

Tamil Computing



18.1 Introduction

“ பிறநாட்டு நல்லறிஞர் சாத்திரங்கள்
தமிழ்மொழியிற் பெயர்த்தல் வேண்டும்;
இறவாத புகழுடைய புதுநூல்கள்
தமிழ்மொழியில் இயற்றல் வேண்டும்;
மறைவாக நமக்குள்ளே பழங்கதைகள்
சொல்வதிலோர் மகிமை இல்லை;
திறமான புலமையெனில் வெளிநாட்டோர்;
அதை வணக்கஞ் செய்தல் வேண்டும்.”

- மகாகவி பாரதி

Human civilization developed with the innovation of computer in the twentieth century. Computer development began as a early calculating tool and has now become a essential ingredient for gigantic growth for the existence of human life without computers.

It is true that any language will be outdated when it does not have the ability to adapt itself to the changing technologies. Tamil is a living language for thousands of years. Development of modern technologies, does not affect the growth of classical Tamil as it is ready to adopt the growing technological changes. **Tamil is not just a language, it is our identity, our life and our sense.**

“எங்கள் வாழ்வும், எங்கள் வளமும் மங்காத தமிழென்று சங்கே முழங்கு” – புரட்சி கவி.

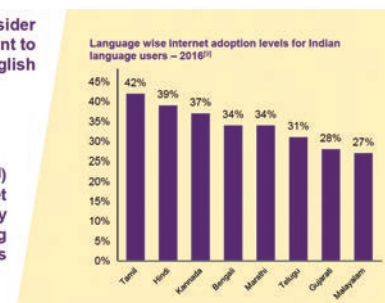
18.2 Tamil in Internet

We know that the internet today plays a vital role in every man's life. Internet is the best information technological device, through which we get know information.

In 2017 a study conducted by KPMG a Singapore based organization along with google, reported that, Tamil topped the list, among the most widely used languages in India, where 42% are using the Internet in Tamil

68%⁽⁹⁾ Internet users consider local language digital content to be more reliable than English

Currently, Tamil (42%⁽⁹⁾) has the highest internet adoption levels followed by Hindi and Kannada among the Indian language users

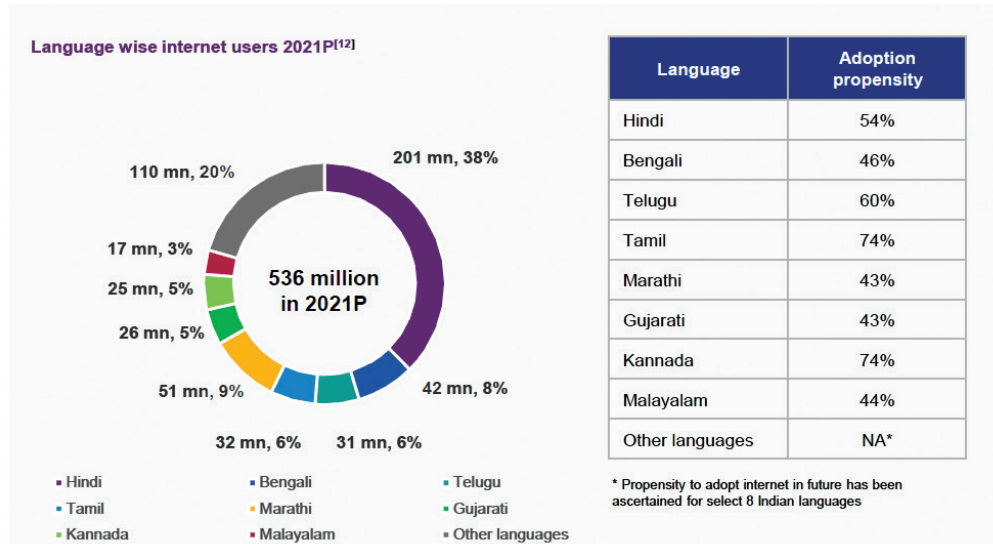


As per study, by 2021, 74% of people in India will access internet using Tamil and it will be in the top usage of Internet in India.

