Whence came Sinhala Here?

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The Gnaanam-Daaviid Cankam's Criticism and Appreciation of

Dr. J.T. Xavier's Work

Introduction to this booklet

(1) This Criticism and Appreciation of Dr. Xavier’s “Land of Letters” has been written out by a group of linguistic research students and scholars whose former patron was the famous Nallur Swami Gnana Prakacar. His mantle has now fallen, as that of the Prophet Elija on Eliseus, on Rev. Dr. H.S. Daaviid, the author of the Etymological and Comparative Lexicon and Grammar of the Taamiilzha (= Dravidian) Languages, including Elu (杪) the mother of Sinhala. This work has now reached its sixth part out of twelve contemplated by its author.

(2) This booklet examines Dr. Xavier’s work mainly from the linguistic point of view, but Dr. Daaviid is quite capable of extracting more valid history from the deep study of words than other historians can draw out of the pious legends of the Mahavamsa.
It also provides additional evidence in support of Dr. Xavier's main views on the Sinhala language and on its original kinship with Tamilzh, these two being the only two indigenous tongues of this ilizhham (= beautiful) or Srii (= Ciiriya = illustrious) Lankaa or Ilankai (= Resplendent) Island. Both "Tamilzh" and "Sinh-elza" have this "iilzh" (beauty) both in their make-up and in their utterance.

Above all, it supplies an alternate explanation (to the Vijaya legend) as to origin of the Siy-elza (from Ciiriya Elzha or Ilizha) or Sinhelza tongue from the infusion into the original Taamiilzhham (from 2,000 B.C. in this Island) of a host of Aarya words, brought in by the Praakrit speaking Buddhist missionaries, between 260 and 200 B.C. from several regions of North and Central India round about the time of the famous Buddhist Emperor, Asokavardhana (="the increaser of non-grief" or happiness). It is the presence of these Praakrit words in Sinhala which led Doctors Geiger and Julins de La Nerolle to come to the wrong theory that ancient Sinhala or Elzu was Aarl'a, whereas she cries out with a myriad tongues that she is of the Taamiilzhha progeny, made resplendent in the Harappa-Mohenjodaro Empire of 3,000 B.C., when the Indo-European or Aarya speakers were still in their original "Heimat" (Home-land) of the Volga Valley, north of the Black Sea.

When these Indo-Europeans arrived in their new homelands, these highy intelligent but still uncultured nomadic horsemen and shepherds found ancient cultures: the Romans or Latin speakers absorbed the non-Aryan Etruscan and Basque Cultures; the Greeks absorbed the non-Aryan Minoan (of Crete) and Mycenaean (of mainland Hellas); the Sanskrit speakers developed their tongue with the importation thereinto of a host of Taamiilzhha words, already in the Rigvedic epoch of 1,800 B.C. Within two millenia both the classical Sanskrit of the learned and the popular Praakrits of the "hoi polloi" (=the many) became almost half Taamiilzhha in their make-up and grammar.

Finally, Dr. Daaviid who shuns the lime-light and prefers to stand in the background and direct others to act on the stage—but this beautifully and correctly—gives some sound advice to people like Dr. Xavier and others who like him wish to write on linguistic, historical or archaeological themes. Especially valid is his advice, if one has to break through long established intellectual fashions and prejudices. But all these 'idols of the tribe, cave, market, theatre,' (Bacon, Nov.Org. I, 39) will fall down before the truth, like Dagon before the Ark of Yahweh or the walls of Jericho before the trumpets of Joshuah, if the truth is presented with a multitude of wise saws and happy instances. This may be reinforced by a prayer to that Being in whose fingers are all mankind's hearts and minds. May He direct us all Sri-Lankians into the paths of truth, peace and happiness.
Nearly forty years have elapsed between the appearance of Rev. S. Gnana Prakasar's revolutionary article, "The Dravidian Element in Sinhalese" in the foremost International Revue of Ethnology and Linguistics, "Anthropos", Tome 32, 1937, and this work by Dr. J.T. Xavier, F.R.C.S. (England). Why had Fr. Gnanam to go as far as a press at St. Gabriel Modeling bei Wien, Osterreich (= near Vienna, Austria) to get it published? That was because "intellectual" fashions change very slowly. Piyatumaa David is now demonstrating in his Lexicon Books, especially in his "elpu, el\p\" series, that the predominant part of Sinhala, or rather Siyel\p, which we call El\p or Hel\p, "\p, \pe\", is basically a Dravidian tongue. The intellectual fashion has now changed so greatly that not one Aryanist has backed against him, perhaps for the simple reason that all these Aryanists suspect that they may be Dravidian themselves. But four decades ago things were quite different. To pass off as complete "Aryans" was the ambition of the Sinhalese elite, which dominated the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch. No wonder that it threw out this article for the nonce and was ready to accept it only if he defended his own contentions in person before them in Colombo. This was in 1946-7, when our Guru was near his death. He soon passed on to a higher judge. Looking over this article now, we find that he did not put the full force of all the knowledge that he had amassed within that limited compass, although it was limited by circumstances beyond his control, nor did he sugar-coat his wording, as Piyatumaa David does, thereby gaining acceptance for this revolutionary view so much opposed to the still dominant views, which the Sinhalese have to be enticed, step by step, sweetly but strongly, to discard. This can only be effected by wise saws and manifold instances of Sai-El\p (later Sinhel\p or Sinhala) having obtained her words and grammatical structures from that original Taamiilzham (= Elpu, el\p) from which Tamilzh, Malayalam, Kannada, Tel\p and 15 other Dravidian tongues have derived them. Piyatumaa David (to be pronounced "Daaviid", as in the Hebrew original of 1,600 B.C., where this name first occurs in the sense of "beloved") has already given hundreds of instances where the Tamilzh and Sinhel\p words are so close to each other, either now or in their original state, that their difference can be mentioned, proverbially, as "between Tweedledum and Tweedledee". These instances are by no means over. Thousands more are coming from his pen and his judicious mind in his (and our) "Api naal\iyoo" series. Thereby do we establish our contention that the only two indigenous tongues of Hilzham (= el\p), the original name for "\p (= ciriya-illustrations) el\p" or "Ceylon", are in fact separated slightly but derived from the same original Taamiilzh. Note that both our land and our original language are "el\p" = "things of beauty"; "\p, \pe\". They are "el\p" in the ancient Taamiilzham, still found in the Tamilzh Canka classics of Christ's time, but in the sense of "fine fellow" or "sweet girl" in the conversations between two lovers, as maid and young man respectively called each other, as they walked hand in hand or still closer, through the Ceylonese or Indian parks of that time. Note that Sinh. (having lost \p) registers this word as "yaal\-uva,  \p\"; earlier "el\p\" = "beautiful person" > "friend". Note finally that our two languages still keep in their names the same "el\p" or "el\p" (= beauty) but contracted into \p in "el\p" and into "\p,  e\p", El\p in "el\p,  e\p" or "Hel\p,  e\p", with the intrusive "lu" that occurs in 450 Sinhel\p words.
Dr. J.T. Xavier is not exactly a member of our Cankam or Kulzhu (వెద, poetically సాధారణ, originally స్మాయం, as Kunti t2-am, శింద్యులు, is derived therefrom, since many “విర..ల, శిర” sounds register an earlier “ప” sound). But for the last six years he has been on its outer fringe. The nature of his medical service at a station very far from our two centres prevented him from becoming a prominent member thereof. Had he been one, he would have heard at our Vivekananda Hall (Colombo 13) meetings, the principles of sound etymology as enunciated by our present patron. These are:

(A) A step by step approach There should be neither a gallop at top speed, not even a short jump across, as this may turn out to be a leap into the darkness and thence prove to be a fall down a philological precipice. We have gone through 192 pages of his remarkable book which is a compendium of archaeology, pre-history, history, ethnology and linguistics on a wide scale. This shows that he has read widely and well. Even our earlier patron, Rev. Fr. Gnanaprabhavallavan, at times jumped across several steps in some of his manifold books. We warn his spiritual grandchild, Dr. Xavier, against such leaps in his remaining pages. If he has time, we would advise him to go over these (already printed) nine chapters, detect the several jumps therein and, in an Appendix, place the steps between the two termini in each case. Thereby his present work will gain in its acceptance by scholars, especially of the West.

