

# Kannada Manual: Language and Culture



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***Disclaimer:***

*This manual includes information regarding Kannada culture, language, therapy tests and assessments, resources, and contacts. This is not all inclusive. It is a starting point for those interested in learning more about this particular culture. Resources provided can aid further investigations into this topic. For a more comprehensive view of the culture, refer to the references included in this manual and conduct further research as necessary.*

**Table of Contents:**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Linguistic Features.....                                     | 4-5   |
| Geographical Distribution .....                              | 5     |
| Official Status .....  | 5     |
| Population Kannada Speakers .....                            | 6     |
| Origin and History.....                                      | 6-7   |
| Linguistic Community.....                                    | 7     |
| Culture.....   | 7-17  |
| Dress Attire .....   | 8     |
| Food .....   | 8-9   |
| Local Restaurants .....                                      | 9     |
| Religion .....   | 9-10  |
| Celebrations/Festivals .....                                 | 10-13 |
| Official Music .....   | 14    |
| Flag/Emblem .....  | 14    |
| Sports .....   | 14-15 |
| General Indian Etiquette .....                               | 15-16 |
| Government .....   | 16-17 |
| Education .....  | 17    |
| Script/Language .....  | 17-23 |
| Orthography & Basic Phonology .....                          | 18    |
| Basic Morphology.....  | 19-20 |
| Basic Syntax .....   | 21    |
| Contact with Other Languages .....                           | 21    |
| Common Words .....   | 22    |
| Preservation, Protection and Promotion of the Language ..... | 22    |
| Possible Errors/Linguistic Transfer .....                    | 22-23 |
| Video Clips/Audio Recordings .....                           | 23    |
| Kannada Assessments .....                                    | 24    |
| Resources.....   | 24-26 |
| Websites .....   | 24    |
| Research Articles .....                                      | 25-26 |
| Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists .....          | 27    |
| References .....   | 28    |

## *Linguistic Features*

**Name:** Kannada. **Alternates:** *Kannarese, Canarese.* **Autonym:** *kannada.*

**Location:** Indian state of Karnataka and neighboring states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; also overseas communities in the United States and England.

**Family:** Belongs to the Southern branch of the Dravidian language family of India.

**Related Languages:** TAMIL, MALAYALAM, Kodagu, Tulu, TELUGU.

**Dialects:** Geographical dialects: (1) Southern (Mysore, Bangalore), (2) Western (Mangalore), (3) Northern (Dharwar), (4) Northeastern (Bijapur). Caste dialects: (1) Brahmin, (2) non-Brahmin, (3) Harijan. Diglossia: "high", formal register and "low", informal register. Further gradations are possible in each category of variation. This chapter is based on the Brahmin dialect spoken in the cities of Mysore and Bangalore, which has close parallels with the written language.

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's languages: an encyclopedia of the world's major languages, past and present

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Population</i>           | 35,300,000 in India (1997). Population total all countries: 35,327,600.                                      |
| <i>Region</i>               | Karnataka; Andhra Pradesh; Tamil Nadu; Maharashtra. Also in Canada, United States.                           |
| <i>Alternate names</i>      | Banglorig, Canarese, Kanarese, Madrassi  |
| <i>Dialects</i>             | Bellary, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Kumta, AineKuruba, JeinuKuruba, Nanjangud. About 20 dialects; Badaga may be one. |
| <i>Classification</i>       | Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Kannada  |
| <i>Language use</i>         | State language of Karnataka. 9,000,000 L2 speakers.  |
| <i>Language development</i> | Literacy rate in L1: 60%. Literacy rate in L2: 60%. Fully developed. Bible: 1831–2000.                       |
| <i>Writing system</i>       | Kannada script.  |
| <i>Comments</i>             | SOV. Hindu, Muslim, Christian.   |

Table obtained from: [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=kan](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=kan)

**Number of Speakers:** Kannada is the native language of approximately 25 million people; adding those who speak it as a second language may raise the total number of speakers to nearly 40 million.

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's languages: an encyclopedia of the world's major languages, past and present



Image obtained from:

[http://www.nationsonline.org/bilder/map\\_of\\_india50.jpg](http://www.nationsonline.org/bilder/map_of_india50.jpg)

### ***Geographical distribution of the language***

Kannada is mainly spoken in Karnataka in India, and to a good extent in the neighboring states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa, as well as in sizeable communities in the USA, Europe, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Middle Eastern countries, Canada, Malaysia, Australia, the UK, and Singapore.

\*\*Information obtained from:

[http://www.southindianassociation.org/kannada.php#Geographic\\_distribution](http://www.southindianassociation.org/kannada.php#Geographic_distribution)

### ***Official Status:***

Kannada is one of the twenty-two official languages of India and is the sole administrative language of the State of Karnataka.