By 2021, the number of Hindi internet users will be more than English users

Marathi, Bengali, Tamil and Telugu internet users are expected to form 30%^[12] of the total Indian language internet user base

Tamil and Kannada speakers have the highest propensity to adopt internet in future with the Indian language enablement of the ecosystem



These statistical data will be useful to improve internet services in Tamil.

18.3 Search Engines in Tamil

The “Search Engines” are used to search any information from the cyber space. Although there are many search engines, but only a few of them are frequently in use. In the top ten search engines, Google, Bing and Yahoo take first three places respectively. Google and Bing provide searching facilities in Tamil, which means you can search everything through Tamil. The Google search engine gives you an inbuilt Tamil virtual keyboard.

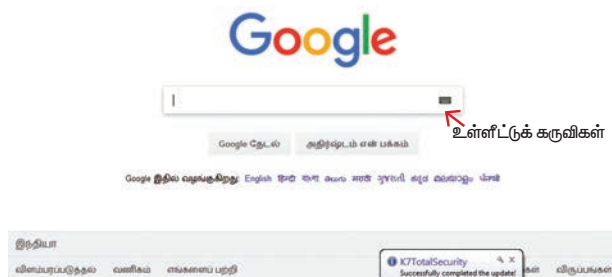


Figure 18.1(a) Google Search Engine (India)



Figure 18.1(b) Google Search Engine (Singapore)

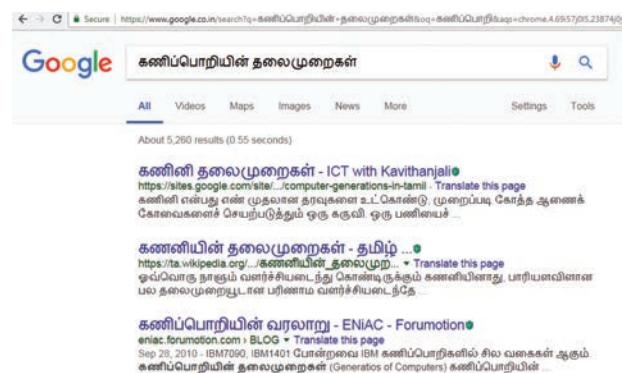


Figure 18.2 Searching in Tamil

18.4 e – Governance:

Getting Government services through internet is known as e-Governance. Govt. of Tamilnadu has been giving its services through Internet. One can communicate with Govt. of Tamilnadu from any corner of the World. One can get important announcements, government orders, and government welfare schemes from the web portal of Govt. of Tamilnadu.



Figure 18.3 Official Website of Govt. of Tamilnadu

E-Governance through Tamil	Web Address
Official Website of Govt. of Tamilnadu	http://www.tn.gov.in/ta
Department of Agricultural Engineering	http://www.aed.tn.gov.in/
Department of Environment	http://www.environment.tn.nic.in/
Directorate of Govt. Examinations	http://www.dge.tn.nic.in/
Tamilnadu Health Department	http://www.tnhealth.org/
Tamilnadu Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department	http://www.msmeonline.tn.gov.in/
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	http://www.tnrd.gov.in/
Backward, Most Backward and Minorities Welfare Department	http://www.bcmbcmw.tn.gov.in/
Tamilnadu Forest Department	https://www.forests.tn.gov.in/
Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.	http://www.tnhrc.org/
Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC)	http://www.tnpsc.gov.in/tamilversion/index.html
Official Website of Govt. of Srilanka	https://www.gov.lk/index.php

Outside India, Government of Srilanka provides all their services through the official website in Tamil.

18.5 e-Library

E-Libraries are portal or website of collection of e-books. Tamil e-Library

services provide thousands of Tamil Books as ebooks mostly at free of cost. It is the most useful service to Tamil people who live far away from their home land.



