



## Historic Prospects of Perception of Linguistic unification in Karnataka – A Empirical View

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### Abstract

The Printers (Mysore Private Limited) and began distributing two daily papers Deccan Herald (in English) and Prajavani (in Kannada). Many printing presses such as mission press at Bellary, Ambavilas press at mysore palace, govt gazette press, Basel mission press in Mangalore, govt press at Bangalore were the most famous which spread the idea of renaissance in Kannada literature and arouse the feeling of unification of Karnataka. This paper aims at studying unification movement in Hyderabad Karnataka region, with special attention to Nizam's rule Kannadigas not only did not have a state of their own as they were distributed into 20 different administrations like those of Bombay, Madras, Mysore, Hyderabad, Coorg {Kodagu} and Kolhapur. That also led to the decline of Kannada as a language in many of these areas. The movement for Unification of Karnataka had originated in Dharwad region. Alur VenkataRao was the man who put forward the idea and cherished it. In 1928, a Committee headed by Motilal Nehru was set up by the Congress to draft a constitution for India. With the help of Sevadal, Dr.Hardikargathered 30,000 signatures supporting unification and submitted a memorandum in support of Unification. "A Case for United Karnataka" written by Diwakarfor submission to the Committee.

*Keywords— Hyderabad Karnataka, Kannada, Mysore, news papers, Indian scripts , Indian Independence*

### Introduction

After the Fourth and last Anglo-Mysore War, Mysore State was reduced to a small principality and vast Kannada speaking areas were merged with Bombay presidency, Madras and Hyderabad and other small princely states. Kannadigas were subjected to twenty different administrations. Thus the Kannada language was on the verge of decline. They had to adopt the respective languages like Marathi, Tamil and Telugu and forced to cultivate the culture of these regions. Thus the Kannadigas did not have any renowned cultural, linguistic and political homogeneity. They were not well treated in those states. Discriminatory activities was meted out to them and they were even suppressed. For example, in the princely states of Mudhol and Jamakhandi, Kannadigas had no place in public life including schools and offices. The pathetic conditions of the Kannadig as lived in these various administrative units were unaccountable. This prompted the Kannadigas to

struggle for unification. These all popularize the national heroes, historical figures and empire builders, artists and poets. Renaissance helped them to develop a feeling that glorious and great past of Karnataka could be restored.

### **Objective:**

The present paper seeks to explore unification movement in Hyderabad Karnataka region, under various forces of freedom movement and Nizam rule.

On November 1st 1956 President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the new Mysore state at Bangalore. Hereby the big map of the new state of Mysore was brightly lit. After invocation, famous vocalist P.Kalinga Rao sang the popular Kannada anthem "Udayavagalinammacheluva Kannada nadu". Huligol Narayan Rao had composed the song as early as in 1924 and P.Kalinga Rao who made it to suitable tune and popularised it. Then Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar, being sworn in as the new Governor of the state and S.Nijalingappa as the new Chief Minister. Thus the long cherished dream of the Kannadigas of a state was realized. To console the hurt sentiments of the anti-mergers in Mysore, the state was called New Mysore after unification and only in November 1973 it could be renamed as Karnataka.

### **Consciousness of linguistic unification**

The struggle for the unification of all Kannada speaking areas was carried on, along with the struggle for freedom. The protagonists of Indian nationalism also used language as a tool to fight against English domination. Historians point out that the origin of the movement for linguistic provinces can be traced to the end of the last century itself, e.g., the demand of the Oriya speaking people and the demand for Sylhet district to be transferred from Bengal to Assam. Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal into two in 1905. That made the question of language a national issue. An agitation was launched for its cancellation and finally the partition was annulled in 1911. It was a victory for popular sentiment. It has been pointed out that even British statesmen like Lionel Curtis and H. H. Risley strongly advocated that language should be the basis for any territorial re-adjustments. "Even before independence there was the consciousness of linguistic unification among the Indians. They opposed Britishers when they tried to deviate people by dividing them linguistically. Much intensity of this awakening was found in places of Hyderabad, which was under the Bombay province. Due to the efforts made by the earnest personalities, like deputy Chennabasappa, Sir Walter Eliot, Russell and many others the Kannada language was safeguarded and the new Kannada schools were started. Karnataka has a glorious and enviable history from the ancient times. Geographically it is situated in the center of the Deccan plateau. "It is one of the oldest spots on the earth indicative of the life of primitive man, who was living and carrying on his activities here long before the civilization, and introduced the means of advanced social and scientific contacts."<sup>2</sup> Kannadigas not only did not have a state of their own. They were actually subjected to 20 different administrations like those of Bombay, Madras, Mysore, Hyderabad, Coorg {Kodagu} and Kolhapur. That also led to the neglect of Kannada as a language in many of these areas. The movement for Unification of Karnataka had originated in Dharwad. Alur Venkata Rao was the man who floated the idea and nurtured it. In 1928, a Committee headed by Motilal Nehru was appointed by the Congress to draft a constitution for India. Dr. Hardikar with the help of Sevadal collected 30,000 signatures supporting unification and submitted a memorandum in support of Unification. Diwakar wrote a book entitled "A Case for United Karnataka" for submission to