\*\*Information obtained from:

[http://www.southindianassociation.org/kannada.php#Geographic\\_distribution](http://www.southindianassociation.org/kannada.php#Geographic_distribution)

## ***Top 30 Languages by Number of Native Speakers***

Data source: *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 15th ed. (2005) & Wikipedia.org.

| Language    | Approximate # of speakers                                 | Where is it spoken as an official language? |
|-------------|---|---|
| 27. Kannada | NATIVE: 35 million<br>2nd: 9 million<br>TOTAL: 44 million | OFFICIAL: India (Karnataka).                |

\*\*Information obtained from: [http://www.vistawide.com/languages/top\\_30\\_languages.htm](http://www.vistawide.com/languages/top_30_languages.htm)

### ***U.S. Population***

Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over for the United States: 2006-2008. Release date: April 2010:

|         | # of speakers | Margin of Error | Spoke English less than "very well" | Margin of Errors |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Kannada | 35,902        | 2,307           | 5,229                               | 964              |

\*\*Information obtained from:

[http://search.census.gov/search?q=kannada&btnG=Search+This+Site&filter=0&entqr=0&output=xml\\_no\\_dtd&ud=1&ie=UTF-8&client=subsitem&proxystylesheet=subsitem&hq=inurl%3Awww.census.gov%2Fpopest%2F&subtile=hhes-xyz](http://search.census.gov/search?q=kannada&btnG=Search+This+Site&filter=0&entqr=0&output=xml_no_dtd&ud=1&ie=UTF-8&client=subsitem&proxystylesheet=subsitem&hq=inurl%3Awww.census.gov%2Fpopest%2F&subtile=hhes-xyz)

### ***Origin and History***

Kannada belongs to the Southern branch of the Dravidian language family, and is closely related to Tamil, Malayalam, Irula, Kodagu, Toda and Kota. Badaga, spoken in the Nilgiri Mountains to the south of Karnataka, is thought to be a recent off shoot of Kannada (16th century). The name of the language most likely comes from the word skaru 'black' and naclu 'country, land'; hence, '(language spoken in the) country of the black soil'.

Throughout its history, Kannada has influenced and been influenced by a variety of languages, mainly of Dravidian and Indo-European stock. The earliest strata show the influence of SANSKRIT and Tamil the medieval period shows that of Telugu, PERSIAN and ARABIC and the modern stage shows that of PORTUGUESE and ENGLISH.

Modern Kannada has four main geographically based dialects, which grade into finer subdialects. The southern dialect area includes the varieties spoken in and around the cities of Bangalore and Mysore (Bright 1958, Sridhar 1990), and forms the basis of this description. The northern dialect area centers on the city of Dharwar (Hiremath 1980, McCormack 1966); the western dialect on Mangalore District; and the northeastern in and around the city of Bijapur.

Social dialects in Kannada reflect the historical fact that traditional social and economic interaction respected the caste structures of Hindu society. The primary distinction appears to be among Brahmin, non-Brahmin and Harijan varieties of the language. However, under the influence of modernization, which includes universal education, social dialect differences are shifting from a caste to a class basis.

Finally, Kannada exhibits a variation in register between an informal and a formal variety, known to linguists as "diglossia". The informal variety is used in virtually all face-to-face communication, while the formal variety appears in writing and many formal occasions such as political oratory and radio broadcasts.

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's languages: an encyclopedia of the world's major languages, past and present.

### ***Linguistic community***

Karnataka is a state in the southern part of India. It was created on November 1, 1956, with the passing of the States Reorganization Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973.

Karnataka is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west, Goa to the Northwest, Maharashtra to the North, Andhra Pradesh to the East, Tamil Nadu to the Southeast, and Kerala to the Southwest. The state covers an area of 74,122 sq mi, or 5.83% of the total geographical area of India. It is the 8th largest Indian state by area, the 9th largest by population and comprises of 30 districts. Kannada is the official and most widely spoken language in the state.

Though several etymologies have been suggested for the name Karnataka, the generally accepted one is that Karnataka is derived from the Kannada words karu and nadu, meaning elevated land.

Kannada, whose native speakers are called Kannadigas number roughly 50 million, making it the 27th most spoken language in the world.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.nammakannadanadu.com/>

### ***Culture***

The diverse linguistic and religious ethnicities that are native to Karnataka combined with their long histories have contributed immensely to the varied cultural heritage of the state. Apart from Kannadigas, Karnataka is home to Tuluvas, Kodavas and Konkanis.

The traditional folk arts cover the entire gamut of music, dance, drama, storytelling by itinerant troupes, etc. Yakshagana of Malnad and coastal Karnataka (song of the celestials; ling between heaven and earth), a classical dance drama, is one of the major theatrical forms of Karnataka.

\*\*Video obtained from youtube of a Yakshagana dance:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF5fheLP\\_M4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF5fheLP_M4)



Veeragase, Kamsale, Kolata and Dollu Kunitha are popular dance forms.

\*\*Video obtained from youtube of Veeragase, Kamsale, and Kolatadance:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddniYJHYa9g>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCv89ZOam6s&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrYc-i00GPY&feature=related>

Gamaka is another classical music genre based on Carnatic music that is practiced in Karnataka. Kannada Kamsale and Kolata is a genre of popular music that draws inspiration from the expressionist poetry of modern poets.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.nammakannadanadu.com/>

### ***Dress Attire***

Saree is the traditional dress of women in Karnataka. Women in Kodagu have a distinct style of wearing the saree, different from the rest of Karnataka. Dhoti, known as Panche in Karnataka is the traditional attire of men. Shirt, Trousers and Salwarkameez are widely worn in Urban areas. Mysore peta is the traditional headgear of southern Karnataka, while the pagadi or pataga (similar to the Rajasthani turban) is preferred in the northern areas of the state.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.nammakannadanadu.com/>

Ilkal saree is a traditional form of saree which is a common feminine wear in India. Ilkal saree takes its name from the town of Ilkal in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka state, India. Ilkal sarees are woven using cotton warp on the body and art silk warp for border and art silk warp for pallav portion of the saree. In some cases instead of art silk, pure silk is also used.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://reference.findtarget.com/search/Ilkal%20saree/>



