

# SANSKRIT AND MALDIVIAN I

## Vowels (stand alone)

अ a	आ ā	इ i	ई ī	उ u	ऊ ū	ऋ ṛ	ॠ ṝ	ऌ ḷ	ॡ ḹ	ए e	ऐ ē	ऒ ai	ओ o	औ au	अं am	अः ah
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## Vowels (short form)

क ka	का kā	कि ki	की kī	कु ku	कू kū	कृ kr	कृ kṛ	किल् किल्	किल् किल्	के ke	के kē	कै kai	को ko	को kō	कौ kau	कं kam	कः kaḥ
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## Consonants

क ka	ख kha	ग ga	घ gha	ङ ṅa	} <b>Guttural</b> <i>Kaṅṭhya</i> കണ്ട	
च ca	छ cha	ज ja	झ jha	ञ ña		} <b>Palatal</b> <i>Tālavya</i> താല
ट ta	ठ tha	ड da	ढ dha	ण ṅa		
त ta	थ tha	द da	ध dha	न na		} <b>Dental</b> <i>Dantya</i> ദന്ത
प pa	फ pha	ब ba	भ bha	म ma		
					} <b>Labial</b> <i>Oṣṭhya</i> ഔഷ	



The Isdhoo Loamaafaanu (copperplates) from 1195 CE use the Dives Akuru script.

«MY VOṆADAṆA KINGDOM»

Voṇadaṇa means "the islands that form and vanish". Maldivian kings used this term to refer to the Maldives in their missives.

Magē Voṇadaṇa Rājje

Dhivehi, the language of the Maldives, is a descendant of an old Prakrit and very closely related to Sanskrit. As the language of an island nation, it has developed in unique and fascinating ways.

This first panel showcases the sounds of the two languages and compares two historical Dhivehi scripts and the modern one (*Thaana*) to Brāhmī and Devanagari. Thaana was ultimately derived from Indian numerals.

The second panel gives many examples of Dhivehi words related to Sanskrit, including in the names of many of the islands.

## Numerals

१	1
२	2
३	3
४	4
५	5
६	6
७	7
८	8
९	9
०	0

## Additional Consonants in Maldivian

fa	la
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## Special Characters in Maldivian

Sukun (Virāma)	Alifu
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- Carrier for vowel without preceding consonant (word-initial or diphthong)
- (with Sukun) gemination
- (with Sukun at beginning or end of word) glottal stop

## Semi-vowels

य ya	र ra	ल la	व va
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## Sibilants

श śa	ष ṣa	स sa	ह ha
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**Key**

Devanāgarī	क ka	Brāhmī	𑀓
IAST	ka	Thaana	𑀓
Dhives Akuru	𑀓	Eveylla Akuru	𑀓

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE MALDIVIAN SCRIPT

250 BCE	<b>Brāhmī</b> 250 BCE - 1150 CE Brāhmī is the oldest known Indian writing system and was brought to the Maldives from India.	
1150 CE	<b>Evēla Akuru</b> 1150 CE - 1450 CE Evēla Akuru is a name given to the more ancient form of Dives Akuru.	
1450 CE	<b>Dives Akuru</b> 1450 CE - 1850 CE Dives Akuru is a creation out of Brāhmī unique to the Maldives.	
1700 CE	<b>Tāna Akuru</b> 1700 CE - Today Tāna Akuru (or <i>Thaana</i> ) was developed from both Arabic and Indic numerals to allow for easier writing of Arabic words.	

