

Short Review Paper

Cursive (Pravaahi) Devanagari Script

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Abstract

This paper is primarily focused on Devanagari script and beyond as a quest for making the education system of India in its native language and refurbish the Indian identity in the Indians rather than being a copier of Englishmen. This paper gives a substitute script for traditional Devanagari script so as to provide cursive-ness in writing which will encourage the use of Indian originated language in our higher education system.

Keywords: Education system of India, Indian Identity, Copiers of Englishmen, Devanagari script, Cursive-ness.

Introduction

Background of work: We Indians after Independence from Englishmen, have been facing problem of identity. We still carry forward the historical theories imagined by colonizers, through our education system and hence we question our own identity. These theories fail with every new geographical discovery and they again take roots with some new modifications. The best example being Aryan civilizers theory, then Aryan invasion theory, later Aryan migration theory and now the upcoming Aryan tourism theory¹. With every new geographical discovery, every original Indian history comes true but is suppressed in the name of Hindutva and mythology. These theories make us identity less and then we make ourselves clones of the west. We copy them and hate what was ours and richness of it. We consider our rich heritage as inferior. On the other hand, the West do research on us, rediscover beneficial things and publish and patent them under their name^{2,3}. We have developed an inferiority complex on our Indian-ness and originality. In a gist, one could say that there is hardly any self-pride amongst Indians, because they are too busy in running down their own country⁴. On the other hand, nations like Russia, Japan, France, Germany conduct all their official, educational work in their own languages and take pride and maintain their originality.

Statement of Problem

There are many languages spoken in India but all these Indian languages have one common origin that binds us together - Samskrit. Western Historians have their imaginary theories about Samskrit being an Indo-European-Aryan Language whose basis rests on the baseless ever-renovating Aryan theory. 'Samskrit' the name itself means gathered + arranged. Indian historians have their factual theory on Samskrit, that Samskrit was formed, compiled and arranged properly after thorough

researching on sounds and their vibrations by gathering words from native 'proto-garuda-dravida language'⁵. Today as a counterpart of Samskrit, Hindi written in Devanagari script, is well known to almost all of Indians and could be used in place of English for educational purpose. English could then become a good to know language and not a compulsory language. But the main two problems in substituting English in our education systems are, i. India is not economically Independent and it is a developing nation. India depends more on Commonwealth nations and also America for jobs and career. ii. Secondly, the Devanagari script is a bit difficult to synchronize well with technical education owing to its great complexity and method of writing. The alphabets also could not be used in place Devanagari because of ambiguity in pronunciation. There are transliteration methods from Devanagari to Roman alphabets, but no single transliteration method has emerged as the standard⁶.

Purpose of work

The Brahmi script is the earliest corpus of text. Many of the modern scripts that are in practice across South Asia have descended from it. A survey concluded with 198 scripts that ultimately evolved from this script⁷. The Brahmi script kept on evolving from which many Indian scripts derived. Devanagari script is a part of Brahmic family of scripts⁸. Hence the Devanagari script evolved from the Brahmi script. Taking this journey forward, the aim of this work is to do some value addition to this script, thereby propose a solution to the second problem as stated in the Statement of Problem, by introducing cursiveness and ease in writing the Devanagari script.

Devanagari script consists of vowels (Swar) and consonants. The consonants are classified into various groups as per the movements of throat, tongue, teeth and lips^{9,10}.

