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5. KANNADA DEVELOPMENT: AN OVERVIEW

1. Development

The notion of development is seen differently by different fields of investigation. The three main components of national development (Farrell: 1982) are: (1) generation of more wealth within 8 nation (economic development), (2) the more equitable distribution of such wealth, or at least more equitable distribution of opportunity for access to that wealth (social development) and (3) the organization of political decision making structures that would be close approximations of those prevalent in the West (political development).

The Unesco (1982) views development as integrated one: it is an organic process - involving a number of economic, social and cultural factors which overlap and constantly influence one another; is endogenous- - each country carries out its development according to its own choice, and in conformity with the real values, aspirations and motivations of the population; is global its objectives and problems are determined with relation to world problems and reflect the general nature of development.

2. Language Development

The Union Government (1993) categorizes language development into (a) development of instructional and reference materials, (b) production of books for different kinds of readers, (c) creation of technical terms, (d) translation between Indian languages and from English to Indian languages and vice-versa, (e) communication based language teaching, (f) technology application and information storage and (g) development of man power in all these areas. It is mainly a quantitative account.

The language scientists consider language development as reduction of speech to writing; evolving of a norm which overrides' regional and social dialects; and developing of intertranslatability with other languages in a range of topics and forms of discourse characteristics of industrialized, secularized, structurally differentiated, 'modern' society (Cooper: 1989). This happens through enlargement of vocabulary by borrowing and derivational process, additions, changes in the syntax and discourse pattern due to creation of new registers or enlargement of the existing registers in response to changes taking place in the society.

3. Kannada Development

The Government of Karnataka's (1992) notion of Kannada development has to be deciphered from its proceedings defining the power, duties etc., of the Kannada Development Authority. Accordingly, (a) over-seeing the implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Karnataka Government: preparation, publication and distribution of syllabus, materials developing suitable manpower through training for the same and (b) taking suitable steps to implement the proposal of giving jobs for Kannadigas in Karnataka, is Kannada development. The Blueprint for Kannada development (1977) prepared by the community encompasses - (a) creating creative literature, (b) writing for science, humanities, text-books, newspapers, (c) translation from other languages into Kannada and from

Kannada to other languages (d) research, documentation and furthering of folklore, archaeology, arts and crafts.

4. Movements And Kannada Development

Language movement has played an important role in deciding the status of Kannada in almost all the domains. Movement: for primacy of Kannada in school education resulted in making it a compulsory subject. It is one of the three compulsory languages in the secondary schools²; lead to declaration that mother tongue of the child as medium of instruction in primary schools³; helped to make knowledge of Kannada essential for the government jobs⁴; made catholic churches to introduce prayer in Kannada; forced the government to extend the geographic overage and enhance the duration of telecast of Kannada programmes through Doordarshan; informally, has created a condition that the cinema theaters have to exhibit Kannada films for sufficient number of weeks in an year.

5. Standard Form for Communication

The environment conducive for Kannada development was created by the reorganization of states in 1956. Natural evolution, acceptance, spread and communicability of a form of Kannada for use in formal education, administration and mass communication has evolved in the last three and a half decades. This is the first indicator of Kannada development.

6. Spread of Kannada Among Other Language Speakers in Karnataka

Another indicator of Kannada development is the acceptance/learning of it by the other language speakers. Spread of Kannada among non-native speakers till 1982 was informal. Now it has become a part of formal education. Hence the spread of it is faster.

The table given below indicates the actual spread.

a) Percentage of bilingual persons of different mother tongues in Karnataka and

(b) Percentage of them being bilingual in Kannada

Language	1961	1981
Kodagu	a. 54.61 b. 86.99	a. 82.38 b. 95.99
Konkani	a. 67.64 b. 70.11	a. 78.63 b. 80.07
English	a. 59.33 b. N.A	a. 76.79 b. 32.08
Malayalam	a. 51.41 b. 38.58	a. 62.82 b. 62.68
Hindi	a. 57.28 b. 64.96	a. 62.36 b. 90.08
<i>Telugu</i>	a. 47.08 b. 90.32	a. 56.88 b. 94.55
Tamil	a. 43.63 b. 65.78	a. 56.46 b. 86.62
Tulu	a. 34.62 b. 96.18	a. 56.38 b. 98.50
Urdu	a. 47.30 b. 82.46	a. 52.75 b. 85.58
Marathi	a. 36.85 b. 78.23	a. 47.29 b. 78.18

7. Kannada in Creative Writing

Language development analysis generally does not take the contribution of creative writing for the development of language seriously. May be because here Language development is (a) more a natural process, (b) not planned and artificial effort by the intervention of specialists and (c) not easy to come to the grip of analysis like in planned development. But it is an important and major aspect.