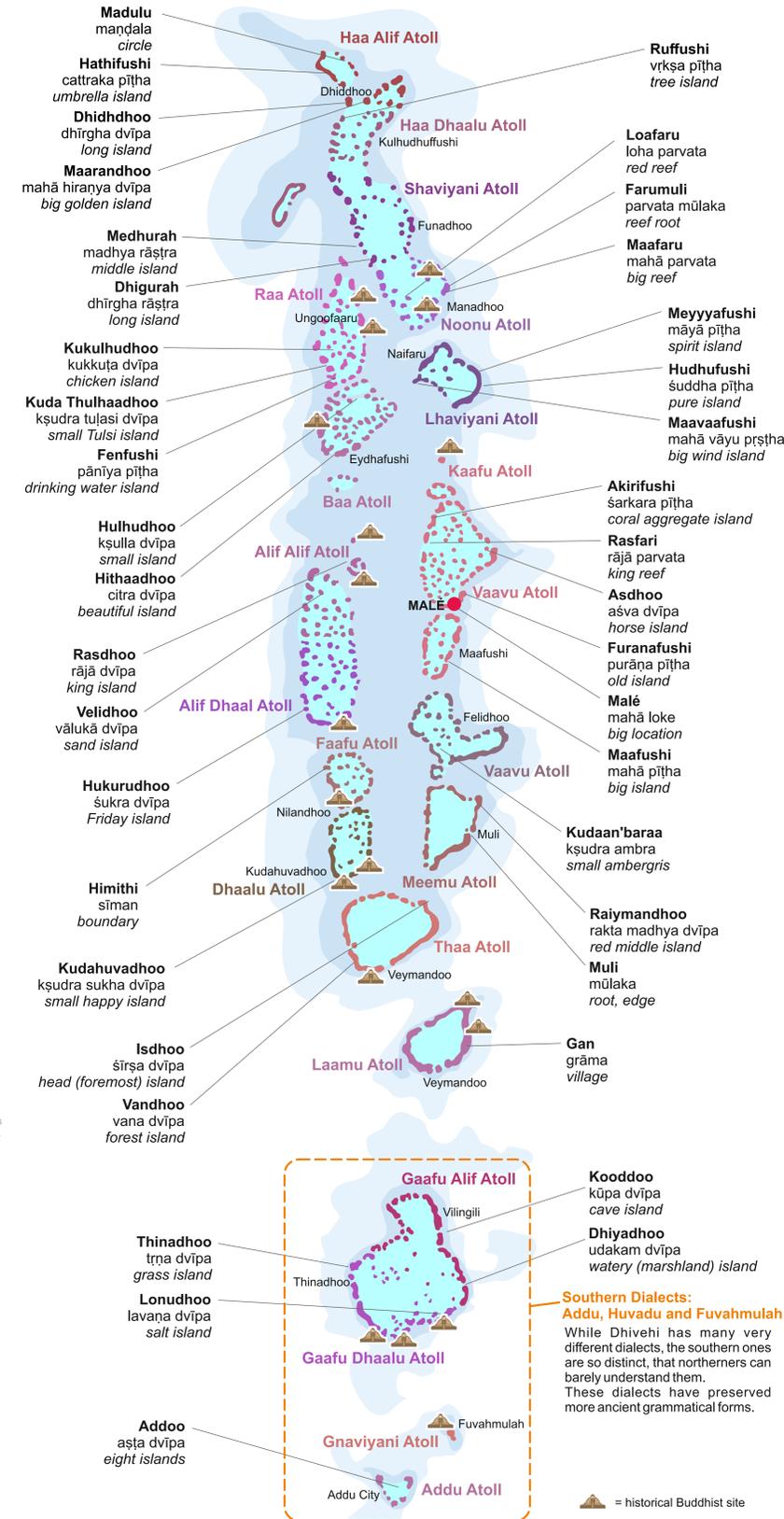
# SANSKRIT AND MALDIVIAN II

## PHONOLOGICAL CHANGES OVER TIME

Sanskrit 1500BCE - 500BCE	Insular Prakrit 1000BCE - 500CE	Dhivehi Prakrit 0 - 1000	Old Dhivehi 1150 - 1600	Middle Dhivehi 1600 - 1700	Modern Dhivehi 1700 - today	English
anga	*anga	*ange	a(ñ)ga	a(ñ)ga	އަންގަ	limb
akṣara	*akkara	*akere	*akuru	*akuru	އަކުރު	letter, script
catvāra	cattāra	*satarē	hataru	hataru	ހަތަރު	four
*drakṣapayya	*dakkapayya	*dakavaye	davai	dakkai	ދަބަބަ	showing
dvīpa	dīpa	dive	divu	duvu	ދޫ	island
gātra	*gāta	*gaye	gai	gai	ގަޔި	body
hasta	*atta	*ate	atu	at	އަތު	hand
hiranya	*ranna	*rane	ran(u)	ran	ރަން	gold
kukkuṭa	*kukkuṭa	*kukule	kukuḷu	kukuḷu	ކުކުލު	hen
mālā	*māla	*male	malu	*ma	މާ	flower (Skt. <i>garland</i> )
pāniya	*pāniya	*penē	pen(u)	pen(u)	ފެން	drinking water
phena/peṇa	pēṇa	*peṇe	*peṇu	*poṇu	ފޮނު	foam
*prākara (prākāra)	*pākara	*pavere	pavuru	pavuru	ފާރު	wall
rājā	*rāja	*rase	ras	ras	ރަސް	king
*saṃtīrtha	*sa(m)ṭīṭha	*sa(m)ṭele	ateḷu	atoḷu	އަތޮލު	atoll
*sahasra-eka	sa'ass-ekka	*sās-ekē	*hāh-eku	*hāh-eku	ހާސް	one thousand <i>thousand-one</i>
sīmā	*sīma	*simē	imu	in, im(u)	އިން	border
sūr(i)ya	sūriya	*sirē	iru	iru	އިރު	sun
taila	*tēla	*tele	telu	tel	ތެލު	oil
udaka	*daka	*diye	dia	dia	ދިޔާ	water
uṣṭra	*uṭṭa	*oṭe	oṭu	oṭu	އޮޅު	camel

\*= reconstructed, not attested      1= ? represents glottal stop

