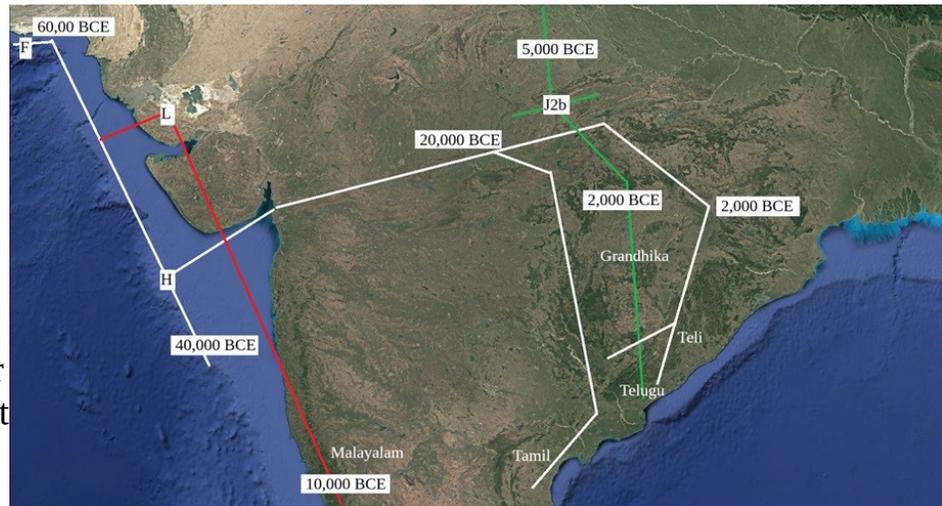


Evolutionary History of the Telugu Language

by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)

Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Teli are dialect families of the Kui people. Each family has hundreds of dialects of various sizes. Dialects evolved naturally to facilitate communications. Several languages were derived from the dialects for mass communications. Unlike dialects, languages were synthetic with rigid syntax and grammar to avoid misunderstandings in commercial contracts. Languages are a recent phenomenon.

Originally, 40,000 years ago, the Kui people (DNA H and L) lived on the West Coast of India, 500 feet below the current sea levels. At that time, much of the world was covered with glaciers and the seawater was far below the current levels. The area with medium blue color, in



the map, was fertile valleys that are now submerged. The glaciers started to melt 20,000 years ago. The current sea levels were reached 10,000 years ago.

The DNA F, parent of Kui, voluntarily left Ethiopia (Africa), 100,000 years ago, in search of dependable perennial rainwater resources. At that time, the current Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman were fertile valleys. The F were in the Persian Gulf 60,000 years ago. The offspring (H, L) moved to the West Coast 40,000 years ago.

The glacial melt forced the H, who lived on the Narmada delta of the then Arabian Sea, to move along the river to its headwaters, the foot of the Mt. Trikuta of the Vindhya. The L who lived at a higher elevation than the H were forced to move south to the current Kerala State 10,000 years ago. They were the Malayalam family of the Kui.

Some H at the Trikuta moved south along the Wainganga tributary of the Godavari river. Currently, they live to the south of the Krishna river. They were the Tamil family of the Kui.

Some H lived along the Hiran tributary of the Narmada river at the foot of the Mt. Trikuta on its east side. About 10,000 years ago, the Persian Gulf was submerged. The DNA J2b, another offspring of the F, who lived in the Gulf, were forced to move to the Trikuta, along the Ken river, to the west side of the mountain. The H and J2b on either side of the mountain lived on the west side of the Satpura Range that tapped clouds and filled the reservoirs with inexhaustible supply of rainwater.

Around 2,200 BCE, there was a global drought that lasted for almost 200 years. The Trikuta basins dried out, and all the people were forced to move to the east side of the Satpura. The H moved to the current Hirakud reservoir area of the Mahanadi river. The J2b moved to the Amarkantak area of the Mahanadi. Over time, some of them moved south to the East Coast.

The H who lived at the Hirakud were the Teli family. The J2b who lived at the Amarkantak were the Grandhika family. The families had hundreds of dialects each.

The Andhra on the coast was a dialect of the Grandhika family. The rest of the dialects on the coast were the Teli family of the H.

The Gondi, Kui, Kuvi, Konda Dora, Koya, and Yerukula were Teli dialects of the H. The Andhra was a Grandhika dialect of the J2b.

The H and J2b who lived in peace and harmony as separate people at the Trikuta, along different rivers for thousands of years, lived on the coast as one people in one place with a common language and culture. They evolved into the Telugu family of dialects.

Grandhika had no Teli, and Teli had no Grandhika. Telugu has both. It was a new family that evolved only on the coast to facilitate communications between the two people. All the Teli dialects on the coast were transformed into Telugu dialects by mixing Andhra. There are hundreds of distinct Telugu dialects. Telugu is nothing but Teli with some Andhra mixed. Teli was virgin Telugu with no Andhra.

The Andhra (Grandhika) spread to inland only above the Krishna. Tamil has no Grandhika words. The original Andhra dialect does not exist anymore, except in books written long time ago.

The popular Telugu poets Annamacharya, Vemana, and Kshetrayya lived below the Krishna. Their works have high concentration of Teli words. The poet Nannaya lived above the Krishna, on the coast. His famous work, the Andhra Mahabharatam, hardly had any Teli words. It was a specimen of the original Andhra (Grandhika).

The first published Telugu grammar, in English, Carey (1814), was titled Telinga. The first published Telugu dictionary, William Brown (1818), was titled Gentoo. In Madras Presidency, British called it Telinga, Portuguese called it Gentoo, and missionaries called it Teloogoo.

CP Brown (1853) popularized literary Andhra as Telugu. His famous dictionary used the title Telugu for the first time. The word Telugu gained currency only recently, after CP Brown.

In the Kui and Kuvi dialects, the suffix -nga is a plural termination, like -s and -es of English. In the Teli dialects, the word Teli-nga meant the Teli people (Telis), similar to Kuinga (Kuis), Kuinga (Kuis), Koinga (Koyas), and Kalinga (Kalis). Originally, the words Telinga and Kalinga meant highlanders and lowlanders. The Kalinga dialects of the Teli were transformed into Telugu dialects.

Unlike the Teli dialects, the Telugu dialects did not retain their original Teli names; they were blurred. We can still identify them by the choice of words used to describe an object in casual conversations; they are location specific.

Malayalam, Tamil, Teli, and Telugu are families of the Kui. Telugu is the youngest member.

The L (Malayalam) live only on the West Coast. The H (Tamil) live only on the East Coast to the south of the Krishna. The H (Teli) live only on the East Coast to the north of the Krishna.

The Kui (H, L) lived only in South India. Originally, they lived on the now submerged West Coast of India 40,000 years ago. They moved to the mainland only after the glacial melt.

[Reading material](#) [Home](#)