Urge for freedom, increase in contact, communication, interaction etc., created demand for prose writing in Kannada. The English education helped the creative writers of modern Kannada in the early stages to fit their Kannada creative expressions into English literary frames. But, soon they came out of it by realizing the potential of their own language for such purposes. The independence of the nation, changes in the social structure of the Kannada society, spread of literacy among its population, helped all the sections of it to use their own speech form in written expression. Thus, in creative writing Kannada has come out of English or any other language frame.

If Kannada used in literature today is compared to the one used in, (a) before independence and (b) before 1900 AD., the systematic differences in discourse, apart from enormous growth of vocabulary, precision in meaning and expression will be revealed. Formal education is successful in creating efficient manpower. There is no literary genre which is not exploited by Kannada. In this domain, Kannada development is active and functional. Scientific fiction is the one which is still in the infant stage.

8. Kannada in Mass Media

Print media because of its independence of expression is more powerful than Government controlled audio and video media and is more innovative in language use. The print media creates terminology for the occasion. Whereas the other media look into dictionaries and glossaries whenever needed.

The total number of Kannada newspapers and magazines has increased 3 times in the last 3 1/2 decades.

Number of Dailies, Weeklies: etc., in Karmada

Periodicity of Publication	Year					
	1965	1975	1978	1983	1985	1990
Dailies	---	52	57	85	132	162
Tri/Bi weekly	---	2	---	3	4	4
Weekly	---	120	123	161	218	252
F. Nightly	---	---	---	131	---	148
Monthly	---	---	---	---	299	355
Quarterly	---	---	---	---	32	33
Annualy	---	---	---	---	2	2
Others	---	174	230	406	10	14

(Source: Year Books)

It can be seen that the major and one of the oldest Kannada dailies has increased its circulation by 8 times, weekly also by 8 times and monthly by 3 times.

Circulation of a leading Kannada Daily, Weekly and Monthly

Year	Period	Prajavani	Sudha	Mayura
1960	January-June	31,591		
	July-December	32,908		
1965	January-June	57,347	20,565	
	July-December	62,757	30,930	
1968	January-June	60,770	66,471	27,774
	July-December	62,371	67,043	27,008
1970	January-June	69,627	80,616	28,362
	July-December	70,470	80,612	30,203
1975	January-June	1,00,492	1,01,022	47,757
	July-December	1,08,887	95,224	49,346
1980	January-June	1,74,219	1,63,102	80,531
	July-December	1,75,633	1,70,658	81,823
1981	January-June	1,75,900	1,52,425	80,212
	July-December	1,71,783	1,55,112	83,306
1982	January-June	1,69,546	1,61,781	84,179
	July-December	1,74,172	1,58,907	86,585
1983	January-June	1,88,813	1,78,081	92,439
	July-December	1,87,796	1,77,884	94,890
1984	January-June	1,90,096	1,70,029	93,453
	July-December	1,91,550	1,57,971	90,597
1985	January-June	1,88,504	1,49,162	87,062
	July-December	1,83,754	1,61,557	89,128
1986	January-June	1,92,707	1,88,439	91,630
	July-December	1,98,231	2,10,182	92,780
1987	January-June	2,02,211	2,14,970	95,158
	July-December	2,02,644	2,23,963	97,519
1988	January-June	2,00,100	2,07,059	90,387
	July-December	2,12,227	2,06,649	87,940
1989	January-June	2,19,374	1,87,980	83,734
	July-December	2,17,674	1,71,828	80,350
1990	January-June	2,31,064	1,63,247	76,620
	July-December	2,26,105	1,65,493	79,318
1991	January-June	2,31,069	1,62,071	79,271
	July-December	2,17,905	1,64,975	77,451
1992	January-June	2,09,303	1,52,163	72,887
	July-December	2,12,062	1,50,781	74,733
1993	January-June	2,17,212	1,50,264	71,824

(Source: Statistics provided by The Mysore Printers Ltd.)

A comparative study of the content, distribution of content and expression of the earliest editions and today's editions of them indicates the changes in language and simplification that has taken place. Most complicated and intricate judgment, Constitutional Amendment, government announcement, economic issue or commercial information is rendered in Kannada communicable to most of the average readers.