## MALDIVES MAP



## COGNATES

Sanskrit	Dhivehi	English
āditya	aadiita	sun
akṣara	akuru	syllable
ambra	anbaraa	ambergris
aśva	as	horse
antarā	athuru	in the middle
bhāga	bai	part
bhāṣā	bas	language
bhūmi	bin	earth
bīja	bis	seed
brhanta	bodu	big
bodhi	boi	bodhi tree
dharma	daruma	morality
dvīpavāsin	dhivehi	island-dweller
dhāna	dhaan	gift
dakṣiṇa	dhekunu	south
dve	dhe	two
deva	dhevva	spirit, god
udakam	dhiya	water
dhīrgha	dhigu	long
dvīpa	dhoo	island
dvāra	dhora	door
purāṇā	furaana	ancient
parvata	faru	reef, mountain
pāṃsu	fas	sand
pāniya	fen	drinking water
pṛṣṭha	fushi	island, seat
grāma	gan	island, village
giri	giri	reef, mountain
śrī	hiri	auspicious
śukra	hukuru	Friday, Venus
kukkuṭa	kukulhu	poultry
lābha	laaba	gain
maṇḍala	madulu	district
manas	manas	mind
mantra	mantaru	mantra
matsya	mas	fish
mās	mas	flesh
māsa	mas	month
mitra	mituru	friend
uttara	uthuru	north
uttama	uttama	highest

## EARLY ARTIFACTS OF THE MALDIVES



Figure 1



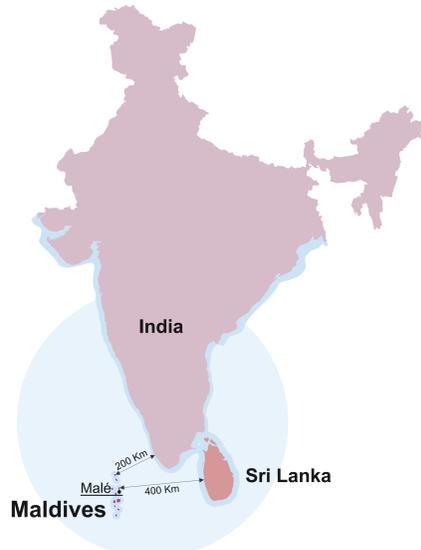
Figure 2



Figure 3

1. Buddhist sculptures of an apsara found at the Huda Miskiyi (c. 10-12th century)
2. Buddhist sculptures of a seated Buddha figure found at the Huda Miskiyi (c. 10-12th century)
3. Limestone plaster carving of a face (c. 10-12th century)

With thanks R. Michael Feener, Maldives Heritage Survey



## TIMELINE OF EARLY MALDIVIAN HISTORY