\*\*Images obtained from yahoo images

### ***Food***

Rice (Kannada) and Ragi form the staple food in South Karnataka, whereas Joladarotti, Sorghum is staple to North Karnataka. Bisibele bath, Joladarotti, Ragimudde, Uppittu, Masala Dose and Maddur Vade are some of the popular food items in Karnataka. Among sweets, Mysore Pak,



BelgaaviKunda, Gokak karadantu, and Dharwadpedha are popular. Apart from this, coastal Karnataka and Kodagu have distinctive cuisines of their own. Udupi cuisine of coastal Karnataka is popular all over India.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.nammakannadanadu.com/>

- More foods demonstrated via PowerPoint: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ5oekzACIQ> or <http://www.kannadainfomedia.com/>
- Recipe for Choco Coconut Laddoos (Ugadi New Year's dessert): <http://www.indobase.com/recipes/details/choco-coconut-laddoos.php>

### ***Local Restaurants***

1. Taj Palace Indian Restaurant & Bar  
6700 Middle Fiskville Rd, Austin, TX 78752  
(512) 452-9959
2. Star of India  
2900 W Anderson Ln, Austin, TX 78757  
(512) 452-8199
3. Indian Palace  
3616 Far West Blvd, Austin, TX 78731  
(512) 241-1732
4. Sarovar  
8440 Burnet Rd, Austin, TX 78757  
(512) 454-8636
5. India Kitchen Inc  
2410 E Riverside Dr, Austin, TX 78741  
(512) 448-7773
6. Bombay Grill Indian Restaurant  
3201 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746  
(512) 329-0234
7. Swad Indian Vegetarian Rstrnt  
9515 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78753  
(512) 997-7923
8. Curry In Hurry  
2121 W Parmer Ln, Austin, TX 78727  
(512) 821-0000
9. India Cuisine  
2407 S Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78704  
(512) 445-9727
10. Bombay Bistro  
10710 Research Blvd # 126, Austin, TX 78759  
(512) 342-2252

Information obtained from:

[www.yellowpages.com](http://www.yellowpages.com)

### ***Religions of Kanartaka***

Throughout its history, Karnataka has been the preferred sanctuary for a myriad of religions and faiths. Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Sikhism and Christianity are the major religions in Karnataka. In a fine example of communal harmony, all these religions of Karnataka have peacefully co-existed over the years.

### *Hinduism*

Of all the Karnataka religions, Hinduism enjoys an omnipresent stature. The succession of Hindu dynasties in Karnataka has patronized religious activities to a great extent while emphasizing on the building of temples and shrines. Within the confines of Hinduism, there are sects worshipping the deities of Lord Shiva and Vishnu. Banavasi, Basavakalyan, Udipi and Sringeri are the prominent Hindu pilgrimages of Karnataka.

### *Islam*

Islam flourished in Karnataka with the emergence of powerful Muslim kingdoms. Besides spawning a plethora of monuments and forts, these dynasties established some of the magnificent mosques of Karnataka. With the creation of Deccan Sultanates and the invasion of Mughal rulers, Islam became the predominant religion in regions like Gulbarga and Bijapur. The Khwaja Bande Nawaz Durgah in Gulbarga is regarded as one of the holiest Muslim pilgrimages in Karnataka.

### *Jainism*

Karnataka has been a hotbed for the religion of Jainism. Some of the most sacred Jain pilgrimages like Mudabidri and Shravanabelagola are located in Karnataka. The enormous statues of Lord Bahubali in Dharmasthala and Shravanabelagola attract Jain devotees in large numbers.

### *Sikhism*

Sikhs are found in scattered locations of the state. The Gurudwara Nanak Jhira in Bidar is a prominent Sikh pilgrimage and this shrine was supposed to have been consecrated by Guru Nanak.

### *Christianity*

Christianity is very much prevalent in Karnataka and some of India's most splendid churches are found in Mysore and Bangalore.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.bharatonline.com/karnataka/religion.html>

## ***Celebrations/Festivals***

### *Mysore Dasara Nada habba* (state festival)

- Mysore Dasara is a Royal Festival Celebrating victory of Truth over Evil. Legend has it that the Goddess Chamundeeswari or Durga slew the demon Mahishasuran on Vijayadashami day. In Karnataka, Dasara is observed as State festival - Nadahabba, because of the celebration of the festival is steered by the Royal Family of Mysore. The royal family of Mysore performs special pooja on the occasion of Dasara. During Dasara, the entire City is gaily decorated and illuminated.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAE8Hmz8CHU&feature=relmfu>

Information obtained from: [http://mysoredasara.org/about\\_dasara.html](http://mysoredasara.org/about_dasara.html) and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### Ugadi (Kannada New Year)

- Celebrate the festival with great fanfare; gatherings of the extended family and a sumptuous feast are 'de rigueur'. The day, begins with ritual showers (oil bath) followed by prayers.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfJYfl-aPaA>

\*\*Information obtained from:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ugadi#Observance\\_of\\_the\\_festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ugadi#Observance_of_the_festival) and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### MakaraSankranti (the harvest festival)

- People offer thousands of their colorful oblations to the Sun in the form of beautiful kites. The act stands as a metaphor for reaching to their beloved God, the one who represents the best. In the rural and coastal areas, cock fights are held and is a prominent event of the festival. Makara Sankranti is also to honour, worship and to pay respect to Saraswati (Goddess of Knowledge). At the start of this significant event, there is also worship for the departed ancestors.
- Makara Sankranti identifies a period of enlightenment, peace, prosperity and happiness followed by a period of darkness, ignorance and viciousness with immense sorrow. The six months of northern movement of the sun is followed by six months of southern movement.



