphthong (ಅ+ಉ). The sound is approximately that of *ow* in 'now'. The English sound is best represented by *au*, the Kanarese sound by əu.

The Consonants

The thirty-four consonants are divided into twenty-five classified and nine unclassified consonants.

The classified consonants are divided into five groups, which represent sounds produced respectively in the throat, the palate, the roof of the mouth, the teeth and the lips. Each group contains five consonants, *viz.*, a voiceless consonant unaspirated and aspirated, a voiced consonant unaspirated and aspirated, and a nasal consonant.

In the table below, as on page 6, the consonants have the form which indicates that they are combined with the short vowel ಅ *a*, as is the custom in schools.

Groups	Voiceless		Voiced		Nasal
	Unaspirated	Aspirated	Unaspirated	Aspirated	
Guttural[1]	ಕ *k*	ಖ *kh*	ಗ *g*[2]	ಘ *gh*	ಙ *ṅ*[3]
Palatal[4]	ಚ *ch*[5]	ಛ *chh*	ಜ *j*	ಝ *jh*	ಞ *ñ*[6]
Cerebral[7]	ಟ *ṭ*	ಠ *ṭh*	ಡ *ḍ*	ಢ *ḍh*	ಣ *ṇ*
Dental	ತ *t*	ಥ *th*	ದ *d*	ಧ *dh*	ನ *n*
Labial[8]	ಪ *p*	ಫ *ph*	ಬ *b*	ಭ *bh*	ಮ *m*

[1] Or Velar, i. e. pronounced with the aid of the soft palate.
[2] Hard, as in 'good'.
[3] As *ng* in 'king'.
[4] Produced by the arched tongue in the palate just above the teeth.
[5] Resembling *ch* in 'chain'; but the English sound equals **t** plus ʃ (*sh* in 'ship') while the Kanarese sound is represented by **tɕ** (see the note on ಚ p. 11).
[6] With the sound of *ny*, as in 'canyon'.
[7] Or, according to current terminology, Retroflex.
[8] That is, bi-labial.

The unclassified consonants are—

ಯ *y*, ರ *r*[1], ಲ *l*, ವ *v*, ಶ *ś*, ಷ *sh*, ಸ *s*, ಹ *h*, ಳ *l*[2]

Note that as the vowel ಅ *a* is inherent in each of the forms in the above table, it would be more strictly correct to transliterate them by the syllables *ka*, *kha*, etc., than by the consonants *k*, *kh*, etc. The subject is referred to at greater length later.

Notes on the Pronunciation of the Consonants

1. In the pronunciation of the aspirated consonants, there is nothing to correspond to the English sounds represented by the combinations *th* and *ph* in 'thesis' and 'photo'. A Kanarese aspirate is the unaspirated sound with this difference that it is accompanied by a heavy out-breathing. If an attempt be made to pronounce such words as 'bulkhead', 'log-house', 'pit-head'[3] and 'tap-house' without pausing before the letter *h*, an approximation to the corresponding Kanarese aspirated consonants may be reached. The munshi should be asked to produce these sounds until the learner can recognize and reproduce them without hesitation.

2. The consonants of the cerebral or retroflex group and the unclassified consonants ಷ *sh* and ಳ *l* are pronounced with the tip of the tongue curled back and touching the roof of the mouth as far back from the front teeth as possible. Some English writers detect a likeness to *t*, *d* and *n* in the northern English pronunciation (i.e. with the rolled *r*) of 'mart', 'hard', 'barn' as contrasted with 'mat', 'had', 'ban'.

3. The consonants of the dental group and the unclassified

---

[1] The consonant ರ *r* in the modern language represents two consonants, ರ and ಱ of ancient Kanarese. The latter was rougher or more rolled in sound than the former and there are traces (of which, however, people are not conscious) of this difference in popular pronunciation. This is why there are two phonetic symbols for ರ *r*.

[2] The modern consonant ಳ *l* represents the two ancient consonants ಳ and ೞ, though their pronunciation was not exactly alike. The ancient consonants are retained in Dr. Kittel's *Kannaḍa-English Dictionary*, and when words containing ರ *r* or ಳ *l* are not found in the expected place, they may be found by referring to ಱ *r* or ೞ *l*.