the Committee. The Nehru Committee opined that Karnataka can be a viable province. Even the Simon Commission too had accepted the idea of Linguistic States. But the Karnataka Congress did not submit any memorandum to the Commission, as the Congress had announced the boycott against Commission, it pressurized non-congress groups too, not to submit any memorandum. This resulted in the delay of Unification, which could have been approved by the commission itself. The Sixth Karnataka Unification Conference was held at Dharwad in 1936, and Dattopant Belvi of Belgaum presided over it”<sup>3</sup> The need to unite all Kannada speaking areas was becoming a felt need. The Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha. Founded at Dharwad in 1890, some historians point out. It was the first public organization to take up this cause. Leaders like Benagal Rama Rao. Justice Setlur and Alur Venkata Rao began to demand the unification of all these areas. Alur Venkata Rao is the author of the celebrated work 'Karnataka Gatha Vaibhava". The holding of the Kannada Writers'Conference (1909), the formation of the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (1915) and the Karnataka Sabha (1916) led to the strengthening of this movement.

### **Social reform movement: Karnataka**

Social reform movements like the Arya Samai and Theosophical society. development of printing and publication of books and newspapers, Kannada Sahitya Parishat and creation of a pride in Karnataka's glorious past represented by Vijayanagara. As the Indian National Congress represented the national movement at the time, the first aim of the movement was to convince the national leadership of the need for bringing all Kannada Speaking regions under one administrative unit as against the 20 units in which these were distributed at the time. The Nagpur Congress of 1920 permitted constitution of a separate provincial Congress Committee for Karnataka. The first Unification Conference was held at Belgaum in 1924 during the Congress session and it adopted a resolution for unification of Karnataka.

This was followed by founding of the Karnataka Ekikarana Sabha (later renamed Sangha) which held as many as 12 conferences subsequently. the last being at Kasargod in 1947. The Ekikarana Sangha worked in close co-operation with the Karnataka Provincial Congress Committee. The Nehru Committee of 1928 favored establishment of Karnataka as a single province. The Congress included this demand in its election manifesto of 1937. With the establishment of the Constituent Assembly in 1946 efforts were renewed with redoubled vigor. Two conventions were held at Bombay and Davanagere urging the Constituent. Assembly to take immediate steps to form Karnataka as a province. The state legislatures of Bombay and Madras passed resolutions in 1947 favoring formation of linguistic provinces while the Mysore State Constituent Assembly adopted a resolution inviting neighboring ' Kannada speaking regions to merge with Mysore. The Dhar Committee appointed by the Central Government to study the issue of formation of linguistic states disfavored such a step. This was strongly opposed by the Jaipur session of the Congress in 1948, which set up a three member J.V.P. Committee comprising of the three great national leaders Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

This committee favored early formation of only Andhra Pradesh. After 1952 Karnataka saw formation of an aggressive body called the Akhanda Karnataka Rajya Nirmana Parishat which started an agitation in which over 5000 person"s courted arrest. Within the Congress party there was conflict. Meanwhile Potti Sriramulu had died fasting demanding the formation of Andhra and this resulted in riots in the Andhra area. Consequently the State of Andhra came into being in 1953 and under the report of Wanchoo Commission; several talukas of Bellary district were merged with Mysore state.

This was the first step towards formation of Karnataka. “A meeting of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee was held at Hubli on April 13-14 (1953). On that occasion there was an unprecedented gathering of people, and demonstration in favour of unification which turned violent causing lot of damage. Under these circumstances, the Central Government appointed a three-member Fazl Ali Commission to look into the issue of Linguistic States. The Commission recommended for the formation of Linguistic States including Karnataka”

Finally the central government appointed the States Reorganization Commission (SRC) in 1953 under Fazl Ali which reported in favor of immediate setting up of new Mysore state, among others. Its report was implemented in 1956 and thus was born the new Mysore state comprising of almost all the Kannada-speaking regions. The history of unification movement after independence: After 1947, Kannada speaking people were grouped under five different administrations viz., Bombay, Madras, Coorg, Hyderabad Karnataka and Mysore. However, the formation of Karnataka was further delayed. At its Jaipur session (1948), the Congress appointed a committee consisting of Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and at its Jaipur session (1948), the Congress appointed a committee consisting of Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya to study the situation and submit a report. This committee, popularly known as the J.V.P. Committee, rejected the claims of all states except that of Andhra Pradesh. “The Constitution did not create linguistic states. A non-party Unification Conference was organized at Haveri by Hosmani Siddappa in May 1951.

## Conclusion

Kannadigas in the Hubli-Karnataka region that fell under the Bombay Presidency felt that Marathis was being imposed on them at the expense of Kannada, while those in the Hyderabad-Karnataka felt that [Urdu](#) is being imposed on them under Nizam rule. To save the Kannada language from extinction scholars and activists launched a movement to protest this linguistic oppression. However, the movement later developed into a demand for separate state coalescing all the territories from the presidencies that were majority Kannada-speaking. This was called the Ekikarana or ‘Unification’ movement. The resentment and protest had started as early as 1856. However, later the movement gained momentum and led to decades of struggle by different organizations like Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Kannada Sahitya Parishat and the Karnataka Samithi for the creation of Karnataka state. The struggle continued for years. However, it was in 1890 that the protest intensified with the arrival of Aluru Venkata Rao. He was inspired by the protests that followed after British partitioning of Bengal. In 1903, speaking at a meeting of the Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha, he made a case for integrating all Kannada regions of Madras Province and north Karnataka with Mysore kingdom.

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