\*\*Information & Image obtained from:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makar\\_Sankranti#Traditions.2C\\_rituals\\_and\\_celebration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makar_Sankranti#Traditions.2C_rituals_and_celebration) and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### Ganesh Chaturthi

- Hindu festival of Ganesha, the son of Shiva and Parvati, who is believed to bestow his presence on earth for all his devotees in the duration of this festival. It is the birthday of Ganesha who is widely worshipped as the god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZj9POJW GU&feature=related>



Information and image obtained from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganesh\\_Chaturthi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganesh_Chaturthi) and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### Naga Panchami

- Worship either images of or live Nāgas (cobras) on the fifth day after Amavasya of the month of Shraavana. Traditionally, married young women visit their premarital households to celebrate the festival.
- On this day married women and the girls wake up early in the morning, take head bath, arrange the things necessary for puja and start to reach a nearest AntHill(Snake's Home). They offer puja and Milk to the Ant Hill and pray to Snake God(Indian Cobra - Lord Subramanya's Incarnation) for the Wellness of their brothers and their family.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQHULOAhbDk>

\*\*Information obtained from:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nag\\_panchami#In\\_South\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nag_panchami#In_South_India) and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### Basava Jayanthi

- Most important festival of the Lingayats. It marks the birthday of Basavanna, the founding saint of the Lingayat faith. It is celebrated with much pomp and gaiety all over Karnataka.
- Don't rob, Don't kill, Never ever lie Don't get angry, Don't think negative about others Don't self describe, Don't tease others This is the way of self respect, this is the way to get respected by the world. This is the way of impressing my lord Koodala sangam deva.
- The rich will make temples for Shiva. What shall I, a poor man, do? My legs are pillars, The body the shrine, The head a cupola of gold. Listen, O lord Kudal Sangama deva, things standing shall fall, but the moving ever shall stay.

\*\*Information obtained from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basava\\_Jayanthi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basava_Jayanthi) and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### Ramzan (Ramadan)

- During Ramadan the people who fast are not allowed to eat or drink anything (including water) from dawn to after sunset. Also one has to restrain other body parts, which may render the fast worthless despite the main factor of hunger and thirst; so the tongue, for instance, must avoid backbiting, slander, and lies; the eyes should avoid looking into things considered by the Lawgiver as unlawful; the ears must stop from listening to conversation, words, songs, and lyrics that spoil the spirit of fasting; and finally restraining of the heart, and mind from indulging, themselves in other things besides zikr or Allah (remembrance of Allah).

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.islamawareness.net/Calendar/Ramadan/whatisramzan.html> and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### Kannada Rajyotsava (Formation Day)

- Celebrated on 1 November every year. This was the day in 1956 when all the [Kannada](#) speaking regions of [south India](#) were merged to form the state of [Karnataka](#).
- Normally Kannadigas celebrate it by hoisting their so called Kannada flag and singing some Kannada anthem.

\*\*Information obtained from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka\\_Rajyotsava](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka_Rajyotsava) and <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Religion>

### ***Official Music***

Kannada Patriotic Song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAs2yK4R2mE>

Karnataka State Anthem:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXA00kEFKBQ>

### ***Flag/Emblem***



The Kannada/Karnataka flag is a bicoloured flag. The Yellow Red signify Peace and Courage.



This is the state emblem of Karnataka, India and as such is the official Emblem of Government of Karnataka state in India.

\*\*Images obtained from: <http://www.nammakannadanadu.com>

### ***Sports***

Karnataka's smallest district, Kodagu, has been a major contributor to Indian field hockey, producing numerous players who have represented India at the international level. The annual Kodava Hockey Festival is the largest hockey tournament in the world. Bangalore has hosted a WTA tennis event and, in 1997, it hosted the fourth National Games of India. The Sports Authority of India, the premier sports institute in the country, and the Nike Tennis Academy also headquarter in Bangalore. Karnataka has been referred to as the cradle of Indian swimming because of its high standards in comparison to other states.

Cricket represents one of the most popular sports in Karnataka. The state cricket team has won the Ranji Trophy six times, second only to Mumbai in terms of success. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore regularly hosts international matches, also serving as home of the National Cricket Academy, opened in 2000 to nurture potential international players. Many cricketers have represented India and in some international matches held in the 1990s; players from Karnataka



composed the majority of the national team. Vijay Bharadwaj, Rahul Dravid, Javagal Srinath, Sunil Joshi, Anil Kumble and Venkatesh Prasad, all from Karnataka, played in this match: People play sports like khokho, kabaddi, chini daandu and goli (marbles) mostly in Karnataka's rural areas.

