0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. The present study is a descriptive analysis of Konkani as spoken by the Christians of South Kanara (Mx). Here the other major dialects are Gowda Saraswath and Saraswath. Konkani is a language which belongs to the Southern group of the Indo-Aryan Branch. It employs besides Nagari, Kannada, Roman Malayalam and Arabic script. Though it is known as a language of Goa, large number of its speakers are found in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala all along the western coastal region; sporadically, however, they are found throughout India and outside.
0.2. Fortunately the differences of opinions as regards its status as an independent language are closed officially by the Sahitya Academy of India. This gesture of the Academy has respected the inclination of Grierson which considered Konkani as a sister of Marathi despite his inclusion of Konkani within Marathi. By the same stroke the Academy also ratified the conclusions of great linguists and scholars such as William Carey, John Wilson (1804-1875), John Murray Mitchell (1815-1904), Gerson da Cunha (1844-1900), Angelo Maffei (1844-1899), Sylvester Menezes, S.K. Chatterji, S.M. Katre and others.

0.3. According to the census of India (1971) total strength of Konkani speakers is about 1.4 million of which Goa has about 5.5 lakhs, Karnataka 5-0 lakhs, Maharashtra 2-0 lakhs and Kerala about 78 thousand.

Government census data recorded on the basis of mother tongue in 1961 gave the distribution of Konkani language by states and territories which is shown in table 1.
Table 1.
Konkani Population Distribution
(1961)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Meta-Nation</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>6,79,442</td>
<td>6,81,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jammu and Kashmir</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>38,509</td>
<td>39,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madras</td>
<td>2,553</td>
<td>2,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>1,15,635</td>
<td>99,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>2,42,942</td>
<td>2,49,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadra and Nagar Haveli</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goa, Daman and Diu</td>
<td>2,67,360</td>
<td>2,89,197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contd....
### Total Konkani Speakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East Frontier Agency</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Konkani Speakers: 13,52,363

#### The Dialect of Konkani and Speakers in India (1961)

- **Bhatkal**: 2
- **Chettibhasha-Konkani**: 1,346
- **Daldí**: 31
- **Firangi**: 5
- **Goanese**: 4,320
- **Goudaprakrutha**: 23
- **Gouda Saraswatha**: 29
- **Kangoni**: 6
- **Karwari**: 282
- **Khokilí**: 13
- **Konkani**: 13,37,134
- **Korlani**: 108
- **Kudubi**: 7,840
- **Kumki**: 2
- **Moopan**: 473
- **Nawait**: 749

* I am of the opinion that Mx dialect is not distinguished from Saraswath Konkani and they are nomenclatured together as Konkani.
Konkani Speakers in Mysore State

Males 2,42,551
Females 2,40,984

Mother tongue and total number of persons returned as speaking a language subsidiary to the mother tongue.

Males 1,69,279
Females 1,63,201

Subsidiary Languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kannada</td>
<td>1,24,362</td>
<td>1,08,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulu</td>
<td>26,207</td>
<td>36,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>9,751</td>
<td>6,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathi</td>
<td>6,394</td>
<td>9,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>1,767</td>
<td>1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malayalam</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other languages</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0.4. The literary Konkani of the Christians of South Kanara is mostly similar to the eighteenth century Barhdexi. The first grammarian of this
language is an Indian Catholic priest Rev. Fr. Pio Noronha (1810-1883). He wrote this work first in Portuguese (1858) and then in English (1875). Both these versions are unpublished.* It was Angelo Francisco Saverio Maffei, an Italian Jesuit working at Mangalore who wrote both the first published grammar and dictionary of this written dialect of South Canara Christian Konkani. S.M. Katre has worked in Mx dialect as regards glossary in his "A Comparative Glossary of Konkani" published in Calcutta Oriental Journal, Vol. II Msg. Sylvester Menezes' Konkani - English Shabd-sangraha published by Rev. C.C.A. Pai S.J. is a handy work for literary purpose.**