(B) Several instances, not merely one or two, must be advanced for any phonological or phonemic change in the very language concerned or in similar and related tongues so as to establish “a law”. Thereafter we may speak of this change as a real linguistic phenomenon; but it is safer to assert this tentatively: “From all these instances we are inclined to conclude that ...” or “It is very probable that ...”. Any revolutionary view, stated tentatively in this way, is less likely to jolt or shock the reader; and thereby the writer is more likely to gain acceptance. It is in this way that Piyatunna Daavidi insinuates, suggests and cajoles the readers of his Lexicon to accept the fact that both linguistic communities in “Sri Lankaa” or “Ciriyaa Ilankai” (this is the earlier form) are speaking the same original tongue, “పురసర్ఫ్రే”, the Old Dravidian of 4,000 to 2,000 B.C., when this had not branched off into her twenty daughters, with a heavy admixture of Indo-European words in both Tamilzh and Sanskrítica Sinhala from the Aarya sources of N.W. India ever since 2,000 B.C.

The Dravidian influence on the development of the Sanskrit language, and Dr. Xavier’s rules of de-Sanskritisation

Now we cite Dr. Xavier’s work. We fully agree with him in this statement of his at the end of page 67. “Sanskrit, a language which developed only in the (post) Aryan era could not have been the language of the Indus inscriptions”. Professors Burrow and Emeneau in the West, Rev. Gnanaprabhavallavan and Piyatunna Daavidi in the East have shown in their Comparative Lexicons that though Sanskrit is the eldest son of “Indo-European”, having Greek, Latin, Lithuanian, German and Old Slavic (whence arose Czech, Slovak, Polish, Russian, Yugo-Slav and Bulgarian) as his younger brothers, still this language changed from Indo-European into Sanskrit only in North West India, where it soon absorbed more than one-third of her vocabulary from the earlier Dravidian tongues, in the second millennium B.C. This fact should not surprise any scholar or even student of languages and cultures. For, next in age to Sanskrit, Greek and Latin both grew up
under the tutelage of Minoan-Mycenean and Etruscan, reinforced in the latter case by Oscan, Umbrian and other tongues of Latium, the region south of Rome. In the same way did Sanskrit grow up under the tutelage of Old Dravidian, which scholars both in India and Sri Lanka are now calling "Dravidian" or "Tamil", ever since Piyatumma Daavidi edited his Lexicon, Part II, as that term alone could have been her own name in her own tongue and could have become "Dravidian" in Sanskrit. He has called her "the Queen Mother of several Languages, Mankaiyarkku Araci" in the title of his Lexicon, Part IV. Under the impact of this tremendous culture and remarkable language, which already in the forth and third millenium B.C. had given several of her own words as loans to her close neighbours, Old Semitic to her West and Indo-European to her North, Sanskrit developed rapidly from a tongue coming out of nomadic lips to the status of the most refined of the Indo-European languages, as any one who chants or studies the Rigvedic hymns can see for himself. Sanskrit then became classical in the next millennium, with a multiplicity of Conjugations (10), Moods (5). Tenses more numerous than in Greek or Latin, having such refinements as a Desiderative, a Benedictive Mood and fully seven forms of the Aorist. Read Sir Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar's Grammar, in two parts, if you don't believe us. It is to this work that our patrons are profoundly indebted for their thorough grasp of this complex language.

Having flowered out into so many moods and tenses, in Vedic and early Classical times, Sanskrit in the Mediaeval Epoch, when Dum-dinin and Baana, with their tell-tale Dravidian names, ruled the roost in the sixth and seventh centuries A.D., got a mood, different from the grammatical ones. Readers of the Tamilzh Ten Idylls (i.e. Tamil) and later prose works get impatient with the series of நிலை, verbal participles and absolutes, and long to see the main verb (பொறும்) which may come after a hundred நிலை, just as the Nizam of Haiderabad, Dekhan, came in the last train-carriage after a series of carriages conveying his screened seraglio or harem, during his journeys in British times. Now read Baana's Kaadambari, a poetical romance in prose. What has happened to Sanskrit? (We make this language masculine on set purpose). He has passed absolutely under the control of his foster-mother, Tamilzh, since those who employed Sanskrit from Kaalidas's time were mostly Dravidians like these two. Hence the manifold moods and tenses of Sanskrit are thrown overboard and நிலை, நிலை rule the roost. This is the culmination of a historical process of guiding and fostering which Tamilzh started on Sanskrit in the earliest Vedic age, circa 1,800 B.C. Turn now to the Daavidi Lexicon, Part II, Chapter V, Section II, "Aariyam". Six different etymologies are there given for "Aarya", some from the Tamilzh source. Now read over the end of page 67 of Dr. Xavier's work and shake hands with him for that statement, which we endorse up to the hilt. We come very near to doing so with regard to his statements about some Sanskrit throughout his page 87. "Sam-s-krita" his own name for himself, has been split up into "sam" = "sun" in Greek, or "cum, com" in Latin = "together with", and "kar-, kri-, kre" = to create. The Latin and Greek words are similar to the English "Creator, create", which Sanskrit renders "karotti" as verb, "kaarya, karma, kartaa" as nouns; the last is "karta" in the Nominative singular alone. In its vocative it becomes "karat". Both forms are found in Tamilzh. Cf. M.W Sk.Dict. "Kartar" = "a doer, maker", at its page 257.

Now we cite Dr. Xavier at his page 87:

(a) "Sanskrit, the mixed language, which developed in the post-Aryan era..." Better omit the word
“post” - both here and at the end of his page 67, unless the reference is to Classical Sanskrit alone, as some take this word. In that case “post” - may safely stand. But we take Sanskrit to mean the “Aarya” literary language in all its three stages, Vedic, Brahmanic and Classical, through more than two millenia. As Professors T. Burrow and H. S. Daavid have shown, even Vedic “has words and roots of (both Aryan and) Dravidian origin”. The former listed 27 such words, the latter has added 45 more in Parts I to IV of his Comparative Lexicon. One is man2-tumuka? (लोकस्थिती सुनिश्चित) = sleep in the mud or a frog. This becomes in M. Monier Williams; Sk. Dict. p 776 “man2-panuka masc, man2d2ukii fem. or man2d2-ukii fem. = a frog, R V. You will note the Vedic accent marked in this Dictionary over “-kii” in the first and “-d2u” in the second feminine form. If one were to take these three separate formations in Vedic Sanskrit from early Dravidian as 3 words, then the list so far made would exceed the 72 above mentioned.

(b) “Dravidian loan words in Sanskrit have been phonologically Aryanised to so great an extent as to make their real origin almost unrecognisable.” This was stated more than a century ago by Dr H. Gundert, the great scholar of both Malayalam and Sanskrit, in 1869, in the 23rd volume of the German Oriental Society; then by Rev. F. Kittel, the author of the best Kannada-English Dictionary, in 1872, in its August issue of the Bombay Indian Antiquary; and then again by Rev. Dr. R. Caldwell in his Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian languages, 2nd. edn. 1875. The succession of these statements is “3 years-spaced”: they are made by the three most eminent scholars of the three most important Dravidian tongues-Malayalam, Kannada, Tamilzh.

(c) It may be good to cite Dr. Gundert to bear out Dr. Xavier’s contention, although the latter may never have read the former’s statements:

“It might be anticipated, therefore, that as the Aryans penetrated further and further to the south, and became acquainted with new objects bearing Dravidian names, they would, as a matter of course, adopt the names of those things together with the things themselves.”

From Gundert we pass on to Professor Thomas Benfey. In his Complete Sanskrit Grammar, on page 73, he examines the exotic elements in Sanskrit and states: “Words which were originally quite foreign to Sanskrit have been included in its vocabulary”. Both Rev. Gnana Prakacar and Rev. Dr. Daavid have estimated that at least 36% of the Sanskrit vocabulary is of Tamilzh (=Dravidian) origin.

We are lucky in catching the rogues in their preparations for their plunder, if not in the actual stealing. About 800 A.D. Kumaarila-bhat2 (who has himself the Tamilzh names Kumaaril-bhat2) in his “Tantravaarttika”, in his “Tantravaarttika” suggests ways of converting Dravidian words into Sanskritic ones, e.g.