Notable sportsmen from Karnataka include Prakash Padukone who won the All England Badminton Championships in 1980 and Pankaj Advani who has won three world titles in cue sports by the age of 20 including the amateur World Snooker Championship in 2003 and the World Billiards Championship in 2005.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Sports>

### ***General Indian Etiquette***

*\*(information not specific to Kannada)*

*Cultery:*

- Eat with their hands (Indian breads and curry best enjoyed when eating with the hand)
- Long fingernails in India is considered unhygienic
- In South India, it is considered ill mannered to let your food stain the outside of your fingers or palm while eating and food is to be eaten only with the tip of the fingers, though popular belief is to think it is okay use more of your hand.
- In South India, the plate is not to be touched or held by the left hand while eating
- If the food is soupy spoons can be used

*Contamination with saliva*

- 'enjalul' (in Karnataka) is a common belief which refers to the food item or the utensils or serving dishes, that has come in contact with someone's mouth, or saliva or the plate while eating - something that directly or indirectly came in contact with your saliva. It can also refer to leftover food.
- Considered rude and unhygienic to offer someone food contaminated with saliva.
- Not uncommon for spouses, or extremely close friends or family, to offer each other such contaminated food and is not considered disrespectful under such circumstances.

*Right hand*

- The cardinal rule of dining is to always use the right hand when eating or receiving food and not the left.
- The left hand is not used to eat so that it can be used for serving food from the serving dish onto your plate using serving spoons, tongs etc. left-handers its vice-versa.
- It must be also noted that these etiquettes are applicable only while eating Indian food. For other cuisines (Chinese, Italian, Continental etc.), especially in urban areas, most Indians use fork and spoons to eat.

### *Other rules*

- In formal settings, it is expected that everyone will wait for the host or the eldest person - the elder taking priority over the host - to begin eating before everyone else starts.
- Similarly it is expected that one should not leave the table before the host or the eldest person have finished their food. It is also considered impolite to leave the table without taking the host's or the elder's permission.
- Everyone must wash their hands before sitting at the table as many Indian foods are eaten by hand. One must wash one's hands after eating the food. Cleaning with cloth or paper tissue is considered unhygienic.
- Always sit up with your back straight during eating. If you are sitting on the floor, you must have your legs crossed.
- If you are using dining furniture, your elbows should not lean on the table.
- Your hands should always reach to your mouth. Never lift your plate up.
- Take a small amount of food each time, and ensure that food does not reach your palms.
- It is not necessary to taste each and every dish prepared; but you must finish everything on the plate as it is considered a respect for served food, and food is sacred. For this reason, take only as much food on the plate as you can finish.
- Everyone must start eating at the same time, and have exactly the same portions. As a host it is important to offer your guests another serving, but as a guest it is impolite to do so.
- Generally it is not accepted to burp, slurp, or spit.
- Do not tap, or in any other way make a sound on your plate.
- Always eat food as it is served. It is not a good idea to ask for salt or pepper.
- Playing with food, or in anyway distorting the food is unacceptable. Eating at a medium pace is important as eating too slowly may imply that you dislike the food, whereas eating too quickly is rude.
- In some parts of India, if a diner finishes earlier than the rest, they may need to wait until everyone has finished. Occasionally in these parts, it is acceptable for the diner who has finished to wash their hands, however, they are expected to return to the dining area immediately after. In most parts, it is acceptable to leave after the elders have finished.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/38201870/Etiquette-of-Indian-Dining>

More information regarding India etiquette, protocol, tips and manners:  
<http://www.indiaetiquette.com/appointments.htm>

### ***Government***

Karnataka, like other Indian states, has a parliamentary system of government with two democratically elected houses, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

The government of Karnataka is headed by the Chief Minister who is chosen by the ruling party members of the Legislative Assembly. The Chief Minister, along with the council of ministers, drives the legislative agenda and exercises most of the executive powers. However, the

constitutional and formal head of the state is the Governor who is appointed for a five-year term by the President of India on the advice of the Union government.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.nammakannadanadu.com/>

### ***Education***

As per the 2001 census, Karnataka had a literacy rate of 67.04%, with 76.29% of males and 57.45% of females in Karnataka being literate. Some of the premier educational and research institutions of India such as the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institute of Management, the National Institute of Technology Karnataka and the National Law School of India University call Karnataka home.

\*\*Information obtained from:  
<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karnataka#Education>

### ***Script/language***

The Kannada language is written using the Kannada script which is derived from the Kadamba script.

There is also tremendous Sanskrit influence in the language, as evidenced by the fact even grammatical terms like noun, verb etc are all Sanskrit words. The history of Kannada is conventionally divided in three periods, Old Kannada (6th to 13th centuries), Middle Kannada (14th to 18th century) and Modern Kannada (19th century to present). Middle Kannada was significantly influenced by Sanskrit in terms of vocabulary, grammar and literary styles.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.indiacity.com/2010/12/27/culture-kannada/>

Kannada is a Subject-Object-Verb word order language. However, due to the rich morphology and subject-verb agreement, the constituent order is relatively free and omission of the subject is common since the agreement features of the verb indicate the nature of the sentence subject. Modifiers usually precede the words they modify. However the existence of specific topic and focus particles allow for the rearrangement of constituents depending on which element of the structure is emphasized. Within the noun phrase the head noun is preceded by its modifiers (adjectives, possessors, quantifiers, relative clauses) but is followed by any emphatic or inclusive clitics and particles.

\*\*Information obtained from: <http://www.lmp.ucla.edu/Profile.aspx?LangID=90&menu=004>

## Orthography and Basic Phonology

Standard Kannada has 11 vowels (a, ā, i, ī, u, ū, e, ē, o, ō, ṭ) and 34 consonants.