[3] But the letter *t* in 'pit-head' corresponds to neither ಟ nor ತ.

consonant ಲ *l* are pronounced with the tip of the tongue against the upper front teeth. The sign added to the phonetic symbols of the ತ group on page 6 indicates dental pronunciation. The English consonants, *t*, *d*, are intermediate in place of production between the Kanarese retroflexes and dentals; and the Kanarese dentals are intermediate between the English *t* and *d* and the English 'point-teeth' consonants represented by *th* in 'thin' and 'then'. A noticeable difference between the Kanarese dental letters and the English '*th*' is that the former are plosive and the latter is fricative or rubbed. It is impossible to prolong the pronunciation of the former but easily possible with the latter. *The greatest care must be exercised to distinguish, both in speaking and in listening to others speaking, between the sounds of the retroflex and the dental groups, and between both these groups and the English sounds.*

4. The unclassified consonant ವ *v* does the work of both English *w* and *v*. Before the vowels ಅ *a*, ಆ *ā*, ಉ *u*, ಊ *ū*, ಐ *ai*, ಒ *o*, ಓ *ō*, ಔ *au*, it closely resembles *w* in sound, though the English letter is produced to a larger extent by the lips. ವ *v* before ಇ *i*, ಈ *ī*, ಋ *ṛi*, ಎ *e*, ಏ *ē* and the consonants ಯ *y* and ರ *r* resembles *v* in pronunciation, but with a difference. In pronouncing the Kanarese letter the upper front teeth do not touch the lower lip as in English.

5. The Kanarese sound represented by ಶ *ś* differs from the English *sh* in 'ship' in this that, while the English sound is made with the tip, the Kanarese sound is made with the blade of the tongue. The sound of ಷ *sh* takes its character from the fact that it is pronounced with the tongue-tip bent back and touching the palate as far in the rear as possible. That there is a clear distinction in sound between ಶ and ಷ is evident from the difference in the manner of their production. While in the case of ಷ the tongue-tip is raised and bent back, in the case of ಶ it is turned down and the sound made with the arched tongue on the palate.

6. In colloquial speech the initial vowels ಎ *e*, ಏ *ē*, ಒ *o*, ಓ *ō*

are often combined with a consonantal sound and pronounced *ye*, *yē*, *wo*, *wō*, respectively; e.g., in ಒಂದು *ondu*, 'one' and ಎರಡು *eraḍu*, 'two'; but this is not to be regarded as correct: at least care must be taken not to exaggerate the consonantal sound.

7. While, with the above modifications, the English transliteration given in the tables of vowels and consonants represents approximately the Kanarese pronunciation of the several letters, the general observation applies to them all that a correct pronunciation can be acquired only by the painstaking imitation of a reliable Indian teacher.

READING EXERCISE

ಅರ file; ಅರಸ king; ಆಳ depth; ಇಹ present world; ಉಪ (prefix) contiguous, subordinate; ಊಟ food; ಎಡ left side; ಕದ door; ಗರಗಸ saw; ಜಪ prayer; ತಡ obstacle; ದಡ shore; ಧನ wealth; ನಯ smoothness; ಪಥ path; ಬಲ strength; ಮರ tree; ರಸ juice; ವಶ control; ಹಣ money.

————

Combination of Vowels with Consonants

It was observed above that the form of the consonants given on pages 9 and 10 indicates that they are combined with the short vowel ಅ *a*. Each of them, therefore, constitutes a syllable in itself; thus ವಶ = *vaśa* (not *vś*); ಮರ = *mara* (not *mr*); ಅರಸ = *arasa* (not *ars*).

This 'inherent vowel' is represented (in most cases) by the upper part of the consonant sign (⌐), which is called the *talekaṭṭu*, or 'crest'. This is the secondary form of the vowel ಅ *a*, and it is used instead of the primary form when the vowel is combined with a consonant to form a syllable.

A normal syllable in Kanarese consists of either a consonant combined with a vowel, or (at the beginning of a word only) an uncombined vowel. Hence the primary (*i.e.*, uncombined) forms of the vowels given on page 6 are found only at the beginning of a word. A consonant can be combined only with the vowel which follows it, never with that which precedes it; thus the word ಅರಸ *arasa* consists of the three syllables *a-ra-sa*, not *ar-as-a*.

