On Wed, Sep 30, 2009 at 11:38 AM, Rajeev J Sebastian <rajeev.sebastian@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Wed, Sep 30, 2009 at 5:03 PM, N. Ganesan <naa.ganesan@gmail.com> wrote:
> >> On Fri, Sep 25, 2009 at 7:33 AM, Mohanan, Karuvannur P (ELL) <ellkpmoh@nus.edu.sg> wrote:
> >>>
> >>> The distinction between dental and alveolar does not exist in any of the
> >>> Indian languages other than Malayalam, which explains why non-Malayalees
> >>> cannot produce or perceive the distinction. It also explains why the
> >>> distinction does not appear in any of the pan-Indian systems of writing.
> >>>
> >>> In Unicode, aleveolar n and dental n can be distinguished with letters
> >>> in Devanagari, Tamil and Malayalam scripts. When Microsoft Kartika font gets updated, we need to check if all
> >>> the conjuncts that are formed with n is also possible with alveolar n (U+0D29).
> >>>
> >>> I think you are getting ahead of yourself. Your latest proposal is far
> >>>
> https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=69d98754...
> cry from "scholarly use" which is already spurious. Kindly leave
> Malayalam alone.
>
> Using alveolar n in all places that require it in Dravidian language words
will only bring the letter's use for which it was employed for ages in Kerala.

It looks only recently that letter was abandoned:

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"When Malayalam became a separate language, the Vattezuttu practised
in the southern Kerala might have been named as Malayanna in order to
assert the separate identity of Malayalam from Tamil. The records and
correspondences of Travancore Govt. were in Malayanna upto 1819 and it
was during the reign of Svasi Tirunal Maharaja, the Malayanna script
was completely replaced by Malayalam for official purposes. Though a
few inscriptions existed in Malayanna like Munciramatham plate, this
script was mainly used to write on palm-leaves."

Obviously, alveolar n (U+0D29) was used widely until 1819
for purposes other than scholastics.

Regards
N. Ganesan