1. ҫҫ into “coor” (=boiled rice) oo is משיך, 3), in Sk.
2. Ƅ㸌 (K.M.) (=walking way) into Sk. “nadee” or “nadeer”, preferably the latter, as Sk. relishes “r”, “sh”, “s” sounds. Sk has no short “e” or short “o”. The presence of both in Sinhalas is additional reason for us to assert her Tammiilzh origin fundamentally
3. աոտ; K. basiru (=belly) into “vair” in Sk.
5. **paamb** (verb: to rule, noun: a ruler, person)  -> Sk. **aal**

6. He adds 21 words to be taken into Sk. without any alteration.

Now Kittel adds this statement, which is in the same vein as Dr. Xavier's here: **“As a rule, the Aaryas, in adopting a Draavidà word, changed it considerably in order to suit it to their tongue; and whenever such a word was imperfectly understood or negligently reproduced, the change naturally became still greater. It is more than probable that Sanskrit borrowed a number of words also from Draavidà tribes, the dialects of which are unknown to us, so that in such a case it becomes very difficult and even impossible to trace their origin.”**

Compare the above with Dr. Xavier's words here: **“The Sanskrit names... have undergone changes caused by mispronunciation, or by false translations of Dravidian roots ...”** True indeed!

Then let us examine the first three of the six rules he enunciates on this very page, namely 87:--

1. Remove the sound “s” or “sh” as a prefix or infix.

2. Remove the sound “r” (trill) which follows a consonant.

This calls for comment. This “r” or “sh” was the dhoby mark, according to Fr. Gnana Prakacar in 1936, when he taught Sanskrit to Fr. Daaviid. “Kalulzh” (a pure Dravidian word, with a score of collaterals like “kalaku, kalanku, kalacu, kalappu, kalappam, kalavai, kalavai, kalaavu, kaliyam' am, or kaliyan' am, kalilzh (kaliyam), kaililzh (kaliyamam) (kalankal niir) kaililzh, kaililzh, kaililzh, kaililzh,” and connoting “turbidity, disturbance, confusion, mixture, trouble, medley,” became Sanskrit “kalusha”. The Madras Lexicon has the cheek to tell us that all this Tamilzha wealth, with “ş” as the central or prominent figure in many of the words listed above, was from Sk. “kalusha”. Not a bit! It was just the other way about. The “r” is not very different from the “sh”. In his Lexicon Fr. Daaviid has conclusively shown that it was the old word “*tululp*” that Sanskrit changed into Draavidà. Here we see the “r” creeping in, as Dr. Xavier has already warned us it would. Sanskrit seems to have been at his wit’s end what to make of this mysterious “ş“, a very ancient letter, as it was taken (a) into the Semitic Arabic, as its 17th. letter, “šaa (=zhaa)”, (b) into Russian as “zh”, written ṣ, as a cross between two Cs, the first in reverse, as its 7th. letter out of the 32 in its alphabet. In “Teach Yourself Russian”, Maximilian Fourman, L.L.B. of the University of Kiev tells us on his page 2, that this letter should be sounded as “ş” in “pleasure”. This is very near its proper sound in the *tululp* (Tamilzha) tongues, where it is pronounced best as a simultaneous 12 (=ṣr, ṣ) and y (=u, ø) In Russian this letter is philologically connected with the Russian equivalents of “d” (and “z”), as we can see by a glance at page 88 of this work. Here Fourman lists the degrees of comparison of 29 Russian adjectives:--

4. molod-oy, molozhye, mladshiy
   = young, younger, youngest

Evidently the “zh” in the comparative degree word is phonemically connected with the “d” in the
other 2. Now we go into a philological tangent. In the beginning of language there was Taamili "Ola (= mel)" =soft tender; then came "mel-ku" =to become soft; "mel-aa (=to be) = mella, adverb =softly, gently, slowly; mel-li (=she in the 4th or 7th person) = melli =soft one, 7 gentle-woman; mell-ikk-ai (=having become "aay") = mellikai =softness, thinness; mell-itu, mell-icu = this which is soft 7 slenderess fineness; mell-iy-ar they who are of delicate build=woman. See the rest of this remarkable study of "Mel" in Tam. Mal Ko. To. Kan. Kod. Telugu and Kri, at No. 4167, on page 346 of "A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary" by Professors T. Erurow and M. B Emeneau, Oxford. Clarendon Press, 1961, 2nd Edition, 1966.

Now there is a philological law that postulates a vowel alternation between "e" and "o" in the root words of "Indo-European". The same word will be found as "mel", for instance, in some Indo-European tongues, and as "mol" in others. This law has long been established. But it has never been extended to cover the Taamilzh tongues when connected with I.E. ones, as evidently in this case of "mol/mol". Either as a loan-word from Taamilzh, as Rev. H. S. Daavid maintains, or as from a common ancestry, as Rev Gnaana Prakar contended against Geiger of Germany and Julius de la Nerolle (of Huguenot ancestry) in Sri Lanka, this "mel" crept into Indo-European. In Latin, from "softness", its meaning changed into "sweetness" and then "honey". The "De Mels" in Ceylon should be soft, sweet and gentle, like honey, to their Taamilzh kinsmen, even if the Mel is from Deivendra Tudu'ua, in the extreme south of "Ciiiriya Ilankai". But this is by no means the end of "Olla (= mel)". For, Latin has several mansions. In one she had seated "mel", as we have just seen. In the next, she enthroned "moll-as" "soft, gentle". Look at your English Dictionary now:- 1. mollify = to soften, from French "mollifier", from Latin mollificare; 2. mollities = softness, Latin, but employed in English. 3. mollitius = soft, luxurious, 4. mollusc, mollusk, molluscan, molluscoidea, molluscoidea, all from Latin "molluscus" = softish, i.e. somewhat "mel", Ola. We are told that old Latin had "molier" = Ola (= above mentioned). But just as the "e" in Olla (=7), 7 (= thundering sound, speech, as "Taam-ililzham" was in 3,600 B.C. on the Caspian shores) became in "<u><u>" and "<u>;" an "<u>" sound, so this "molier" changed into "mulier". But note that one daughter of Latin still keeps the "o", in "mole"—soft, mild: this is Spanish. See Cassell's Sp.Dict p. 567; while the soft one is (mulier7) mujer=woman, ibidem, page 574. Another daughter is Italian, the nearest to Latin, as giri= is to giri=. She has "mocere" = to soften, Cassell's It Dict p 325, very near to Latin "mulcere", now 'mulgere'. From Vergil's time this means "to milk", just as from Cicero's time "mel, melis" = honey and from Horaces time, Latin 'mel' means 'sweetness'. Thus "mil(k), mel, mol, mul" are all brought into this set of I.E. words from Taamilzh "mel" = soft; for milk is the softest food for children. That is why the Russian word for milk is "moloko", just an inch from "molod", "soft"-young. This semantic change from "softness" to "veuth" is found too in the score of words first in Taamilzharn as "giri" = soft. [giri-<u>giri-<u>] = soft child, young one. [giri-<u>giri-<u>] = being) + [giri-<u>giri-<u>] = "kumar", sometimes expanded into "kumanan, kumaar-<u>giri, kium r<u>giri" "kumari". All boys and girls are both physically and emotionally soft in their teens. Finally, note the superlative form in Russian, "mlaashiy", with an accent on "a", which is pronounced "mali", or "mali". Here we get the final form "ml-" without any vowel at all, in between. Either the "d" or the "sh" in the positive or the superlative degree becomes "zh" (=g) in the comparative degree: "molozh". See above. The original Slavic "d" must have been more like "dz" =L than like "d" (=g), for then alone could it have been connected with Slavic "zh" (=g). In Arabic
sequence and connexion are quite similar to this. The 16th letter is "t'aa", written almost like ā, but without the dip below; while the 17th is our "z'aa", with just a dot over the 16th. The 16th is "L", in Tamilzh and "י" in Sinhala, while the 17th, the Arabic "ي", is pronounced variously as "י, ש or ל", according to Arabic dialects in the very common name for the month of fasts, Ramazhaan, Ramăa orRamadăaan, all ending in a long syllable- "אדר, אד". In the "Meaning of the Glorious Koran", by M. Pickthall, London, 1930 at Surah (pronounced Suurah) II, 185 onwards, this word occurs as "Ramadăaan"