Each of the vowels shewn on page 6 has a secondary form used in combination with consonants. These are shewn, with their Kanarese names, in the following table. The table on pages 16, 17 shews all the combinations of the consonants with the vowels.

Vowel (Primary Form)	Vowel (Secondary Form)	Kanarese Name
ಅ	⌐	ತಲೆಕಟ್ಟು *talekaṭṭu*
ಆ	ಾ	ಇಳಿ *iḷi*
ಇ	ಿ	ಗುಡಿಸು *guḍisu*
ಈ	ೀ	ಗುಡಿಸಿನ ದೀರ್ಘ *guḍisina dīrgha*
ಉ	ು	ಕೊಂಬು *kombu*
ಊ	ೂ	ಕೊಂಬಿನಿಳಿ *kombiniḷi*
ಋ	ೃ	ವಟ್ಟು ಸುಳಿ *vaṭru suḷi*
ೠ	ೄ	ವಟ್ಟು ಸುಳಿ ಇಳಿ *vaṭru suḷi iḷi*
ಎ	ೆ	ಎತ್ವ *etva*
ಏ	ೇ	ಏತ್ವ *ētva*
ಐ	ೈ	ಐತ್ವ *aitva*
ಒ	ೊ	ಒತ್ವ *otva*
ಓ	ೋ	ಒತ್ವ *ōtva*
ಔ	ೌ	ಔತ್ವ *autva*

In order to combine a consonant with any of these vowels, we must first remove the crest from the consonant as shewn in the table on pages 9 and 10, and then add the secondary form of the vowel. Thus, if it is required to represent in Kanarese the sound *kē*, the crest must first be removed from ಕ *ka*, leaving the form ಕ. To this the secondary form ೇ *ē* is added, resulting in the form ಕೇ *kē*. It is to be remembered that the crest is retained with the secondary forms of the vowels ಉ *u*, ಊ *ū*, ಋ *ṛi*, ೠ *ṛī*; thus ಕು *ku*, ಕೂ *kū*, ಕೃ *kṛi*, ಕೄ *kṛī*.

Note also that the following letters have no crest: ಖ *kha*, ಞ *ṅa*, ಜ *ja*, ಙ *ña*, ಟ *ṭa*, ಣ *ṇa*, ಬ *ba*, ಲ *la*.

The consonants ಝು *jh* and ಯು *y*, in combination with the vowel ಈ *ī*, take the forms ಝೂ *jhī*, ಯೂ *yī*, instead of ಝೀ, ಯೀ. In the combination of ಮ *m* with this vowel two forms are found, ಮೂ, ಮೀ, *mī*. ಮ *m* and ಯು *y*, in combination with the vowels ಒ *o*, ಓ *ō*, take the forms ಮೊ *mo*, ಮೋ *mō*, ಯೊ *yo*, ಯೋ *yō*, instead of ಮೊ, ಮೋ, ಯೊ, ಯೋ.

It will be seen that if ಉ (ು) *u*, were joined to ವ *v*, thus, ಮ, the form would be identical in appearance with ಮ *ma*. In order to avoid confusion the vowels ಉ *u*, ಊ *ū*, ಒ *o*, ಓ *ō*, when combined with ವ *v*, take slightly different forms, thus, ವು *vu*, ವೂ *vū*, ವೊ *vo*, ವೋ *vō*. The same forms occur when these vowels combine with ಪ *p* and ಫ *ph*: thus, ಪು *pu*, ಪೂ *pū*, ಪೊ *po*, ಪೋ *pō*, ಫು *phu*, ಫೂ *phū*, ಫೊ *pho*, ಫೋ *phō*.

If it is required to write a consonant uncombined with any vowel, the crest (if there is one) is removed, and the sign ‾ᶜ attached in its place: thus, ಕ್ *k*, ಚ್ *ch*, ಪ್ *p*, ರ್ *r*, ಳ್ *ḷ*.

Where there is no crest the sign ‾ᶜ is attached to the right hand corner of the letter; *e.g.* ಖ್ *kh*, ಞ್ *n*, ಜ್ *j*, ಙ್ *ñ*, ಟ್ *ṭ*, ಬ್ *b*, ಲ್ *l*; but the style in the case of ಣ is slightly different, ಣ್ *ṇ*.[1]

EXERCISE I

The words in this Reading Exercise should be committed to memory, all of them being in common use.