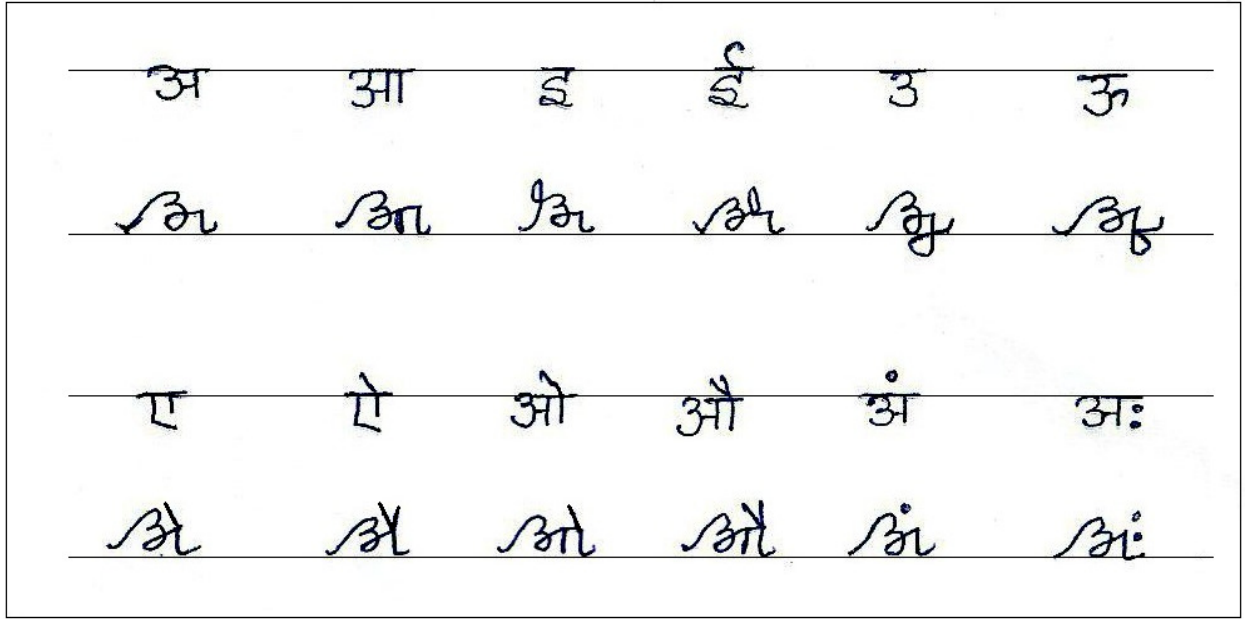


Figure-1
Transliteration of vowels (Swar)

