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## Development of Telugu language softwares

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### Abstract

In the olden days initiation of literacy was done by making the child write 'om namaha' with his right finger in the sand. Later slates and slate pencils took their place. Today there is no need for either slates or books and we have digital methods for the same thing. If one just switches on the computer it shows how to write *om namaha* and we also hear a melodious voice saying *om namaha*. This is the way to teach lessons with the help of multimedia in today's technological world. In the previous days for a marriage invitation card various blocks were manually arranged, proofreading was done and then the invitation card was printed. But today there are beautiful fonts like *potana* and *srilipi* and they have changed the field of printing as never before. Today there are various fonts that support various software, the *anusaraka* translation machine which helps in translation, E- Dictionary and spell checkers to know the spelling mistakes, Telugu searching to browse various things on the Internet, Telugu bloggers for various reviews, and Encyclopedia have also become available. The work done by C- DAC, Modular InfoTech, IIIT, and Hyderabad Central University is highly commendable in the development of this software.

**Keywords:** Literacy, *om namaha*, Telugu language, E- Dictionary, C- DAC.

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## Introduction

### Telugu Softwares

Many softwares have been developed for various purposes in Telugu today. Of these some are beautiful fonts that play on the computer screen, some are spell checkers that detect the spelling mistakes, some are beautiful fonts that are useful for Internet and some are softwares that neatly integrate with Microsoft. All these are softwares that display the beauty and sweetness of the Telugu Language. Some of these are following: *mudra* from *Srilipi* which is useful for printing, *Sulipi*, *Telugu word*, *Anufonts*, *Rachana*, *Anugraphics*, *Telugu Lipi*, *Telugu Tex*, *Lekha*, *Potana-2000*, *Akshara*, *Leap- office*, *Microsoft Gautamy*, *Akruthi*, *Swetcha*, *I-Lipi*, *Leela*, *E-Lekha*, *Ramgavalli*, *Meghasandesam (Akshara Darpanam)*, *Word net*, *M.S.Windows-2000*, *Windows XP*, *Visuval Studio*, *.net*, *Drusti*, *Sarala*.

### Telugu Fonts

It has become customary on the part of every poet in Telugu right from Adikavi Nannaya up to the recent poets to use the Letter *Sri* at the beginning of their writings. Perhaps for this reason Modular InfoTech named its first software as *Sri-lipi*. There is a lot of scope to use different fonts in different styles in the printing with this software.

Some more softwares that are available and accessible are *Anu Fonts*, *I-Lipi*, *Potana*, *Telugu Word*, *Telugu TEX*, *Rachana*. Some of these softwares are available in C.Ds, while some can be downloaded freely from the Internet. The *I-Lipi* Telugu Font can be downloaded for free from either [cdacindia.com](http://cdacindia.com) or from Aponline website.

### Spell Checkers

Even the most experienced writers may sometime get into a dilemma with regard to the spelling. For example many people have problem in identifying which of the two letters is to be aspirated. When we are working in MS-Windows if there are spelling errors they are indicated by a red line underneath.

If the mouse is pointed on the word and the left button is clicked, we find the spell check menu through which we can correct the word. This facility is available in

Telugu software too. *Sri-lipi* is software that has this facility.

The *anusaraka* software developed by university of Hyderabad along with some organizations has spell checkers, grammar checker, synonyms and other facilities. All these facilities are extremely useful to Telugu scholars, researchers, poets, and critics.

#### **Translation Softwares**

Translation is basically a human enterprise. But in technologically developed countries a translation machine has been made keeping in view the quantity of material to be translated across languages. We can find translation in to Telugu by selecting Language tool in the Google search engine and selecting the Telugu Language. We can find translation not only into Indian Languages but also into foreign languages.

CALTS of University of Hyderabad developed Telugu *anusaraka* translation machine in which the parts of speech of Telugu are analyzed to make parsers. Using this, translation could be done from Telugu to Hindi and from English to Telugu.

The C-DAC has made *N-Trans* name translation software. This software facilitates translation from English to Indian languages and from Indian Languages to English with an in built Dictionary too. IIIT Hyderabad has developed *Shiva-Shakti* translation software with Hymavathi Telugu font and translation facility.

#### **Search engines**

Internet is the repository of boundless information. There are various search engines like Google to browse the net. It is possible to browse the net in Telugu with this search engine. *Vedaku.com* is another search engine which is meant for people who want to browse the net in Telugu. The Inadequacy of the search engine is that the search can be made only through roman script.

#### **E-Dictionaries**

Dictionaries play very important role in the development of language. In today's digitalized world there are many E-Dictionaries available on the net which can be downloaded freely from the website of the IIIT. We can download the English-Telugu E-Dictionaries and Telugu- Hindi language Dictionaries.

#### **Wikipedia**

There are not many encyclopedias in Telugu. Even the few that are available are made in the mould of English. In the internet the encyclopedia that is well known is Wikipedia, which began in 2001 and is available in 200 languages including Telugu. Anyone can use this or add

things or down load what they want. The web site address of Telugu Wikipedia is [tel.wikipedia.org](http://tel.wikipedia.org).

#### **Blogs in Telugu**

Blogs are the platform our share or thoughts with anyone, anywhere with the help of our blogs. If someone wants to write a review on Nannaya's poetry or a movie or the writings of Ravisasstri, blogs are the right place. This is available to anyone all around the world. We can not only write our thoughts and post them there, but we can also read the posts of others. The Website of Telugu Blog Spot is [telugubloggers.blogspot.com](http://telugubloggers.blogspot.com).

Even though language is the most important means of communication, the amount of research done in India on Indian languages is relatively quite less, compared to China and Korea. A lot more need to be done in Telugu in this area.

To conclude, this writer is of the opinion that along with IIIT and Central University the other universities must also take part in the computerization of Telugu. The government of Andhra Pradesh can encourage some NGOs also to carry out research in this direction and provide financial assistance to them.

In the opinion of the present writer the following improvements need to be made.

1. Most softwares that have been developed so far are not very user-friendly.
2. Some fonts do not support other softwares.
3. Spellcheckers seem to have been made for only literary languages.
4. Translation softwares can perform the task only up to 80%.
5. The search engines in Telugu use only roman script.

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