ಆಗ then	ಗೋಡೆ wall	ಯಾವ which (adj.)?
ಈಗ now	ಔಷಧ medicine	ಅಲ್ಲಿ there
ಏಸು what (pro.)?	ರೂಪಾಯಿ rupee	ದೇವರು god
ದನ cattle	ಪುಸ್ತಕ book	ಹುಡುಗ(ನು) boy
ಚೀಲ bag	ಆಟ game	ಹಾಗೆ so
ಜೀವ life	ಇದು this (pro.)	ನೆಟ್ಟಗೆ straight (adv.)
ನಾಸು I	ಅದು that (or it)	ಇಷ್ಟು so much (so many) as this
ನೀಸು you	ದಾರಿ road	
ನೀವು you (plu. or honfc. for s.)	ಏಕೆ why?	ಅಷ್ಟು so much (so many) as that
	ದಯೆ favour	
ಅವನು he	ಕೈ hand	ಎಷ್ಟು how much (how many)?
ಮೇಜು table	ಸೌದೆ firewood	

ಆದರೆ but	ಬೇಕು it is wanted (must)
ಹೇಳು say (impv. 2 s.)	ಬೇಡ it is not wanted (must not)
ಹೇಳ to say (inf.)	ಬಹುದು it is permitted (may)
ಬಾ come (impv. 2 s. irreg.)	ಬಾರದು it is not becoming (must not)
ಬರ to come (inf.)	
ವಿಚಾರಿಸು enquire (impv. 2 s.)	ಕೂಡದು it is not fitting (must not)
ಹೋಗು go (impv. 2 s.)	ಸಾಲದು it is not sufficient
ಹೋಗ to go (inf.)	ಸಾಕು it is sufficient
ತೊಳೆ wash (impv. 2 s.)	ಓ interrogative affix

A few simple sentences are given below; similar sentences may be formed with the words of the reading exercise.

ಚೀಲ ಬೇಕು *chīla bēku*, a bag is wanted.

ಮೇಜು ಬೇಡ *mēju bēḍa*, a table is not wanted.

ನೀಸು ಹೋಗು *nīnu hōgu*, you go.

ಹುಡುಗನು ಬರಕೂಡದು *huḍuganu barakūḍadu*, the boy must not come.

ಆದರೆ ನೀವು ಬರಬಹುದು *ādare nīvu barabahudu*, but you (plu.) may come.

ನಾಸು ಏಕೆ ಹೋಗಬಾರದು *nānu ēke hōgabāradu*, why must I not go?

ನಾಸು ಹೋಗಬೇಕು *nānu hōgabēku*, I must go.

ಕೈ[1] ತೊಳೆ *kai toḷe*, wash (your) hands.

ಸೌದೆ ಸಾಕು *saude sāku*, the fire wood is sufficient.

ಔಷಧ ಬೇಕು *aushadha bēku*, medicine is wanted.

ಎಷ್ಟು ರೂಪಾಯಿ[2] ಬೇಕು *eshṭu rūpāyi bēku*, how many rupees are wanted?

ಇಷ್ಟು ಸಾಕೋ,[3] *ishṭu sākō*, is this much sufficient?

ಅಷ್ಟು ಸಾಲದು *ashṭu sāladu*, that much is insufficient.

ಅಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಚಾರಿಸು *alli vichārisu*, enquire there.

ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾ *illi bā*, come here.

ಹಾಗೆ ಹೇಳು *hāge hēḷu*, say so.

---

[1] Accusative ending [*y*] *annu* omitted as often in colloquial speech. The singular is used for the plural.

[2] Singular for plural as sometimes after numeral adjectives.

[3] On the interrogative particle ಓ joining ಸಾಕು final ಉ is elided.

---

[1] The form ೯ is an alternative for ನ್.