The change in the vowels between "m" and "l" above illustrates Dr. Xavier's Rule 4; while "אדר" > "Lamna" (Germ.) or "lamb", explained at length on page 48 of our Daaviid Lexicon III, or "אדרל" (ilankai) becoming "Lanka" in Sinh., or "אדרלדא" becoming "Lanka" in Sinh., or "אדרל" becoming Sinh. "Izamayaa" illustrates Dr. Xavier's Rule 3, as applying to languages connected with Sanskrit. But in all such matters one must go cautiously. Otherwise he might come under the ridicule, which Fr. B. A. John at times mischievously bestowed on his cousin's, Rev. Fr. Gnana Prakacar's, etymology thus: "cat 7 dog". Rule 1: c 7 d. Rule 2: a/0. Rule 3: t/g. Of course, he knew that this was arrant nonsense. But it is very sound advice to keep our etymology as far as possible from such ridicule; and it was to warn the great etymologist against this danger that the great scientist, called the "Father of Lights", indulged in this banter with another cousin, Rev. Fr. Charles Navaratnam. There is a distinct tendency in this scholar, Dr. Xavier, to step out of his crease and try to hit boundaries and "six sirs". But we would advise him as the St. Patrick's College Rector, Rev. T. M. F. Long O. M. I. exhorted Walter Ayadurai, fresh from Trinity College on the Patrician cricket pitch, to go steadily up by ones and twos, batting his way up to victory over St. John's. Slow and steady wins the race. That the great etymologist, Rev. Gnana Prakacar at times scored very fast with recurrent boundaries should not tempt lesser mortals to indulge in such wide hitting, especially as Geiger and De la Nerolle went so far as to accuse him of knowing no philology and advised him to follow a course of linguistics in some European University, all because he went too far and too fast for their own comprehension. This controversy went on for years from the start of his Lexicon in 1936, even before it was edited by the Tirumakal Press, in 1938, as some of its most controversial features figured very prominently in the most famous International Review of Ethnology and Linguistics, "Anthropos" at Vienna, in Austria in 1935 and 1937, above the heads of those members (and Committee) of the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch, who had rejected the two articles of his. They were accordingly surprised and indignant, when they were presented with a printed copy each, of Revue Internationale D'Ethnologie et de Linguistique, Tirage A Part, "Anthropos", Tome XXX, 1935, "Root-words of the Dravidian group of languages", by Rev. S. Gnana Prakacar, O. M. I. covering pages 135 to 150. They were stunned when, two years later, the same scholar posted to each of them at his own expense one copy each of "Anthropos", Internationale Zeitschrift für Völker und Sprachenkunde, Sonderabdruck, Band XXXII, 1937, "The Dravidian Element in Sinhalese", by the same scholar, covering pages 155 to 170. We congratulate Dr. J. T. Xavier on basing his assumptions throughout his own work on the truths which this scholar and his pupil, Rev. Daaviid, have taught both in these learned articles by the former and in his Lexicon volumes by the latter.
Mudaliyar W.F. Gunawardhana’s views on the Sinhala language

Even before these, at Ananda College Colombo, another scholar delivered a lecture before the Director of Education and a gathering of learned men, on 28-9-1918. Therein W.F. Gunawardhana, Mudaliyar, argued thus:-

1. “Language is the medium for the communication of our thoughts, and thoughts are communicated not by isolated words but by means of sentences.”

2. “Accordingly, taken essentially, language is the sentence; and grammar is that science which analyses and explains the construction of the sentence.”

3. “Therefore scientifically, the determining factor of a language is not its vocabulary, but its structure, viz., that aspect of it which is concerned with the arrangement and mutual adjustment of words in the expression of thought.”

4. “In this respect Sinhalese is essentially Dravidian, a ‘Taamiilzha’ language. This is not all.”

5. “Its evolution seems to have been on a Tamil basis. With regard to her physical features and her own physical structure, she is essentially the daughter of Tamil.” We alter this word into “Taamiilzhham.”

6. “I have found that the Sinhalese are entirely a Dravidian race with just a slight Aryan wash. I have since had the great satisfaction of seeing that the best advanced scientific opinion in Europe has arrived at identically the same conclusion. Witness the Cambridge History of India, edited by a circle of the most eminent scholars of the day, Volume I, Chapter on Ceylon.”

7. “With regard to the language of the Sinhalese, my conclusions have not only received confirmation, but have been a great deal amplified as to details. It now appears to me that the original contribution to the evolution of this tongue, viz. the Yaksas and Nagas (the aborigines), Vijaya and his party and the contingent from Madura, were all Dravidian.”

We are therefore surprised that Rev Charles Carter’s Sinh.-Engl.Dict. (1924) at its page 694, explains “Dravid” (=Dravid’a) as “outcast” or “casta”, in addition to “Dravidz”, “demalz”. Like Dr. Johnson, we have to remark on this self-assumed “Aarya” pride and prejudice. “Ignorance, my brethren! Colossal ignorance!” It is this that prompts a certain Sapramadu of Gampola to equate the Denalz (=a Tamilian) with “beravaayaa, paraiyah”, and the Member of the N.S.A. for Walapane to state openly the new tiers in Ceylonese power-structure whereby one community is bound to dominate the others.

All this pride, rancour and venom are misplaced. The glory of “Ciyelz” (later “Sinhala”) is in her “Tamilz” nature (I² = Lzh = -indent = p, while i² = dr. z); and it is far more profitable to investigate the original home of the Dravidians than to try to fit the unhistorical legends embedded in the Paali “Mahavamsa” into any historical narrative about the original home of the Sinhalese, despite the valiant efforts made by Dr.J.T. Xavier in this superhuman task.
The original home of the Dravidians

23 years ago in the Journal called "Tamil Culture," started by Dr. (Rev.) Xavier S. Thani Nayagam in that year, appeared his first article out of his 14 and the first article out of his 12 (the next in numbers of such article in its 15 years' life) by the life-long associate of Dr. Thani Nayagam, namely Piyatumaa Daaviid. The latter bears this title: "The Original Home of the Dravidians: their Wanderings in Prehistoric Times, B.C 4,500 to 1,500".

"The evidence for the statements in this small article has been carefully pieced together from a comparative study of philology, ethnology and archaology. It is impossible within this small compass to detail all the pieces of evidence: to do so would entail a large volume. I would refer any person who is keenly interested in this subject to Stuart Piggot's "Prehistoric India", 1952, a Pelican Book. "Between 4,500 and 3,000 B.C. the Dravidians lived to the South of the Caspian Sea, in close proximity to the Elamites and Sumerians. Then nomadic herdsmen (till 4,000 B.C.) they roamed from the frontiers of Sumer and Elam to the valleys of the Oxus (Amu Daria) and the Jaxartes (syr Daria) in modern Russian Turkistan. In the 3rd. millenium B.C. the Dravidians, then a "white" race, lived on a footing of complete equality with both the Aryans to the west, mainly in the Volga Valley, just north of the Caspian and Black Seas, and "the Dravidian like" section of the so-called Mongolians to their east. It would be better to call them "Turanian", "Scythian" (like Dr. Caldwell) or "Ural-Altai". It was then that the Dravidians started their first settlements in the Indus Valley, which soon turned out to be the vast Harappan Empire, with mighty walled cities, which are now the ruins called Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Chanhu-

daro etc. While making their tremendous advances in civilization, they also developed their ancient language so well and so rapidly that they were able to bestow scores of loan words on their Aryan neighbours. To some linguistic scholars, like the late Swami Gana Prakacar of Nallur, these words seem to have been so abundant that they have postulated a common origin to the Indo-European and Dravidian tongues. On the other hand, a section of the Dravidians migrated northwestwards into Finland, Lapland and Estonia, while another section went northeast into North Siberia, from the mouths of the of the Yenisei, Khatanga and Anabar, on the Arctic Ocean, in the region northernmost and coldest in Eurasia, where the "Samoyed(e)s" speak a tongue quite close to Tamil and Sinhal'a of the torrid Sri Lanka plains beside the Indian Ocean. Professor T. Burrow of Oxford and other "Ural-Altai" and "Finnish" scholars have conclusively proved the common ancestry of the Dravidian with the above-mentioned languages.

Now read Dr. J.T. Xavier's "Land of Letters", especially his citation of the four Finnish scholars, associated with the University of Helsinki. The Indus inscriptions, definitely pre-Aryan, are in that Proto-Indian language which the latest research has shown to be neither Indo-European ("Aarya"), nor Hittite, nor Elamite, nor Hurrian, nor even Sumerian, but Dravidian i.e. "Taamilzham".

This is our contention from the 1935-6 days of our first patron, which we term the "Gnanam epoch"; and we are glad that, like that of the famous Spanish Research Scholar, Rev. H. Heras S. J. of Bombay, Dr. Xavier's view is identical, as also his view on the Sinhal'a tongue. In our research we do not live near 2,000 A.D. but nearer to 2,000 B.C. At that stage there were not any of the 20 Dravidian languages, including our own "Sinh-el'a", but only 20 dialects of "தமிழ் இல்லம்"
(Taamilzha-El'va). Of these what eventually became Sinhalə was the purest Dravidian and closest to the Proto-Dravidian I of 4,000 B.C. One simple proof, among thousands in our mental possession, will establish this basic view and contention of ours. The Dravidians were perhaps the most intelligent people in the world, and they built up their beautiful "라티-라티", where "라티" means beauty, on scientific lines; for, "라티, 라티, 라티" or "라티", like "라티 아, 라티 아", consists in the perfection of form.

