

Notes on Transliteration and Translation

Transliteration

Indian words have been transliterated according to standard academic conventions for Sanskrit. Gods, temples, and historical persons, as well as Sanskrit and Tamil words are written with diacritics. Personal names of my interviewees, language names, dynasties and geographical designations like states, towns, rivers, mountains are written in common transcription without diacritical marks. However, when the geographical names occur in the source text, I use diacritics in the translation. Thus, for example, for the town Kanchipuram the names Kanchi, Kāñcī, and Kacci may occur.

Problematic was the rendering of names given in inscriptions. Different spellings occur and since some names are not known to me, I reproduce the names of historical persons and dynasties as given in the ARE volumes, although they are not consistent.

Texts written in Tamil have the Tamil ending –m, such as *Periyapurāṇam*, whereas texts written in Sanskrit are without the ending –m, such as *Skanda Purāṇa*.

Generally I give preference to the Sanskrit spelling, because my background is Sanskrit. Moreover, many technical terms are derived from Sanskrit. Thus, for example, I write Sanskrit *abhiṣeka* instead of Tamil *apiṣēkam*. However, if I came to know the word basically in its Tamilized form, or when it was mostly used in this form, I give its Sanskrit equivalent in parenthesis. For example, I use Tamil *tīrttavāri* instead of Sanskrit *tīrthasnāna*.

Translation

All interviews and conversations I had with interviewees have been interpreted from Tamil by my research assistants. Some of them have been paraphrased. Further, some translations from Tamil by my research assistant are rather drafted. I have used single quotation marks for this type of quotes. Double quotation marks refer to accurate quotes from written sources.

Whenever I quote informants, I have stayed as closely as possible to the translation of my research assistant. Sometimes, I have added information in brackets to explain terms, and in square brackets in order to clarify the narrative of the interviews.