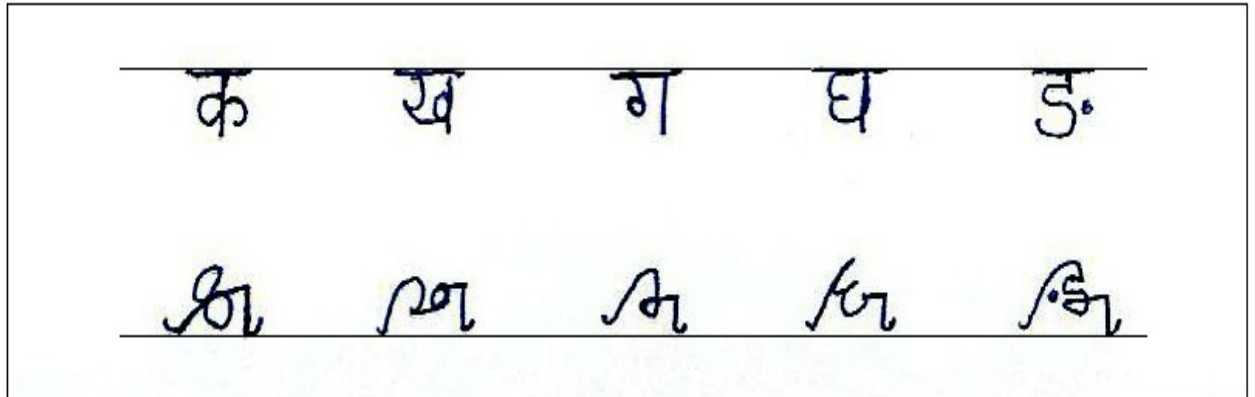


Figure-2
Transliteration of Guttural (Kanthya) consonants

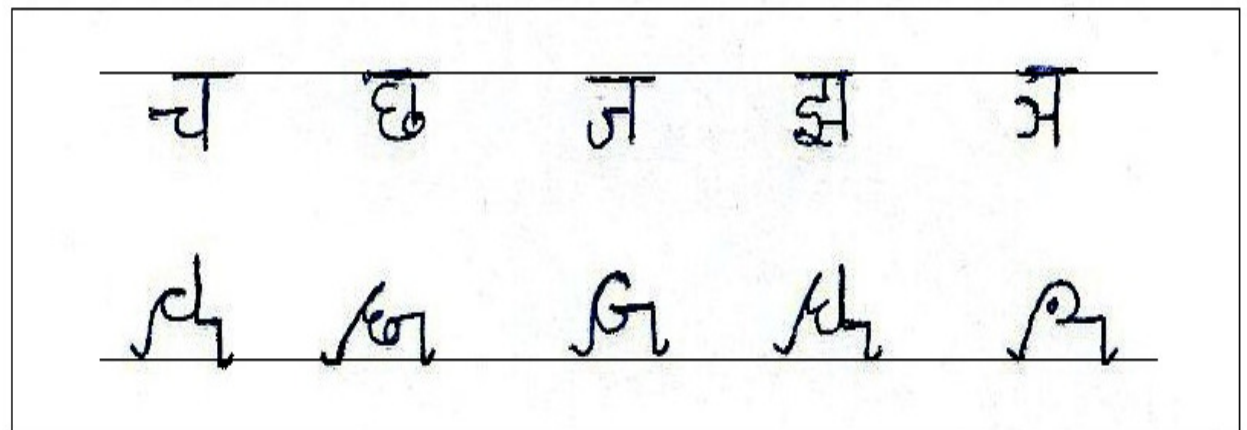


Figure-3
Transliteration of Palatal (Taalavya) consonants

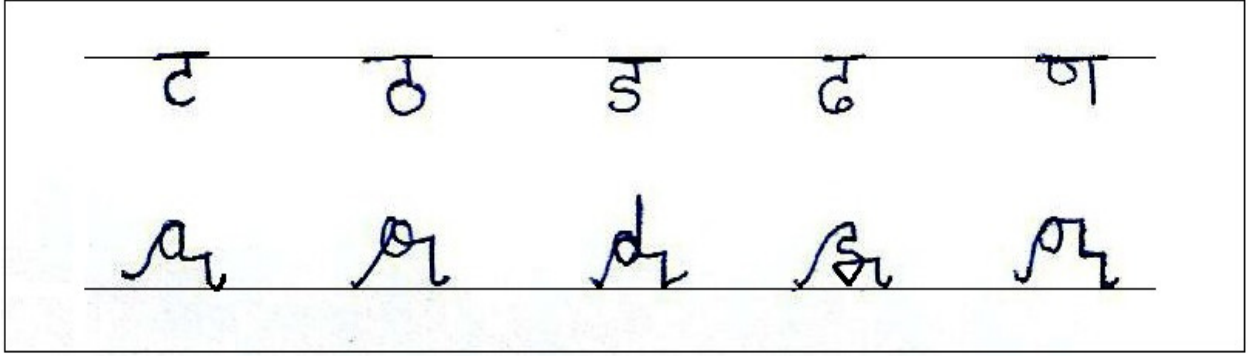


Figure-4
Transliteration of Retroflex (Murdhanya) consonants

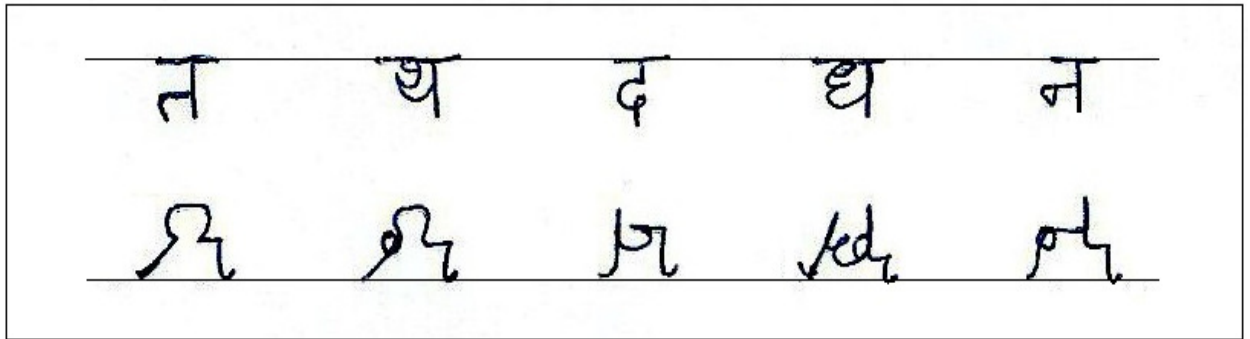


Figure-5
Transliteration of Dental (Dantya) consonants

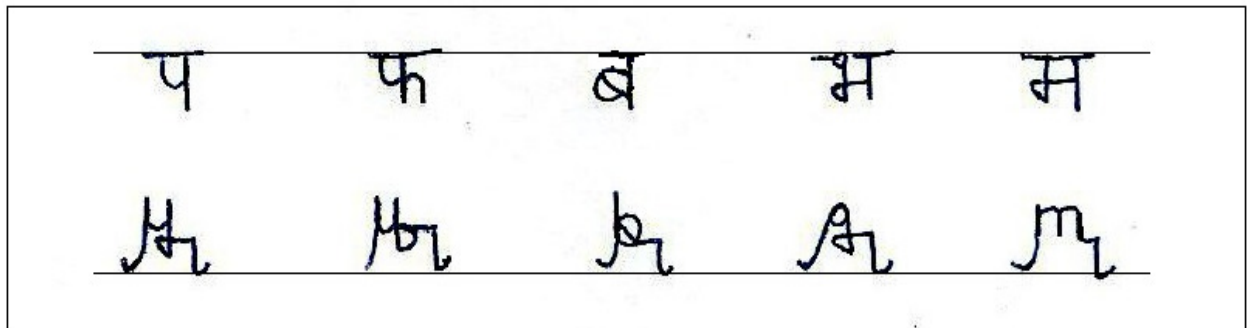


Figure-6
Transliteration of Labial (Usthaya) consonants

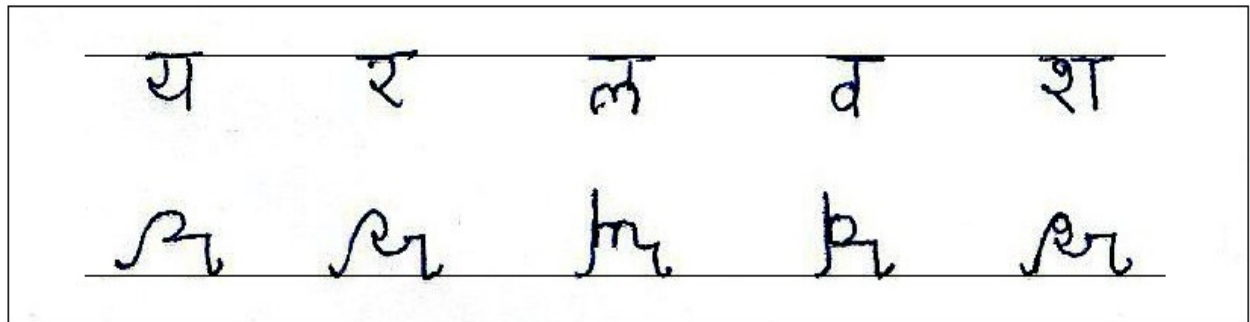


Figure-7
Transliteration of Pallato-Guttural (Kantha-Taalavya) consonants

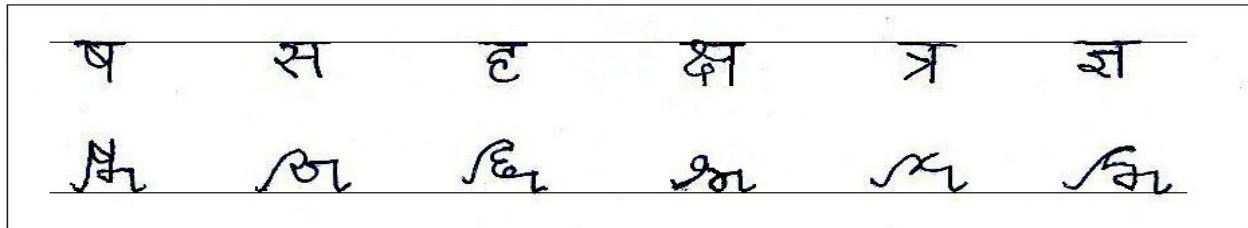


Figure-8
Transliteration of Labio-Guttural (Kanthosthya) consonants

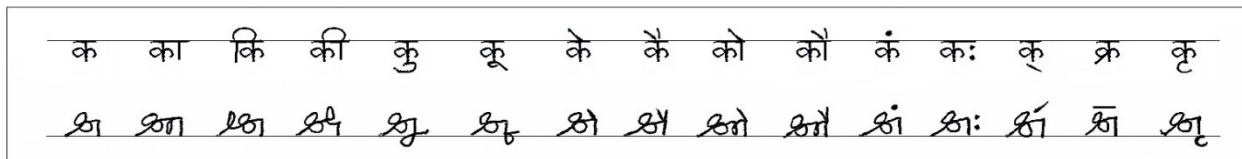


Figure-9
Application of Swar Chinnha (Vowel signs) to the consonants