The plural suffix, and the roots 'al2' and 'nal2'

One of the crucial forms in any tongue is the plural suffix. It is a baffling problem to find the origin of the "er" or "en" which figures in this role in German and English, as in "child-er en" "children". But in Sinh. "al2", "en", "al2", the origin of the Tamil" ku+al2", "al2", or of Telugu" Fa", "e", "o", we are at the dawn of linguistics and closest to the knowledge of how the plural suffix arose. It did so as an association of similar objects A child associates his home, "ge-ya", with those of the neighbouring ("라티 라티 라티", from "라티-라티 라티" (=라티), "라티+라티+라티", now "allaapu") house-mates or friendly children he plays with. Thus from "라티" meaning "near" he passes on to "라티", connoting several neighbouring objects, like "ge-v-al2, o-.getvalue". This "v, o, w" again is the pure Dravidian euphonic consonant, which like Sinh. and Tam. "y, o, w", links the two vowels, the one final and the other initial, of two consecutive words.

Blissfully ignorant of the Dravidian tongues, except Sinhela, never having even heard of "라티라티" or the real "라티", Sinh. scholars like Geiger beat about the bush, when confronted with such words as this "라티" or its development: "라티, 라티- words. Their basic meaning is "nearness". You never get closer to any other person than in "kissing" or "embracing" him or her. Hence "라티", rather "라티" (as it should always appear) is clearly a development of this "라티". But this evident truth has not yet dawned on the Sinhalə "Aryanists". Thus Prof. W. Geiger, in his 1941 R.A.S. publication, "An Etymological Glossary of the Sinhalese Language" manifests his colossal ignorance of real etymology and of the real "Elu" the predominant portion and base of Sinhalə.

(a) Thus his No.168 "alanga" = "embracing" has no mention whatever of this "al2, en, al2".

(b) His No 170 "alana" mentions "tying" elephants to a post, a semantic development from getting the post and the elephant nearest each other; but still there is not even a whisper of this "al2".

(c) His No. 182 "alavanavaa" = "to lay hold of, to catch, seize" and its causative "alavanavaa" = to cause to seize - hesitates between two etymologies, neither of which is really correct. See below.

(d) His No.181 "alla" = the palm of the hand may have developed from "at-la" or "attala", as he maintains; but more probably it is connected with the "seizing" in (c) The "hand" is viewed as the "seizer". This view comes very near certainty, when we examine words from the reinforced root "n-al2": "rajiə, ra-m" in both our tongues. The words "rajiə, ra-muli" are wrong; they should be "rajiə, ra-muli", as in Kannada, as they are from "rajiə, ra-muli", from "rajiə-ə-la-ə-ə" = being near. But "rajiə, ra-muli, ra-" are the same; only slightly reinforced by an initial consonant, n. Hence "rajiə, ra-muli" = "rajiə, ra-muli"; "rajiə, ra-muli" in Sinhala 4:2 = "ra-mali, ra-muli, ra-muli", Commentary; "ra-muli" = get near, since, as Gnanam said, occasionally "rajiə theirs", or as T. Burrow says, likewise M. L. page 2182, "rajiə-ə, ra-ə", = adherents, friends; "ra-muli"
relationship, intimacy, 

\[ = \text{relationship, intimacy, intimation} \]

\[ = \text{being close together, to resemble, Tol Por. 291; (P.2183)} \]

\[ = \text{closeness, Tolkaappiyam, Col.328;} \]

\[ = \text{being close together, to resemble, Tol Por. 291; (P.2183)} \]

\[ = \text{closeness, Tolkaappiyam, Col.328;} \]

\[ = \text{seizer with its claw, thus either (c) the crab, Cancer (on earth or in the Zodiac), or (q) the scorpion, Geiger, in his No.1247, mentions (c) above, but gives other meanings than this crucial one, and thus avoids having to mention this \text{root, “nair,”}. This is quite enough to show that, without a good grasp of “Tamilzh-Eluvva,” more than half of Sinhala, and her most intimate and basic possession, is almost unintelligible etymologically. Corollary on “\text{a}, at\text{a}, \text{a}(\text{L})\text{u}, \text{u}.” The mother or sister of a small child, just able to walk, fondly invites the infant to her fond embrace, saying repeatedly \text{“at\text{a}l\text{a}t\text{a}” = come thou near to me. In the elegant Tamilzh of cultured people this will be \text{at\text{a}l\text{a}t\text{a} al\text{a}t\text{a}} from the same “al\text{a}, al\text{a}, \text{a}” discussed above, as \text{“at, l, \text{a}”} are almost the same etymologically. This then is the origin of “\text{a}”. Geiger shows his colossal ignorance of this at his No 48 b and No. 865. Here in 6\text{1} lines he almost goes to the moon to search for a thing which is next door. Let us now retrace our steps to Geiger’s No.1247, “nai\text{a}”, “\text{a}”, “tube, reed.” He cites Pk. P. Sk. ks\text{m} s i. g.m. or as \text{bh.h.} nep. pj. and 1. (12 tongues, to demonstrate the Aryan origin of “\text{a}” “\text{a},” which appears also as “\text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a}, \text{a},” in some of them. A moment’s reflection should have convinced him that such wealth could only be “Old Dravidian” or “\text{a},” since not one of the hundred odd European languages and dialects has this word. If it were Indo-European, surely one or two of the European languages or dialects would have had this word. Geiger maintains that it is “\text{Aryan}.” If so, “\text{Aryan}” obtains the connotation of “\text{non-Indo-European},” or “\text{daughter of Old Dravidian},” as we proceed to show. Note “\text{Pk}” in this list of 12 tongues by Geiger: it heads the list. It means “Praakrita,” the spoken form of (Sk.\text{t}) Sanskrit, as A.A.Macdonell states in his History of Sanskrit Literature, London, Edited by William Heine mann, 1917, pages 22 24. “Sanskrit: this name is meant to be opposed to that of the popular dialects called Praakrita, and is so opposed in the “Kaavyaardhaṇa,” or “Mirror of Poetry” a work of the sixth century A.D. etc.” Hence the Praakrits are all “\text{Aryan}”: in the strict sense, there were no Pre-\text{Aryan} Praakrits. But both Sanskrit and the Praakrits are heavily indebted to Tamilzham, the former to about 40\% and the latter to about 50\% of their vocabulary. Geiger states that not only Sinhala but Paa\text{i} (\text{P}, Sanskrit and the Praakrits have this word. We are very happy to know this. Whence did they and the 9 others, like (ks\text{m}-) Kashimir and (n.r.) Nepal, obtain this word? We tell you in a whisper, so that the Aryanists may not hear it and die of shock. Like all good things the architectural skill of “Maayan,” the rebuilder of the “\text{Aryan-destroyed}” Dravidian cities, like Indian
culture itself, this word has a source: witness the tell-tale "p" therein:

(a) M.L. page 2231, ""tub", "naalzhi" or "naalzi", in both Tam. and Kan. = tub, tubularity. As usual, the "p" can shake off its cushion like softness of utterance and become the rock-like "l",

(b) Hence M.L. (=Madras Tam. Lex.) page 2209, ""naat' = artery, vein, tendon, sinew, muscle, ligament; tubular organs of breath; tubular stalk as of a plant anything tubular, &c. &c. &c. &c.

(c) Also, on the same page, ""gnt-ff,iurat2aa = a small hollow bamboo; ribbon, tape; phylactery, frontlet.

As Sinh. is only another form of Tam. with a slightly different script, let us examine this word therein. Sinh. has no "p" or "q", although her "e" is reminiscent thereof to some extent, while her "c", with two intertwined "s", reminds us forcibly of "cr" with two "s" s interlocked. Hence in Sinh. Tam. "p" will always appear as "c". Now turn to Carter's Sinh.-Engl. Dict. at its page 318:- (e) "m.e, nal2aa, gnd" = tubes; tubular.

(8) "w3,3a,3a+a(i) bayaa" = tube-plug
(9) "m.e-3a, nal2aa-data" = hollow tooth (cf. dental)
(5) "m.e,3a,3a=3a" = tube, pipe, duct, reed, flute.