**Table 1: Consonants**

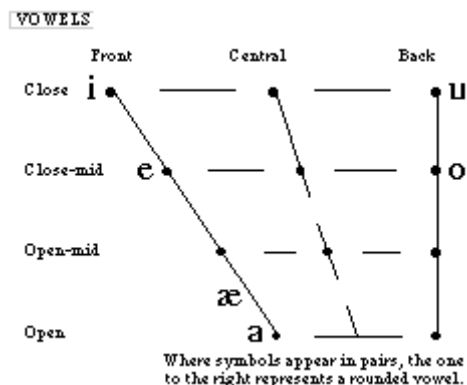
|            |               | Labial | Dental | Retroflex | Palatal | Velar |
|------------|---------------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|
| Stops      | Voiceless     | p      | t      | ʈ         | c       | k     |
|            | Aspirated     | pʰ     | tʰ     | ʈʰ        | ç       | kʰ    |
|            | Voiced        | b      | d      | ɖ         | j       | g     |
|            | Breathy Voice | bʱ     | dʱ     | ɖʱ        | jʱ      | gʱ    |
| Fricatives | Voiceless     | f      | s      | ʂ         | ʃ       | h     |
|            | Voiced        |        | z      |           |         |       |
| Nasals     |               | m      | n      | ɳ         |         |       |
| Lateral    |               |        | ɭ      | ɻ         |         |       |
| Glide      |               | v      |        |           | ɻ       |       |
| Tap        |               |        | r      |           |         |       |

Of these sounds *ʃ, f* and *z* occur only in loanwords; in other dialects *ɳ* occurs in native words. The 10 aspirated and breathy voice stops occur only in loan words. Many of these are completely assimilated in Modern Kannada; in rapid speech, and in some dialects, these modified stops have been assimilated to their unmodified counterparts.

Kannada suprasegmental patterns are based on the length of segments and syllables; stress, which is nondistinctive, typically falls on the first syllable of each word. Intonation patterns are distinctive (for example, a question such as *ninnahesarueniu*) *appa?* 'what, is your<sub>1</sub> name<sub>2</sub>, sir<sub>4</sub>?' is uttered with a steadily rising intonation) but they have yet to be adequately studied.

Kannada is written in an alphasyllabic system, and has evolved from the same source as modern Telugu writing. The script is adequate to represent the phonemic distinctions of the language. Where graphs do not exist to represent borrowed or innovated sounds, certain writing conventions have arisen, so that *ze in/brenku/* 'bank', for example, is represented by a combination of the conjunct graph for *y* and the graph for *a*.

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's languages: an encyclopedia of the world's major languages, past and present



\*\*Image obtained from:

[http://accent.gmu.edu/browse\\_native.php?function=detail&language=kannada](http://accent.gmu.edu/browse_native.php?function=detail&language=kannada)

### ***Basic Morphology***

Kannada morphology distinguishes at a basic level between words and clitic particles. Words are independent forms; clitics are dependent. Independent words may be pronounced in isolation, and consist of a lexical base and one or more inflections. Clitics always combine with a host to form a phonological word; however, they make take an entire constituent in their scope. Clitics are generally monomorphemic, involving such notions as conjunction, quantification and emphasis; in this description, they are preceded by the symbol =.

Kannada morphology is agglutinating and primarily suffixal. Unlike the majority of Dravidian languages, however, Kannada has developed productive patterns of prefixation due to the influx of loanwords that have been resegmented into prefix and base and applied beyond their original scope. For example, the Kannada word *apanambike* 'mistrust' consists of the Sanskritic prefix *apa-* 'not' and the Kannada noun *nambike* 'trust'.

Nouns in Kannada include proper names, common nouns, pronouns, as well as other forms often translated as adjectives. They mark case, number and gender. There are seven cases that signal a variety of grammatical relations within the clause: nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, locative, source (which combines instrumental and ablative functions) and vocative. Unmarked singular contrasts with marked plural number. Gender is marked in pronoun choice, declensional patterns and, secondarily, certain derivational patterns; the basic gender categories include masculine, feminine and neuter.

The declension of nouns is regular; given the phonological shape of the noun and its gender, all other forms may be readily derived. Consider the three nouns *mara* 'tree', *mane* 'house', and *huduga* 'boy' below. Note that the distribution of the oblique base is not uniform across cases; for the inanimate noun *mara* 'tree', it is used in only the genitive, locative and source cases of the singular, while for the animate noun *huduga* 'boy', the oblique occurs in all singular, nonnominative cases.

Personal pronouns form an important subset of nouns. Unlike more familiar Dravidian languages, such as Tamil, standard Kannada makes no distinction between first-person plural inclusive ("we and you") and exclusive pronouns ("we but not you") although some regional dialects preserve this very Dravidian feature (see Table 2 on the next page).

Additionally, Kannada has demonstrative pronouns that commonly function as third-person anaphoric pronouns. The modern language has a proximal series marked with *i-* 'this' and a distal series marked with *a-* 'that'. The distal series is unmarked and has the broadest range of occurrence, e.g., in the head of a relative clause. Those noted below do not exhaust the range of third-person proforms: the masculine *pronounatan u* 'that male' and the feminine *iike* 'that female', which have direct counterparts in Telugu, are frequently heard (see Tables 3 and 4). Interrogative pronouns closely parallel the deictic pronouns, and include the following (which appear in their nominative forms): *yaru* 'who', *ydvudu* 'which (thing)', *entha* 'what kind', *enu* 'what', *yake* 'why' (literary *eke* 'id'). These may be combined with certain quantifiers to form indefinite pronouns, e.g., *ydru* 'who' combines with the clitic =6 'or, any' to form *yar=6* 'someone'.