The economic changes initiated three years ago in the country created greater demand for economic or market news in Kannada. It was indeed an event to watch the way in which the media is going to cope up with it. Since June 15, 1994 one of the leading daily 'Kannada Prabha' initiated a weekly supplement 'Vitta prabha' on financial and business news. As on today the language of it is simple, lucid and communicable. After six months an analysis of Kannada of this supplement will throw more light on various linguistic aspects.

While the print media helped in the spread of standard written Kannada, the standard spoken Kannada was popularized by the feature

films and other audio media. Six-fold increase in their production is evident from the table given below.

Number of Feature Films produced in Kannada

Year	No. of films
1965	14
1966	21
1976	35
1986	68
1992	90
1993	89

(Source: Year Books and Report of Kannada Cinema)

9. Kannada in Education

In Karnataka, Kannada is taught as mother tongue and other tongue. It is also a medium of instruction: for all subjects up to 10th standard; in the pre degree and degree classes for some selected science subjects; and all the subjects of the humanities group. In these classes, among the professional courses only agricultural science is taught through Kannada. At the postgraduate level only humanities subjects are taught through Kannada. Neither science nor other professional courses have Kannada as medium of instruction.

In order to provide Kannada textbooks at the university level 785 books were prepared upto March 1987, in which 593 were supposed to be original writings and 192 translations. Among these 376 titles were recommended for prescription in the syllabus [Dalal: 1987]. In addition to this institutional effort, the practicing teachers also have contributed books for different subjects.

However, at present, the science textbook for 10th is a broad translation of the English medium textbook. While doing so, whatever is supposed to be difficult to translate has been left out. The aim of uniformity, keeping the spirit of the original has distanced the Kannada medium student himself from the textbook. A language sample of the text book is given in the Annexure.

In 1965 there were 1332 Secondary schools with Kannada medium. The same increased by three fold and became 3945 in 1986. In the secondary schools and pre degree courses Kannada medium students outnumber English medium students. But in the percentage of pass the English medium students outnumber their Kannada counterparts. Even in the competitive examinations under the control of the state, Kannada medium applicants 'Outnumber English medium ones. The Karnataka Public Service Commission conducted examinations for clerical cadre posts in 1986. Out of 1,42,000 applicants for second division clerk's posts 1,28,000 opted for Kannada medium. Only 18,929 applicants opted for English medium. During the same year for the posts of first division clerks 46,324 applicants were there. Among them 33,500 chose Kannada medium and 12,824 chose English medium. In the gazetted probationers examination during 1993 out of 26,000 applicants, 15,000 opted for Kannada medium and 10,000 for English medium.

It can be said that there may not be any dearth of basic books for education. But when the students want to enhance or add up to the knowledge they have gained through Kannada, with the help of reference volumes in Kannada they will meet a dead end. They have to go back to English for advanced and additional purposes. At present what is available is only a bare necessity. Availability in abundance is the requirement. Will be available in abundance only when there is greater demand. The demand will be created only when it helps economic development.

10. Kannada in Judiciary and Administration

Important and necessary legal references for Judiciary like Constitution, Criminal Procedure Code, Evidence Act, 174 Central Acts, 72 State Acts, English - Kannada legal glossary are available in Kannada. Also select Judgments are translated into Kannada and published every month in special Kannada Law Journal.

In Karnataka the judicial system has 422 courts and tribunals. In them, 112 District and Session Judges, 135 Civil Judges, 272 Munsif Magistrates are working. Among them 40 District Judges and 18 Civil Judges are on other official duty working elsewhere. Among the rest of the 461 Judges, 163 are recording evidences in Kannada and 45 are delivering Judgments in Kannada (Sharma: 1994). Only 10% of them are really using Kannada for Judicial purposes. The judicial administration is conducted in English only.

In pursuance of the Karnataka Official Language Act 26 (1963) 281 official memorandum, circulars, orders etc., have been issued for the implementation of this Act till July 1993. In order to develop the manpower - 44,000 government officials are trained in administrative Kannada; 4,000 English typists and stenographers are trained in Kannada typing and stenography; 10,000 typewriters are distributed to various departments; and materials - more than 2,00,000 copies of administrative English - Kannada, Kannada - English glossaries, administrative manuals are published and distributed. In 1991 the Chief Minister of Karnataka gave direction to the administration to use only Kannada in official correspondence and also asked to return the files with noting in any language other than Kannada to the concerned officials.

