

## Abstract 21

# A study of Acceptance of the Long Character 'Iṛu' of Sanskrit Grammarians

Ven. Panawala Dhammadhaja

Department of Sanskrit, University of Kelaniya

The classical Sanskrit language has sixty-four characters, according to Panini. It has pluta 'ilu' (3 matras) and without the long character of 'ilu'. He has been removed the long character of 'ilu' from the language because it is not used in Sanskrit language. In Panini Shiksha, 'pluta' character of 'ilu' is mentioned separately. The "iluvārṇasyadwādasha, tasyadīrghābhawāt" in Siddhāntakaumudiyā indicates that there is not a long pronounced 'ilu' letter. The Chāndra scholar removes the long character of 'ilu' from the classical Sanskrit by using statement of bālāwabōdhana "iluvārṇasyadīrghānasanti, tenasadwādasha". It should be researched what prospect the long character of 'ilu' included to Sanskrit alphabet by the later grammarians of Mugdhabōdha, sāraswata and siddhāntachandrikā, but was not accepted by the ancient grammarians. Vōpadēva who wrote Mugdhabōdha indicates three types of five vowels (hraswa, dīrgha, pluta) in Sanskrit by the formula "Āwatswarghaplu". Anubhūtiśvarūpa who wrote Sāraswata has agreed the idea of Vōpadēva scholar by two formulae that "A I U IRU ILU samānāh" and "Hraswadīrghaplutabhēdāhsawarṇāh". Teacher Pāṇinī accepted the short and pluta characters of 'ILU' which they are used very rare in Sanskrit language, but same long character of 'ILU' was not accepted. Therefore scholar, Durgasinghe says "yathānukaraṇehraswailukārōstitathādīrghōpyasfīmatam." If the both short and pluta characters of 'ILU' are accepted, the long character of 'ILU' also should be accepted. According to this matter, later grammarians can not find a suitable solution for using of character 'ILU'. So, the long character of 'ILU' have to be accepted.

Keywords: *characte, 'ILU', dīrgha, Grammarian, Pāṇinī,*