Kannada has a broad set of postpositions that supplement the case system; they express more specific semantic relations than the simple case forms do. Postpositions that historically descend from nouns or nonfinite verb forms govern specific cases. For example, the postposition *-oskara* 'for the sake of' in *avanig-oskara* 'for his sake', governs the dative case, but has a more specific meaning than the simple dative in *avanige* 'for him, to him', which conveys the general notion of recipient.

Kannada verbs mark such categories as tense and mood. The verb consists of a lexical base and a

set of suffixes. The lexical base may contain a simple root, or a root plus a suffix such as the causative marker *-isu*. Kannada has two basic conjugations: the first includes most verbs whose stem ends in *-u*, e.g., *madu* 'do, work'; the second includes most verbs whose stem ends in *-e* or *-i*, e.g., *kare* 'call', *kudi* 'drink'. Kannada also has a number of irregular verbs; the irregularity centers primarily on how they form their past stems.

Verb forms in Kannada are finite or nonfinite. Finite forms mark tense/mood and subject-verb agreement. Their distribution in the Kannada sentence is strictly limited by rule so that the majority of forms are nonfinite. Modern literary, or "high",

Kannada has five finite paradigms: past, present, future, contingent and negative. The first three convey tense, the second two mood. The corresponding spoken, or "low", register has three: past, nonpast and contingent. The future finite paradigm is largely absent from the spoken register; the literary present formally corresponds to the spoken nonpast. The spoken dialect expresses negation through the use of specific compound verbs.

Besides these full paradigms, Kannada has other finite forms, among them the imperative, the optative and the hortative. The imperative, for example, has familiar and polite forms, *madu* 'do, make' and *madiri* 'please do', respectively. Modern Kannada lacks a simple negative imperative form, and uses instead such modal compound verbs as *madabeda* 'don't do, make' and *madabaradu* 'one shouldn't do, make'.

Nonfinite verbs encompass two sets of forms: those that combine with a following verb and those that combine with a following nominal. The first set include the conjunctive, infinitive and conditional forms; the second set includes the adnominal forms and certain verbal nouns.

Nonfinite verb forms that combine with a following verb appear in complex structures such as compound verb constructions and complex clause structures. In the sentence, *avanubandare, ruinuhoguttini* 'if he, comes<sub>z</sub> 1<sub>3</sub> (will) g<sup>0</sup>4' the conditional verb form *band-are* 'if (one) comes' joins an if-clause to a then-clause. In sentence (Sa) below, the anterior conjunctive verb *kandu* 'seeing, having seen' joins two clauses in a coordinate structure.

Nonfinite verbs that combine with nouns help to generate relative clauses and similar structures. For example, the relative clause *bandahengasu* 'the woman<sub>z</sub> who came' consists of the adnominal verb *banda* 'which came' and the common noun *hengasu* 'woman', while *bandahiige* 'manner, in which (one) came,' adjoins *banda* to the adverbial noun *hiige* 'manner'.

Kannada lacks articles. The numeral 'one', *ondu*, may function as an indefinite article in some circumstances. Further, the presence or absence of the accusative case marker on an inanimate noun may signal definite vs. indefinite reference (in 7c) the nominative form for the direct object *hiilu* 'milk' conveys 'some'. Two minor parts of speech may be recognized primarily by appeal to their function rather than to any formally distinct morphology: adjectives and adverbs.

All clitics in Kannada are postclitic: they attach at the extreme right of their host constituent. While they form a phonological word with their host, they often take a full constituent, clause, or sentence in their scope. Their functions range from emphasis, to quantification (= *il* 'all' in 7b), to discourse markers (= *=6* in 7b). One of the most common is the interrogative clitic = *ii*, which makes a yes-no question out of a declarative sentence (1a) when it appears at the end of the sentence (1b). When a particular constituent within the sentence (2a) is questioned, the clitic is attached to the questioned constituent and the sentence is transformed into a cleft structure in which the finite verb is transformed into a verbal noun (2b).

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's language: an encyclopedia of the world's



major languages, past and present

### ***Basic Syntax***

Kannada is a left-branching, head-final language. The canonical word order is subject, object, verb, which forms the basis of several word-order permutations. In keeping with basic SOV word order, complements precede matrix clauses, genitives precede their nouns, and main verbs precede their auxiliaries.

The simple sentence consists of a subject and a predicate. The subject generally occurs in the nominative case (3,4), but certain predicates, typically verbs of cognition and feeling, take a subject in the dative case (5). The predicate may be a finite intransitive or transitive verb (1, 2). In another important pattern, the predicate may be a predicate nominal without any copula (3, Sa). A sentence with a predicate nominal such as (3a) is negated with the verb form *alia* 'not become' (3b), the negative of the verb *aga* 'become'. The most common simple sentence, however, consists of a nominative subject and a finite verb as predicate (4); this is the structure in terms of which constituent structure generalizations are framed. The dative-subject construction aside, the agreement pattern in Kannada is nominative-accusative.

Complex sentences are formed through three basic methods, in order of increasing markedness: (i) the use of nonfinite verb forms, (ii) certain embedding verbs and clitics, and (iii) conjunctions. In Example Sentences (Sa) and (6a), the anterior conjunctive form of the verb in the first clause joins it to the second clause, which has a finite verb. In (7a), the verb *endu* 'having said' subordinates a clause that has a finite verb; in (7b) the clitic =6 'or, whether' embeds a finite verb; and in (7c), the conjunction *mattu* 'and' conjoins two clauses with finite verbs.

