

Re: Etymology of "Ketzer"

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-06/msg00191.html>

- *From:* "Neeraj Mathur" <neemathur@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 4 Jun 2006 13:33:34 +0100
-

"me" <noreply@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:h1zgg.3474\\$f76.3272@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:h1zgg.3474$f76.3272@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)

me wrote:

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.

And me wrote:

Even words using [mi:n] as a morpheme are not used by most Dravidians, especially illiterate ones, since they are esoteric words.

I think you're missing the point. Nobody's talking about what words are used or are commonly used by most Dravidians today. The question is what morphemes can be reconstructed for the ancestral language to the modern Dravidian terms five thousand years ago. Over that kind of time period, you would well expect that words would change register or fall out of use. As an example, the Indo-European root for 'woman', *gwen-, has changed register in English (it's modern form is 'queen'); for the general context we prefer another word which we made up from compounding 'wife' and 'man' (Old English 'se wi:fman', masculine in gender). Although it had a reflex in Sanskrit (jan-), that is not found in everyday modern Hindi (which prefers borrowings like 'aurat'). That doesn't mean that I can argue that, since it's absent in modern Hindi, it was absent in Indo-European, obviously.

Re: Etymology of "Ketzer"

If you want to check the evidence for how Dravidianists reconstruct 'mi:n' as 'star' for Proto–Dravidian and then challenge it, go ahead; I'm not committed to that etymology myself (since I don't know the evidence) and am open to hearing a proper discussion. But simply saying that it's not the word for 'star' in two modern Dravidian languages does not make the argument for you. (My hunch is that the reconstruction will be based on Old Tamil – do you know that language as well?)

Neeraj Mathur