Tamil e-Library	Website address
Tamilnadu School Education and Teacher Education Training Textbooks and Resource Books	http://www.textbooksonline.tn.nic.in/
Tamil Virtual Academy	http://www.tamilvu.org/library/libindex.htm
Connemara Public Library	http://connemarapubliclibrarychennai.com/Veettukku_oru_noolagam/index.html
Tamil Digital Library	http://tamildigitallibrary.in/
Chennai Library	http://www.chennailibrary.com/
Thamizhagam	http://www.thamizhagam.net/parithi/parithi.html
Project Madurai	http://www.projectmadurai.org/pmworks.html
Old Books and Manuscripts	http://www.tamilheritage.org/old/text/ebook/ebook.html
Noolaham	http://www.noolaham.org/wiki/index.php/
Anna Centenary Libraray	http://www.annacentenarylibrary.org/

18.6 Tamil Typing and Interface software

Tamil is mostly used to type documents in word processors and search information on the internet. Typing Tamil using Tamil interface software is a familiar one among the different methods of typing. This is the simplest method of typing Tamil in both Computer and Smart phones.

18.6.1 Familiar Tamil Keyboard Interface:

- NHM Writer, E-Kalappai and Lippikar – are familiar Tamil keyboard interfaces software that is used for Tamil typing which works on Tamil Unicode, using phonetics.
- Sellinam and Ponmadal – are familiar Tamil keyboard layouts that works on Android operating system in Smart phone using phonetics.



Figure 18.4 eKalappai Opening screen

18.7 Tamil Office Automation Applications

Famous Office automation software like Microsoft Office, Open Office etc., provides complete Tamil interface facility. These softwares are downloadable and installed in your computer. After installation, your office automation software environment will completely change to Tamil. Menu bars, names of icons, dialog boxes will be shown in Tamil. Moreover, you can save files with Tamil names and create folders with Tamil names.



18.8 Tamil Translation Applications

18.9 Tamil Programming Language

18.10 Tamil Information Interchange Coding Systems

Computers handle data and information as binary system. Computers use ASCII encoding system to handle data and information. The ASCII encoding system is applicable only for handling English language. Therefore, TSCII (Tamil Script Code for Information Interchange) is the first coding system to handle our

Unicode:

18.11 Tamil Operating System

18.12 Organisation and projects to develop Tamil

With the objectives of spreading Tamil to the entire world through internet, Tamil Virtual University was established on 17th February 2001 by the Govt. of



Tamilnadu. Now, this organisation functions with the name of “Tamil Virtual Academy”. It offers different courses in Tamil language, Culture, heritage etc., from kindergarten to under graduation level.

Website: <http://www.tamilvu.org/index.php>

Tamil Language Council, Singapore

With the objectives of promoting the awareness and greater use of Tamil among the Singaporeans, in 2001 the council of Tamil Language was formed by the ministry of Information Communications and Arts, Govt. of Singapore. The council is called as “வளர்தமிழ் இயக்கம்”.

Website: <http://tamil.org.sg/ta>

Madurai Project

Project Madurai is an open and voluntary initiative to collect and publish free electronic editions of ancient tamil

literary classics. This means either typing-in or scanning old books and archiving the text is one of the most readily accessible formats for use on all popular computer platforms.

Since its launch in 1998, Project Madurai etexts released are in Tamil script form as per TSCII encoding. Since 2004 we have started releasing etexts in Tamil unicode as well.

Web Site: <http://www.projectmadurai.org/>

Tamil Wikipedia:

Wikipedia is a open source encyclopedia where any person can write an article about any subject. There are more than One lakh articles in Tamil Wikipedia.

Web Site: <https://ta.wikipedia.org/>

In order to make Tamil as a living language, it is the duty of every Tamilian to actively use Tamil in the development of technology.



Points to Remember:

- Tamil topped the list of the most widely used regional languages in India by the end of 2016, among 42% are using the Internet.
- Google and Bing provide searching facilities in Tamil.
- Getting Government services through internet is known as e-Governance.
- Tamil e-Library services provide thousands of Tamil Books as ebooks mostly at free of cost.
- Thamizpori (தமிழ்பொறி) is a Tamil translation application having more than 30000 Tamil words equalent to English words.
- The first Tamil programming language is “Ezhil” (எழில்)
- Unicode is an encoding system, designed to handle various world languages, including Tamil.
- Windows Tamil Environment interface should be downloading and install from internet.

Evaluation



Very Short Answers

1. List the search engines supported by Tamil language.
2. What are the keyboard layouts used in Android?
3. Write a short note about Tamil Programming Language.
4. What is TSCII?
5. Write a short note on Tamil Virtual Academy.

