

# Re: Etymology of "Ketzer"

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-06/msg00170.html>

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- *From:* "Holly" <[noon\\_union@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:noon_union@xxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 3 Jun 2006 22:16:16 -0700
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me wrote:

Neeraj Mathur wrote:

"Holly" <[noon\\_union@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:noon_union@xxxxxxxxx)> wrote ...

me wrote:

Holly wrote:

I read that the Dravidian word for fish "min" is the same sound as their word for star; therefore they use the fish pictogram with other pictograms when writing about a star.

Dravidians don't use pictograms and use [mi:n] only for "fish", not for star. Star is [vel.l.I] in Tamil.

One of the places that I got my information was from here.  
<http://www.ancientscripts.com/indus.html>

That doesn't say that Dravidians \*currently\* use pictograms. Today's Dravidians typically use "abugida" scripts and don't use pictograms.

1) A proposed reconstruction for the Proto-Dravidian word for fish matches that for star, giving \*mi:n. (I suppose that Dravidianists will be able to give us the evidence for these reconstructions; it is of course not nearly good enough to say that because one particular language, Tamil, has no

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reflex for \*mi:n in the meaning 'star' that the word could not have existed in that meaning in Proto–Dravidian, which me is suggesting.

I said it \*is\*n't \*the\* Dravidian word. With the meaning "star", [mi:n] is used only as a morpheme; it isn't used as a word. That is, Dravidians use words containing the morpheme [mi:n] meaning star but Dravidians don't use [mi:n] as the word for "star". "vAnil mIn irukku" and "AkAs;attil mIn uNDu" would invite quizzical frowns since they would mean ONLY "there are fish in the sky" in Tamil and Malayalam, respectively.

Thanks for the explanation. I had not understood that from reading the article.

I don't know of anything like this happening in Indo–European languages;

On vanity licence plates, 2 can mean "to", 4 can mean "for", etc.