

**A TAMIL GRAMMAR:  
DESIGNED FOR USE IN  
COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS**

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A Tamil Grammar: Designed for Use in Colleges and Schools by John Lazarus

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**JOHN LAZARUS**

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

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*AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE NANNUL.*

HOBART PRESS—MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.  
ADDISON PRESS, MOUNT ROAD.

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*OPINIONS OF THE ABOVE.*

It reflects credit on your industry and knowledge of your Text. I hope it will sell well.—*Dr. Pope.*

It gives me much pleasure to state that I consider your translation of the Text of the Nannul a most valuable help to every student of the higher Grammar of Tamil, whether European or Native.—*Bishop Caldwell.*

We have taken pains to read it through very carefully, and can confidently recommend it as a safe guide to students of the Nannul. Here and there the rendering is vague; here and there the wording of the translation might be improved; but taken as a whole, the translation is faithful.—*The Student.*

To Mr. John Lazarus, B.A., belongs the honour of being the first translator of the unrivalled work of the great Pavananti. A careful perusal of the work enables us to endorse the highly appreciative remarks made by the two Madras papers in reviewing this book. The translation is precise: the English good. Typographical errors are nowhere, and the general get up of the book reflects credit on the publishers. This book would be a great help to all Europeans who wish to acquire a thorough grammatical knowledge of the Tamil language.—*Indian Daily News.*

It is many years ago since we studied the Nannul for the first time. At that time our Munshi knew no English and we knew little Tamil; consequently the Nannul was a very tough joint to carve, and not very digestible afterwards. No translations then existed. The translation before us by Mr. Lazarus, B.A., is well done. It is curt, blunt, and pregnant, like the original. It ought to be very useful. But a few more notes would have been an advantage. All the notes that now exist are brief, parenthetical expansions of the original antiquities. These expansions are well done, and render the translation clear, where otherwise it would be misty . . . . . It is well worth its eight annas, and we hope both author and purchasers will profit thereby.—*Madras Times*.

THE honour of being the first to make a complete translation into English of the famous Tamil Grammatical treatise called the *Nannul*, the original composition of a Jaina author named Pavananti, who lived about the 12th or 13th century of our era, now belongs to Mr. John Lazarus, a Native Graduate of the Madras University. . . . . The translator informs us that it is the result of labour expended by him on the study of the *Nannul* for thirteen years, and in our opinion he has done his work in a thoroughly conscientious manner. The plan of the present translation is far less extensive than that of Messrs. Joyce and Samuel Pillai, for it confines itself to a simple but careful translation of the Sutras only, whereas the former version was accompanied by translations of extracts from the most approved commentators, and with other explanatory notes, and a vocabulary. Without such aid, many of the Sutras of Pavananti are, like those of Panini his Sanskrit predecessor, "dark as the darkest oracles." We hope, therefore, that in a second edition the translator may be encouraged to add at least the comments of Siva Gnana Tambiran. In the meantime, we have much pleasure in recommending the work to all English Students of the *Nannul*. The book is moreover not without interest to the student of Hindu opinions and antiquities. The following quotation from the Chapter on "Qualifying Words" would form an interesting page in a work on Hindu Popular Delusions . . . —*Madras Journal of Education*.

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BY

JOHN LAZARUS, B.A.,

*Author of "An English Translation of the Nannal."*

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1878.

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## PREFACE.

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THE present work attempts to place in the hands of students in the 6th and 5th classes of Government and Aided Schools, a clear, concise and complete exposition, in the English language, of the fundamental principles of Tamil Grammar.

Although based upon the Nannūl, the work, it is believed, will be found to have a plan and treatment of its own. While it contains all that is essential in the ancient and unrivalled treatise of Pavananti, there is much other information that may be deemed necessary and useful to students of the present day. One important aim of the author has been to draw a line of distinction between the Grammars of the Higher and Lower dialects of the Tamil language. The formation, uses and other distinctive features of tenses, moods, participles, verbal and conjugated nouns, and various other subjects are discussed in detail; differences between the structures and idioms of the English and Tamil languages occasionally noticed; important sutrams from the Nannūl quoted as foot-notes; and a chapter on the structure, laws and analysis of sentences, and another on the structure and growth of Words introduced.

The plan of the work is briefly as follows: Etymology is treated under the several heads of



Classification, Inflection and Derivation. Combination or the Laws of Sandhi is made to form the first part of Syntax, thus coming after Etymology, a thorough knowledge of which it presupposes. The Rules have been classified and reduced to a few essential ones. In a future edition of the work, should there be one, it is hoped to make it complete by adding two more chapters, one on Prosody and the other on Rhetoric.

The Nannál being a Grammar of the Higher dialect, it omits everything that belongs exclusively to the Lower, while the highly difficult, and, in many parts, obscure style of poetry in which this masterly work is composed (not to speak of the commentaries and examples which have been prepared in elucidation of the Text), renders its study a most laborious and time-consuming, if not hopeless task to most of the students for whom the present work is especially intended. By dint of labour they do commit a few sutrams to memory, but these they seldom succeed in understanding. The intelligent study and ready application of the sutrams requires on the part of these students an amount of acquaintance with High Tamil, which they do not and cannot possess, though of course the case is somewhat different with those who have passed the Matriculation Test.

It is hoped that this little work will also be of use to Europeans desirous of studying the grammatical structures of the language in its classical as well as colloquial forms. But they will be disappointed, if they expect it to be a work on Tamil Composition.

In the preparation of this Grammar much valuable help has been derived from the following works: Beschi's Grammars of High and Low Tamil; Samuel Pillay's *Tolkappya-Nannūl*; Tandavaraya Mudaliar's *Ilakkana Vilakka Vina-vidai*; Rhenius' Tamil Grammar; Dr. Graul's *Outlines of Tamil Grammar*; H. M. Winfred's *Tamil Ilakkana Thirattu*; Ariyanandam Pillay's *Tamil Syntax*; Dr. Pope's *Third Tamil Grammar*; Dr. Caldwell's *Comparative Dravidian Grammar*; Dr. Winslow's *Tamil and English Dictionary*, besides various commentaries on the *Nannūl*.

In conclusion, the author tenders his best thanks to all the kind friends who aided and encouraged his undertaking while the work was in the Press, and requests all Tamil scholars to favour him with corrections and suggestions as to the future improvement of the Text-book now offered to the Public.

J. L.

L. M. INSTITUTION, MADRAS,  
December, 1878

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