Now note the fantastic semantic change, where truth shows herself stranger than fiction. We have reached the musical instrument, the flute, played while dancing, as by Krishna himself. Hence an actress or dancing woman becomes associated with this "nalzhi" as in "m.e,nm, m.e-3a" = "nalzhi(n)gana, nalzhi(m)b-uvaa", where "amn" of "amn" origin has become "ambaua" in Sk. and "ambuva" in Sinh., which delights in "uv", a variant of Tan. "um, un", as in "por-un-a" = battle-being > fighting, "por-un-ar" = warriors. At the end of (c) above, we saw the meaning "frontlet". Now note that this identical

meaning is given for (g) "m.e,3a,3a" = "frontlet", gnd =

(2) "w3,3a,3a" = one who plays on a pipe or flute, piper; also a maker of mats, baskets etc. from tubular reeds or bamboos.

(3) "m.e,3a,3a" = "m.e,3a,3a" = piper.

(4) "m.e,3a,3a" = nal2aa pimbinaavaa = to play on a flute.

(5) "m.e,3a,3a" = a company of stage-players' "nal2aa-gana-avaa".

(6) "m.e,3a,3a" = musical wind instrument as tubular flute, "nal2aa avaa".

We invite our readers to look closely at "m.n,3a", which has become "m.e,3a" in Sinhal2a, and at "m.e,3a,3a", "m.e,3a,3a". You are about to suggest that the latter arose from the former. Of course, you are right. "m.e,3a,3a" is according to the rules or norms of "m.e,3a" linguistic development, while the progress from the (tubular) flute-playing to dancing on the stage is a normal social change as well as a common semantic development. So you see now wherefrom Sanskrit obtained its words for "dancing", like "nyrtynati", "naalzhi" or "nalzhi". They all sprang from "m.e,3a,3a", "m.e,3a,3a", which, starting from designating a hollow flute, tube or pipe, soon flowered into these numerous meanings in so many languages.

(2) "m.e,3a,3a,3a" = dancer, stage-player.

It is in this last word that one must look for the source of the peculiar "amn" word: "ambaua", unless we associate them with "m.e,3a" = one of the caste of (bamboo-legged) palanquin bearers, or (reed-) basket-makers.
(a) "सं-वक" = dancing woman The last word should rather be "वक", as it is from "सं-वक, वक" showing "tenderness, weakness, softness" pre-eminently feminine qualities. Look up Carter's Sinh Dlct. pages 732-733.

Burrow and Emeneau have shown, in their Dravidian Etymological Dictionary, that a number of words have dropped their initial "c" or "n" in the संतल्प tongues. Thus in their No.3057, "निर" = water (from "नीर" = "level" - this part is added by us, who are perfecting their work cf. the i/e alternance, mentioned very often in our Lexicon) = "wet". Nothing can be wetter than water. Hence it is quite probable that "संतल्प संतल्प ग्रंथ, संतल्प" was the original "संतल्प" root-word from which both the "सं" and the "सं" words, which we have just examined and which have filled so many pages here developed in the course of centuries. B.E. connects its 69 (a) "सं" = approach (1) with 2062 "सं" = id.

Having dipped well into Tamilzhram, we are in a better position (than those who have not done so) to comprehend the mysterious way Sanskrit grew up.

(a) M.Monier Williams: S: Dict. page 525 "नाट-०" (सं, ग्रंि) "is the Praakita" for "संरू०" = to dance. This we have just seen. Also = to hurt or injure. Cf. ग्रंि, ग्रंि = injury, loss.

(b) "नाट" = नाट (सं, ग्रंि; दो.दो) = a species of reed. Arundo Tibialis (= tubular, hollow), RV. AV. with the Vedic accent on the second "-a". Hence संतल्प "संतल्प" had in the s-cond millenium B.C. already become "संतल्प" in Sanskrit.

(c) "नाट" = the hollow of a bone; seed, Cf. Paaninita, IV, 2, 91.

(d) "नाटनी" = a reed bed. The reed is "संतल्प", because it is "tubular". Now we pass on to its page 534, where we meet "नाटनी".

(e) "नाट" (संतल्प) = dancing, only in Sk. Lex.

(f) "नाट" = dancing, a dancer, mime, Raamaayanा.

(g) नाट्य = dancing, mimic representation. In the Taamilzha tongues the connection between "सं" which became (b), (c), (d) = "tube, flute, flute playing" on the one hand and "सं" which became (a), (e), (f), (g) on the other hand, (= dancing), is well-established, as we have seen above. In Sanskrit, it is not so Further, Sanskrit formed its own "त" (= ṭ) and "द" (= ḍ) separately, because normally there is no passage between the two. as between St John’s (Boys') College and the Chundikkulzhi Girls’ School The words in the two sections therefore are far apart in Sanskrit: it is Taamilzha alone that can explain their close, intimate, connection. Now turn to the "द" words:

(h) "नाट" (सं, दो) sometimes with "-का" = any tube or pipe, especially a tubular organ, as a vein or artery of the body; a measure of time = half a Muñutta; a measure of length = half a Dan2d2a (= a rod. cf. दो, दोतल्प). The संतल्प or reed-bamboo was then half a long stick.

(i) "नाट" (संतल्प, दो) = the above (h), but employed already in Rigvedic times, with the accent on "ii". Note especially that this word denotes also the "सं" measure of time, the time taken for the sand to come down gradually from the top notch of the reed to its base, the संतल्प hour-glass of the 4th. and 3rd. millenia B.C.

All this abundant wealth of vocabulary is centred around just two Sinhel-a words, "सं-" and "सं", both of Taamilzh or Elavu origin Piyatumaa Daaviid has
repeatedly demonstrated in his Lexicon, Parts IV to the
end, that the "हे/हे" in "सन्तोष/सन्तोश" is
identical with 'से' in "सुल्लि/सुल्लि", owing to the "I/e
alternance", which no other scholar has stressed so
vehemently as he, not even Professor T.Burrow, who
exposed it first 30 years ago. According to this scholar,
as stated already, "हे/हे" and "गे/गे" are intimately
connected, perhaps one word in the earliest
stratum about 6,000 B.C. In the first of the Tamil
grammars of the present millennium, the consonant
composed by a Buddhist Tamilian (when many
Sinhalese had become Hindus under Rajendra Chola in
Sri Lanka), Buddhamitra, the "स (n)" is called
the weakest of its consonants. That is why Burrow
and Emeneau have detected this "n" (as initial)
dropping out in a number of words, in their Dictionary,
including this "पा, पाँ, पां", which, then became
"सी, सी", "सं, सं", and "सो, सो", So we are left with one word alone,
"सी, सी". Good lord! One root-word has given us
thousand words now, in both languages, including the
crab, which we eat; or the scorpion that stings us,
or the Cancer" and "Scorpio" that take their turns in
the Zodiac to light up the night sky and to guide the
Seedru Tuna (Point Pedro), Mannaarama and
Yaalzhagara fishermen safe to harbour supply the
Sinhalese Corporation V.I.P.s with their fish. As the
prophet in the Bible said, "Be astonished, ye heavens,
at this!" No wonder, the Tamilians cling to this won-
ferful tongue so tenaciously as to irritate the two "lady-
Prime Ministers" round about Madras-Delhi and Jaffna-
Colombo, while some Sinhalese desire very vehemently
to foist their form of Tamilizham from "cancalam" =
agitated (water) became सङ्गूळ and "diya" in Sinhala,a,
separate the speakers of both our tongues. (B) The above
statements cover only 2 out of the 20 Tamilizham
tongues. To complete the list one must delve into
H Gundert's "Malayalam and English Dictionary",
Mangalore, 1872; M.B. Emeneau, "Kota Texts"; the same
author's "Toda", T.P.S. 1937, 15-66; F.Kittel, "A
Karnadka-English Dictionary", Mangalore, 1894; R.A Cole's
"An Elementary Grammar of the Coorg Language",
Bangalore, 1867; A.Maenner, "Tulu" English Dictionary,
has given us two forms of the same " fora " or " ce " , which on close analysis embodies a vocabulary, which shows promise of flowering out into every one of the 20 languages above-mentioned. This shows us most convincingly that our ancestors first settled in for not as Sinhalese or Tamilians but as "for-El2uvans" about 1,800 B.C. Dr. Xavier is one of those who will readily accept this view and soon discard the Vijaya myth, the source of the riots of May, 1958.