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's languages: an encyclopedia of the world's major languages, past and present

### ***Contact with Other Languages***

The core vocabulary of Kannada contains words of Dravidian origin, inherited directly from older stages of the language or borrowed from sister languages. It also contains words borrowed from Indo-Aryan languages such as Sanskrit (tprayatna 'attempt'), Prakrit and (Marathi tcunavane 'election'). Other languages have contributed to its lexical growth, as well: Persian, HINDI (joru 'forceful'), Portuguese and English (kaleju 'college').

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's languages: an encyclopedia of the world's major languages, past and present

## ***Common Words***

small: cikka; house: mane; yes: haudu; three: muru; boy: huguga; sun: snrya;  
man: gandasu; woman: hengasu; no: illa, alla; tree: mara; water: nlru;  
big: doggu

## ***Efforts to Preserve, Protect, and Promote the Language***

Cultivated as a literary language for over a millennium, Kannada has produced a great body of literature, ranging from epics to devotional hymns, from short stories to novels from dramas to lyrics. Such activity continues today, and is supported by an active publishing industry.

Unlike any of the smaller, nonliterary Dravidian languages, Kannada is not threatened with extinction. The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which reorganized states along linguistic lines, confers the status of national language on Kannada. The state government of Karnataka promotes the use of Kannada through its Directorate of Kannada and Culture. These efforts include education, publishing and media (radio, cinema and television). Recent proposals have been offered by politicians to ensure that Kannada is made the primary language of instruction at every level of education, often displacing English from that role.

\*\*Information obtained from: Facts about the world's languages: an encyclopedia of the world's major languages, past and present

## ***Possible Errors/Linguistic Transfer***

### ***Extinct Kannada Letters***

Kannada literary works employed letters (transliterated 'rh') and (transliterated 'lh' or 'zh'), whose manner of articulation most plausibly could be akin to those in present-day Malayalam and Tamil. The letters dropped out of use in the twelfth and eighteenth centuries, respectively. Later Kannada works replaced 'rh' and 'lh' with (ra) and (la) respectively.

Another letter (or unclassified vyanjana (consonant)) that has become extinct is 'nh' or 'inn'. (Likewise, this has its equivalent in Malayalam and Tamil.) The usage of this consonant was observed until the 1980s in Kannada works from the mostly coastal areas of Karnataka (especially the Dakshina Kannada district). Now hardly any mainstream works use this consonant. This letter has been replaced by (consonant n).

\*\*Information obtained from:

<http://www.southindianassociation.org/kannada.php#Geographicdistribution>

### *Generalizations*

#### Consonant:

- final obstruent devoicing
- interdental fricative to stop
- r to trill
- retroflexing

#### Vowel:

- vowel shortening
- vowel raising

#### Syllable Structure:

- liquid deletion

Other sounds: aspirated counterparts for all stops; /f/, /z/, and front open -mid vowel occur only in loan words; /a/ is central; all native vowels have long counterparts.

\*\*Information obtained from:

<http://accent.gmu.edu/searchsaa.php?function=detail&speakerid=228#>

### *Video clips/audio recordings*

- Speech accent archive: Kannada  
<http://accent.gmu.edu/searchsaa.php?function=detail&speakerid=228>
- Pronunciation Guide:  
<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/kannada.htm>
- Traditional music play (Dollu Kunita ):  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnFvzomMDIY&feature=related>
- Kamsaale - A unique dance culture in Karnataka  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCv89ZOam6s&feature=related>
- Karnataka Tourism:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaKTDHuDdfY>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sWee79-WPE>
- Online Radio:  
<http://kannadaaudio.net/>

## ***Kannada Assessments***

*Kannada version of Western Aphasia Battery (K-WAB)* The KWAB contains the same test contents and structure as the original WAB (Kertesz and Poole, 1974) which is a commonly used assessment tool by Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) for aphasia.

*The Diagnostic Kannada Picture Articulation Test by: Babu, Ratna, and Bettageri (1972)*

\*\*Information obtained from:

<http://www.languageinindia.com/june2008/normativechengappa.pdf>

## ***Resources:***

### *Websites*

- Learn Kannada:  
<http://www.languagereef.com/alphabets.php?lang=KANNADA>  
<http://www.languageinindia.com/oct2003/mysoredialect.html>  
[http://accent.gmu.edu/browse\\_native.php?function=detail&language=kannada](http://accent.gmu.edu/browse_native.php?function=detail&language=kannada)  
<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/plc/kannada/>  
<http://www.universini.com/>
- Basic Kannada for Travelers:  
<http://www.villagevolunteers.org/PDFs/Travel%20Documents/FYI/India/Kannada%20Language%20Guide.pdf>
- Online Kannada news in Kannada:  
<http://www.prajavani.net/web/home/index-1.php>  
<http://www.kannadaprabha.com/>  
<http://www.sanjevani.com/today/index.html>  
<http://www.nriol.com/kannada-page.asp>
- Website for children:  
<http://www.kannadalibrary.com/>
- Informational website:  
<http://www.kannadainfomedia.com/>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Tkw\\_CAzbM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Tkw_CAzbM)
- Characters/Script/Fonts for use on computer:  
<http://brahmi.sourceforge.net/docs/KannadaComputing.html>  
<http://www.kannadaprabha.com/fonts/help.asp>

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