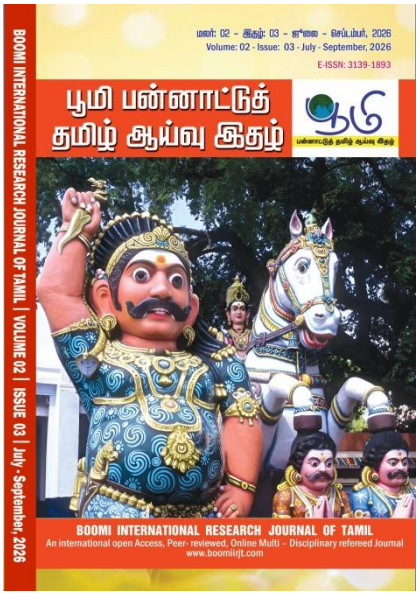
A Study of Dravidian Languages in Caldwell's Comparative Grammar
கால்டுவெல் ஒப்பிலக்கணத்தில் திராவிட மொழிகளின் ஒப்பாய்வு



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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES
Dr. J. Franklin Devaraj
Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Thiruchirapalli – 620 107. Email: franklindevaraj.tm@bhc.edu.in https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2598-9906

முனைவர் ஜா. பிராங்கிளின் தேவராஜ்
உதவிப் பேராசிரியர், தமிழாய்வுத்துறை, பிஷப் ஹீபர் கல்லூரி (தன்னாட்சி), திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி – 620 107, மின்னஞ்சல்: franklindevaraj.tm@bhc.edu.in

Corresponding Email: franklindevaraj.tm@bhc.edu.in
Mobile No: 9159847818

Abstract

Robert Caldwell occupies an important position in the history of Dravidian linguistics. His *Comparative Grammar* presents a systematic comparative approach to the study of the Dravidian languages. The work examines important linguistic features such as the Dravidian alphabet, phonological

structure, vowels, consonants, sound changes, consonantal changes, phonetic combinations, root words and verbs. Instead of studying a language in isolation, Caldwell compares related languages in order to identify their similarities, differences and historical relationships. The study of sound patterns and root words forms an important basis for understanding the relationship among the Dravidian languages. Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, although developed as distinct languages, exhibit similarities in their basic linguistic structures. Comparative analysis of phonological features, root forms and grammatical patterns helps to identify these relationships. Caldwell's method therefore contributes significantly to the development of historical and comparative linguistics in South India.

This paper examines the comparative method adopted in Caldwell's work, with particular emphasis on phonology and root words. It also discusses the linguistic significance of comparing Dravidian languages and highlights the important position of Tamil within the Dravidian language family.

Keywords

Caldwell, Comparative Grammar, Dravidian Languages, Tamil, Phonology, Root Words, Sound Change, Consonantal Change, Verbs, Linguistics.

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