The administrative Kannada is not a homogeneous single entity. It comprises of sub registers like that of forestry, law, fisheries, education, horticulture, health and family welfare, revenue and general administration etc. Apprehensions are voiced regarding communicability of Kannada used in official documents. Committees are formed to simplify

administrative register to make it more communicable. These committees work more on the basis of its members personal experience, intuition and hypothetical ideas on simplicity and complexity of language use.

The subjective assessment and comments on Kannada used in administrative and Judicial documents indicate that,

- i) The vocabulary items,
 - (a) run down into the administration in form and content due to the natural flow like those from Persian and Arabic or English sources are easily communicable than,
 - (b) those coined or formed as equivalent to English or other languages.
- ii) The sentences,
 - (a) have clause chains,
 - (b) are longer than others used in day-to-day communication or the ones used in other Kannada registers, and
 - (c) have double negatives, impersonal, passives causing difficulty in communicability.
- iii) Also in the written administrative Kannada discourse.
 - (a) familiarity of formats of correspondence,
 - (b) nature of recurring words,
 - (c) quantum of registral features in a communication and
 - (d) distance of the user dialect from that of the administrative register play an important role in totality of communicability of administrative Kannada.

The planned development of Kannada in these domains is not functional to the extent it should have been. Though many quantitative statements have been made regarding the availability of materials for use of Kannada in administration, qualitative evaluation of those materials about their use and efficiency of them for the purpose are yet to be studied in detail. However, a short qualitative study of Kannada used in administration indicated the use of non standard forms of technical terms, non use of glossaries, manual produced for the purpose, bad translations resulting in confusion etc.

11. Kannada in Industry and Commerce

The private sector uses English. The public sector undertakings depend mostly on English. But sporadically organizations like NGEF, KSDL have made attempts to use Kannada for their research, training, administration, commercial transaction etc., within the state resulting in, stencils, glossaries of technical terms and manuals of their company [Mallikarjun and Yadurajan : 1989]. This has not happened because there was a demand for the same but there was pressure to do so from different outside groups.

12. Measuring or Mapping Kannada Development

At present there are no comprehensive tools for the measurement of Kannada development.

The government measures with number of books published, people trained, number of letters received or dispatched etc.

The language vitality measurement to know its development too depends upon the quantity of language users and language use (McConnell: 1992).

Other language specialists are content by measuring the quantity of vocabulary, extension of derivational process, new sentence types etc.

In addition to these, while taking stock of language development though not easy to implement, it is essential to add two more parameters,

- (a) communicability of thus developed language to the consumers of it, and
- (b) impact of it on human development.

In case of Kannada of some of the domains illustrated above, instead of understanding and recreating the knowledge available in other languages, translation was chosen as an easy mode for transfer of information. But as we saw - language of two important domains, judiciary and administration, education have become artificial and non functional to a greater extent. It looks as if translation based language is for language sake and not for communication sake. Here language development is language and information centered but not concerned with the beneficiary. Also this has created an uncondusive atmosphere for original writings and has reduced the speed of real development.

In order to understand the development of modern Kannada precisely, detailed and systematic study of (a) role of language policy of the State and Union, (b) contribution of - literature including different trends and-their impact, nonliterary prose writing, translation of literary and non literary prose, (c) impact of social, economic and technological changes and (d) various influences is essential.

Notes

1. Kamataka Government Order No. DPAR 183 KOL 92, Nov. 11, 1992.
2. Compulsory Study of Kannada : Judgment of High Court of Karnataka, (ILR 1989 KAR 457), Justice Rama Jois, Balakrishna and Justice Rajendra Babu.

3. Medium of Instruction: Supreme Court Judgement of Dec. 8, 1993. Chief Justice M.N. Venkatachalaiah and Justice S. Mohan.
4. Knowledge of Kannada for Government Jobs: Kamataka Administrative Tribunal; Judgment of July 6, 1990, Justice N.D.Venkatesh and Justice B.N. Garudachar.
5. The Third and Fifth All India Educational Survey of the NCERT
6. Y. K. Puttaswamegowda, Member, KPSC; In his speech on KPSC and Kannada at Kannada Development Conference on Feb 19, 1994 at Bangalore.
7. Adalita Kannada anusthaana . aadeeshagala sankalana, Bangalore. Kannada Development Authority. 1993.
8. Ondu namuuneya aadalita Kannada - HSK falicitation volume, Mysore, 1995.

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