The Vijaya legend and its Roman Parallel

The ancient history of Ceylon defies analysis or scrutiny, if we were to base it on the Vijaya legend and the similar myths of the Mahavamsa, composed as an eulogy on Buddhist achievements almost a millennium after the supposed events. Not Vijaya nor his supposed followers, but the Buddhist Praakrit-speaking missionaries from several regions of North and Central India gave that Aryan twist to the purest Tamilzham that had been our heritage from 1,800 to roughly 300 B.C., perhaps to 260 B.C., when Asoka's missionaries first succeeded in importing some Buddhism into Tamilzham-Ililza religion. This never died, as the pilgrimages of Sinhalese Buddhists to Murukan's shrine at Kataragamam (or Kataraagama) testify to this day. Similarly the Ililza or Elfu language of the second millennium B.C. has continued into the second millennium A.D., not as pure Tamilzham but as "Ci-y-Elfu" 7 "SinhElfu" or "Sinhala", after the progressive influx of thousands upon thousand Aryan words of Praakrit, Paalzi and Buddhist-Sanskrit origin into Tamilzham "Elfuva" or Elfu. What brought "the lion" into this was popular but false etymology. The story of Romulus and Remus being brought up by a she-wolf is now discarded by historians, but it arose from the "not-too-bad" etymology which connected the name "Rom-ulus", the supposed founder of "Rome" in 743 B.C. with "for=puh" = the wooly hair (of the she-wolf) (M.L.,
This is a very ancient Indo-European word, dating from about 3,600 B.C. in the Volga Valley in South-Eastern Russia. It is found first as “rooman” (here ‘oo’ is not aor, but a, as in the name “Roosevelt”, which is Dutch and which the Dutch pronunciation “3yf6w = a rose-field”, German “Feld”) M. Monier Williams; Sk Dict. page 889, “roman” = the hair on the body of men and animals, probably from I. “ruh” = to grow up, ascend. Thus “aaroohan’am” = “the Ascension” (of our Lord). In both Sanskrit and Tamil, “panka” = “mud” or “mire”. As the Nelumbium Speciosum lotus grows up in this mud, it is called ‘pankeeruha’ in both tongues. Cf. M. M. W. Sk. Dict. p. 574 and शुरुङ्गलम्, शुरुङ्गलाणकालाणकालेताकालाणकालोऽि जीतानुपादितिपुरुषांकालिति जीतानुपादितिपुरुषांकालिति. This word “Rooman” has the old Vedic accent on its first syllable. Its later form is “looman”, MMW Dict. p. 908 in its own words: “later form of room” with the identical meaning. Despite this apparently good etymology, Roman historians treat this story of the haired she wolf mothering the haired Romulus with contempt, as also all the Roman legends depicting the supposed events down to the great law-giver Numa Pompilius. With his inscriptions and other documents real Roman history starts. Likewise should it be in our case too. The Vijaya legend arise from the confusion between two homonyms in the minds of the Praekrit speakers in Tilzham. In one of their Praekrits, “Ciriyam” (=splendid, illustrious) had been corrupted into “Siyam”. In the same Praekrit “Sinha” (=lion) had also become “Siya”. 1. Unluckily they jumped from “Siyam” to “Siya” 2. and concocted the story of Sinhabahu and the lion. This is well narrated by Dr. J.T. Xavier. but unhistorical. He also often alludes to the “/r/” alternance, which is borne out by the “rooman looman” alternance, accepted by Sanskrit etymologists here. In T Hudson Williams: “A Short Introduction to the Study of Comparative Grammar (Indo-European)”, Cardiff, 1955, page 35, we find these statements about this “/r/” alternance: “I.E. r remained in all Indo European languages: so too I.E. l, except in Iranian, where it became r, as in “rudhirah”. Cf. Greek “eruthros”, Latin “ruber”, Irish “ruad” Welsh “rhudd”, Engl. “red”. Tam. gets its “Aru” from this source.

But sometimes I.E. “r” becomes Sk. “r”, as in the following list. A. Words of I.E. (=Indo-European parent language, 3,600 B.C.) now appearing in slightly variant forms but with the “l” initial: Greek “leukos” = “white”; Latin “luceo” = “I shine”; Irish “loche” = “lightening, Welsh “llug” (earlier “lugg”); English “light”? Compare also Welsh “go-lug” or “am-lug”. Hence we can support Dr. Xavier’s “/r/” alternance theory up to the hilt, but only in specific cases which can be brought under specific laws. Thus, “led” and “red” are quite different words in English. Dr. Xavier accordingly must, in his concluding chapter, enunciate these laws.

The words zimmer, zug युग्म, युग्म and युग

Further, we were delighted when we saw him citing some little-known languages like “Old-Norse”. But it would have been better still, if he gave us the names of the authors and of the books which he relies on. Moreover, we must use the best authors and pump out of their work all the relevant information which we are legitimately entitled to draw from them, but not more than that, not one ounce more. Let us take two German words as our examples and refer to the best work in German etymology: Dr. Ernst Wasserzieher’s “Woher? Ableitendes Woerterbuch der deutschen Sprache”, Bonn, 1950. This means: “Whence? Etymological Words-book (=Dictionary) of the Deutsche (=German) Speech”. Our two words start both in “z”,
pronounced in German as a rapid "ts", not like English "s". For German "z" is the exact equivalent of English "s", as we shall soon see. Now turn to his page 414:-

1. "Zimmer": Old High German "zimbar", Middle High German "zimmer"; Anglo-Saxon and English "timber"; Low German "timer". All this is about the phoneme in its morphology. Now let us proceed to its semantics. Karl Breul: German-English Dictionary, 1952, 10th. edition, page 751, "Zimmer"=room, chamber, apartment In 99% of it, usage now this is its meaning. Only in old works of bygone times does it mean "timer", or 'plank'. Hence we legitimately conclude that German house-builders ignored stones and bricks and concentrated on planks and timber for their walls, basement, attic, ceiling etc.

2. "Zug": (Wasserzieher, page 416) Old High German "zug", but Low German "Tog", English "tug", from "ziehen". Cf. "tug of war". Cf. also the "tug" pulling bigger vessels safely into harbours.

Breul, page 812:- "ziehen", as present Indicative; "zog" as imperfect Indicative; "zoige" as imperfect subjunctive; "ge zichen" as past participle.

Breul, page 751:- "ziehen"= to hull, haul, tug, draw out or up.

page 760:- "zug"=drawing, pulling; a pull, tug, draught; a strong current of air; train, retinue, procession.

There is an interesting story about this "Zug". When Piyatumaa Daavid was spending his 9 months at Bremen in 1952 and perfecting his knowledge of German, he found a closed room somewhat suffocating, with a summer afternoon and opened one of its windows opposed to the only open half window on the other side of that room. Immediately he heard the sound 'Zug', as a harsh "Tsug", from the lady of the house. He ran to the window on the other side to watch the train moving, since up to that time "Tsug" had always registered a train (or at least its engine on the railway) in his experience. With a sweet smile, for which and for their kindness the Germans are famous (despite Hitler and Kaiser Wilhelm II in the two World Wars), that lady explained that there was no train involved but only a draught or passage or current of air through the room as soon as opposed windows are both opened. Immediately our Piyatumaa said to himself, "Quite right! In English too we have "draw" / "draught". If the air is drawn in violently, there is draught; then a cold or bronchitis." This is how one learns any language and pumps out therefrom all its implications.

Let us now apply the same process to two more words, the one in Tamil and the other in Sinhala, so as to be fair to both our tongues. Would to God that the Sri Lankan Government too showed the same fairness to all the inhabitants of this beautiful Isle, "Tilsham"!

(A) "அர்த்த குறியீடு" The "ந' " in both words is characteristically Dravidian or "ஆணை", and very old. We can date any Tamil poem according to the number of the "ந' " sounds therein; the more of the "ந' "'s occur, the more ancient the poem. Take the opening lines of (P.N.) 152, for instance: lines 1-4 are

There are only "ந' " sounds in 4 lines. The commentary, much later, of course, in date has only 3 "ந' " sounds: அ' ந், கார்களைம், லீக் திசை. Likewise the "ந' " in "அர்த்த குறியீடு" is very ancient.
What does this mean? It means that the speech was like thunder. Have you ever heard German speech on a loud speaker? The "Bewahrunen" or "Achtung" are deafening our ears, even in memory: such was the speech when our ancestors, then "white" like the Indo-Europeans just a hundred miles more northwards, moved south from the shores of the Caspian Sea and Bokhara-Samarkand to the Indus valley, through "Airan". Long residence in the tropical heat has browning the skins of their modern descendants and softened their speech, so that now it has become as soft as the Nyanja and Swahili of the hot African regions. Tamilz speech is more "iyampal" than "molzhi" at the present time. Compare M.L. page 300, iyampu = to sound, as a musical instrument, "vaacciyam olittal". The closely related Sumerian speech was more of this softer type than the thundering speech of that age, since the former was called "emu", or "eemu", where the "iya" initial had become "ee", just as in Sinh the final "iya" or "ai" or "aya" becomes "ee" as "kud2-aya" = "ee".

