

kaNikke:r goTTi – Numerals

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ABSTRACT

Numerals means which refer the number and they have been divided in to cardinal numbers and ordinal numbers. The cardinal numbers are counting number like “one”, “two”, “three”, etc. and the ordinal numbers are an adjectival form of a number like “first”, “second”, “third”, etc. The world languages follow different systems like decimal, vigesimal, etc., for counting. Thus an attempt is made to bringout the numeral system followed by the Indo-Aryan tribal people by name KaNikke:r, living in Tamilnadu, India.

Key words: Kudukuduppay, KaNikke:r goTTi,

Aim: The prime aim of this paper is to reveal the numeral system of KaNikke:r to the world

Objectives:

1. To identify the numeral system of KaNikke:r goTTi tribe
2. To identify whether this numeral system related Dravidian numeral system
3. To identify whether this numeral system have impact of Dravidian numerals.

INTRODUCTION

KaNikke:r is the name of a semi – nomadic tribe now settled in Chennai, Vellore, Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Cuddalore districts of Tamilnadu, India. They are popularly known as Kudkuduppaykka:ran in Tamilnadu. In Tamil Kudukuduppay is the name of a little drum and Kudukuduppaykka:ran is the man who has that drum. Their profession is sooth-saying. But the people call themselves as kaNikke:r ja:t and their mother tongue as kaNikke:r goTTi. In this expression “goTTi” means language and this people use different numeral system which is different from the majority and official language by name Tamil.

There is no detailed study of its name available, except anthropological anecdote by E. Thurston. E. Thurston says “Budubudike- the Budubudike or Budubudukala are described in the Mysore Census Report as being “gypsy beggars and fortune –tellers from the Marata Country, who pretend to consult birds and reptiles to predict future events. They are found in every district of Mysore, but only in small numbers. They use a small kind of double –headed drum, which is sounded by means of the knotted ends of strings attached to each side of it.

NUMERALS

The numeral system of KaNikke:r goTTi is a mixture of decimal (10 base) and vigesimal (20 base) system, up to “twenty” kaNikke:r follow decimal system which is similar to dominant language Tamil numeral system.

Numeral	kaNikke:r Numerals	
1.	e:k	
2.	do:n	
3.	ti:n	
4.	Char	
5.	pa:nc	
6.	Saha	
7.	Sat	
8.	Aath	
9.	Nau	
10.	Dha	
11.	Akara	
12.	ba:ra	
13.	Tera	
14.	Chauda	
15.	Pandra	
16.	Sola	
17.	Satra	
18.	Atra	
19.	akko:ni	
20.	Is	
21.	is in o:k	
22.	is in do:n	
23.	is in ti:n	
24.	is in cha:r	
25.	is in pa:nc	
26.	is in saha	
27.	is in sat	
28.	is in aant	
29.	is in nau	
30.	is in dha	

31.	is in akara	
32.	is in ba:ra	
33.	is in tera	
34.	is in chauda	
35.	is in pandra	
36.	is in sola	
37.	is in satra	
38.	is in atra	
39.	is in akko:ni	
40.	do:n sa:	
41.	do:n sa: o:k	
42.	do:n sa: do:n	
43.	do:n sa: ti:n	
44.	do:n sa: sa: cha:r	
45.	do:n sa: pa:nc	
46.	do:n sa: saha	
47.	do:n sa: sat	
48.	do:n sa: aath	
49.	do:n sa: nau	
50.	do:n sa: dha	
51.	do:n sa: akara	
52.	do:n sa: ba:ra	
53.	do:n sa: tera	
54.	do:n sa: chauda	
55.	do:n sa: pandra	

56.	do:n sa:	
	sola	
57.	do:n sa:	
	satra	
58.	do:nsa:	
	atra	
59.	do:n sa:	
	akko:ni	
60.	ti:n sa:	
61.	ti:n sa: o:k	
62.	ti:n sa: do:n	
63.	ti:n sa: ti:n	
64.	ti:n sa: cha:r	
65.	ti:n sa:	
	pa:nc	
66.	ti:n sa: saha	
67.	ti:n sa: sat	
68.	ti:n sa: aath	
69.	ti:n sa: nau	
70.	ti:nsa: dha	
71.	ti:n sa:	
	akara	
72.	ti:n sa: ba:ra	
73.	ti:n sa: tera	
74.	ti:n sa:	
	chauda	
75.	ti:n sa:	
	pandra	
76.	ti:n sa: sola	
77.	ti:n sa: satra	
78.	ti:n sa: atra	
79.	ti:n sa:	
	akko:ni	
80.	char sa:	
81.	charsa:o:k	
82.	char sa:	
	do:n	
83.	char sa: ti:n	
84.	char sa:	
	cha:r	

85.	char sa:	
	pa:nc	
86.	char sa:	
	saha	
87.	char sa: sat	
88.	char sa:	
	aath	
89.	char sa: nau	
90.	char sa: dha	
91.	char sa:	
	akara	
92.	char sa:	
	ba:ra	
93.	char sa: tera	
94.	char sa:chauda	
95.	char sa:	
	pandra	
96.	char sa: sola	
97.	char sa:	
	satra	
98.	char sa: atra	
99.	char sa:	
	akko:ni	
100.	pa:i sa:/	
	sambar	

OBSERVATION

This kaNikke:r numeral system is no doubt a mixture of decimal and vigesimal system. There are three forms (words) for numeral “one” *e:k*, *o:k* and *o:*, in the second form initial *e:>o:* and in third form final *k>ø* and for “five” two forms available which are “*pa:nc*” and “*pa:i*” (for hundred *pa:i* (five) x *sa:* (twenty)=100(hundred)), for “twenty” there are two forms which are “*is*” and “*sa:*” (*do:n* (two) x *sa:* (twenty)=40(forty)). In Marathi twenty is referred with “*vis*”, so it might have been borrowed from Marathi language and the initial “*v*” might have been dropped in kaNikke:r goTTi.

The kaNikke:r derive 21 to 39 with a link morpheme “*in*”, for numeral “twenty one” *is* (twenty) + *in* + *e:k* (one) = *is in e:k* (twenty one), for numeral “thirty nine” *is* (twenty) + *in* + *akko:ni* (nineteen) = *is in akko:ni* (thirty nine) and also two forms available for “hundred” which are *pa:isa:* (*pa:i* (5) x *sa:* (20)=100) and *sambhar* which too available in Marathi. For “one lakh” kaNikke:r have their own form (word) *o:fankla*.

My observation is that the kaNikke:r follow a mixture of decimal system and Vigesimal system, up to 20 decimal and from 21 vigesimal system and it is not related to Dravidian numerals and, do not have impact of Dravidian numerals, also this numeral system is peculiar to Dravidian land.

REFERENCES

Thurston.E & Rangachari.K, 1909, Casts and Tribes of South India, Vol.I, pp 393-396