KANARESE GRAMMAR

Table Shewing the Alphabet with the

	a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛi
Vowels	a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛi
Velar Consonants	ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	kṛi
	kha	khā	khi	khī	khu	khū	khṛi
	ga	gā	gi	gī	gu	gū	gri
	gha	ghā	ghi	ghī	ghu	ghū	ghṛi
	ṅa	ṅā	ṅi	ṅī	ṅu	ṅū	ṅṛi
Palatal	cha	chā	chi	chī	chu	chū	chṛi
	chha	chhā	chhi	chhī	chhu	chhū	chhṛi
	ja	jā	ji	jī	ju	jū	jṛi
	jha	jhā	jhi	jhī	jhu	jhū	jhri
	ña	ñā	ñi	ñī	ñu	ñū	ñṛi
Retroflex	ṭa	ṭā	ṭi	ṭī	ṭu	ṭū	ṭri
	ṭha	ṭhā	ṭhi	ṭhī	ṭhu	ṭhū	ṭhri
	ḍa	ḍā	ḍi	ḍī	ḍu	ḍū	ḍri
	ḍha	ḍhā	ḍhi	ḍhī	ḍhu	ḍhū	ḍhri
	ṇa	ṇā	ṇi	ṇī	ṇu	ṇū	ṇri
Dental	ta	tā	ti	tī	tu	tū	tri
	tha	thā	thi	thī	thu	thū	thri
	da	dā	di	dī	du	dū	dri
	dha	dhā	dhi	dhī	dhu	dhū	dhri
	na	nā	ni	nī	nu	nū	nri
Bi-labial	pa	pā	pi	pī	pu	pū	pri
	pha	phā	phi	phī	phu	phū	phri
	ba	bā	bi	bī	bu	bū	bri
	bha	bhā	bhi	bhī	bhu	bhū	bhri
	ma	mā	mi	mī	mu	mū	mri
Unclassified	ya	yā	yi	yī	yu	yū	yri
	ra	rā	ri	rī	ru	rū	rri
	la	lā	li	lī	lu	lū	lri
	va	vā	vi	vī	vu	vū	vri
	śa	śā	śi	śī	śu	śū	śri
	sha	shā	shi	shī	shu	shū	shri
	sa	sā	si	sī	su	sū	sri
	ha	hā	hi	hī	hu	hū	hri
	ḷa	ḷā	ḷi	ḷī	ḷu	ḷū	ḷri

Combinations of the Vowels and Consonants

ṛī	e	ē	ai	o	ō	au
kṛī	ke	kē	kai	ko	kō	kau
khṛī	khe	khē	khai	kho	khō	khau
grī	ge	gē	gai	go	gō	gau
ghṛī	ghe	ghē	ghai	gho	ghō	ghau
ṅṛī	ṅe	ṅē	ṅai	ṅo	ṅō	ṅau
chrī	che	chē	chai	cho	chō	chau
chhṛī	chhe	chhē	chhai	chho	chhō	chhau
jrī	je	jē	jai	jo	jō	jau
jhrī	jhe	jhē	jhai	jho	jhō	jhau
ñrī	ñe	ñē	ñai	ño	ñō	ñau
ṭrī	ṭe	ṭē	ṭai	ṭo	ṭō	ṭau
ṭhrī	ṭhe	ṭhē	ṭhai	ṭho	ṭhō	ṭhau
ḍrī	ḍe	ḍē	ḍai	ḍo	ḍō	ḍau
ḍhrī	ḍhe	ḍhē	ḍhai	ḍho	ḍhō	ḍhau
ṇrī	ṇe	ṇē	ṇai	ṇo	ṇō	ṇau
trī	te	tē	tai	to	tō	tau
thrī	the	thē	thai	tho	thō	thau
drī	de	dē	dai	do	dō	dau
dhrī	dhe	dhē	dhai	dho	dhō	dhau
nrī	ne	nē	nai	no	nō	nau
prī	pe	pē	pai	po	pō	pau
phrī	phe	phē	phai	pho	phō	phau
brī	be	bē	bai	bo	bō	bau
bhrī	bhe	bhē	bhai	bho	bhō	bhau
mrī	me	mē	mai	mo	mō	mau
yrī	ye	yē	yai	yo	yō	yau
rrī	re	rē	rai	ro	rō	rau
lrī	le	lē	lai	lo	lō	lau
vrī	ve	vē	vai	vo	vō	vau
śrī	śe	śē	śai	śo	śō	śau
shrī	she	shē	shai	sho	shō	shau
srī	se	sē	sai	so	sō	sau
hrī	he	hē	hai	ho	hō	hau
ḷrī	ḷe	ḷē	ḷai	ḷo	ḷō	ḷau