The literary Konkani of the Christians of South Canara has led itself too much away from the speakers. The use of Kannada script too has its lion's share in this misfortune. If the correct i.e. natural features of the various spoken dialects are scientifically traced and recorded it will be possible to


** As regards for Mx literature Cf. my article on Konkani in Kannada Encyclopaedia Vol. 5, Mysore University as well as that of V.J.P. Saldanha in Amar Konkani (in Konkani), Mangalore: Raknno Prakashan, 1974.
describe the overall pattern of Konkani that is spread in different states and amidst languages of different families.

0.6. The Konkani speaking Christians of Mangalore are generally catholics. They use their mother-tongue not only for their religious purpose in the Churches as well as at homes but also in their social activities as a medium of oral and written communications.

0.7. The Mx are chiefly spread over the following nine Taluks: Sullya, Puttur, Kasargod, Buntwal, Belthangadi, Mangalore, Kundapur, Karkal and Udupi. In this area, in 1969 the total population was about 20,69,032. Out of that the Mx were 2,12,565. In addition to this there are several who have settled chiefly in the districts like Chickmagalure and the cities like Bangalore, Bombay etc. There is a good number of Mx as a floating population in Arabian countries.

0.8. Mx live in contact with non-christian Konkani, Tulu, Kannada and Malayalam speakers. Christian as well as non-Christian Konkani are mutually intelligible though they differ in intonation as well as
many lexical items. Socially Mx are recognised and respected. They are addressed by other Konkani speakers as / porbu / 'lord'. The women folk is addressed as / baye / 'sister'.

Mx Konkani has some unique features of which the following are a few and representative:

a) In most of the Indian languages we find a five vowels-system. In this Konkani, however, there are 9 short vowels besides their long counter parts. The vowel system may be graphically presented as below:

```
 i u
 e o
 E A O
 á a
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b) Nasalization is another marked feature of this dialect. It is pronounced strongly. In non-Christian dialects of Konkani of South Kanara the words will either end with any vowel or a regular

* Cf. Appendix V.
A or u e.g., pu:tA or pu:tu 'son' but in the Christian dialect such words are consonant ending with a vowel release of \[ \text{ type. Aspiration with stops is almost zero. The initial voiceless stops with aspiration are generally changed into a labiodental voiceless slit fricative } \]

\[ \text{phator} \implies \text{fator} \ 'stone' \]

c) The noun stems can be classified only grammatically and not either phonologically or semantically. Thus, for example,

/ hat / 'hand' is masculine;
/ tækli / 'head' is feminine and
/ cedū / 'girl' is neuter in gender.

d) Most of the adjectives have gender-number concord with the nouns they qualify though there are uninflected adjectives too.

bōrō burgō (m) 'good boy'
bōri ba:yl (f) 'good wife'
bōrē burgē (n) 'good child'

e) The verb stems can be classified into transitives and intransitives only from their syntactic behaviour, namely, the concord. The intransitive verbs agree in gender and number with the subject-
noun while the transitive verbs agree in gender and number with object noun. The subject noun governing the transitives are in instrumental case in the past tense.

Examples:

Intransitive:

āw nidlō 'I (mas) slept'

āw nidlī 'I (non-mas) slept'

Transitive:

āwē ʻabō (mas) kelō 'ate a mango'

āwē pod (fem) marli 'I uttered a lie'

pilan du:d (neut) corlē 'The young one stole the milk'

f) As Konkani lives, at least in South Kanara, amidst Dravidian Languages like Tulu, Kannada and Malayalam, it is quite natural that it is affected by them. Hence some of the lexemes are borrowed from the Dravidian stock:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dravidian Word</th>
<th>Konkani Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gadō</td>
<td>'field'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gudō</td>
<td>'hill'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>modki</td>
<td>'vessel' etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In the Lexicon the Dravidian borrowings are pointed throughout.