Similarly, rest of the consonants have the same application of Swar Chinnhas as accounted in Figure-9.

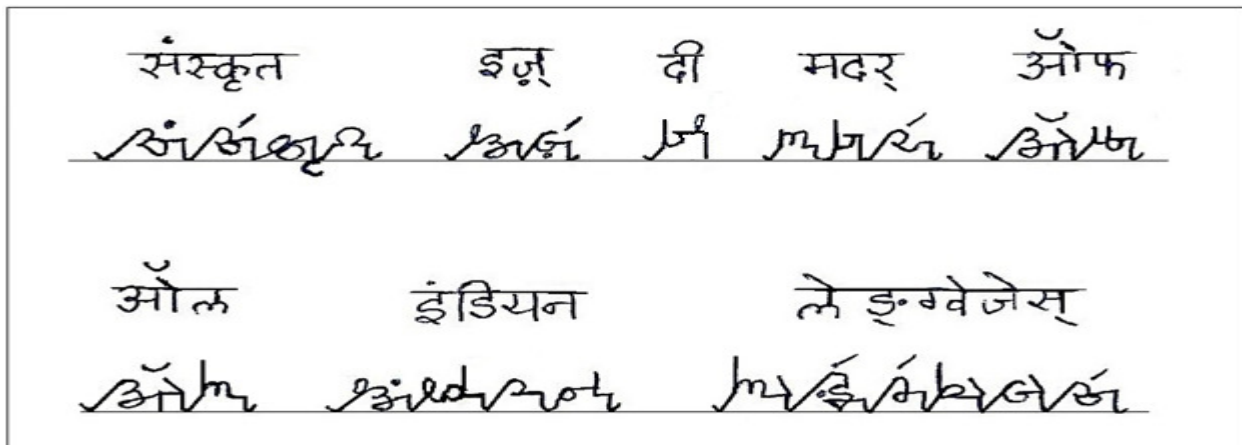


Figure-10
Transliterated sentence

Table-1
Some Transliterated Examples

English Words	Devanagari Transliteration	Cursive (Pravaahi) Devanagari Transliteration	
Green	ग्रीन्	ग्रीन्	ग्रीन्
Similar	सीमीलर्	सीमीलर्	सीमीलर्
More	मोर्	मोर्	मोर्
Relation	रिलेशनन्	रिलेशनन्	रिलेशनन्
Common	कॉमन्	कॉमन्	कॉमन्

Conclusion

Since thousands of years, the Devanagari script is used to write many languages in India. As of now also many languages like Hindi, Marathi, Nepali, Sindhi, Samskrit are written in the traditional Devanagari script. The specialty of this script being it has no ambiguity in pronunciation.

Today, most of the technical education largely depends on mathematical equations, formulae and derivations. The traditional Devanagari script is a bit difficult to synchronize with the mathematical equations. And hence a gradual shift is seen towards the widely accepted de facto global language English with an inferiority complex towards the usage of native languages.

In order to survive in this age of competition, it has become a general law, to get yourself updated or be prepared for being outdated. Hence to serve the purpose of revival of Indian native language in our education system, this Cursive Devanagari script is an attempt. This script is easy to write and technical education friendly. This script could also be used for writing English thereby eliminating the ambiguity of English in its pronunciation. But, it could be a serious threat to the Spelling bee championship!

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