Nearly every original "a" (ॉ, ೐, ೑) of Tamilzham has been shortened into "a" (ॉ, ೐) in Sinh, or transformed into "ai" (ॉ, ೑) or (more often) ೑ (=aa(i)). So Tam. "paayn" = Sinh. "seel" = a spring of water; probably Hind. "paani" has this source. The verb "pa(i)n" = to spring. It appears in a score of forms, like ೑ in 2. past participle; ೑, ೑, ೑, ೑, ೑, ೑, ೑, ೑, ೑. The root "seel" too is compounded with several words, as you can see for yourselves on page 381 of C.

In a number of words, especially from Tamilzham, there is a rapid semantic spread based on the nature of things or events i.e., "ontology". Thus water seldom springs forth without spreading all over that area.
Often the same word is used for both these processes: this then is how we come upon (No.3363 in B.E.) Tam. “paasy” = to spread (as water); extend; as noun = spreading; mat, sail. Also “paavu” = to spread. Mal. “paay” = mat. At M.L.2613 the two “paay” words of B.E.’s 3362-3 are brought together as but one word; and the 2nd one in B.E. is given an ancient date, as already employed in “Taamilzham” and accordingly as needing to be translated into “Tamilzh”. Hence Tolkappiyam, the only fully extant “Old Tamilzh” or “Taamilzha” work, had “e~kam” and “u~m” within its ken. The “Col” section thereof is late, especially its “uri-iyal”. Herein, at No.361, these two older words are explained as “para” = to spread. If “to spring” were a completely different meaning, the author of this interpolation would have surely given that too. This is another reason for considering Nos.3362 and 3363 as originally one word. Now how does our Sinh. come into this picture? In several ways. Have you been to any exhibition and seen articles spread out? So

1. “paavanu”, paanavaa’ = to spread out. exhibit, show
2. “paavanu”, also “paavu” = cloth or carpet spread out
   Here the Taamilzha “paa” has remained; thank God! But often this ‘paa’ is changed into ‘pa(i)’ or ‘paa(i)’.
4. “vayum” = shelf for mat (C.p 381) as spread later.
5. “e~” = adj, pret. or “peyarecam” of ‘paanavaa’ above.
6. “e~” = verbal noun of the same “e~” = spreading out for a show or exhibition, (C.=) Carter, Sinh. Diet. p.538. Now we appeal to Sinh. scholars to let Rev Dr.H.S.David, St.Patrick’s College, Jaffna, know as soon as they come across a word in Sinh. with “e, ae, e~” or “e~” as the initial syllable for ‘a snake, serpent or cobra’, since we find these in the sister tongues of Sinh. B.E. 3361 “paampu’ = snake in Tamil Mal; “paavu” in Kan. In Tulu this becomes “haavu”; in Tel “paamu”; Naiki “paam”! Praakrit “paava”.

We have come across several etymologies for this word, “paampu”. It is certainly from “paay”, (in Sinh. throughout and in Tam. “paa-ccal”, this becomes “paa”; in their sisters, “paav-”, “haav-”, “paam”, from “paay-um”, are also found). But from which meaning of the verb “paay”? M.L (at page 2613) gives it 18 meanings.
(a) Some have welcomed its first one: “to spring, leap,” = “taavu”, as when a snake attacks a person.
(b) Others point to meaning 8, as connoting the actual attack: “to spring at, pounce on,” = “taakku”. (Incidentally note how scientifically Tamilzh has been built up by our ancestors! Just a small change in the last consonant from “vu” to “kku”, and the meaning shifts profoundly from “leap” to ‘pounce on’.)
(c) Others take the meaning 14 = “to flee, abscond” as snakes do from their human pursuers. Compare the first two lines of “Mun-t-urai ( 注サクシラ)_”
   “vayum” = snake in Tamil Mal; “vayum” = the real snake’s poisonotis fangs into their unfortunate victims, like Deevadaasan, the only child of Hariscandra and Candramati.
   (e) But we prefer to take “paampu” as meaning not any snake, but the cobra, which we call nalla paampu” = (not “good” but) the “real” “paayumpu”. cf. the real “olive” is from the Latin “oliva”). For us, the real “paayumpu” is, of course, the “raa” is the cobra, as it alone is the “spreader” of its hood. Hence we fix on the sixth connotation in M.L.’s list:
"to spread". This is also one of the two earliest connotations of "paay" as we have already explained just above. Thus we have knit together Nos.3361, 3362 and 3363 of B.E. and more importantly brought out the ancient bond of union between Tam. and Sinh. This is not a mere hypothesis but an established fact both for us and for Dr.Xavier. It is high time that he becomes a full-fledged member of our Cankam, club, crew or battalion, call it what you like.

We shall now conclude this pretty long criticism and appreciation of Dr.Xavier's work with an advice to all those who go extensively or intensively into the field of linguistics.

A. Acceptance is the key-note of Success. But against acceptance there is rampant a form of idolatory, not religious but scientific or rather "unscientific". In his "Novum Organon", 1, 39. Sir Francis Bacon has classified these fallacies or idols as "those of the tribe, cave, market and theatre". How shall we destroy these idols and gain acceptance for our truths?

B. Try your best to establish the right milieu by a suitable Introduction to the subject. Piyatumaa Daaviid maintains that a large number of words were loaned by both Proto-Semitic and Proto-Indo-European (to roughly 6 to 9% of both tongues) from Proto-Dravidian to Proto-dravid I, already from the 5th. and 4th. millenia B.C. But he prepares men's minds for this by showing that the Proto-Dravidians then stretched themselves out from near the Caspian Sea to the borders of Samarkand, while the ancient home of the Aryans was the Volga Valley near the Black Sea. The close neighbourhood of the speakers of both tongues lends probability to this loaning process in the distant past.

2. A step by step approach, like that of T.Burrow, Boden Professor of Sanskrit, in his Articles on Dravidian, and of Piyatumaa Daaviid in his Lexicon.

3. Both these gained too a lot for strength of their arguments by the multitude of instances that they marshalled out.

4. Even thereafter they made their first statements tentative, not categorical. We give one instance. Old Dravidian घ, as in लिप्त, became often "l" (ल) in Sanskrit "phala" etc. But we can assert only tentatively that the same "घ" became "l" in the other tongues of ancient Indo-European, like Greek or Latin. In the former "palaeos" resembles "लिप्त" both in form and in meaning (old); in the latter "alma" (as in "Alma Mater", for ones own school) first meant "deep" (= ज्वलित) and then "high, lofty". "Alpum" may have become "alma" and "आल्मा, altus". Thus Psalm 68:3 "veni in altitudinem profundum" (= आल्मा उतरता दीपिता वाट ग्राहा या वेंटरोला) (Incidently is there any linguistic connexion between "vant" in this last Tam. word and the Latin "vent", in "venturus" (= he that is to come), or "veni" (= I came), which have given us English words like "venture" or Italian and Spanish "venga" = come?)

But why this difference of treatment between Sk. "l" and Graeco-Latin "l", sir? you may ask. That is because of the difference in the degree of the probability of acceptance. Professors T.Burrow and H S.David have a large number of words in which Old Dravidian घ were. became "l" in Sk. as well as "sh", "c2" (= ज्वा) or "d2" (= ज्वा), (also=ल) therein. Further, it is commonly accepted that (even Vedic) Sanskrit grew up in a Tamililzha milieu in the 2nd. millenium B.C. On the other hand, the supposed common basis for Old Dravidian and Indo-European, the famous hypothesis of Rev.Gnana Prakarac, has not yet received wide support. That is why Dr.Daaviid speaks
only of such resemblances as he detects between the words of both families as "Loan-words" from the earlier developed Proto-Dravidian I into the later developed Indo-European I of about 4,000 to 3,000 B.C. Hence adjust your views and your wording thereof to the inherent probability of their acceptance by other scholars. We live in a largely hostile world, as Rev. Father Gnanaperumal found to his cost between 1935 and 1946 in his bitter controversy with Dr. Wilhelm Geiger and and Julius de La Nerolle. His disciple (and our living patron) has avoided any controversy for a decade by buttressing every one of his linguistic statements with ramparts and palisades, which prop them up and have shielded him from attack. These have made his books more difficult but safer and more secure than otherwise. We advise Dr. Xavier and his imitators to follow his example. "Hoc fac et vives"="Do this and thou shalt live" free from attack

"Amen!" or "Aam!" or "अम, अम!"