Tulu is one of the major languages belonging to the Dravidian family. According to the 1951 census, about eight lakhs of people have returned it as their mother tongue (of whom seven lakh live in South Kanara of the old Madras state), and about two lakhs of people have returned it as their subsidiary language. Since there was no provision for a person to return more than one subsidiary language in the 1951 census, the actual number of speakers using Tulu as their subsidiary language will be far more than this. In fact, Tulu is more prevalent in the daily affairs of the people of South Kanara than even the regional language, Kannada.

There are more than five major dialects of Tulu, whose distribution is based on caste and regional distinctions. And thus, the language is still a maiden field, open to those interested in Dravidian linguistics. There are very few books written on Tulu, most of which belong to the 19th century. At present, Prof. M. M. Bhat is working on the non-brahmin dialect. Manners Tulu-English dictionary and L. V. Ramaswami Aiyar's "Materials for a Sketch of Tulu Phonology" may also be noted here.

The present work is a study of the Brahmin dialect of Tulu, a dialect spoken by the Madhva Brahmins of Udum and its surrounding villages. The following informants were used in collecting the data for this analysis.

a) Shri M. Anantanadmanabha Bhatta, Siromani (age 30) comes from the village Elluru, about 14 miles from Udum. He has studied Sanskrit for twelve years, and is at present working in the Sanskrit Dictionary Department, Deccan College,
as a Junior Shastri. He also knows Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, and some English. The major part of the data used in this analysis comes from him.

b) Shri A. Sriramana Achar, M.A., comes from Alevuru, about 4 miles from Udupi. He has his Master's degree in Sanskrit, and is at present working in the Sanskrit Dictionary Department, Deccan College, as one of the Sub-editors. Other than Tulu, he knows Kannada, English, Sanskrit, and Hindi.

c) Shri P. Sripati Tantri, (age 25) is from Paduru about 15 miles from Udum. At present he is a senior M.A. student (in Sociology) at Poona University. He can also speak Kannada, English, and Hindi.

The data consists of about 5,000 vocables and 12 texts (of which three are given here). Quite a number of nominal as well as verbal roots were individually studied and their paradigms elected. The result of the analysis is presented in the four chapters that follow: phonology, morphophonemics, morphology and syntax. Of these, the first three are fairly exhaustive, but a more detailed study of syntax is yet to be undertaken. Alternative solutions to different problems are given wherever possible, and their relative merits are discussed. Further study is necessary in the case of intonation and the exact function of the indeclinables in the language.

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